July 2005 — Dedicated to the Memory of Gwen Araujo — Volume 24, Issue 7

The Channel

TGSF Hot Fun BBQ!

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

The Channel

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

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(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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ARE TRANS ISSUES GAY ISSUES? SURVEY SAYS, YES!

Bay Windows: Letters to the Editor

I can easily understand the confusion of a recent letter writer over whether trans issues are gay issues (see "Are Trans Issues Really Gay Issues?" June 2). We trans people get confused about our inclusion in the LGB crowd constantly.

The best way to look at this is the fact that all of the "groups" of the LGBTIQA are transgressors of societal norms: gays, lesbians and bisexuals do not conform to the "polar opposite" view of sex adhered to by the average person, and trans/intersexed folks do not fit into a binary gender scenario that society operates by.

None of us fit in. We are not the "norm" by the other's way of seeing things. We shatter their stereotypes of what constitutes being and how our being may relate to other beings.

Am I, as a Trans woman, angry about being lumped with the Homosexuals? Heck no! When I started transitioning, I went from hetero to homo in a millisecond. I became a lesbian.

Are there reasons that the trans community may be angry with the LGB folks? Yes, sometimes we feel as if we don't matter within the overall community's agenda. The seeming conflict of orientation versus identity can leave us in a quandary. It's very easy to think that we don't have a voice in this chorus.

Many of the issues before society that relate to us are mutual things. Same-sex marriage? Talk to a trans woman whose marriage to her wife may be invalidated by the DOMA laws. Look at adoption and parental rights issues. Hate crimes legislation, health care, equal opportunity - all of us face the same problems in this culture.

Only by working together can the changes be made to create a culture that allows openness and freedom to be who we are without fear.

Morwen Madrigal,
TransNewOrleans
Where_We_Stand.Org

Transgendered people have been "lumped" in with the greater queer community as long as there's been a community. Not all trans people are LGB, but a lot are, and a lot of non-LGBT people treat trans people as just being "another queer."

As a bisexual transsexual who came out of the closet a good few years ago, I've felt the closet creep back up on me, and now to most people around me I'm seen as your average "normal" heterosexual woman - most people presume that other people around them are heterosexual. I don't like that I seem to be back in the closet, but unless I go round wearing a t-shirt saying "bi-tranny" there's not a lot I can do about it.

Your average gay man or woman can be perceived by the straight community as being "one of them," but camp gay men, butch lesbians and the trans community are all an "embarrassment" to some in the queer community. What I find to be an embarrassment to the gay community is the kind of LGBT people, who make apologies for being LGBT. I'm not saying that everyone has to leap out of the closet, it can seem a very scary place outside, but the more that we make apologies for who we are, the longer we'll have to.

Sarah Louise Davis
Stafford, Staffordshire
England

Lesbians are not gay men are not bisexuals are not transgender folks. We are all very different, even within our identity groups, so why are joining together in one community? What do we have in common? We are all people who are targeted for variant sexual desire, behavior, and presentation.

Historically transgender people have found a place among the "LGB" community. Stonewall was mostly queens and gay men, as Sylvia Rivera put it, "fighting for their lives." The fact is, we have found safety within the LGB community that we don't find elsewhere. There is more acceptance of gender flexibility within the LGB community, at least among those who are not gender normative. Our struggles have been intertwined specifically because gender identity and sexual orientation, while not the same, are definitely related. When a man who sleeps with women, but presents relatively effeminately gets called a fag walking down the street and then beat up, is that sexual orientation discrimination or is that gender identity discrimination? It's certainly his gender that is being commented on, as it is what is apparent to the perpetrator.

Sexual orientation is about who you choose to sleep with and gender identity is about how you present your self relative the cultural gender normatives, whether in line, opposed, queered completely, or any variation there of. In our mainstream culture how we define femininity and masculinity is not independent of sexual orientation.

Continued on Page 24

President's Report

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Summertime Blues

It's June 8 and I am asking myself this question. Still I wonder, yes I wonder who'll stop the rain? Thank you Creedence.

Seriously I am writing this a bit early since my schedule next week is pretty booked up. I will give you a report on the se and San Francisco Prides next time but I know they are all going to be great, especially the latter. I got a sneak peek of it and you will have seen it before you read this but our wonderful float won an award! Our "From Stonewall to Family Values" theme really hit home about standing up and standing proud. I must give full and complete credit for this to our fabulous float committee – Laura, Pam, Jenni, Dawnne, Alli, Lisa and Anne Louise. Did I forget anyone? Thank you all for an excellent job. My role in this was to stay out of their way and let them weave their magic. Anyway I hope everyone had a phenomenal time.

I understand Santa Cruz Pride went very well. Dawnne and Alli also covered that. There were a lot of requests for information and our booth had a prime location. I feel very good that TGSF had the foresight to travel to other areas to show that in our community there should be no boundaries, geographic or otherwise.

Our "Hot Fun in the Summertime" BBQ was just that. The weather was gorgeous, we had great eats, it was not too hot and we had an enthusiastic crowd of about 30, most of whom stayed long after the 6 PM end of the event. As always, thanks to Carla for letting use her parking lot. Laura and Pam did the shopping and made some emergency runs, Dawnne was our erstwhile chef of the future and Julius donated the propane for the BBQ. It was a real team effort. Thanks to all for helping out.

We don't have any events planned as yet for July but we are working on a party of some sort at Carla's in mid-July. Keep watching the website for details.

We are in the process of getting our Cotillion artwork completed and by the time you read this, we should have our cards available for distribution. Monica, from Printmasters in Hayward, is working on a very glamorous and elegant design that perfectly captures our "Hooray for Hollywood" theme. A reminder to all that reservations for Cotillion weekend January 20-22, 2006, at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway may now be made. And also, we could use some Mr. and Ms. TGSF contestants. I have already had several ladies express an interest in participating. I know we will have a good crop of contestants as we did last year. Please write me if you would like to know more.

Believe it or not, you'll probably be able to buy Cotillion tickets very soon. We've raised prices a bit but the tickets will range from $55 for the choice seats to $25 to try and accommodate those who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend.

As you know, I attended my WTS International Conference in Arizona at the end of May and I am still pretty buzzed about it. It was educating, enlightening and empowering. I learned quite a bit and met some great people from all over the country. It was very gratifying to see so many women in very prominent positions and so many who have made major contributions to the transportation and engineering professions. It is an organization with which I want to get involved on a national level and I have actually been appointed to serve on their national Diversity Committee. I also learned of at least two others transgenders in my field who have transitioned on the job – one in Sacramento and one in New York. Hopefully our successes will enable others to move forward if that is what they want. One thing I am going to attempt to do – not right away because I am new – but soon, will be to encourage the firms that are on the board with me to have a transgender job fair much like the one held a couple of months ago. We have so many educated and talented people in our community who are unemployed for no reason other than being transgender. We need to show the corporate world that there are tremendous resources in our community and people who will do a great job if only given the chance. Like I said, this won't happen right away but I am going to try to use my position in this organization to help the members of my community. Outreach, outreach, outreach as you have heard from me repeatedly.

I attended a Board meeting of this group yesterday and we discussed among other things, our annual fundraising event, membership, the website and budget. Sound familiar? Also our chapter is going to change our name to the San Francisco Bay Area Chapter to reflect inclusiveness amongst our members and the fact that more of them reside outside of San Francisco. Hint...hint...hint...

Other news, TGSF is planning to partner with RGA and maybe KP Pride in a new endeavor. We'll be doing a "Trans Cook Book". This idea is the brainchild of Sydney Mason whom, as you know is the loving husband of Faye Marie Gilmore. Sydney pitched the idea at our last ExCom meeting and we are all very enthused about it. This will be an opportunity for all you aspiring cooks out there to send in your favorite and secret recipes. There will probably be some sort of contest for the best recipe and also for the title of the book. Submissions are due by the end of September so get that apron on and start cooking. As for me, the best I can offer is: pour cereal into bowl, slice up one ripe banana into the bowl, pour milk over the contents in the bowl. I have never liked to cook or have been good at it. (Reminds me of this: when I told him that I had transitioned, my brother asked me if this means that I now like to cook. Another stereotype bites the dust.) Anyway, the e-mail address for the recipes is: tgcommcb@hotmail.com.

A hint for those of you about to go through the name change process. Make sure that you keep a checklist of every place where you want your name changed, and check the items off as they are accomplished. I recently discovered I forgot a few things – one being my Robinsons-May card that expired and then a tiny little brokerage account I forgot about. The amount of effort that I went through to change that was a lot more than what is actually in the account. The people at the bank looked at my form as if they never had to deal with a name change.

June and July are special months for me. It is hard to believe but June 15 marked three years walking into the light. And I just participated in my 4th Pride Parade. Wow, seems like only yesterday when I was that scared little girl not knowing where she was going. How times have changed! And on July 29, my friends at RGA will help me celebrate my 2nd official birthday at the Spin a Yarn in Fremont. It just kind of worked out that way since this is the normal RGA Fifth Friday dinner. I would like everyone to attend – you are all invited. In particular, I especially want those who were integral in my early life but with whom I have not spoken in a while to attend. I know that we have gone our separate ways and followed new paths and that I have inadvertently offended some of you. But just because we haven't seen eye to eye on things doesn't mean that I won't forever love you. I will always be very grateful for your help because without your support I could not have made it this far. You know who you are. Sis, I especially want you there. You have and always will mean everything in the world to me. Anyway, if you would like to attend, please contact me ([redacted] or call Gelsey at the RGA Warmline (408) [redacted]

Lastly, you'll recall that last month, I lamented the resignation of Anne Louise Mortenson as Social Co-Chair. This month, I am happy to announce that we have filled the position. At our June meeting, the ExCom appointed Katra Briel to complete the term and I want to welcome her to the ExCom. She attended her first meeting and we were impressed with her desire to want to help this community. Thanks Katra for stepping up. We have lots of work to do.

Well next month, I will report more on Pride. Have a great summer.

Here's to you Mrs. Robinson...

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June 4, 2005

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

Attending – Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Pamela Gray, Dawnne Woodie, Allison Laureano, Jennifer Anderson, Jennifer Kennedy, Lisa Dummer. Absent – Tommi Watson. Guests – Katra Briel, Sydney Mason. The Minutes of the May 1, 2005 meeting were approved.

President's Report – Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Roxy said that we needed to fill the vacancy as Social Co-chair left by the resignation of Anne Louise Mortensen. She suggested that the Board approve Katra to replace Anne Louise. The Board agreed and appointed Katra to fill the vacancy.

Roxy also presented a proposed budget for cotillion 2006. There was some discussion about seating and ticket prices but it was decided to go with the proposed budget at this time, with one abstention.

Vice President's Report – Laura Marlowe

We still do not have the exact dimensions of the float trailer to be provided by Pride as a concept winner, but believe it is at least 20 feet in length. The float barn is now open and we will schedule construction on the float as soon as possible. The Pride subcommittee will determine the schedule. There is a security deposit of $100 for the barn and $500 for the trailer, which will be returned if there is no damage to them.

We need volunteers to serve as Contingent and Safety Monitors for the Trans March and the Pride Parade. The volunteer training schedule is available on the Pride website.

We also need Accessibility Volunteers to assist handicapped individuals on Sunday at the Parade Grandstands. We need 4 from 7:00 – 11:00a; 3 from 11:00a – 3:00p; 2 from 10:30a to 2:30p and 2 from 2:30 – 7:00p. TGSF will share in the Pride revenue based on the number of volunteer hours worked.

Alli will staff the Outreach booth at Santa Cruz Pride. Lisa Will attend Santa Rosa Pride on behalf of TGSF

We are not certain if we will have a booth at San Jose Pride as the cost has been increased this year. We are looking to partner with RGA in the sponsorship. If we do have a booth, Jennifer Kennedy and Lisa Dummer have volunteered to staff it. We will have a contingent in the parade and may use a car if we can find a convertible.

Treasurer's Report – Pamela Gray

There is about $3,000 currently in the bank account.

Secretary's Report – Lisa Dummer

Jennifer Anderson will provide a bio for this month's Channel. Laura will begin sending notices to members when the on-line version is available.

A discussion of the format and content of the Channel was deferred until the next meeting of the ExCom.

Education – Dawnne Woodie and Jennifer Anderson

Dawnne is working on a TG Rights program and on TG/Gay community networking. We have been working very closely with FTMI on Pride and have developed a great working relationship with them. The June End of Month will feature the Pride and volunteer efforts. Christine Arambu has been invited to present a research paper on which she is working.

Lisa said that overall, the MAC Play Dates were well received. Over the 4 dates, there were about 20 girls who attended to learn new make-up techniques. Another MAC event was discussed. Lisa will speak to Lydia about it, possibly in connection with Cotillion.

Outreach – Allison Laureano and Jennifer Kennedy

The hotline has been pretty quiet. Jenni suggested switching the service to Vonage. Calls will be able to be forwarded directly to ExCom cell phones. We can get better service at about half the price. Jenni was selected to look into it and report to the ExCom at the next meeting.

TGSF has been contacted by GLAAD and has been invited to the GLAAD awards presentation. As part of the involvement with GLAAD, TGSF is being invited to all major press conferences dealing with the LGBT community.

There will be upcoming segments on the Women's Entertainment (WE) Channel on MTF and FTM as part of an ongoing series.

Social – Tommi Watson and Katra Briel

Upcoming events were discussed. Dawnne suggested moving one of the summer mid-months to a Saturday and having a beach party. The next mid-month will be June 9th. Dawnne is working on a piano bar with an FTM professional piano player to play for us.

The June End of Month will be held on June 23rd at the Cathedral Hill Hotel as a kickoff to Pride Weekend.

Dawnne will look into a beach party as a mid-month in August or September.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to discuss.

New Business

Sydney Mason presented an idea for a Transgender Cookbook to be co-sponsored by RGA, TGSF and, possibly, KP Pride. Recipes will be submitted for the cookbook by transgendered persons. They will be able to post a 200-word biography as well as a picture, if they desire. There will also be a contest to design the cover of the cookbook, which must incorporate the sponsoring organizations. It is anticipated that the book will be available for sale by the sponsoring organizations in time for Christmas. Sydney will act as editor of the book. The email address for submissions is tgcommcb@hotmail.com. The ExCom approved TGSF's involvement in this effort, with one no vote.

Due to the first weekend of the month falling on the 4th of July weekend, the next meeting will be Sunday, July 10, at 1:00p. It will be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel.

Online SO List!

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

Mid-Month Social

Volunteers Needed!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials.

All it takes to plan these events is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people.

If you would like to help with these events, please contact [redacted] Thank you!

GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

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

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

ExCom Profile

Jennifer Anderson
Education Co-Chair

Dear Fellow Members:

I would like to start off by saying thank you for electing me to the board. Yes, I know, it was not a contested election. However, I still look forward to the privilege of serving you and hopefully making a positive difference in our community...and beyond.

I realize that many of you don't know me yet. I am most famously known as Miss Congeniality (or, the other Jennifer) from the 2005 Cotillion. I can't begin to tell you what a blast that was. As I look back on the experience it remains one of the proudest moments in my life! Not because I won an award, but because I took a huge public stand, proclaiming to the world that this is who I am and I'm proud of it. And I sang, in my own voice, in front of 200 people, for the first time in my life. What a loving and supportive community we've built that allowed me such an opportunity.

As a word of encouragement, if you even have the slightest inkling about running for Miss TGSF 2006, remember the words of that famous philosopher and shoe sales person NIKE – Just Do It! Trust me, you will not regret it for a moment.

A little about my history now. My path in the transgendered world is a bit unusual, as I understand it. I really didn't have much sense that I was destined to be a cross dresser until my early 40's. I first came out in 2000. I got this idea that "doing drag" for Halloween would be a kick (yeah, I know we've all heard that one before). Well I got this idea that my wife and I could go as Bill & Monica (and you can guess who got to be Monica). We were quite a hit wherever we went. But I quickly learned that it was much more than a lark for me. Within a few short months I was taking my debutante walk at Cotillion 2001.

In looking back, I'm still a bit awe struck by the support I received in those early days, and the great fortune I have to be living in the bay area, one of the most accepting areas to transgendered people I know! In fact, it's mostly the gratitude I feel toward those who held my hand and showed me the way during my early TG days Carla Blare whom I will unashamedly love until the day I die, the folks at Carla's shop, Danielle & Melinda (a successful TG couple), the members of TGSF (of course!), Geri Buchanan from Tri-Ess (my first shopping buddy) and Georgia Devine, a GG from South Carolina with a heart of gold who kept me well dressed and well loved! Bless you one and all!!!

I'm pretty close to fully out now. I'm pleased to say that almost without exception, the people who are closest to me in my life all know about Jennifer. And the all support and encourage that part of my life.

This is not all of who I am however. It's not even my dominant focus. I am also a Human Resources professional, a successful lecturer, a volunteer visitor for my local hospice, a community and small claims court mediator and soon to be a professional practitioner in the Church of Religious Science. I share these things with you not to impress you however. I just want you to know that I bring a lot of skills and experience to my role as a TGSF board member and I look forward to sharing them with my community.

So now it's my turn to give back to the community I love. I look forward to supporting the educational and outreach missions of TGSF and would love to hear from as many of you as possible as to what form that might take. I encourage you to think about why you are a TGSF member. What specific value does that bring to you? What is missing that you would like to see? If you could change one thing about TGSF what would that be and why? If there was one thing you wouldn't want changed "over my dead body" what is that and why is it important?

These are just some things to think about. I would love it if you would e-mail me your responses. I would love it even more if they included some constructive suggestions to making TGSF a healthier, more diverse and robust organization. My e-mail address is [redacted]

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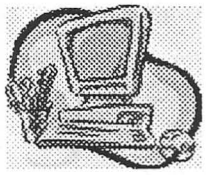

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TGSF Events in July

Saturday / July 2 / 4:00pm - 10:00pm

DVG BBQ Series Continues!

Hawaiian Theme - everyone gets lei'd at the door! Bring a suit and a towel if you want to use the hot tub. You MUST RSVP to get location and directions. If you RSVP, please commit to bringing a dish to share, as well as anything you want to grill. We're also seeking donations (cash or bottles) to help stock the "Wacky Castaways Bar," as the blenders will be going into hyperdrive. Volunteers for set-up and clean-up are also needed. Call 925-937-8432 to RSVP.

Sunday / July 10 / 1:00pm

TGSF ExCom Meeting

Cathedral Hill Hotel Restaurant, Van Ness and Geary.

Friday / July 15 / 7:30pm

TGSF Mid-Month

One of the local entertainers will be hosting this event. The event will be held in the restaurant of the Cathedral Hill Hotel, Van Ness and Geary in San Francisco. The fun will begin as we share dinner around 7:30 PM. As always, remember that this venue requires that we place all purchases on one check, so try to bring cash to avoid confusion at the end of the evening. If you have any questions or concerns on this policy, discuss it with any ExCom member. You can find their contact information in this Channel elsewhere.

The entertainer this month will be Brooklynne Thomas, an irreverent, yet brilliant and highly entertaining performer. Brooklynne has several characters that she portrays during her performances. She will host an "Open Mike" that evening, as well as performing her slightly cockeyed humor and her antics. Brooklynne is on the staff of Youth Gender Project, where she acts as events coordinator. Brooklynne also works as a bartender for a local café here in the city.

Come join us on Thursday evening, July 15th, at 7:30, as we have fun over dinner, and then with the entertainment that you can both laugh and cry with. We'll see you there!

Thursday / July 28 / 7:30pm

TGSF End of Month Event

Cathedral Hill Hotel Restaurant, Van Ness and Geary.

Friday / July 29/ 8:00pm

RGA Fifth Friday Dinner - Girls and Guys Night Out!

Come help Celebrate Roxy's 2nd birthday at the Spin a Yarn Restaurant, 45915 Warm Springs Boulevard in Fremont (right near I Love It). Roxy invites everyone to be a part of this special day. We expect a big turn out so RSVPs are essential. Please reply to Gelsey on the RGA Warmline at 408-984-4044 or to Roxy at 510-[redacted]. Hope to see you there!

July's Birthdays

7/08	Jessica Ames
7/08	Wendy Schultz
7/09	Teri Pack
7/09	Ayme Kantz
7/09	Dani Marie Kleist
7/14	Jennifer Gulkis
7/16	Lauren White
7/17	Juliette Holiday
7/17	Davis Bob
7/18	Carmen Gomez
7/18	Mary McHugh
7/21	Jennifer Hope
7/24	Kelli Wellington
7/24	Roshelle Cunning
7/28	Donna Wilson

Happy Birthday To All!

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Calendar — July 2005

Other Bay Area Groups

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)
288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Meets 1st & 3rd Monday 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 Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 3024 Willow Pass Road in Concord 925-937-8432.

FTM International
Support group for Female-to-Male CDs &TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 160 14th Street, SF, CA 94103; 415-553-5987.

I Love It Girl Socials
Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at 510-[redacted]

Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)
TGSF-sponsored support group; 7:00pm, First Wednesday of each month at Full Circle Books in Belmont, CA. Contact Laura Patterson at [redacted]

Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)
A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-548-8283.

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

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

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

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)
A new TG support group meets at the Billy De Frank Community Center in San Jose on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. For more information, call 408-293-2429.

TGIF
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]

T.R.A.N.S
MTF support group meets every Wednesday afternoon 2:00 - 3:30pm at 1145 Bush Street in San Francisco.

TransVis-HWD
TransVision Social TG Women will meet at 7:00pm, 4th Friday of every month. Light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	2 **4:00 PM Get Lei'd @ DVG BBQ!**
3	4 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	5 7:00 PM SCT	6 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social **7:30 PM MPTG**	7 7:00 PM DVG RCC	8 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	9 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
10 **1:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting**	11 5:00 PM CCHH	12	13 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	14	15 **7:30 PM TGSF Mid-Month Event!** 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	16
17	18 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	19 7:00 PM SCT	20 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	21 TG Legal Clinic	22 7:00 PM SVGA 7:00 PM TransVis-HWD 8:00 PM PacCtr	23 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
24	25 5:00 PM CCHH	26 7:30 PM SCOUT	27 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	28 **7:30 PM TGSF: EOM**	29 8:00 PM PacCtr **8:00 PM RGA 5th Friday Night Out!**	30
31						

TGSF Membership Application

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

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

***Email:** _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Support Your Organization!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

Fundraising Campaign

Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

Guardian Level: $2500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Original Signed Photo of Ms / Mr TGSF
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

Patron Level: $1000

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

Angel Level: $500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
One complimentary ticket to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

Century Level: $250

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Framed Recognition Certificate

Merit Level: $100

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

Clip & Mail Today!

Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!

Your Sustaining Membership contribution will be used to support the educational and social activities for TGSF.
Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

❑ Guardian - $2500 ❑ Patron - $1000 ❑ Angel - $500 ❑ Century - $250 ❑ Merit - $100

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

❑ Check if you DO NOT want TGSF to acknowledge you as a Sustaining Member

Please mail this Tax Deductible Sustaining Membership Contribution Form along with your Check payable to TGSF to:

TGSF P.O. Box 426486 San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Thank you for your support of TGSF!

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Financial Report

As of June 20, 2005

Assets

Cash	1817.49
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
Total	**3017.49**

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	0.00
Total	**0.00**

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenues

Memberships	555.00
Advertising	60.00
Donations	464.50
BBQ at Carla's	562.00
Miscellaneous	135.00
Total	**1776.50**

Expenses

Channel	391.54
San Jose Pride	50.00
Deposit to Cowell Theatre for Cotillion	1200.00
Total	**1641.54**
Net Income	**134.96**

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

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

WAVE ELECTROLOGY

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On-Site Physician Administered Local Anesthetic • Safe Clinical Environment • Two Electrologists Working Simultaneously Help Maximize Use of Local Anesthetic
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Email: office@waveelectrology.com
Web: www.WaveElectrology.com

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give

as of June 20, 2005

Rachel Hill (United Way)	$160.00
Roxy Carmichael-Hart (United Way)	$117.00
Karin Fresnel	$100.00
Roxy Carmichael-Hart (PO Box Rental)	$70.00
Phyllis Fink	$60.00
Anonymous (car program)	$17.50
Donna Freeman	$10.00
Ayme Kantz	$10.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

Contact TGSF!

2005-06 Executive Committee

President
Roxy Carmichael-Hart [redacted]

Vice President
Laura Marlowe [redacted]

Secretary
Lisa Rae Dummer [redacted]

Treasurer
Pamela Gray [redacted]
Or [redacted]

Education
Dawnne Woodie [redacted]
Jennifer Anderson [redacted]

Outreach
Allison D Laureano [redacted]
Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy [redacted]

Social
Tommie Watson [redacted]
Katra Briel [redacted]

Other Email Addresses

Editor, *The Channel*
Ayme Kantz [redacted]

Ms. TGSF 2005
Jennifer Siobhan Kennedy [redacted]

TGSF.Org Webmistress
Laura Marlowe ..... webmistress@tgsf.org

Calendar ..... www.tgsf.org

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

TGSF & RGA
Cookbook and Contests!

Ok everybody, here is your chance to get your favorite recipe published and talk a little about yourself if you want! TGSF, RGA, and possibly Kaiser Permanente (KP) Pride is sponsoring the creation of a community cookbook. More details can be found at RGA's home page: http://www.transgender.org/rga/

Recipes should be original and unpublished. In addition to your recipe you may (but it is not required) submit a short (200 words or less) bio about yourself. You may also submit a small passport sized photo. Please be sure to indicate very clearly what name you would like to be published with your recipe. You may also be anonymous. Contact information, however is necessary. An email address as a minimum, so the editor can contact you if he can't tell if you mean a teaspoon or a cup. Contact information will be kept strictly confidential. If there is no contact information and the editor can't make out your recipe, it may not get published.

Recipes, bios, and photos can be submitted in any PC format: disk or floppy. They can also be submitted printed/typed, or even hand-written. Submit any such items to your RGA or TGSF leadership. Photos should be in JPG format. Your submissions can also be sent via email to: TGCommCB@hotmail.com. Submissions will be accepted through October 30th. You are not limited to one submission, but not all of them may be published at this time. If you don't have a scanner available to you, you can even give us the actual passport size photo and we will scan it for you.

Cover Contest!

I know there are lots of graphic artist's in our community, so get your thinking caps on! The cover of the book will be in color, and the design should encompass TGSF, RGA and KP Pride in some way. If you are a TGSF Yahoo Group member, go to the Yahoo Group home page, click on "files", then click on "TG (and others) Cookbook", then click on "add file". Upload your PDF submission of your design directly there. This will make voting on it later easier! If you are not a TGSF Yahoo groups member, or if you prefer, submissions can be made either on disk or floppy in PDF format. Submissions on disk or floppy can be given to any of your TGSF or RGA leadership. Some prizes will be offered to the winner of the contest! Submissions will be accepted through Sep 30. Don't forget to include your contact information.

Naming Contest!

Ok, the "bun" is in the oven, so what do we name it? Ideas and suggestions can be submitted in any format, including email. Get them to your TGSF or RGA leadership. Submissions will be posted on TGSF and RGA websites for a community vote in October. Submissions will be accepted until Sep 30. Submission's can also be sent via email to: TGCommCB@hotmail.com. The winner will receive some prizes, details to follow. Remember to include some form of contact information.

Just a reminder folks, don't ever let go of your only copy of anything. Please make sure you have backup copies of all your submissions. Blessings of good fortune to you all!

Sydney Mason

Dear TGSF:

This is a story that was told to me by the transwoman involved - a very good friend of mine. It won't show up in any newspaper, but maybe it should.

Lisa Rae Dummer

Federal Authorities Seize Trans Bra

Tampa, FL – June 6, 2006, the anniversary of D-Day, became B-Day for a transwoman reporting for jury duty at the federal court in Tampa. The transwoman had received a summons to jury duty at the Tampa, Florida and was reporting as directed. The summons had been issued in her male name.

As she passed through the metal detector, the underwire bra she was wearing set off the sensor. She was pulled out of line and strip searched by the security officers, all employees of the federal government. On seeing that she was wearing a bra, the security officers ordered her to remove the bra and confiscated it, in clear violation of sex discrimination laws, as well as constitutional violations for invasion of privacy and unreasonable search and seizure.

The federal agents, not quite knowing how to handle the situation kept the bra and told her that it would be returned to her by mail. It has not yet been returned. Even in the heightened security at the federal courthouse due to the trial of Sami Al-Arian, a college professor accused of sending aid to Arab terrorists, genetic women were allowed to keep their bras.

TGSF Board Members Attend GLAAD Media Awards

On Saturday, June 11, 2005, Education Co-Chair Dawnne Woodie and Outreach Co-Chair Allison Laureano attended the San Francisco GLAAD Media Awards. The event was held at the Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason Center, a new venue for GLAAD this year.

Dawnne and Allison have been sitting on the Planning Committee for the Event, and have worked tirelessly with the committee to prepare for this awards dinner, held annually in New York, Los Angeles, and in San Francisco. Joan Garry, Executive Director of GLAAD, spoke, and the audience of nearly 1,000 raised several hundred thousand dollars that will go toward the battle for equality and fairness in the press as it deals with the LGBT community. For the first time, GLAAD is reaching out to the transgender community, and beginning to work toward fairness and honesty in such things as news reporting, television broadcasting, and in foreign language media.

