TGSF's The Channel
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

January 2000 | Millennial Issue | Volume 19, Issue 1

TGSF Congratulates Miss SGA!

The Channel

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

ExCom 1999 - 2000 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

Membership Report

As of December 12, 1999

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 98-99
1998-1999	Total members	292	100.0
1999-2000	Renewals	193	66.0
1999-2000	New members	45	15.4
1999-2000	Non-renewing	99	33.9
1999-2000	Total members	238	78.7

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

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz
Advertising ..... Janis Ryan
Contributing Photographers ..... Telzey Adams, Nicole and Debra Cook

Ad Rates

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

Personal ads from TGSF members: $10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

Ed. Note: I'm taking a break on [illegible] this month so I can devote the space to the following, rather lengthy, but well worth reading, article I snagged from the Internet. Hope ya'll have a great New Year!

How A Man Became A Woman

Written by Deirdre N. McCloskey
(c) 1999, Reason magazine — Dec 1999
Provided by Brenda Lana Smith R.af D. ([redacted].freeserve.co.uk)

In the mid-1990s renowned economic historian—and long-time REASON contributing editor—Donald N. McCloskey transformed himself into Deirdre N. McCloskey. In her new memoir about the experience, Crossing (University of Chicago Press), she recounts both her trials—in a bid to stop the process, McCloskey's sister, a psychologist, had her committed involuntarily to mental institutions and otherwise tried to stop the gender change—and her triumphs. "As Donald aged 13 or 14 waited for sleep in his bed," she writes, referring to her selves in the third person, "he would fantasize about two things. Please, God, please. ...Tomorrow when I wake up: I won't stutter....And I'll be a girl. A girl....Deirdre later used the memory to introduce talks, to put people at ease about both her stuttering and her crossing in one story. She would joke, 'I f-f-f-finally got one of m-m-my two wishes!'"

As the following selections suggest, Crossing tells more than McCloskey's personal tale of her odyssey from Donald to "Dee" (a name she called herself midway through the process) to Deirdre. On the eve of the "Biological Century"—an era in which individuals will be increasingly free to choose how to live their lives and on what terms—McCloskey's experience speaks eloquently to the larger social, political, and moral implications raised by such possibilities.

I want to tell you the story of a crossing from 52-year-old man to 55-year-old woman, Donald to Deirdre.

"A strange story," you say. Yes, it's strange statistically. All the instruments agree that what's usually called "transsexuality," crossing the gender boundary, is rare. (The Latin in "transsexuality" makes it sound sexual, which is mistaken; or medical, which is misleading; or scientific, which is silly. I'll use plain English—"crossing.") Only three in 10,000 want to cross the boundary of gender, a few of them in your own city neighborhood or small town. Gender crossing is no threat to male-female sex ratios or the role of women or the stability of the dollar. Most people are content with their birth gender.

But people do, after all, cross various boundaries. I've been a foreigner a little, in England and Holland, and on smaller visits elsewhere. If you've been a foreigner you can understand somewhat, because gender crossing is a good deal like foreign travel. Most people would like to go to Venice on vacation. The Venice visitors as a group can be thought of as all the "cross-gendered," from stone-butch dykes to postoperative male-to-female gender crossers, all the traversers, permanent or temporary, somber or ironic. A few people go to Venice regularly, and you can think of them as the cross-dressers among these, wearing the clothing of the opposite gender once in a while. But only a tiny fraction of the cross-gendered are permanent gender crossers, wanting to become

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WWW.TGSF.ORG
New Site! Get Online!

President's Potpourri

By Leslie Bailey

The occasion was an outreach presentation at Diablo Valley College. The class description was "Women's Issues" and I wondered what exactly we could contribute. Jennifer and I met Lenore Gallin, archeologist, feminist and class instructor, just prior to entering a classroom with thirty women of all ages and one slightly perplexed male. Three years and six presentations later I enrolled in the class to take in what was happening the other thirteen weeks of the semester. The class addressed logically enough such issues as sex and gender stereotypes, historical perspectives on women's subjugation and struggle for equality, abortion, rape, women's health and women in the work place. The question initially was what could we contribute to the class discussion. Although that remains central to our ongoing participation in the class, of more than equal importance is the question of what we take from our experience of not only this kind of class but of the entire transgendered experience where we step either temporarily or permanently into women's space.