The venue was moved this year from the traditional location of the Westin St. Francis Hotel, due to concerns from the community on the labor disputes between hotel workers and the owners of the hotel. The last minute decision threw the plans into turmoil, but the committee, working diligently to resolve the situation, found an ally in City Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who found the facility at Fort Mason Center, and worked with GLAAD and the Planning Committee to move the event there. Supervisor Dufty was one of the presenters at the occasion.

As committee members, Dawnne and Allison assisted from early on in ticket sales, in planning the décor for the dinner, and then in the actual setup and teardown of the event itself. Dawnne says, "We are exhausted from all the work, but the goodwill and visibility that this gave TGSF is beyond price. The future will be much brighter from the national contacts that we made at this event." These ladies had the opportunity to meet many very important, well-known, and wealthy persons in the Bay Area, and the connections that were made will be very valuable in the years ahead as TGSF grows beyond its little corner of the greater transgender community. Allison states, "Bridge-building is what we talk constantly. It is time we began to connect with the LGBT community at large, and this event is the beginning of it. We will be able to gain access to many people that before we had no connection with that will assist us in working for equality and acceptance for transgendered persons."

A side note on the event – one of the auction items donated to GLAAD was a "walk-on" role on the television show "Desperate Housewives". In the auction, there was a bid on the floor for $20,000 for that item. Wells Fargo Bank dropped a higher bid of $21,000, and then decided to give the $21,000 as a donation, and let the $20,000 bidder take the win. That made the total income from that item in the auction $41,000. That was the highest bid for any item in the GLAAD Media Awards this year, anywhere in the country. Final tallies have not been published yet, but it is expected that the results of this event will be close to $1,000,000.

Dawnne and Allison were invited onto the Planning Committee by John Marez, Co-Chair of the committee, and also member of the Human Rights Campaign. If you remember, John spoke several months ago at the EOM, where he expressed a serious interest from the HRC in opening its doors and support for the transgender community. And as members of the Planning Committee, Dawnne and Allison were strong and vocal in their support for, and their stand on, the transgender community, and its inclusion in the greater LGBT community.

TGSF Attends Santa Cruz Pride Festivities

Other PRIDE Events Also Attended

Sunday, June 5, 2005, TGSF representatives Allison Laureano and Dawnne Woodie participated in the PRIDE festivities that took place in Santa Cruz. A bright sunny sky, a cool breeze, and several thousand people made the event a powerful place to be seen for TGSF.

Our booth was situated directly along the sidewalk where every visitor to the event passed by and entered, and it gave the representatives exquisite opportunity to further the cause and expand the membership base of TGSF. During the course of the day, Alli and Dawnne were surprised at the large numbers of transpeople who dropped by. Conversations with these individuals showed them the need for a strong outreach into Santa Cruz.

In discussions with several transpeople during the day, including some current members of TGSF, the idea was discussed of perhaps developing some sort of "branch" organization of TGSF for Santa Cruz. There was excitement as these ideas were broached and discussed. More will be forthcoming as this idea moves forward.

TGSF is participating in several PRIDE events this year, including San Jose on the 11th and 12th, and then of course San Francisco's weekend of festivities, starting with the Trans March on Friday afternoon and evening, where last year's event, a historical first for San Francisco, drew over 2,000 people. This year, the festivities start at 3 PM with speakers from throughout the transgender community, and is followed with a march from Delores Park in the Castro to the Civic Center, where there will be additional speakers, and then a blessing from the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence on the Trans Altar, a structure honoring the victims of violence against transgendered persons.

TGSF will also have an information booth this year at the celebration both Saturday and Sunday, where Outreach Co-Chair Allison Laureano, along with other members of the ExCom and the organization, to greet the many visitors that will be dropping by. On Sunday, TGSF will be standing watch over the Trans Altar, as it is moved into the Trans Pavilion, a new designation this year, where there will be an area dedicated to transgender organizations and businesses friendly to the community. There will also be a stage designated for transgender entertainment located there, and Sunday will see several members of TGSF performing there, along with entertainers Shawna Virago, Brooklynne Thomas, and Lipstick Conspiracy. It is an event that you won't want to miss!

The parade, with the award-winning float built by members of TGSF for our organization, will take place Sunday. With the float theme of "From Revolution to Family Values", this year's float and the TGSF contingent will be near the front of the parade. We expect to have possibly as many as 50 or more persons to walk with us down Market Street. As this is being written, there is already construction going on to build the float and its unique design.

June is an exciting month, and TGSF has many opportunities for you to participate. From contingent monitors, to Accessibility Volunteers, to Safety Volunteers, to actual participants on and around the float, you can be a part of all the thrills. We look forward to you joining us for these and so many more electrifying events.

From Larry To Lauren: New Identity, New Life Worth The Cost

Part 2 - Continued from June 2005 Channel

By Jeff Eckhoff
Des Moines Register Staff Writer

Larry Jansen's duffel bag was filled with garter belts, high-heeled shoes and lacy underwear — a Victoria's Secret time bomb that immediately threatened to blow his family apart.

Larry Jansen

Jansen's wife, a nurse who had been married to him for nearly two decades, was unprepared for what she found. "I was like, 'What, is some woman coming in here and leaving these things?' " she recalls. "But then, the shoes were pretty good size." Jansen had been sneaking into the basement for roughly two years. He would slip on women's clothing, sit at the computer while his family slept, and spend hours surfing the Internet for what it meant to be "transgender."

Jansen explained everything when confronted. Not that it made any sense to his wife, who has asked that her name not be published. "What do you say? At that time, this was just kind of a thing that he wanted to dress up," she says. "He promised me that, no, no, he did not want to become a woman. He loved me and wanted me."

But after more than four decades of pain, Jansen's wants would evolve. Jansen says her new appearance, a highly publicized discrimination lawsuit and an ex-spouse who now describes her married life as "a lie" all have been worth the cost. "Once you start down that road, you just get so intent," explains Abby Williams, a suburban Des Moines resident whose surgery to become female is scheduled for August. "It's like the carnage that you leave behind almost isn't there anymore. It's almost like you have to force yourself to look back to avoid hurting anyone more than necessary."

Life at home changed gradually during the first few years of Larry Jansen's new life. He kept his cross-dressing confined to the basement. He and his wife saw a counselor after a year or so - not because of the duffel bag, but for their teenage son's growing use of alcohol and other drugs. Day by day, they muddled through.

In April 2002, roughly two years after her duffel bag discovery, Jansen's wife decided she could no longer keep the secret. "You search your mind," she explains. "What did I do? Did I do something? I was just so baffled. How could I not see this?" She spilled it all one night in a telephone conversation with her sister-in-law, but Jansen's son was kept in the dark. By the time they told the teen, he already had traced his father's electronic footprints through an assortment of transgender Web sites. He had figured most of it out for himself.

It was six months before Jansen could hit the send button on his first e-mail to the River City Gender Alliance. By October 2002, he had contacted a few members of the Omaha transgender support group and passed one of the interviews designed to screen out sexual predators and reporters. On the drive to the first meeting, Jansen and his wife reassured each other that they would bolt at the first sign of trouble. If the hotel looked too seedy, the people too odd, they would just turn around.

Transgender Iowans say support groups provide a vital place to talk about issues that no one else understands. Members share tips about therapists and doctors who will prescribe hormones. Those who have not gone public view the meetings as the only place they can dress and act as they wish.

In that Omaha conference room, Jansen found a home. "The minute I stepped inside that door," Jansen says, "I knew who I was and where I was going to end up." He did not share that feeling with his wife. Instead, he pierced his second ear. He shaved a mustache he'd worn for roughly 30 years.

And the changes accelerated. "He came down one day all dressed up, and that was it," his wife recalls. "I just couldn't look at him again." Jansen moved to a Sioux City apartment in February 2003. "I don't want to be his girlfriend," the now-former Mrs. Jansen explains. "I wanted to be his wife." "My Larry's dead," she says flatly. "He's gone."

Continued on Page 12

From Larry To Lauren...

Continued from Page 11

In early 2003, Jansen began to identify himself with his initials when he answered the telephone at Murphy Tractor and Equipment Co. He was preparing parts department customers for the day when "Larry" wouldn't be around anymore. He grew his hair longer and told co-workers it was a style he'd always liked in the 1960s. His plan was simple: He would start hormones in May 2003, give the drugs time to take hold, then start his life as a woman in summer 2004. Surgery would come later.

Slow And Steady

Jansen promised as much to his family and therapists in the fall of 2003, as his son began his senior year in high school. No matter what happened, he would never do anything to embarrass anyone, he vowed. He had his first tentative conversation with the bosses at Murphy Equipment that October. The company's general parts manager seemed to have no problem with a transgender employee, Jansen recalled. Nor did the Sioux City branch manager. Then the corporate owners found out.

Federal court papers filed in Sioux City allege that Jansen was called into his boss' office on Dec. 16, 2003, and warned that he would be fired if he continued with his plans to change genders. According to the lawsuit, company officials told Jansen "that the decision was totally and singly based on the fact of his change of sex." Murphy Equipment officials have declined repeatedly to comment about Jansen.

Court documents say Jansen was sent home on Dec. 16 and told "to declare his intent on the sex issue" when he returned from a holiday vacation. Eight days later, on Christmas Eve, Jansen went to the Woodbury County courthouse to formally change his first name to "Lauren." A judge made it legal Jan. 26, 2004 - 11 days after Jansen was officially fired. Lauren Jansen launched herself into a new life. She gave speeches on college campuses. She answered questions in Internet message forums. She searched for a new job.

Always As A Woman.

"When they fired me, that was the end of the world," Jansen says. "Larry really never showed up anymore." It would be roughly 10 months before she found work. Jansen was still alone and unemployed in February 2004 when she took the microphone at a public meeting and urged Sioux City leaders to pass a controversial gay-rights ordinance. Statements about Jansen's personal battles with discrimination were later expanded in local television interviews and a newspaper article.

Jansen's son, mortified, skipped school for a week. The boy's mother still simmers. "It's like since he got into this, all he can focus on is himself," she says. "To me, if you truly love someone, you don't want to do things that you know are going to purposefully hurt them."

Jansen concedes that it might have been selfish to go public. "But it was the only thing I could do to survive," Jansen says. "By that time, I was so shunned, it didn't make a whole lot of difference."

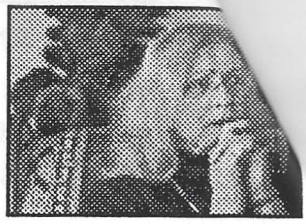
Two of Jansen's three sisters cut off contact long before the February publicity. "I think it's still soaking in," says the lone sister who maintains contact. "The one thing he cannot understand is why they can't just accept this."

Lauren Jansen filed the lawsuit in June 2004. She was depressed and alone. "I would not wish this particular situation on my worst enemy," a tearful Jansen told a reporter. "I would not wish it on Adolf Hitler." Neighbors near Jansen's former home used to gather on lawn chairs in front yards on warm summer evenings to sip beverages and laugh. In 2004, the husbands started going indoors when they saw their friend Larry get out of the car in a dress.

The members of Jansen's lifelong church rejected her, as well, she says. The conservative Lutheran denomination apparently was shocked by Jansen's insistence that she was not gay but "a woman born with a birth defect." Jansen said a pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Sioux City asked her to skip communion until the church determined what to do. The pastor later agreed, Jansen says, that it might be better if she left.

The Rev. Russell Senstad, senior pastor at Redeemer Lutheran, remembers it differently. Senstad said the question was whether Jansen, as a transsexual, had rejected God's will by acting as if the Almighty made a mistake. Jansen joined a new church before anyone came to a conclusion, the pastor said. He added: "In fairness to Lauren, I think she was just trying to find peace."

Lauren Jansen awoke in a Colorado hospital room on July 16 and smiled. She knew without looking. Everything, finally, was OK. Jansen had scrounged to get there and ultimately had sold a collection of antique guns and American Indian artifacts to pay for the surgery. There were no complications, no second thoughts. "It's a great feeling," Jansen says. "I don't think there is any analogy to what it's like to finally be who you are."



Lauren Today

Four days after the sex change, Jansen walked through the obstetrics wing and overheard a woman about to go into labor. "I collapsed to the floor, just bawling," Jansen says. "I'm as close as I can get, but I still can't get there."

In October, she found a job selling coffee in a Sioux City chain store. Two months later, the lawsuit was settled. Jansen can't discuss details but says she received enough money to put a down payment on a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. She also talks of more college and a possible new counseling career. Jansen moved to Omaha two weeks ago. She'll help open a new coffee store and try, again, to start a new life.

She had surgery last week in Colorado to enlarge her breasts. "It's pure feminine vanity," the 57-year-old Jansen says with a husky laugh. "I want something to jiggle while it still means something."

Lauren says she's still working to help her ex-wife pay off lawyer and counseling bills connected to their son. The ex-wife says she worries about money - and also about whether Larry will "end up killing himself." "I still am not convinced that he thought this whole thing out very well," she says.

Lauren insists, however, that life is only getting better. "I can fairly say that now I can wake up in the morning, look in the mirror to brush my teeth, and I finally like that person," she says.

It's a person she's still exploring. She still marvels at being a woman. "I think the first time I actually told my father 'I love you' was right after I transitioned," Jansen says. "Guys I used to call friends, you used to want to hug them, but you couldn't. You'd have gotten punched in the nose."

There have been a few flirtations. She's been surprised at the amount of pleasure she feels when a man touches her neck. She's decided she'd like to have a husband someday. But she's not yet ready to date - or to explain it all. She sometimes wonders how it would have been if she had done it all earlier. But she also doesn't regret the good times that Larry had. "I would have missed an awful lot," Lauren Jansen says slowly. "I would have loved to have been my son's mother."

The Power of Prescience:

The Story Of Blind Tiresias (Tireseus), The First Transsexual Of Greek Mythology

Some of you may have heard of the blind Tiresias and his great powers of discernment: but a lot of folks don't know HOW he lost that sight.

As the story goes, Tiresias was walking in the woods one day and came upon two great serpents copulating; he struck them with his staff, and was thereupon transformed into a woman.

Seven years later, the lady Tiresias passed by the same place and came upon the same two serpents copulating. She struck them again with the staff and was turned back into a man.

Some time later, Zeus and Hera were arguing over who had more pleasure in sex, the man or the woman: Zeus said it was the woman, while Hera claimed men got more pleasure from the act. To settle the argument, they consulted Tiresias, since he had experienced life as both sexes.

Tiresias sided with Zeus: he said, "If the power of sexual pleasure were divided into 10 equal parts, then nine would go to the woman." This infuriated Hera, who thus struck Tiresias blind.

Tiresias pleaded with Zeus that he had been right, and only just in his accounts of pleasure. After all, he knew both sides of the gender equation well, he said, and would NEVER lie to a woman, much less a Goddess-wife to Zeus.

Zeus thought for a moment and then hastily agreed with Tiresias. Although he could not overturn an act of a fellow deity, especially his own wife, he saw fit to grant Tiresias with the power of prophecy and prescience instead.

Special Events in July!

International FTM Gathering in Indiana, USA

CampOUT 2005 sponsored by La Fraternitie du Loup-Garou

When: Thursday July 28th to Sunday July 31st

Where: Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary in Needmore, Indiana.

Why?: To meet other FTMs in a purely social and relaxing space. Lothlorien is a private place with accepting people. All of the bathroom facilities are non-gendered. The emphasis of the community is on alternative energies, and rehabilitating the land. There will be a licensed massage therapist who specializes in people with body issues and has given numerous massages to FTMs, a female tattoo artist with reasonable rates, late night carousing and parties, drumming by bonfire, and lots of fresh air. More is being planned everyday. The cost of the campout includes your meals, which are being prepared by a Chef who was the head chef of the Russian Tea Room in Chicago. Need to get away and hang with your FTM friends and supporters? Not interested in another conference to meet other FTMs? This is what you have been waiting for!

Our website! http://lagarou.org. Contact us with your questions at lagaoru@hotmail.com! Check out Lothlorien's website at http://www.elflore.org!

Hope to see you there!!!

trans gender san francisco

tgsf

Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, July 6, 2005

Full Circle Books
1538 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002
(650) 508-9546

7:30 – 9:30 P.M.

All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification
$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.
For more details please contact Laura Patterson at [redacted]

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

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

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Contact the Editor at: [redacted]

New weekly FTM social group will replace the "Transitioned Men's" group

FTM Get-Together and Sunday Brunch

Every Sunday @ 1pm • The Crepevine 216 Church St., San Francisco, CA 94114 • Castro †Cross street: 15th & Market St. • (415) 431-4646. For further directions call Marty @ 415-845-1157.

This weekly Get-Together is about Visibility, and Social Activities that we can do as a community! The Crepevine is a nice eatery near all the transit lines (22, J, N, L, F) w/a decently priced menu! Vegetarians & Meat Eaters alike will be comfortable at the Crepevine! Bring your SOFFA's and you appetites to FTM International's Weekly Get-Together!

This is meant to supplement the monthly meetings and replace the Transitioned Men's Group which has suffered since stopping it's outdoor activities. The idea came out of the need for more FTM specific social support. So, we are gonna try to build community and create FTM, friendly space @ the Crepevine on Sundays at 1pm. Hope to see you there!

Do you want to help with any events @ FTM International? Do you have an idea for an event? Call Marty 415-[redacted]

Events Horizon!

Coming in September!

FTM 2005: A Gender Odyssey

FTM 2005: A Gender Odyssey is a national conference for masculine-identified people who were assigned female gender at birth. It is place for us to gather together, share our lives, speak our truths, learn from one another, and celebrate our communities. This conference offers workshops addressing the practical aspects of trans lives, including: legal issues; intersections of race and gender; coming out to family and friends; transitioning at work; hormones and surgery; and dating, sex, and relationships. Accompanying events include a vendor fair, art exhibit, cabaret, all-ages dance, and much more. The conference will be held on Labor Day weekend, **Sept. 2nd-5th**.

Now in its third year, Gender Odyssey is expanding and moving! In order to accommodate our growing numbers, we will schedule a third full day of programming and relocate to the Washington State Convention and Trade Center. Most workshops and panels offered at this conference are selected from our attendees' own programming submissions. In addition to other topics, we invite workshop proposals to address the issues of the older and/or post-transitioned FTM and the complex needs of families.

Gender Odyssey is pleased to have Kate Bornstein as our keynote speaker. Kate is a high femme, transsexual dyke performance artist, author, playwright, and social activist. The focus of Kate's work has been locating and vigorously promoting common ground among outsiders of all sex and gender variations. She is the author of the groundbreaking books, Gender Outlaw and My Gender Workbook. Her current work includes a new solo show, "Kate Bornstein Is a Queer and Pleasant Danger" and a new book in the works, Hello Cruel World: 101 Alternatives to Teen Suicide.

This conference is also open to anyone interested in the topics to be covered. Whether you are new to thinking about your gender, well established in your chosen gender, FTM, trans, genderqueer, MTF, part of an these communities because of the people you love, or simply questioning the role of gender in your life, FTM 2005: A Gender Odyssey, is open to you. Please plan to attend!

The FTM 2005 Conference Organizers
www.transconference.org

Coming in September!

Transsistahs and Transbrothas Convention

Provided by Richmond Out in the Mountains
Mountain Pride Media

Louisville, KY – This fall, Louisville will host an event that will mark a turning point in the history of the African-American transcommunity: the first annual **Transsistahs and Transbrothas Convention** at the historic Galt House Hotel and Suites.

The meeting is in response to the need for an infrastructure and support system similar to what the Caucasian transcommunity has built up over the last 20 years.

The event will reflect the African-American cultural heritage promoting networking in the transcommunity. Discussions will focus on programs around the country, what works and what doesn't, with an eye to implementing successful programs.

There will also be time to lay the groundwork for interactions with allies and supporters in the mainstream African-American and African-American GLBT communities.

The event is **September 14-18, 2005**, with more information at www.transfamilydefyinggravity.net

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Events Horizon!

18th Annual Creating Change Conference

Request for Workshop Proposals

Deadline for Submissions: July 15, 2005

Notification Process Begins On/About August 9, 2005

Building An Anti-Racist Movement: A Primary Goal of the Creating Change Conference

Now in its 32nd year, The Task Force remains firmly committed to addressing the impact of racism in this country, in our movement and in our organization. A primary educational goal of Creating Change is to build an anti-racist LGBT movement that includes and reflects the perspectives, needs and priorities of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender activists of all ages, races, ethnic and language origins, spiritualities and incomes.

While we know that building an anti-racist movement will take much time and many resources, we believe that we can take important steps towards the more immediate fulfillment of that commitment. To this end, The Task Force seeks programmatic proposals that will present participants with opportunities that educate, challenge, support, and help to build an anti-racist movement that is more fully representative. Not all presentations at the conference primarily address this goal, but we will give priority to presentation proposals that thoughtfully consider how racism and the failure to build a LGBT multi-racial social and economic justice movement impacts particular issues and communities and organizing projects. Activists of color are strongly encouraged to submit proposals.

Other Creating Change Priorities:

- Educate on issues such as the recognition and protection of our relationships and families, bias violence, domestic violence, repression of sexuality and gender identity and expression, equality of opportunity in employment, housing, public accommodation and education, the freedom to marry, and military and immigration discrimination;
- Give special attention to strategies, projects, and methods of organizing that link race, class, gender and age oppression with homophobia and heterosexism;
- Strengthen the skills of activists and organizers who work at all levels of our movement;
- Improve our abilities to create change in legislative bodies, media, workplaces, faith communities, community and social institutions, and on campuses and at schools;
- Increase our confidence to work collaboratively with allies to effect durable change;
- Provide opportunities to discuss and explore difficult and challenging issues and topics in a supportive environment;
- Give special attention to emerging issues in our movement and communities, as well as those people most affected by them;
- Build an anti-racist movement for social and economic justice that is vigorous in each state and territory of the US and that includes and reflects the perspectives, needs and priorities of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists of all ages, races, ethnic and language origins, spiritualities, and incomes.

Presentations must fit within one of the following formats:

- Workshops (90 minutes): Prepared presentations with stated and specific learning goals and some time dedicated to Q & A and group discussion. Workshops are political education sessions in which attendees will gain useful information, advice, and technical assistance about a specific topic. Please specify if your session is intended for participants whose work is entry level; or intermediate level; or advanced level.
- Caucus/Networking (60 minutes): A time for affinity groups or groups working on similar projects to gather for networking, discussion, and community building; or, an opportunity to convene a group of somewhat discordant participants to discuss a specific topic, i.e. a multi-generational group invited to discuss our movement's commitment to persons of disparate ages.

Presenter Policies

In order to keep conference registration fees at the lowest possible rate, we ask presenters to volunteer time, expertise and services at Creating Change. In consideration of your service as a presenter, you will be able to register for the entire conference at a rate of $150. This registration rate is inclusive of all pre-conference institutes, plenary sessions, workshops, roundtables, trainings, screenings and caucuses, beginning Wednesday morning November 9 and concluding Sunday November 13, 2005. This registration rate does not include special events, dances/parties, and travel or hotel expenses. The presenter registration rate is limited to four presenters per session.

After a proposal is accepted, presenters will be mailed a presenter registration packet which includes a conference registration form. Should your proposal not be accepted, you are invited to register for the conference at the presenter rate of $150, inclusive of pre-conference institutes. If you submit a proposal, please do not register for the conference at any rate higher than $150.

Presenter Responsibilities

As a presenter, you are responsible for making your own travel arrangements. The conference hotel, the Oakland Marriott City Center, located in downtown Oakland, offers a conference rate of $119.00/night. Please be sure to mention the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference when making reservations. Reservations must be made by October 7, 2005 to receive the guaranteed conference rate. You may reserve a room by calling 800/991-7249. The 2005 Host Committee will organize a community housing program to provide a limited number of no-cost housing options for conference presenters and attendees. In order to participate, submit a completed housing request to the local Host Committee, available on our web site www.creatingchange.org.

For more information and to download the request for workshop proposal in pdf format, please go to the following link http://www.thetaskforce.org/downloads/CC05RFP.pdf

If you have any questions about the workshop proposal process, please feel free to contact Sue Hyde, Conference Director at: 617-492-6393 or shyde@thetaskforce.org

Sue Hyde - Conference Director
Julie Childs - Assistant Conference Director

Creating Change Conference Kickoff

We had the first planning meeting tonight for the Creating Change Conference sponsored by the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. This year's conference will be held **November 9-13, 2005** at the Oakland Marriott City Center. After introductions and a briefing on the purposes of the conference we got right down to business and divided ourselves into subcommittees to cover the highest priority tasks. The GLBTI spectrum was well covered with youth and seniors, transpersons, persons of color, and people of faith.

As a member of the Local Promotion/Outreach subcommittee I will be using my extensive community contacts to publicize the conference. We have a goal of enlisting 250 volunteers to cover the myriad of tasks need to have a successful conference. I will be letting you know how you can volunteer. Please join us!

Stephanie Ann Blythe

TransVision Social — Hayward

TransVision Social Transgender Women will meet at **7:00pm on the fourth Friday of every month** to celebrate our survival. Come and share your journey of daily living and participate in the affirmation of our lives. For each of our journeys and our vision, let us validate, support and affirm each other and celebrate our success.

There will be light refreshments and a wonderful atmosphere. Come for that good feeling. For more information, contact Tiffany at (510) 713-6690, ext. 9. Don't miss this!

Significant Other Support East Bay

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

Sundance Channel, In Association With Logo, Chronicles The Lives Of Four Transgender College Students In 'Transgeneration'

Original Limited Series To Be Produced By World Of Wonder Productions

Sundance Channel in association with MTVN's Logo announce the creation of an original documentary series titled "TransGeneration" which looks at the daily lives of four college undergraduates who are undergoing a gender transition. "TransGeneration," is produced by World of Wonder ("Showbiz Moms & Dads", Inside Deep Throat, The Eyes of Tammy Faye).

The eight-episode series follows the students at four different colleges over the course of the 2004/05 school year, capturing their setbacks and triumphs as they balance the challenges of academia, campus life, and family with their commitment to gender reassignment. "TransGeneration" will debut on Sundance Channel with an hour-long premiere on September 20th at 9:00pm, followed by six one-half hour shows and an hour-long finale Tuesday nights at 9:00pm. The series will air on Logo in first quarter 2006. "This series is a moving portrait of four fascinating people at a dramatic time in their lives. "TransGeneration" also offers an engaging first-hand look at the current trend on college campuses of confronting gender issues and politics head-on," said Laura Michalchyshyn, Executive Vice President Programming and Marketing, Sundance Channel, "Sundance Channel is very proud of this series and looks forward to continuing strong relationships with our partners World of Wonder and Logo."

Eileen Opatut, Senior Vice President, Original Programming and Development, Logo: "Working together, Sundance Channel and Logo have been able to bring these significant stories to life," said Opatut. "I have never worked so well with a partner on a creative level, and I look forward to many more co-ventures in the future."

The subjects are spread across the country, at campuses in the Northeast (Massachusetts), the Midwest (Michigan), and the West (Colorado and California). Through the stories of these four students, their friends, families and communities, "TransGeneration" highlights a growing phenomenon: that gender identity is being confronted by a younger generation.

The director and supervising producer of "TransGeneration" is Jeremy Simmons, whose credits include the television documentaries "School's Out: The Life of a Gay High School in Texas" (a GLAAD Award nominee for Outstanding Documentary) which aired on MTV and AMC's "Gay Hollywood." An emerging talent who won several awards as a student filmmaker, Simmons has worked extensively as a film and television editor, and his credits include the recent feature documentary Inside Deep Throat and the drama Party Monster. "TransGeneration" is produced by Thairin Smothers and executive produced by award-winning filmmakers Fenton Bailey and Randy Barbato, founders of film and television production company World of Wonder. As directors/producers, their credits include the documentaries Behind Deep Throat, The Eyes of Tammy Faye, and Party Monster: The Michael Alig Story, as well as the 2003 drama Party Monster.

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Panel OKs Transgendered Marriage

Immigration Appeals Panel Relies On State Law, Overruling Homeland Security Department

By Arthur S. Leonard

Sharon McGowan wins her case

The Board of Immigration Appeals has approved a visa petition filed by a transgendered woman on behalf of her male spouse from El Salvador, overturning a denial by the Department of Homeland Security's Nebraska service center director. The May 18 ruling, described by the board as an "interim decision," was based on its conclusion that the marriage between the two is valid under North Carolina law where their ceremony took place.

According to the board's opinion by Edward R. Grant, the petitioner, Gia Teresa Lovo-Ciccone, married José Mauricio Lovo-Lara, an El Salvadoran citizen, in North Carolina in September 2002. Lovo-Ciccone, recorded as male when born in North Carolina in 1973, had sex-reassignment surgery in 2001, and was issued a new birth certificate designating her as female after she filed documentation regarding her surgery. For purposes of North Carolina law, she is female, and her marriage to José is considered a valid opposite-sex marriage under that state's law.