For the last class we had a pot luck dinner and each class member took a few minutes and described their feelings about the class and their relationship to feminism. I would like to share Lenore's outline of five stages of development towards self-awareness as a feminist because I felt that all of us could learn from it (she credits Judith A. Palmer). I will paraphrase the first four and quote the fifth entirely:

1. Curiosity: intrigued by and curious about women's issues; makes inquiries; may be cautious
2. Identification: "...begins to make connections between her own experiences and those of women talking and writing about sexist experiences..." reads; consciousness-raising with other women
3. Anger: anger toward an oppressive system; begins to change; redefines relationships
4. Consolidation: recognizes her own collaboration in the system; focuses on effective change; solidarity and identification with a wide range of women; sisterhood
5. Personal Power: "The woman emerges from a collective identity of the previous stage and explores her own potential as an individual. Secure in her collective identity, she reenters the system and examines potentials and limits. Traits traditionally considered masculine, such as power, authority, ambition, status, and competing to win are explored. Power becomes viewed as a 'tool for personal effectiveness.' Still adhering to the theme of 'sisterhood,' she learns to distinguish 'herself on her own merits, and take personal, rather than collective, responsibility for her actions.' She 'has graduated from being a protegee to being a competitor.' The task is to use these skills without selling-out to the system." (I would add that the task is to use these skills so that everyone wins)

It is not too difficult to see ourselves in this outline if we modify the last stage to also include the reconsideration of "traditional feminine traits" such as nurturing, connectedness, empathy, etc. as well as the "masculine". I personally want to blend all of them and to feel effective and authentic as an individual and in community. Ultimately society will judge us not on how well we apply our lipstick (no matter how fun that is) but on how effectively we have integrated the lessons of both sexes and on how well that has benefited us as individuals. Ultimately we will judge ourselves on the same basis I think. Interestingly this is the part of being transgendered that does not have to be directly tied to the amount of actual public cross dressing that we do (although being out in public does adds its own perspective). So sisters and sisters/brothers, I hope that we journey well and become the unique individuals that by nature we are. What an interesting and loving group of friends you are. See you in the next millennium.

How A Man Became A Woman...

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Venetians. Most people are content to stay mainly at home. A tiny minority are not. They want to cross and stay.

On a trip to New York to see a friend after my own crossing I stood in the hall of photographs at Ellis Island and wept at the courage. Crossing cultures from male to female is big; it highlights some of the differences between men and women and some of the similarities too. That's interesting. My crossing was costly and opposed, which is too bad. But my crossing has been dull, easy, and comfortable compared with Suyuan's or Giuseppi's outer migrations.

It's strange to have been a man and now to be a woman. But it's no stranger perhaps than having been a West African and now being an American, or once a priest and now a businessman. Free people keep deciding to make strange crossings, from storekeeper to monk or from civilian to soldier or from man to woman. Crossing boundaries is a minority interest, but human.

Who I Was, Am, Will Be

My crossing—change, migration, growing up, self-discovery—took place from 1994 to 1997, beginning in my home in Iowa, then during a year in Holland, then back in Iowa, with travels in between. As Donald and then as Deirdre I was and am a professor of economics and of history at the University of Iowa. From age 11 I had been a secret cross-dresser, a few times a week. Otherwise I was normal, just a guy. My wife had known about the cross-dressing since the first year of our marriage, when we were 22. No big deal, we decided. Lots of men have this or that sexual peculiarity. Relax, we said. By 1994, age 52, I had been married three decades, had two grown children, and thought I might cross-dress a little more. Visit Venice more too.

I visited womanhood and stayed. It was not for the pleasures, though I discovered many I had not imagined, and many pains too. But calculating pleasures and pains was not the point. The point was who I am. Here the analogy with migration breaks down. One moves permanently from Sicily to New York because one imagines the streets of New York are paved with gold, or at least better paved than the streets at home, not mainly because back in Catania since age 11 one dreamed of being an American. Migration can be modeled as a matter of cost and benefit, and it has been by economic historians. But I did not change gender because I liked colorful clothing (Donald did not) or womanly grace (Donald viewed it as sentimentality). The "decision" was not utilitarian. In our culture the rhetoric of the very word decision entails cost and benefit. My gender crossing was motivated by identity, not by a balance sheet of utility.