However, the director of Homeland Security's National Service Center in Nebraska turned down her petition, reasoning that the question of defining marriage for immigration purposes is one of federal law, that under the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) only opposite-sex marriages can be recognized and that although some states and foreign countries have "enacted laws that permit a person who has undergone sex change surgery to legally change the person's sex from one to the other, Congress has not addressed the issue."

Homeland Security concluded the couple's union was not a valid opposite-sex marriage. Lovo-Ciccone appealed this ruling to the Board of Immigration Appeals, represented by Sharon McGowan of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union. Writing for the appeals board, Grant conceded that under DOMA the immigration law must be interpreted to recognize only marriages between one man and one woman, but a review of the act's legislative history showed that Congress' concern in passing that law was to forbid federal recognition of marriages between homosexuals.

"Throughout the House Report," wrote Grant, "the terms 'same sex' and 'homosexual' are used interchangeably. The House Report also repeatedly refers to the consequences of permitting 'homosexual couples' to marry."

Grant pointed out, however, that at the time DOMA was passed in 1996, at least one state had a judicial precedent recognizing as valid the marriage of a post-operative transsexual, a 1976 New Jersey decision. Also, at that time many states had passed laws, similar to the North Carolina law, extending legal recognition for sex changes and authorizing issuing new birth certificates. The legislative history of DOMA mentions none of these developments.

"Rather," wrote Grant, "Congress' focus, as indicated by its consistent reference to homosexuals in the floor discussions and in the House Report, was fixed on, and limited to, the issue of homosexual marriage." Thus, in the view of the appeals board, DOMA was not really all that relevant to the issues in the case.

That being the case, the board reverted to its typical practice of treating as valid a marriage considered legal by the jurisdiction where it was performed, in this case North Carolina. Grant found no indication in the Congressional discussions of DOMA of any intention to overrule that consistent practice.

The Homeland Security attorney argued that the appeals board should determine the validity of marriages by reference to "man" and "woman" defined by chromosomes, but the board was unwilling to go down that route, trumping this simplistic argument with a sophisticated reference to Julie Greenberg's definitive law review article, "Defining Male and Female: Intersexuality and the Collision Between Law and Biology," published in the Arizona Law Review in 1999. Greenberg lists eight different factors that scientists use to determine an individual's sex, only one of which is genetic sex. Several courts have been influenced by Greenberg's article to adopt a more sophisticated view of sex and gender, and so was the board, stating, "for immigration purposes, we find it appropriate to determine an individual's gender based on the designation appearing on the current birth certificate issued to that person."

Since Homeland Security had not raised any other objection to the petition and conceded that the marriage was valid under North Carolina law, there was no need for the board to send the case back for reconsideration. Instead, it ordered that the visa petition be approved. [However] this decision could be appealed by the Department of Homeland Security to the federal courts.

T-News!

Library Of Congress Drops Job Applicant After Learning She's Transsexual

by Doreen Brandt 365Gay.com Washington Bureau
©365Gay.com 2005

(Washington) The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in federal court against the Library of Congress on behalf of a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army whose job offer was rescinded after she informed the organization that she was in the process of transitioning from male to female. "After risking my life for more than 25 years for my country, I've been told I'm not worthy of the freedoms I worked so hard to protect," said Diane Schroer. "All I'm asking is to be judged by my abilities rather than my gender."

Schroer, 49, retired from the Army as a Colonel in 2004 after 25 years of distinguished service. As an Airborne Ranger qualified Special Forces officer, Schroer says she completed over 450 parachute jumps, received numerous decorations including the Defense Superior Service Medal, and was hand-picked to head up a classified national security operation.

After leaving the military, Schroer says she confronted feelings she had been dealing with her entire life, and after careful deliberation under the care of a doctor, decided to transition from a man to a woman. While still presenting as a man, Schroer applied for a position with the Library of Congress as the senior terrorism research analyst. Soon thereafter she was offered the job, which she accepted immediately.

Prior to starting work, Schroer took her future boss to lunch to explain that she was in the process of transitioning and thought it would be easier for everyone if she simply started work presenting as a female. The future boss said nothing at the lunch to suggest that this would be a problem. But the following day, Schroer received a call from the future boss rescinding the offer, telling her that she wasn't a "good fit" for the Library of Congress.

"The Library of Congress clearly thought Schroer was the most qualified person for the job," said Sharon McGowan, a staff attorney with the ACLU's Lesbian and Gay Rights Project. "The notion that our government would reject the best candidate for a job simply because of her gender is not only patently unfair, but also blatantly illegal."

In legal papers filed today in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia, the ACLU charges that the Library of Congress unlawfully refused to hire Schroer in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which protects against sex discrimination in the workplace. The lawsuit also claims that the Library's action violated Schroer's constitutional right to be free from discrimination, and violates the Library's own legal mandate to hire based only on merit.

"The government was perfectly happy to let Schroer risk life and limb to fight terrorism. Yet now that she's female, Schroer has been told that she's unfit even to research terrorism," said Art Spitzer, Legal Director of the ACLU of the National Capital Area. "No one should have to fear being passed over for a job simply because of his or her gender identity, but this case is especially shameful."

Lawsuit Claims Sex Change Led to Firing at Saint Anselm College

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Last year, computer programmer Robert Blanchette met with his supervisors at Saint Anselm College to tell them he'd be returning from a two-week vacation as Sarah Blanchette.

Blanchette told the supervisors that he had wrestled with his gender identity and that he was a transsexual. He said he was undergoing medical treatment and psychological counseling. He asked for their compassion and support.

"I am not doing this to embarrass anyone, nor to seek notoriety or cause disruption," Blanchette wrote in a statement Adam Albina, director of the Department of Information Technology and Patricia Shuster, vice president for administration at Saint Anselm. "Rest assured that I will present myself in a professional and age-appropriate manner."

But in a lawsuit filed in federal court last week, Blanchette alleges that his disclosure led to his being put on administrative leave in April 2004 and that his employment was ended after 6 years with the college.

The sex discrimination lawsuit seeks a trial. Blanchette also seeks to be rehired with back pay and damages for emotional distress. "As with any case ... there are obviously a lot of things that are not in the complaint," said Sean Gorman, a spokesman for Saint Anselm. "There is a whole other side."

Gorman also said that transsexuality is not covered by the Civil Rights Act, but Blanchette's attorney disagreed. "Firing somebody because they are transgender is sex discrimination," Bennett Klein said. "She was an exemplary and loyal employee for seven years."

After the meeting with Shuster and Albina, Shuster told Blanchette she would need to talk it over with other college officials, the lawsuit said. A month later, she met with Blanchette to tell him he was no longer welcome at Saint Anselm. "As you know, you recently disclosed to senior college administration your transsexual status. Upon consideration, you are immediately relieved of your duties," Shuster wrote.

A New Hampshire native, Blanchette, 53, is an Air Force veteran, and is married with children, according to the lawsuit.

As Robert Blanchette, he was a computer programmer and technical support specialist in Saint Anselm's information technology department. He wrote code and designed and installed computer systems for the college's administrative offices, and he'd received commendations for his work.

"At all times during his employment at the college, Robert Blanchette dressed and appeared in a manner that is traditionally associated with males," the suit states. "Robert Blanchette, however, struggled privately throughout much of his adult life with distress related to his gender identity."

He sought help in 2001, seeing a psychologist and gender specialist, and was diagnosed with "gender identity disorder," the suit said. He began hormone therapy in 2002.

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Inner Woman Emerges - Part 2

Practicing Being Herself

The continuing story of the renowned doctor, haunted by mixed feelings, who decided at 55 that it's time to change genders

By Danielle Deaver
Journal Reporter

Dr. Jamie Koufman was at the top. In 25 years in Winston-Salem, Koufman had established a reputation as an aggressive, innovative throat surgeon and a renowned specialist in laryngology. Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center had established a Center for Voice and Swallowing Disorders under Koufman's direction.

But Koufman, known for perfectionism and an outspoken manner, was uneasy. Deciding to act on a belief that he was a woman trapped in a man's body filled him with a nagging fear. People had been fired or had their professional reputations destroyed because they were transsexuals.

In January 2003, Koufman made a typically brash decision. He called Daniel and Laura Hart McKinny, a filmmaking couple at the N.C. School of the Arts, and asked them if they would make a documentary about him as he made his transition from male to female. The McKinnys were intrigued at the idea of filming a story in which the ending was unknown - would he actually go through with it? - and agreed.

For Koufman, doing a film was a natural. "One of the reasons I was doing a documentary was I was afraid I might be fired. So, that way, if I went from being this great person to a devil in six months, I would have some documentation," Koufman said.

Koufman showed bravado and fear when asked last summer why she thought that her sex-change operation had brought her few, if any, professional consequences. "I think they were scared of me, that they would face a massive lawsuit. There were reasons it didn't happen to me," she said, before quickly backing off. I shouldn't say that. I should give them the benefit of the doubt. I would say that I was an important person in the medical community, and people just didn't care."

Koufman's decision took a few people by surprise, said Stan Shapshay, a professor in the otolaryngology department at Boston University School of Medicine. Shapshay and Koufman were medical residents together and have been friends ever since. "I think there's certainly people out there who are less accepting and view this whole transition with some suspicion in that maybe there is some instability and this would affect Dr. Koufman's ability to function, but I'd say they are in the minority. I'd say we all have great respect for Dr. Koufman's abilities. People who are her friends are happy that she has made the choices she had to make," Shapshay said.

Sally Shumaker, then the associate dean of faculty affairs at the Wake Forest medical school, had been in her job for two weeks in the winter of 2003 when Koufman told her about what was happening. Shumaker was aware of Koufman's international reputation as a surgeon. "I also wanted to learn as much as I could about transitions, sex changes, and how we could make this environment as comfortable as possible for her to make this change," she said. The administration never officially discussed Koufman's decision, Shumaker said.

Today, Koufman called the administrators visionary for how they handled her change. She said she believes that they wanted to show the world that the medical center is liberal and fair enough to handle this type of experience.

Koufman said she is glad that she did the documentary, even though she ultimately didn't need it for job protection. She hopes that the film, which will be shown Saturday night as part of the RiverRun International Film Festival, helps more people understand transsexuals and what they go through.

"When they see what it really is, someone who has the money and everything else, it is still brutally difficult. When you see me in this documentary, you will not see all pretty stuff. You'll see parts that are difficult, on the edge of giving up," she said. "Pretty beaten up emotionally and physically - and I have a lot of resilience - and it was very difficult at times."

Learning A New Life

By July 2003, Koufman had a woman's face and wore her hair in a short, fashionable bob. The parts that weren't feminine - she still had male genitals - would be fixed by more surgery in the next year. She returned to work at the medical center after her usual monthlong sabbatical. She always took the month of June off. In 2003, she had used the time to have the facial-feminization surgery. She would have to live as a woman for a full year before she could have the final surgery to alter her genitalia.

Even though she had long dreamed of being a woman, she felt like a neophyte that first summer. She had cross-dressed throughout her life, but she had never had to assemble a female wardrobe for work, or put on makeup that would carry her through a professional day. She would have to learn to be a grownup all over again.

One of the first things she did after she recovered was shop. "Which place didn't I go to? I went to the Gap. I went to Old Navy, Dillard's," she said. "I must have spent $3,000, $4,000, and I wasn't buying expensive stuff."

She had to think about how she walked, even though she was used to high heels from her cross-dressing. She made some mistakes. A black bra - instead of a camisole or nude underwear - worn under a thin black blouse brought complaints from other people at the medical center that she was dressing inappropriately. The complaints made it clear that people were watching her. "People didn't believe it. People were afraid; people were angry. People said things like 'I can't deal with this,'" Koufman said.

Of all the people affected by her change, Koufman said, her patients seemed the least upset. Only one patient, Koufman said, left because of the sex change. Other patients among the thousands who have seen Koufman may have quietly stopped because of the change, or because she was out of work for five out of 18 months in 2003 and 2004 as she underwent her surgeries and recuperation.

Koufman had created a two-page disclosure letter that explained what she had done and why. She handed it out to hundreds of patients every month. When patients came to see her, a nurse gave them the letter to read before they saw Koufman. "Then when I went in, I'd say to the patient, 'Are we OK, do we have to talk about this?'" Koufman said. "My perspective was, look, people don't come to see me for anything having to do with my personal life, and I realize that, but they do have a right to know why I look different."

The letter gave the patient information about how to contact Shumaker with questions. Shumaker said she received just one inquiry. Some patients had questions, Koufman said, but not many. There was one group that reacted more than others - the clergymen whom she treats. "When a patient came to me, a religious person, and said, 'God doesn't make mistakes and you were made a man.' I said, 'God doesn't make mistakes and God made me transsexual.' And that seemed actually to satisfy," Koufman said. "I think a lot of clergy have taken the position God has a special plan for you, and I believe that is the case."

Mixed Problems

There are some reactions by some people that Koufman has not been able to avoid. She does not like to talk about the feelings or reactions of family members, but she admits that they were devastated by her decision and remain extremely uncomfortable. "Both of my kids still have some problems with this. They can't say, 'Hey, my mom and dad are going to join us for dinner.' What are they going to say, 'My mom and my transsexual-now-a-woman dad is.' Who wants to explain that all day?" Koufman said. "It's hard for them. They lost their father."

Her ex-wife, Marsha, has agonized over what the decision has done to her two sons. Marsha Koufman declined to be interviewed for this story. And though Jamie Koufman has found a measure of peace and almost total self-acceptance through the change, she now laughs, somewhat ruefully, when talking about her hopes for looking like a "taller, sleeker Britney Spears" after her transition. "I'm a little pissed that I didn't get to be that drop-dead gorgeous 18-year-old who comes flying out of the mall in little minishorts with a flip of the hair and every male of every species in a three-mile radius stops in his tracks. I missed that phase, sorry to say."

In an ironic twist for a specialist in voice disorders, Koufman also has had to realize that she will always be unhappy with her voice. There are few surgeries that she endorses to feminize the voice, though she is working to develop some. Today, Koufman's voice, while feminine, is husky; she said she's taken voice lessons to make it more acceptable.

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Inner Woman Emerges...

Continued from Page 18

She also lost some of the anonymity that she had outside of the medical center. "If I show up, 30 people will say, 'That's the doctor who had the sex change.' It's almost a type of celebrity, which is of course not necessarily the kind you want," she said last August. But Koufman is not hiding from publicity. Besides the film to debut this week at RiverRun, she is moving into becoming more of an advocate in the transgender community.

Surgery And Its Aftermath

Koufman had already gone through most of her transition - learning how to live as a woman, telling people she was a woman, and finding out about some of the more annoying aspects of being female - before she had the final surgery that truly made her a female.

She had the genital-reassignment surgery on June 8 of last year in Trinidad, Colo., after carefully researching the centers and doctors offering the procedure. It was of shorter duration and easier than the facial-feminization surgery. She spent three days in the hospital, then went to a local hotel set up for people recovering from such surgery.

When Koufman was alone, she got a full-length mirror and finally saw what she had waited a lifetime to achieve. "I tried on a pair of stretch capri pants so I could admire my new crotch contour," she said.

On the way home, things became more difficult. Koufman was miserable during her layover in Chicago. "My hormones were all screwed up," she said. "I cried the whole time we were in O'Hare."

Things were still difficult when she got home and an unexpected problem arose. The medicine that she had been taking for a urinary-tract infection after her surgery made her tendons more vulnerable. Koufman ended up tearing the Achilles tendon - the area between her foot and calf - on her left leg. She spent the first several weeks in a cast and using crutches and a mechanical Hovercraft to get around the medical center.

She also found out how time-consuming womanhood can be. She was spending as much as two hours a day - made a little longer because of the cast on her leg - doing her hair and makeup and getting dressed. For the first six months, she also had to spend 30 to 60 minutes a day on exercises that would ensure her new female genitalia healed properly.

But she said she felt free and happy. "With gender-reassignment surgery my transition, which has been a deeply introspective and personal journey for me, comes to its conclusion. I've done it. My gender is forever changed. I am ready to go on with my life," she said. "This transformation has been so profound that I cannot help but feel that it is about more than gender."

Politics And Advocacy

A few months after her surgery, Koufman created a Web site, www.inbroaddaylight.net, and she has become a sort of folk hero in the transgender community. She gets e-mails from all over from people asking for emotional support and medical advice.

"In view of the fact that even though I'm a stranger, I'm not a stranger. I mean, I get a lot of letters - they're like fan mail, I guess - from the Web site. But they say, 'I will never be able to do what you've done,' and it's still good to see it. That's a hard message," she said. "You get some of these angry, like, 'You know, who do you think you are just because you have a bunch of money you can do this and the rest of us poor transsexuals can't afford to do what you've done,' and that hurts, too."

Koufman also is admired among transsexuals for her willingness to talk. "What Jamie's doing has a tremendous potential to help as well," said W. Meredith Bacon, a political-science professor at the University of Minnesota at Omaha. Bacon is one of the few academics in the country who studies transsexuals' behavior - specifically, who they are and what their political concerns are. "She is an invaluable member of the transsexual community. She is respected and looked up to as somebody who took control of her own life, as somebody who was honest about who she was when it came time to make a decision."

Koufman said she also counsels people who are close to home, including some colleagues at the medical center who believe that they are transsexual. She has been speaking out about the transsexual experience. She appeared in The Vagina Monologues at the Arts Council Theatre in Winston-Salem last month. The monologues are a series of skits and speeches designed to increase understanding of women and to raise awareness about violence against women. Koufman was a co-producer of the show and was invited by other transsexuals to participate in a skit written for transsexual women.

She said she has made many friends among transsexual women, and flew to Colorado to help one through genital-reassignment surgery. Since her surgery, Koufman, who likes to cook, said she has people over to dinner, goes out to brunch, watches movies and relaxes more at home with friends. "I think what I discovered is that the guy I was was driven to do things, to buy things. I cut back on my practice. I don't see as many patients. I spend more time with people. I don't make as much money. My patients are happier. I connect with more people, and I have made more friends in the past two years than I have in the rest of my life."

Colleagues said they have noticed the difference. "I think there's been a 180-degree change in Dr. Koufman. I worked with Dr. Koufman for nine years, and Dr. Koufman is world-famous because of the voice center. Before, Dr. Koufman was all business," said Janet Fox, the patient-care team manager for the otolaryngology operating room.

Koufman is more personable now, with her staff and with her patients, Fox said. She asks her staff how things are going in their personal lives and touches them more in caring gestures. "It's almost as if Dr. Koufman is a totally new person now. And we're just crazy about her. We just love her to death," Fox said.

A Woman's Life

At the end of her long journey, Koufman said she has no regrets. "Basically, I'm happy. I needed to do this," she said. "I'm just as assertive as I ever was, but I'm not as aggressive. I'm much more at peace with who I am, I'm a much more gentle person."

And she remains hopeful that her family will come on board. "When you're in your 50s and you transition, you have a whole bunch of people who have to come with you. It's not like I'm a little young thing," she said. "Just like Winston-Salem is different and will be different in two years, so will my relationships. There's a lot of family stuff that hasn't evolved yet, and that's difficult. My family still hasn't reconciled who I am and where I am yet."

There is something else she lost. People outside the hospital seemed to treat her differently. Koufman said she saw the change almost as soon as she began looking and dressing like a woman. Taxi drivers in Washington, where she has a clinic, were not as respectful. It was harder to get the attention of a maitre d' in a restaurant.

Koufman recalls a day when a company representative went to speak to people in the otolaryngology offices. The representative had set up a lunch, and people who worked in the office were walking into the room to eat and to hear his sales pitch. "He was new, and every time one of the residents - you know, squeaky shiny clean doctors in greens and a white coat - every time one of them came in, he'd pop up like a jack-in-the-box. You know, 'Hi! I'm John from so and so,'" Koufman said.

"I came in, a middle-age woman, right, so I'm going to be a secretary or a nurse. There was no jumping up when I arrived. "So I made myself a plate; I sat down and began talking with the residents. The residents got the message and said, 'Oh, John, this is Dr. Koufman. She runs the voice center.' Well, all the sudden, I got a jump-up."

It made her think about women's power, she said, and how she had treated women herself. "It wasn't that I was exactly a sensitive man; I was pretty much a bully myself. I had an agenda and I wasn't too worried about other people's feelings," she said.

Koufman said she has been amazed to now see so clearly the difference in how society treats men and women. It's something that she thinks about and talks about frequently. "I think people like me who have seen the world from both sides of the gender divide do have a unique perspective to share - which is that women do get marginalized in my opinion in a variety of settings simply because they are women," she said. "I think that women are going to become truly equals in the next 100 years or so. They're not equals now - they're really not. I get marginalized 10 times a day."

PROFESSIONAL SHOPPER

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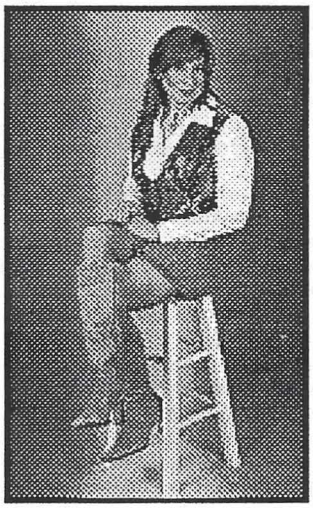
Look At Him Then, Look At Her Now

Dave Told His Boss He'd Report To Work As Diane. The Boss Said No Way.

By Mark Brown
Special To The NY Daily News

Diane Schroer grew up in Chicago, graduated from Northern Illinois University, made a career in the U.S. Army as an officer in Special Forces and now is suing the federal government for sex discrimination. Diane was my college roommate. Back then, we knew her as Dave.

Dave Schroer as a military commander in a May 1985 photo, and (below) in a recent photo after assuming a new role as a woman, Diane.



Sorry if that brings you up short to read it that way, but that was intentional, because that's a taste of how it felt on this end when Dave let me know six weeks ago that he had become Diane. As awkward as I feel, however, I try to keep in mind what it's like for Diane, emerging anew into the world at age 48 - and now having been put into the position where she must do so quite publicly in order to fight for what she thinks is right. I'm taking her side in that fight, not just because I know she'd do the same for me, but also because I'm sure we owe it to her after 25 years in the service of our country.

Diane tells me she is a transsexual, currently in the process of "transitioning" from male to female. This is mostly new stuff to me, but as I understand it, transsexuals are individuals who feel strongly that they are, or ought to be, the opposite sex. It is a feeling Diane kept well-hidden during a lifetime as a guy's guy - from high school gearhead to airborne Ranger by the time he left college to nail-spitting military commander with a key post in the war on terror. "Hey, if I'm stuck with this boy thing, I ought to do it right," Diane told me about the philosophy that guided her through those many years when every day was confused with thoughts about being a woman.

Diane was still going by Dave when she applied for a job last August with the Congressional Research Service in Washington, as an analyst for terrorism and international crime. The research service, an agency within the Library of Congress, is the public policy research arm of Congress and well-respected for its nonpartisan reports. Dave was highly qualified for the position, having served in a variety of command and staff posts during his military career before retiring effective Jan. 1, 2004, with the rank of colonel.

In his last assignment after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Dave was assigned to create and direct a 120-person classified organization within the Special Operations Command. His unit had what his lawyers describe as "responsibility for tracking and targeting of several high threat international terrorist organizations." When I asked Diane to explain more precisely what that means, she told me, "I'd like to, but then we'd have to cut off your head and put it in a safe." That's what I would have expected Dave to say, too.

Dave's combat experience included the U.S. invasion of Panama in 1989 to extract Gen. Manuel Noriega and the 1994 occupation of Haiti that restored Jean-Bertrand Aristide to that nation's presidency after he had been ousted in a coup. Dave speaks only obliquely about other unspecified operational missions over the years in Africa, the Middle East and Central America. "I always say I did the desert before the desert was cool," Diane says, the words again sounding a lot like Dave, although voice training has helped her develop a passable woman's voice.

Supervisors at the Congressional Research Service must have recognized Dave's qualifications because they offered him the job, which he accepted. The problem came when Dave went back for one more meeting with the woman who was hiring him to work out final details, including a start date. It was then that Dave told her about his gender change and that when he reported for work his first day he'd come as Diane.

Diane says the woman called the next day to say that after a "long, restless night" she had decided "for the good of the service" that Diane would not be a "good fit" for the job after all. Diane told me her first instinct was to just let it go. But the more she thought about it, she felt the sting of injustice, the violation of principle. The ACLU [then] filed suit on her behalf.

That's the Dave I knew in 1976, when we decided to abandon the college dorm floor where I'd lived for three years - and him going on two - so we could rent an apartment off-campus. I was a long-haired editor of the college paper, where I spent every waking hour when I wasn't in a bar. He was the oh-so-serious ROTC guy with a passion for constitutional law, trying to finish college in three years. Dave was exceptionally self-disciplined, but he had a weakness for bad television. His compromise was to watch his shows, but do sit-ups and pushups during commercial breaks.

The summer after I graduated he went to Army Ranger school, training in swamps. The next summer they had him jumping out of airplanes. He'd made 450 jumps before he retired. We drifted apart after college, catching up with each other every decade or so. I never had a clue about his inner conflict, and looking back, still can't find any.

If there was one thing I would have told you about Dave Schroer in the days I knew him it's that he knew his own mind, and that's why I've got to believe he knows what he's doing now when he says he's really Diane. Dave Schroer served our country well. Diane is prepared to do the same.

When Dad Becomes Mum

A sex change is major surgery, but the after effects can be ju as traumatic for the family. Here are two different stories from the loved-ones of those affected.

By Jane Purcell
Mirror.co.uk

Kids Called Him A Tranny And A Perv

Melanie Hamilton-Smith, 23, endured a wretched childhood in Bristol after her transsexual dad Toni won custody of her and her brother and sister in a landmark court ruling in 1989.

I REALISED my dad Tony was a bit different because he wore hairspray and nail varnish. But we all thought that was pretty cool, especially as he let us play with them.

When my parents split, we went to live with dad, who was by then dressing as a woman and asking us to call him Toni. Mum won access, but never bothered turning up so we lost contact. I've since learned she had a lot of problems and was quite traumatised by everything.

Toni tried his best to be our mum. She would bake cakes and do our hair for school and then go off to work as a labourer. She is 6ft 2ins, never had the money for electrolysis and will never look feminine. So out shopping with her in make-up and heels, people stared and even spat at us.

We got a lot of verbal abuse in the street and I was even hit a few times. We had to grow up very quickly and fend for ourselves. We used to get called 'shims' - a mix of 'she' and 'him' and kids would say, 'Your dad is a transformer'. At school I would be the child that sat alone at meal times.

Nobody turned up at my ninth birthday party and a girl at school said, 'Your dad's a tranny. Our mums wouldn't let us come because he's a pervert'. I used to play the flute at school and the teacher contacted other parents to say not to let their kids share instruments with me because of my dad. That still hurts.

We'd all come home crying and dad cried when she saw us. She'd say: 'Maybe it would be better if you'd gone to a foster family.' We'd say: 'No - we love you.' Maybe it would have been - for us and her. She wouldn't have had so many money worries, could have worked on her appearance and gone off and worked abroad. And we might have had happier formative years.

Childhood was traumatic for us all, but particularly for my brother, who was older. He got into a lot of trouble and is in prison now. My sister's OK - she's married with two kids. My upbringing made me very insecure. I never had a boyfriend when we lived in Wales because it was uncool to go out with 'shims'. When I moved to Birmingham three years ago I didn't tell a soul. I was so scared people wouldn't like me. Now only close friends know.

I don't see Toni as a mother or a father and I don't confide in her like I would a mum. We've never swapped clothes or make-up. Sometimes when I'm feeling really ill I wish I had a mum to bring me a cup of tea in bed or to console me when I've split up with someone.

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Officials, Firms Push Policies For Individuals With Atypical Identities

By Samantha Marshall
New York Business

When Mark Stumpp took a mysterious medical leave in 2002, his colleagues feared the worst. Months of dramatic weight loss and other physical transformations convinced many that he was dying of cancer. "When people found out I was coming back as Margaret, they were relieved," recalls Ms. Stumpp, chief investment officer for Quantitative Management Associates, which manages $52 billion for Prudential Financial's asset management unit.

Ms. Stumpp had undergone a sex-change operation and returned to the office as a woman, wearing women's clothes. In the meantime, Prudential had briefed her co-workers and clients about her transition. Instead of being greeted with hostility, Ms. Stumpp says, she was welcomed with supportive comments. "The women in the office even gave me makeup tips," she recalls.

In a city famous for its diverse population, unconventional gender expression remains one of the final frontiers of workplace custom and policy. While many companies lack specific protections for transgender workers, an increasing number are confronting the issue.

The New York City Commission on Human Rights issued a code of conduct in December spelling out exactly how employers should treat transsexuals, cross-dressers and other transgender people. The guidelines, which elaborate on a 2002 city law, address issues such as restroom accommodations.

In recent weeks, City Comptroller William Thompson has been leaning on many companies—including Toys "R" Us, Cerner Corp. and Delta Air Lines—to write protections for transgender workers into their corporate policies. The city's unions are major shareholders in many large national companies, and the comptroller helps determine city pension funds' investments.