Of course you can ask what psychological reasons explain my desire to cross, and reply with, say, a version of Freud. Some researchers think there is a biological explanation for gender crossing, because parts of the brains of formerly male gender crossers in postmortems are notably female. But a demand for an answer to why carries with it in our medicalized culture an agenda of treatment. If a gender crosser is "just" a guy who gets pleasure from it, that's one thing (laugh at him, jail him, murder him). If it's brain chemistry, that's another (commit him to a madhouse and try to "cure" him).

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Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

December 1999

ExCom Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Oakland on December 6, 1999, at 3:00 p.m. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Camino, Treasurer Ryan, Outreach Co-Chair Adams, Social Co-Chairs Cook and Cook and . Also present were guests Deborah, Stephanie Ann, Jennifer and Luneia. Education Co-Chair Cupps was absent and Education Co-Chair Marie was attending to personal business. The meeting was called to order at 3:20 p.m.

Communications and Announcements:

Stephanie Ann mentioned Dark Gardens Corsets will have an open house on December 15, 1999. They are located at 321 Linden Alley, in San Francisco. Outreach Co-Chair Adams mentioned "White Trash Compactor," staring Trauma Flintstone, will play December 8 to 30, 1999 at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. Secretary Camino received flyers to the following events: 1. Berkeley Reparatory Theater will host "Civil Sex," January 14 to February 11, 2000.The production is a portrayal of bring gay and black in America. 2. "Lifestyles 2000" will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada. This is a conference for open lifestyle couples. They are asking for presenters from the transgender community. Social CoChair Nicole Cook noted there was a cost for presenters. President Bailey will look into the event further. 3. The annual IFGE Conference will be March 22-26, at the Crystal City Hilton, in Arlington, Virginia. Deborah passed out flyers to this event. It was also mentioned that Carla was having a holiday dinner in Mountain View, on December 18, 1999. Social CoChair Nicole Cook noted the Cotillion website was up on the TGSF website. Vice President Blau noted that there is a site for cotillion business on tgnexus. Nicole questioned validity of this site, since it may be in conflict with the TGSF Cotillion site and may be in conflict with the tgforum agreement. Vice President Blau said La Chara Johnson set up the tgnexus to start planning the cotillion and handle communications of the committee. For the most part, it accessible only to the Cotillion Committee and is small in scale. Roxanne noted an access code is needed. President Bailey noted it is understood that tgforum is the agreed website, but the tgnexus site is mainly Cotillion Planning business. Treasurer Ryan said we do not want to appear we are endorsing any website. Leslie felt that if La Chara will link to the TGSF website and it is noted we are officially connected to tgforum as the official club website, there should not be a conflict.

Old Business:

Nicole mentioned she had finished the Standing Rules for the President and handed a copy to Leslie. Nicole also mentioned she completed and forwarded to Janis, the inventory of items housed by the Social CoChairs. Nicole also noted the Halloween Social Budget report was done and that there was left over wine. Nicole asked if this could be used at Cotillion tables. Leslie will look into it with the Design Center.

Minutes:

Telzey asked if we are going to continue with the more detailed version of the minutes in the newsletter or it was going to be a more detailed version. Janis said some members who are out of the area appreciate the detailed minutes because they cannot visit socials. Deborah agreed and said the members get a better feeling of the organization. Lulu mentioned the correct spelling for Miki.. With this one correction from the ExCom, Roxanne moved for November's Minutes to be approved, Nicole seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved.

President:

President Bailey announced that Stephanie Ann has volunteered to run the Speakers Bureau to take some of the workload off the Cooks and Telzey. Leslie asked for approval of the ExCom. Janis said there is an option to fill the position or be a member of the ExCom. Nicole said Stephanie Ann should be an official Outreach CoChair. Janis said it can be an appointment of the President with the approval of the ExCom. Acting on the appointment by President Bailey, Nicole moved for approval, Janis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Leslie said Stephanie Ann should make a connection to the Pacific Center, by contacting Amy Wobridge. Relating to filling this position, Nicole proposed that two positions be added to the ExCom as back ups to certain positions. This matter was referred to New Business.

Leslie mentioned Jane Bolig was concerned about our connection to the Pacific Center and she is also aware that the San Francisco Board of Supervisors was forming a Transgender Task Force. Leslie asked if anyone on the ExCom would be interested in this. It was not known if San Francisco residence is required. Leslie will mention this Task Force at the next End-Of-Month Social.