So far, Cerner and Toys "R" Us have agreed, and the comptroller will raise the issue at Delta's shareholders meeting in Atlanta this Thursday. Mr. Thompson plans to get aggressive with companies that don't comply.

There have been few legal cases involving employment discrimination against transgender people. But lawyers and advocates say that many transgender men and women suffer the gamut of abuses, from deliberate use of improper pronouns to outright sexual harassment. Many, like computer technician Jacqui Charvet, can't make it past a job interview.

Out Of Work

"One guy told me, 'We're looking for a real man for the job,' " recalls Ms. Charvet, who hasn't been able to find full-time work since her sex change three years ago. Even Ms. Stumpp, whose financial prowess is well-known on Wall Street, says that headhunters have stopped calling her. Before her transition, she was recruited with seven-figure job offers. "Compared to other things like sexual orientation, gender identity pushes a button that goes to the core of who a person is," says lawyer Michael Silverman, who founded the Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund two years ago after hearing complaints from victims of discrimination.

Not many transgender people realize that their rights are protected, and the few people who do bring complaints usually settle them before going to court. Many who undergo a change of sexual identity opt to quit their jobs and leave the area. Others are afraid of being outed, or publicly identified, as transgender, and are reluctant to protest any discrimination. "We are a generation behind compared with gays and lesbians," says Pauline Park, co-chair of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy.

Employment lawyers are getting more calls. "We're definitely going to see more of these kinds of cases," says Aliza Herzberg, a partner with labor law firm Morea & Schwartz. This is new territory for most employers, who often don't even understand what the word transgender means, says Ms. Park, who conducts training sessions in corporate offices to explain the different permutations of gender identity.

Defining Terms

Transgender is used as an umbrella term. It includes transsexuals, transvestites and intersex individuals, or people born with partial or both male and female genitalia. Many people lump all of these types under the term transsexual, which is generally understood to refer to those who have made or are making the physical transition to the other gender. In fact, transsexuals represent only a fraction of the transgender population, says Ms. Park.

The advocate, who was born male and later opted to come out as a woman without undergoing a sex-change operation, identifies herself as a "transgendered woman." She says companies can sustain a gender transition with less controversy when managers educate employees. That's what Prudential found when Ms. Stumpp returned to work as Maggie. One Prudential employee, Stacie Mintz, says she was more worried about slipping and calling Ms. Stumpp by her old name than she was shocked by the drastic physical change. The event was much less fraught than she expected. "My first reaction was, 'Wow, she looks pretty good,' " recalls Ms. Mintz.

When Dad Becomes Mum...

Continued from Page 20

Mel, Toni and her sister Gemma

Every time a boyfriend makes a snide comment about a gay person or transsexual my heart sinks and I have to decide whether or not I should tell them about dad. I was engaged two years ago but we split. When it came to writing out my guest list I realised I couldn't go through with it.

I've always dreamed of a white wedding, but who would give me away? My mum and brother wouldn't be there, nor would my dad's family who don't speak to her. All day I'd stress about people's reactions to dad. Maybe a small, register office is my only option.

I have accepted Toni the way she is and I love her. But I will never understand why a man wants to become a woman and tear his family apart.

It's Just My Father In A Dress

CAROLINE Hughes, 43, has been happily married for 25 years, but for the last four years her husband has been a woman. She lives in Ireland.

IT NEVER entered my head to leave Richard when he changed gender. It just so happened that the person I loved was now a woman called Diane. When we met, I accepted that Richard wore women's clothes a couple of times a week. We married because I loved him and we wanted to live together as a family. But I didn't know how the depression and illness would manifest itself.

Photo2: LOVING: Gareth, Diane and Caroline

Richard drank heavily after our son Gareth was born as his desire to become a woman grew stronger. I knew something had to be done or she would have ended her life.

Most people think I must be a lesbian but I'm not interested in girls. Diane and I share a bed but we don't have sex and I don't miss it. She's a great cook and enjoys looking after our home while I'm at work. She is more feminine than me. I'm a trouser person but she wears skirts and dresses. She also waxes her legs and has electrolysis - I don't.

People say we look and behave like sisters but our bond is stronger than that. We're soulmates - that's why we'll always stick together."

Photo3: LOVE HOPE: Richard and Caroline's wedding day

DIANE Hughes, 48, began hormone treatment eight years ago and underwent a sex change operation in September 2000. She is training to be a counsellor. "I'm not surprised Caroline stayed with me because she is my life partner, but a lot of people find that hard to understand. It is not a decision taken lightly and there was a lot of re-assessment to do.

Her main worry was our son and whether he was going to be OK, but he's extremely well-adjusted. He doesn't drink or do drugs and has a steady girlfriend. He tells friends he's got two great mums but if he was asked in an official capacity he'd say I was his dad or parent. I invented Auntie Diane to begin with to give him time to adjust. But when he started asking questions we were open with him. I find men and women attractive but being in a good, stable relationship I don't act on those feelings."

GARETH Hughes, 16, has coped with his father's sex change with maturity. Aged eight he was able to explain to friends what a transsexual was.

I MUST have been five when I guessed that the woman I knew as Auntie Diane was really dad. My parents have always been very open and when dad said I should call her Diane from now on, I just accepted it. In my eyes Diane is still my father but in a different body. She's still the tough one who does the manly things like mechanics. But I'm the man about the house now.

We don't celebrate Father's Day but I once sent mum a card and changed the words to 'World's Best Mums'. When our secret came out I was scared about people's reactions but they were more curious than anything. I didn't get bullied at school apart from a bit of name-calling.

I wouldn't say I'm embarrassed by Diane - my mother wanting a hug in public is more embarrassing than the fact that my father is a woman."

Left Hanging - Part 2

Why The First Gwen Araujo Jury Couldn't Convict The Defendants. And Why It Could Happen Again.

By Brian Kluepfel, Juror
East Bay Express.com

The Letter

You cannot find a defendant guilty based upon the testimony of an accomplice unless that testimony is corroborated by other evidence which tends to connect the defendant with the commission of the offense. CALJIC 3.11

To the extent that an accomplice gives testimony that tends to incriminate a defendant, it should be viewed with caution. This does not mean, however, that you may arbitrarily disregard that testimony. You should give that testimony the weight you think it deserves after examining it with care and caution and in the light of all the evidence in this case. CALJIC 3.18

Photo: Anda Chu, Oakland Tribune: Defendant Jason Cazares.

Nabors' infamous "Tony Soprano scenario" was key to the prosecution's allegations of premeditation. This is a story he remembered only after being questioned twice by police. He first described in a detailed, multipage letter to D.D from Santa Rita jail how he and the defendants "went off on a Tony Soprano-like plan" to kill Lida. Nabors wrote that he had participated in a conversation with Magidson and Jose Merel two weeks prior to the night of the murder. What if Lida had tricked them into believing she was a girl? "If that had happened ... to a bad guy ... that person would be smoked ... [and the killer] would have a body on their hands," Nabors remembered saying. He also wrote that they had discussed the mob movie Casino, where people are killed in the desert with baseball bats. No one could possibly corroborate this, since Magidson and Merel never took the stand in their own defense.

Similarly, Nabors never mentioned Jason Cazares in his initial interview with police. And in a subsequent taped phone call to D.D from Santa Rita jail, Nabors said, "He didn't do anything. He's like me. He did nothing." But by the time Nabors wrote the letter, Cazares was involved in every step of the killing, from saying things like "Knock that bitch out" to bringing a blanket to wrap Lida's still-living body and carry it to the garage. It was only after the letter was given to Nabors' attorney that Cazares was arrested and charged.

To Serra, it reeked of being an effort to strike a deal with the prosecution. He called the letter Nabors' "ticket to a deal," and asked why anyone would write such a detailed description of a crime from jail, where all mail is routinely opened, if he wasn't actually hoping it would be read by the authorities. Several of us on the jury saw his point.

"Don't you dare convict on his evidence," Serra shouted during closing arguments. "He's been proven to lie time and time again. Does a leopard change its spots?" Most of us took those words to heart. In fact, during deliberation, a fellow juror — T, a likable fortyish construction supervisor with short salt-and-pepper hair — repeated Serra's "leopard and his spots" summation word-for-word.

Lamiero tried to get us to like and believe Nabors. At the end of the testimony, he asked Nabors, who had stared straight ahead during his entire appearance on the witness stand, to look at the jury and tell us to believe him. That was too much theater for the defense, which objected loudly, and the request was withdrawn.

The Plea Bargain

The testimony of a witness who has received favorable disposition of a charge from the prosecution should be viewed with caution and close scrutiny. ... You should consider the extent to which it may have been influenced by the receipt of, or expectation of, any benefits from the party calling that witness. CALJIC 3.20(a)

Once the letter was turned over to his attorney, Nabors plea-bargained to a charge of manslaughter, for which he will serve at least nine of eleven years — a far cry from the 25-to-life that murder one carries. He was "paid with years of liberty for testifying," Serra said. "Don't be beguiled by him."

Juries are instructed that the testimony of anyone who cuts such a deal should be viewed with a jaundiced eye. In fact, our instructions said that any piece of evidence should be backed up by other witnesses. Some of what Nabors said was corroborated, but the damning details that would have pointed to first degree murder for his ex-drinking buddies — the "Tony Soprano" scenario, the new accusations against Cazares — weren't confirmed by anyone else.

Nabors testified that Cazares said to him as they left to get shovels, "We're going to get some shovels, because they're going to kill that bitch." But only Nabors heard this.

Cazares was the only one of the three defendants who took the stand on his own behalf. The only one of the trio who claimed he had not had sex with Lida, he portrayed himself as a gentleman who tried to stop the carnage. He said he saw all three of the others — Magidson, Merel, and Nabors — right on top of her, throwing fists "like when you see the Tasmanian Devil running around and you see feet and hands all over the place."

After breaking up the violence several times, Cazares said he decided to let things take their course and went outside to smoke a cigarette. "It was too way out for me," he testified. "I just let 'em be." When he came back inside, he said, Jose Merel and Magidson were cleaning blood off the living room carpeting where the violence had begun. Then he saw Nabors come in from the garage "like he seen a ghost ... then he just told me, like, 'She's dead.'" Cazares also contradicted Nabors' testimony about the shovels, saying that he agreed to get them only after Lida was dead to help his friends cover up their deed.

Just a Bunch of Kids

Magidson's lawyer Thorman called clinical psychiatrist Dr. Andrew Pojman to the witness stand. He outlined a "perfect storm" scenario, wherein three young adult males whose maturity was stunted to the point of being teenagers would react violently when faced with a challenge to the group dynamic such as Lida's sexual deception. "You have the shame of the individual plus the shame of having my buddies know that I did this," he testified.

Dr. Eugene Schoenfeld, a bronzed seventysomething Sausalito psychologist who looked as if he spent half his days at the tanning salon and the other half making passes at widows, talked about the natural empathetic reaction of friends, arguing that empathy could have led Cazares to help his friends bury the body.

Lamiero parried the "empathy" defense by asking if empathy also could manifest itself by imitating the murderous behavior of your buddies. Yes, Schoenfeld conceded, it could. Lamiero also knocked the "panic defense" out of the box. After all, Paul Merel also had sex with Lida, and would have felt equally "threatened" by her deception. But he just walked away, didn't he?

We weren't buying the Lord of the Flies defense. So what if the defendants behaved like teenagers? They were adults when they had sex with Lida, and they were adults when they killed her. So their fragile sense of adolescent sexuality was threatened? Sell that bill of goods somewhere else. We talked about the psychological defense very briefly, and dismissed it out of hand.

Another thing we dismissed almost immediately was the parade of character witnesses: family, friends, and associates of the accused testifying to their noble and upstanding characters.

Deliberation: The Ayes Don't Have It

The jury deliberation room in Dept. 510 of the Alameda County Superior Court in Hayward is classic 1970s-ugly. It has hideous blue carpet, a bunch of unattractive chairs, a whiteboard, water cooler, coffee machine, and a tacky faux-wood table so huge it was hard to squeeze by if you had to go to the bathroom. We got to know that room pretty darned well. Our charming court officers Harold and Nancy led us to that room from court, brought our notes to the judge, and when we couldn't leave during deliberations, brought us boxed lunches there from across the street.

We spent the first day reconstructing the night and morning of Lida's death. Our able foreman, R, a manager at a construction firm, wanted to have some clear sense of what had happened, as best as we could determine. Sorting through our trial notes and using a map of the house and a cardboard box full of evidence, we examined photographs of the rope marks on Lida's neck, placed all the actors in the drama according to the testimony, and read Nabors' letter, among other things.

We went by the book. Or, in this case, the eighty pages of jury instructions that were painstakingly read aloud and provided to us in writing after closing arguments. But we never got past CALJIC 8.20:

All murder which is perpetrated by any kind of willful, deliberate and premeditated killing with express malice aforethought is murder of the first degree. The word "willful," as used in this instruction, means intentional. The word "deliberate" means formed or arrived at determined upon a result of careful thought and the weighing of considerations for and against the proposed action. The word "premeditated" means considered beforehand. CALJIC 8.20

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Left Hanging, Pt. 2...

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It was here that the jury hung. Most of us simply could not see conclusive evidence of the "careful thought and the weighing of considerations" needed for first-degree conviction. Malice aforethought, sure, we saw that. But that's second-degree murder. We briefly discussed manslaughter and agreed that what happened that night went beyond that.

Murder of the second degree is also the unlawful killing of a human being with malice aforethought when the perpetrator intended to unlawfully kill a human being but the evidence is insufficient to prove deliberation and premeditation. CALJIC 8.30

At what point did the defendants decide to kill Lida? And how clearly were they thinking? R said he didn't think the original intent was to murder, but after a certain level of injury had been done to the victim, the accused thought, "Now we gotta take it all the way." Similarly, W said he thought there was a "ramping up" in the level of violence.

When my turn came to talk, I pointed out several things. One was that the defendants were drunk, or certainly impaired, based upon testimony about their alcohol consumption. An altered state of mind is one thing that can preclude deliberation and premeditation. This produced an exchange that I think is funny now, although I didn't then.

Photo: Anda Chu, Oakland Tribune: Defense attorney Tony Serra.

Juror S, an Oakland school district employee, said, "Well, Jimi Hendrix and Carlos Santana created some of the great classics of rock 'n' roll under the influence of drugs." Her point was that alcohol would not have clouded their minds so much that they were incapable of thinking. Luckily, because I was really pissed off at this line of reasoning, W cut in and tactfully pointed out that plotting a murder and writing "Purple Haze" are two very different brain functions.

Another point that came up several times was the need for corroboration. If someone cuts a deal with the prosecutor, their testimony must be corroborated. Much of Jaron Nabors' testimony was uncorroborated. "Don't you dare convict on his evidence," Serra had cautioned. I wasn't about to.