Vice President:

The Cotillion Contestant Handbook has been distributed to the contestants. This year the contestants were asked to submit a bio to be presented to Jredjeo [sic] at the interview. This is in addition to the bio that is in the application. Janis to correct her email in the list. So far there are 12 contestants. Lulu will listen to others that are interested. The final count of the contestants will determine if there will be a semi- final. Whereas the from the 12 maybe 5 or 6 will become semi-finalist as those will be the ones to answer the question. There is some interest in a Mr. TGSF. The director is Dear Diva. A Meeting with the director is scheduled for Saturday, December 11,1999. Planning Committee will meet at 1 and the contestants are asked to come at 2:30 p.m. La Chara has been working or sponsorship but responses has not been favorable. One sponsor was for food preparation. Bids for food has been also been token and one was accepted tentatively. It is not known if a contract was signed yet. Miki is doing the tickets and they are selling ticket vouchers. Diva is to contact Kevin Anderson about tickets and poster design. Nancy Cupps will be doing the technical processing. Leslie and Nancy not with Design Center and will contract for light/sound equipment. Fuji is the contestant coordinator. Lulu working with Debbie and Nicole on website. Janis is handling the budget. JoAnn has been doing a good job with the advertising with Kolini's assistance. Advertising fees are up but more sales deadline was set, so they would not wait until the last minute. Also we are looking for advertisers for the newsletter. Sheryl Sheppard and Stephanie Ann will work in finding people to judge and producing a judge's handbook. One thought was to try the SF Supervisors or Channel 2. Diva was the director who showed the most credit. He will ask a lot of the planning committee as well as other volunteers. He is also looking for a theater manager that is not already connected with the cotillion. Tables selling and table reservations should be made soon.

Secretary:

Secretary Camino mentioned she been able to keep up with e-mail inquiries but that letter responses have still been a problem. Roxanne went over recent mail requests for information to direct

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Meeting Minutes...

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them to the proper ExCom member. Roxanne gave Janis a check from Miki, Cotillion Ticket Coordinator. There was no other Secretary activities.

Education:

Education co-chair Cupps was unable to attend, but asked to have the following items read into the Education Chair portion of the meeting minutes:

Nancy is trying to arrange a seminar in January about feminine voice and speaking like a woman. Maureen O'Connor was a guest speaker on this topic two years ago and the audience liked her. Maureen charges a fee by the hour and recommends a two-hour minimum. Last time we arranged a three-hour seminar, including a one-hour workshop. We are planning to keep the same format.

Nancy needs help from the membership to find a place for a Spring seminar that will cover a variety of topics of particular interest to the TS community. The seminar room must seat 75 people, must be darkened completely to allow for slide projections, should be located in San Francisco with easy access by public transportation, and must have a reasonable rental cost for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. Unless such a venue can be found it will not be possible to schedule this type of seminar.

Outreach:

Three checks were passed to Janis from Telzey. Telzey thanked Nicole for her assistance in the last few months. Stephanie was voted in as co-outreach. Nicole will transfer the records over to her this month. Telzey asked if she would be willing to help out with the hot line.

Social:

The January EOM will be on the 27th. Janis explained the voting and why we need to do things in certain months to be in line with the bylaws. Nicole mentioned that there is no program scheduled. If there is a rehearsal on that Thursday, then the contestants will go to the rehearsal first then over to the Blue Muse. Mid months are having low turnouts, therefore in January, February. March and April the mid months will be held on the 2nd or 3rd Saturdays of the month. She is trying not to conflict with any other groups. They would be held at various clubs. Nicole gave Janis a budget for next year's Halloween party.

Treasurer:

Janis will go over the final report for Halloween. Nicole mentioned that two income sources are not mentioned as of yet. Janis transferred funds to the Cotillion. October was the Halloween party and November was the insurance. Taxes were paid for late filing for statistics and sales tax from the Halloween Party. Membership is low due to the time of year.

Comment Period of Visitors: Jennifer complimented the Ex COM on the group as a whole.

New Business:

Janis mentioned letters about the election, in response to a letter received from Debra Darling that Deborah read. She stated the 3 issues will be done/changes of vote can be done at the end of month. The proposed wording along with the old wording will be provided when the ballots are sent out.

Nicole and Debbie will do the December mailing of the January newsletter. Leslie and Janis will do it (East Bay) for the next couple of months then it will rotate possibly to the South Bay or Mid Peninsula.

Advertising is down in the newsletter. It is urgent that it is brought up as it is a source of revenue.

Nicole brought up a proposal in the standing rules that TGSF have two positions for each position. President would have the VP. The VP would have the President. Secretary would have the editor and the Treasurer would have a Financial Chair. Janis mentioned that we need to make the changes in ExCom in the by laws and we are guided by state laws. Nicole said we should start to explore those changes and identify people for these positions. Janis proposed that these changes are brought up in a committee that reports to the Ex Com. Leslie recommended that we now focus on the advertising issue and she would look over the proposal. Jennifer asked if an independent contractor be looked into for gathering advertising. Leslie would like a volunteer. Jennifer offered to help with the advertising process.

Nicole asked about birthdays for SO's be included in the newsletter. It was agreed that all SO's be included in the newsletter. It was noted that Debbie and Deborah's birthday were missed.

Lulu mentioned that some have not received their December Newsletter as of yet. Also it was noted that the person who is currently Miss TGSF gets a complimentary membership for that year. It needs to be clarified in the standing rules or in the by laws. There was discussion on where this should be. Lulu reported that Laura Hochkiss had asked about her membership, newsletter and SO activities. Roxanne had responded to her. Both Lulu and Nicole stated that Jennifer Freeman of DVG has an active SO group which meets. Leslie stated that a lot of these things were done by Ginny (Knuth) and had fallen by the wayside.

Next ExCom Meeting: Will be held at Lulu's immediately following the Cotillion Rehearsal on Sunday, January 9, 2000. At approximately 7:53 p.m., moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

January's Birthdays...

Belated Birthdays for November

1103	Tracey Jaquith
1106	Andrea Drane
1106	Valerie Valeska
1107	Mary Ellen Ratcliff
1108	Heather Robertson
1111	Ann Grogan
1113	Debbie Cook
1114	Andrea Bianchi
1115	Marcia Chapdelaine
1116	Ricki Ballen

Belated Birthdays for December

1202	Deborah

Birthdays for January

01__	Pam	0114	Diane Giles
0101	Kim	0115	Georgina Castleberry
0102	Ruben	0115	Miki O'Donnell
0103	Susie Schang	0116	Rachael Dettmer
0105	Carla Cecchetto	0123	P. McLeod
0105	Jennifer Wilhelmi	0126	Vicki Reiman
0109	Bob Lieberman	0130	Elizabeth Ruggiero
0110	Valerie Russell	0130	Lori
0111	Andee Werthman		

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

TGSF Events in January

Saturday / January 8th / 8:00pm

Mid-Month Social

We have decided to break with tradition a bit for the remaining mid-months. Several of you have not received the opportunity to visit some of the clubs available to our community in San Francisco. Did you know that at some of the clubs we get in free while others have to pay ? So for the next 4 months we will be holding the Mid-Month on a Saturday night and we will be visiting the places that some of you have only heard about. Debbie and I will be visiting the places we have not been to yet so we can give you an idea of what to expect. Right now the clubs on the list are "The G-Spot", "Club Soul", "Diva's" and "The Power Exchange". Some of these may change. But for our January Mid-Month we will be at the G-Spot at Sixth and Harrison in San Francisco. There is usually a cover charge and it is a dance club so come prepared to dance. Since things don't get moving until later at the clubs we will plan to be there at 10:00pm.

Sunday / January 9th

ExCom Meeting (after Cotillion rehearsals)

One of the best ways to volunteer for a short-term task is to attend the ExCom and see where the help is needed. This months meeting will be in Albany (the East bay). This is the time to come to the ExCom meeting and get involved. Come see how your organization works. . .come be heard !! If you are considering coming, please call Nicole and Debbie at (707) [redacted] and we will be happy to give you directions.

Thursday / January 27th / 8:00pm

End of Month Social

The End of Month Social will be held at our usual meeting place, The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant. Since the Cotillion is only 2 days after this social no special event is being planned. It is a good opportunity for those of you who have arrived early from out of town to start the Cotillion weekend.

Saturday / January 29th

The TGSF 2000 Cotillion

It's that time of the year again. This is the event you do not want to miss. TGSF will once again hold it's annual Cotillion at the San Francisco Design Center Galleria, 101 Henry Adams Street in San Francisco. The doors will open at 6:00pm with a light meal served until 7:45pm. The program will begin at 8:00pm. Come see who will be Miss TGSF for the next year. There are several candidates this year and a number of performers. If you can only make one event this year, this is the event to be at!!