The Holdouts

The person who held out the strongest for first-degree murder was a woman for whom I have the utmost respect. I'll call her B — a petite, fiftyish telecommunications worker with long frosted hair and bangs that hung above her eyes. I hung out with her some during the trial; she told me about her life, her church, and her love of classic rock. I'd buy her a cup of coffee tomorrow and give her a big hug, because I truly liked her. I just didn't happen to agree with her assessment of the evidence.

While several of us pointed to the many inconsistencies in Nabors' testimony, B said she thought Nabors was telling the truth now "because he has too much to lose at this point." Lamiero had pointed out that if Nabors was discovered lying under oath, his deal was off and he'd be tried on the same charges as his former pals.

B stuck to her guns, arguing that because the defendants drank on a regular basis, they wouldn't have been incapacitated. And she said their thoughts were clearly murderous and premeditated. When we first began deliberations, B admitted that "I don't think we got the truth out of anybody." But she saw enough evidence — and of all the jurors, she seemed most diligent about reviewing her copious notes — to believe in the first-degree charges for all three defendants. And I admire her for it; she wasn't swayed by the crowd, just as the jury instructions counseled against.

At first we voted by a show of hands; when things became a bit more heated, we resorted to anonymous ballots. I changed my mind once, in the case of Mike Magidson, voting in favor of first-degree murder after some persuasive argument. Later, my doubts resurfaced and we ended up at seven to five in favor of first-degree murder for Magidson and two to ten for Cazares and Jose Merel.

"The outcome was unavoidable," W wrote me later. "I did not think two of our jurors ever were open to changing their opinion, which in my view, at that time, seemed very rigid." B admitted at one point that she felt under attack, and indeed, I think we singled her out because we wanted to change her mind, at least in the case of Merel and Cazares.

The People and the defendant are entitled to the individual opinion of each juror. ... Do not hesitate to change an opinion if you are convinced it is wrong. However, do not decide any question in a particular way because a majority of the jurors, or any of them, favor that decision. CALJIC 17.40

Voices were rarely raised, but we hammered on certain points over and over again: drunkenness, unreliability of witnesses, uncorroborated testimony of accomplices. When, the majority asked, was that moment of "careful thought and weighing of considerations" as defined in CALJIC 8.20? When did the defendants have time, in the furor of the early morning hours, to clearly consider the consequences of their actions? "Heat of passion," at least by one definition, did not reduce the crime to manslaughter, but it could reduce it to second-degree murder.

C, the mechanical engineer, who also feels frustrated by the outcome, later wrote, "For some jurors, it seemed that any discussion or critical evaluation of their statements or viewpoints was taken as personal attack. When this first happened, I believe the handwriting was on the wall."

Another frustrating point was when B brought in a dictionary definition of "deliberate" to show us what she thought it meant. We said, B, you gotta go by what it says in the instructions. Looking back, I'm not sure she was ever fully convinced of that.

Toward the end of our deliberations, W pointed out that some jurors used an Aristotelian method of analyzing the evidence, weaving a story without need for point-by-point proof, while others relied upon a Platonic method, where each point of evidence needs proof. Everyone was tired and ragged by this time, and I could see in the face of G, the clean-cut airline pilot, that W's analogy was about to make him blow a gasket.

Without resorting to the classics, we soon agreed to disagree.

Aftermath

We all tried to devote energy to our jobs during the trial. Some woke up before court began and checked in at the office. I spent afternoons, nights, and weekends on my laptop. But I cast my professional death sentence the day I stepped into the jury box.

I lost my job two months later. My boss never really forgave me for taking part in the trial. First he became randomly abusive; when I called him on that, he cut off all communication and assigned a Mini-Me underling to supervise me. She delivered the coup de grâce shortly thereafter. The boss couldn't be bothered.

My anger still bubbles to the surface when discussing the case. When I saw the multitudes celebrating the Scott Peterson verdict, I thought what a bunch of assholes they were. Nobody wants to be on a jury, but they're happy to play judge and executioner from the comfort of their living rooms.

The people who protested our nonverdict were about as dopey as fans protesting the rainout of a baseball game. It was a washout, folks, and the process will continue. The wheels of justice do grind slowly sometimes, but where is the "injustice" in that? Probably the most intelligent comment I read came from Christopher Daley of the Transgender Law Center in San Francisco, who called it "justice delayed, not justice denied."

I truly despise the so-called Christians who felt they needed to come all the way to California to tell us that being gay is a sin. Is there really that little to do in Kansas? These flat-earthers must have read the abridged version of the Bible, with two Old Testament passages on fornication and sodomy and all the rest about forgiveness and loving thy neighbor ripped out.

My own father recently said, "So those guys got off, didn't they?" I almost crushed the receiver in my hand as I gently explained, No, dad, there's going to be a new trial; mistrial does not equal acquittal. And, by the way, KPFA Nation, if Mumia Abu-Jamal gets as many trials as are deemed necessary to prove his innocence, then these young men have the same right. Don't hang them from the nearest tree just because they don't jibe with your political worldview.

I have no qualms about the trial's outcome. Frustration? Sure. I think we reached a reasonable conclusion after a lot of conflicting and confused evidence. If you're going to convict somebody of first-degree murder — let alone three people — you'd better be damned sure, beyond a reasonable doubt, that they committed first-degree murder.

But at least one juror now has remorse. "After a few months, my opinion changed," my friend W wrote. "I realized that the law was what the law stated, and I felt that the members should have found them all guilty. I had more time to reflect on it. At the time I felt too much empathy for the 'lives' of the young men ... they killed her, and I think they had enough time to figure that out while it was going on.

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TGSF Members Pose at San Jose PRIDE!

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ARE TRANS ISSUES GAY ISSUES?...

Continued from Page

Gender identity and sexual orientation are different, but are indivisibly connected. There are many movements happening right now that are very much tied to LGBTQ movements, and folks among us who are involved in and affected by those movements. Trans folks are not the only ones we need to both recognize within the LGBT community and work to ally.

Evan R. Hempel,
Steering Committee
Massachusetts Transgender Political Coalition

The simple answer to question of whether trans issues are gay issues is yes. To think otherwise is to show an ignorance of history and of Stonewall. I can agree that not all transsexual people are gay, but the point is, many of us are.

To say that transgendered people are not gay would exclude drag kings and queens, butch dykes and effeminate gay men from the LGB community. I'm always puzzled when I hear this question because it says many things to me, mostly that the person who has said it cares only about issues directly concerning themselves. That as a minority they are quite happy to ignore and trample over the issues of other minorities. I shake my head because this is why we all are where we are today and why those religious right have the power they have. Yep divide and concur.

So, yes, the LBG community should indeed include people who are transsexual, people who are intersexed, people who are bi-gendered, people who are poly and so on. Because without all of us together, the issues each of us face will be faced with alone.

Rosalyn Forrester
Founder and Ontario Regional Director, Canadian Transsexuals Fight For Rights
www.ctffr.org

Trans issues are, indeed, gay issues. In fact, trans issues are the issues that could ultimately save "gay" marriage.

The basic premise to the arguments against same-sex marriage is that marriage should be between a man and a woman. The problem is that any arbitrary basis for defining what a "man" is or what a "woman" is, is inherently discriminatory to a growing segment of the population.

Everyone knows what a "man" looks like and what a "woman" looks like, right? But what about androgen insensitivity syndrome (AIS)? This is when a "male" does not respond to testosterone during development. Genetic analysis would indicate the person is a male, but outwardly she appears female. So I ask, what sex is she? Can she get married? Would it be a same a sex marriage if she marries a man?

What about persons who suffer from tetragametic chimera? This is when a person is made up of two sets of DNA, often one DNA is female and one DNA set is male. What sex is this person? Can they get married?

What about those persons who suffer from endocrine disruption? This is when a person has normal DNA of a male, but the process of male development is interrupted by unusually high levels of estrogens. Pregnant woman were often given diethylstilbestrol (DES) or exposed to Dioxin compounds in the 1960s. Both of these compounds act as synthetic estrogens, modifying the normal course of fetal male development, resulting in a "permanently feminized" male. These men often become transsexuals, as their endocrine (hormonal) system is female but their outward appearance is male.

Also, what of persons born intersexed, with one testicle and one ovary? Are they doomed to spend their entire life unmarried, without a sex classification until they have, voluntarily or not, genital mutilation (surgery) to make them appear to be one sex or the other, even though they may be actually neither, or both.

Society as a whole needs to learn that sex and gender are diverse and that there are gray areas in-between male and female that do not fit the tidy definitions of "male" and "female." This is the argument that will make laws banning same-sex marriages as discriminatory in the most basic way, by providing for the rights of one group, while denying the rights of others, through no fault or choice of their own. Our notion of what defines sex, or if it even matters, needs to be reconsidered.

Lauren Alex Scott
Clearwater, FL

Remember Gwen Araujo!

Gwen Amber Rose Araujo (1985 - 2002)

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

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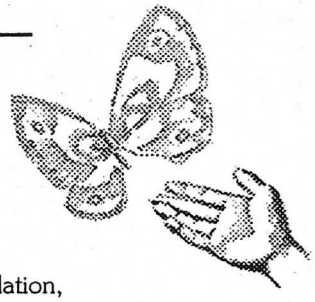

To contribute to Gwen's family directly: **Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund**, Bank Of America, Any BofA branch location, Acct# 10598-05854

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

Thank you!

An Intriguing Look Into The Lives Of Transsexuals

SEXUAL METAMORPHOSIS

Jonathan Ames

Reviewed by Chelsea Cain, The Oregonian

A man walks into a bar. He meets a busty fiftysomething former Playboy bunny. They flirt. Exchange numbers. They keep in touch for a while but never consummate their relationship. Years later he learns that the former object of his attraction was born a man. Some men might be unnerved down to their toes by this revelation. Jonathan Ames decided to edit an anthology of transsexual memoirs.

Read "Sexual Metamorphosis" and you will know one thing for sure: You don't decide to change your sex on a whim. If you can manage to endure the pain of extremely invasive surgeries and the sting of public judgment, you still risk losing a spouse or child's affection when you arrive home a blushing bride when you left a burly husband, or vice versa. So why do it? And more interestingly, what kind of person does it take to risk so much to be who they are?

Ames has collected an impressive array of writings by transsexuals (the canon can't be that large, right?), male to female and female to male, albeit all Caucasian, from 1886 to 2003. From heart-stopping play-by-plays of surgery and recovery to reactions of friends and family, the essays paint a wrenching portrait of courage and conviction in one's sense of self. Contributors include Christine Jorgensen, the first celebrity transsexual, travel writer Jan Morris, former Playboy bunny Aleshia Brevard, photographer and bodybuilder Loren Cameron and many others. And yes, there are pictures.

A few of the writers clearly see themselves as two discreet people battling for control of one body. Renee Richards, an ophthalmologist and amateur tennis champion, describes her dual selves in the third person: "I think that Renee had, as in those days long ago in college and many times since, shrunk from emerging when I lived with someone. Dick was strong when he had the continuing presence and support of another; but when I was alone for long periods of time I could always feel Renee's strength. "

Some of the contributors live in heterosexual relationships, some in homosexual relationships. Cameron, who was born a woman, did not consider herself a lesbian although she was attracted to women. She considered herself a man. Then one day she went on a drive with an older female friend who was on leave from the Army. "As we took a pleasant drive down a dirt road, she very carefully inquired about whether I had ever considered being a lesbian," Cameron writes. "The thought hadn't even occurred to me. I was elated at the suggestion!"

Now Cameron lives as a man, with a female partner. Whereas contributor Jennifer Finney Boylan (born James), who was a married heterosexual, found herself attracted to men when she became a woman.

Yet despite these complications, and the pain caused to family members ("How does a father tell his son that he is really a woman?" asks contributor Donna Rose), the writers, for the most part, express relief, not regret. The transgendered are at the vanguard not because they want to be, but because they have to be, and the few who go through with the transition represent thousands who suffer in silence.

"Since I went to Casablanca I have met some, and corresponded with many more," Morris writes. "Some have achieved surgery, some merely pine for it, and every complication of the sexual urge, every tangle of social neurosis, is to be found somewhere in their anxieties."

Left Hanging, Pt. 2...

Continued from Page 21

"I voted the way I did because I was convinced at the time that the shock factor of the gender and its sexual betrayal coupled with the drug use could not convince me beyond a reasonable doubt that they were premeditated, or had sufficient time to reflect rationally on what was happening. In retrospect, I think that was more of an excuse for bias and hatred. ... I think they were filled with hate and were aware."

Perhaps that can be proved this time. But I believe the new trial will fail if it proceeds down the path the old one did. One defendant's investigator phoned me after the trial, asking for my opinions. Why, I asked him, did the prosecution seek first-degree charges? "There's a lot of ego involved there," he said.

After the trial, Magidson's lawyer Michael Thorman told the Mercury News, "The prosecution's case is likely to hang no matter how many times you try it." If the prosecution insists on pressing for first-degree murder, I think he's correct.

Chris Lamiero has another opinion, of course. He remains convinced that murder, not manslaughter, is the appropriate charge for the three defendants. "The jury will have the option to convict of first- or second-degree murder," he said in a recent interview. "First-degree is an option again."

Yet Lamiero clearly regrets declaring at the end of the first trial that he would hold out for first-degree murder once again. Last Friday, on the eve of jury selection in the new trial, he said plans to leave his retrial strategy open-ended until closing arguments. He declined to spell out how he plans to alter his approach. "It's a tough question to answer without revealing my strategy," he said. "We always have the benefit in a retrial situation of learning how things worked in the first trial and seeing things that, in retrospect, may have been done differently. And we can make adjustments for this go-around."

Lamiero admitted being frustrated by the outcome of the first trial, but said he accepts that the occasional deadlocked jury is just a part of doing business. "I have no quarrel with what that jury did," he said. "Obviously it's frustrating to have to try a case again, but ... the jury has to follow the law and apply the facts as they find them to exist."

I'd hate to see it happen, but the Gwen Araujo murder trial may be in for a painful rerun this spring.

Transcending Transgender

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

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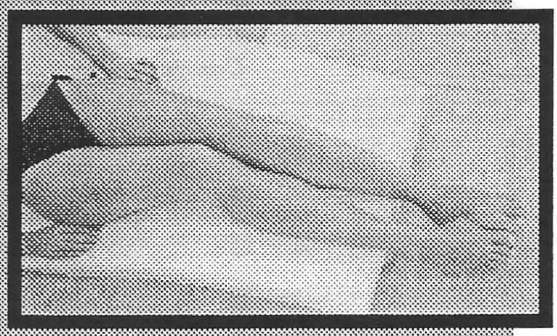

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