New Members since December Issue:

Cole	Lisa Gray
Erin	Marie Kochaver
Jennifer	Sabrina
Jenny	Stacie Marie

Welcome!

May 4-7, 2000

4th International Congress on CDing

Sex Educators, Therapists, Counselors, Clergy, and Transgendered Individuals Will Assemble in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

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

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

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

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

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

Hey!

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

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

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

Calendar of Events – January 2000

Other Groups

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

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)
Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Club 1220, 1220 Pine Street in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

DVG Rap Group (RCC)
Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2118 Willow Pass Road, Suite 500 in Concord. For more information call 925-937-8432.

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

TGIF (TransGenderism Is Fun)
A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707[redacted]

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 8:00 PM DVG	4	5	6 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	7 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	8 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA 10:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social
9 3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	10	11	12 7:00 PM TransBay	13	14 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night	15
16	17 8:00 PM DVG	18	19	20 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	21 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	22 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
23	24	25	26	27 8:00 PM TGSF: End Of Month Social	28 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	29 6:00 PM TGSF Cotillion 2000!
30	31					

TGSF Membership Application

Full Year Membership May 1 – April 30

Please Print / Check all that apply:

❑ New Member ❑ Renewal ❑ Member #_____ with ❑ Family Member

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

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you hear about TGSF? _____

Your Email address: _____

I am enclosing a Check or Money order for:

❑ **$30.00 Full Year Membership** (Renewals)

❑ **$40.00 Full Year Family Membership** (Renewals; Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

❑ **Pro Rate $** _____ beginning Month: _____

New Members only; See Chart at right)

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

IF PAID IN	THEN SINGLE PAY	THEN FAMILY PAY
MAY	30	40
JUN	27.5	37
JUL	25	33
AUG	22.5	30
SEP	20	27
OCT	17.5	23
NOV	15	20
DEC	12.5	17
JAN	10	13
FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Our Readers Respond...

Etiquette of Group Dinning

By Nicole and Debbie

A few people have commented on how they like the events we hold at restaurants and have suggested we hold them more often. Unfortunately the logistics for restaurant trips are a bit trickier than the bar type outings. But what it boils down to is at the bar or bar/restaurant venues it is easy to keep track of who buys what and thus who pays for what. In restaurant venues this becomes much more difficult and as more people are placed on the check, other side effects are created that make getting the bill paid by the right people harder to do.

Now it is not my intent to complain or point fingers with this article but just to give you an idea of what I mean. I will describe some elements of two previous dining events. In one event there were about 8 people attending a dining event. Debbie and I ordered food and drink worth about $70, however we ended up paying about $130. In another dining event there were over 10 people. I paid our share first and paid quite a bit of attention to how much things were and who was contributing. I intentionally overpaid all 4 components (food, drink, tax, and tip) and passed the bill on to the next party. When the bill returned to me (I'm not sure why it did), after everyone was to have contributed their share, it was still $30 short. I watched who chipped in the remaining $30, it was the same people who overpaid the first time around (including us).

Since I don't think our members would intentionally force some of their sisters to pay their share, I have concluded that it is lack of information that leads to this situation. So I have prepared this article to help people decide how to prepare for one of our dining excursions.

The first thing that people should realize is that there are four payment components of a group dining scenario, these are 1) Food, 2) Drink, 3) Tax and 4) Tip. The food is the easy part, you saw it on the menu with a price so everyone seems to know how much their food is. However, did you notice the price of your drink ? Remember at fancy restaurants even something like coffee or tea is likely to be $2.00 or more. This drink category does not include alcohol, if you drink alcohol add it to your food budget. Tax seems to be a place where many people have a problem, depending on what city you are in you should figure somewhere between 7% and 10%. If you are not sure you should error to the high side (10%) as a courtesy to the other people in the party, the difference would only be $1 for a $33 purchase or $3 for a $100 purchase. This is not a bank breaker. Now we come to the tip. When you go to the restaurant alone you have complete desertion on how much tip to leave, you can be a cheapskate or a big-spender. When we go out as a group this is not the case. Come prepared to pay a 15% to 20% tip. When arrangements are made for a big party the person making the arrangements has already had to agree to the tip (providing service is adequate) for the restaurant to book a large party. With large parties an average tip is included on the bill. If service is very bad the tip can be disputed, but if this is done it should be done by the group as a whole. So tip number one is come prepared to pay for all four of the components of your meal, if you can't pay for all four you should opt not to attend the event.

The next courtesy that is needed for a group dining experience is for each person to look at the check, identify their purchases, look at the tax, estimate your portion and look to see if the tip was added to the bill. I did notice on one event that a few people threw in money (enough to cover their food) without looking at the bill. Not knowing that your drink was $2.00 or that the tip was on the bill does not lower your portion of the bill. If you are short you can probably get someone to loan you the remainder, borrowing at the restaurant leaves a better impression than shorting the group with your payment. So tip number two is to look at the bill and know what your part is.

The next courtesy is to resolve any conflicts as a group. If the bill goes around the table and comes up short, be prepared to cover your portion of the shortfall. It is not polite to stick someone with the bill and expect them to pay the difference by themselves. What if the restaurant placed some extra charges in the bill because they know how hard it is to reconcile a bill for a big group ? They will do that. The only way to resolve this is to have each person account for their portion of the bill. Even if the short fall is due to a less than honest member of the party, you should come prepared to help cover any shortfall. So tip number three is to remain active in the resolution of the bill until it is paid.

I know this might be a lot to remember so I have created this table that you can use as a go/no-go guide for future group dinning events.

Venue Type	Food	Drink	Tax	Tip	Cover	Expect to Spend
Denny's	$10.00	$1.00	$0.80	$2.00	$1.00	$14.80
	$20.00	$2.00	$1.60	$4.00	$2.00	$29.60
Semi Fancy	$30.00	$3.00	$2.40	$6.00	$3.00	$44.40
	$40.00	$4.00	$3.20	$8.00	$4.00	$59.20
	$50.00	$5.00	$4.00	$10.00	$5.00	$74.00
Fancy	$60.00	$6.00	$4.80	$12.00	$6.00	$88.80
	$70.00	$7.00	$5.60	$14.00	$7.00	$103.60
	$80.00	$8.00	$6.40	$16.00	$8.00	$118.40
Real Fancy	$90.00	$9.00	$7.20	$18.00	$9.00	$133.20
	$100.00	$10.00	$8.00	$20.00	$10.00	$148.00

If everyone follows these easy tips we should be able to hold more outings to restaurants in the future. I like these events and there are many great places we can visit.

Now Available!

1999 Resource Guide

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond...

Election Committee Notice!

Special Meeting and Election Notice

By Janis Ryan

On November 24, on behalf of the Election Committee consisting of Secretary Roxanne, myself, and Stephanie Ann, I mailed a notice to all members of a special election to be held in conjunction with our regular End of Month Social on January 27, 2000. The purpose of this election is to consider changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation. This notice was sent in accordance with our bylaws, which require 45 days notice of a regular or special meeting (Article IV Section C and Article V Section B), and the presentation in writing of proposed changes to the bylaws 60 days in advance (Article XI Section B). The election will be conducted by written ballot, which will be sent out at least 30 days prior to the meeting (Article IV Section D) and may be returned by mail. At the meeting members will also have the opportunity to submit their ballots or to change their previously submitted ballots. The Election Committee will then tabulate the ballots and announce the results.

The text of the current bylaws is posted on our web site at:

http://www.tgsf.org/alternate/bylaws.html and will be mailed to any member who requests it by mail at: TGSF, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486 or by E-mail to me at [redacted]@hisnhers.com

There are four items for consideration:

1. Changing the name of our organization in the Articles of Incorporation as filed with the Secretary of State and our Bylaws from "Educational TV Channel" to "TransGender San Francisco," and replacing references within our bylaws to "ETVC" with "TGSF." This is necessary to complete the change of name that was approved by the membership in an election last year.
2. Changing the term of membership. Currently it runs for a fixed period from May 1 to April 30 of each year, with the provision that new members joining after May 1 may join for the remainder of the term by paying a smaller amount of dues. The proposal is to have all memberships be for 12 months, and begin when the member pays the annual dues.
3. Stating certain duties for the officers in the bylaws. Currently, the bylaws provide that all duties are specified in Standing Rules to be adopted by the Executive Committee.
4. Clarifying in the bylaws that the Executive Committee constitutes the Board of Directors of the corporation, in accordance with California law.

If you have any questions about these changes or the election procedure, please feel free to contact me by mail or E-mail.

Joanie Goodnight (far right) and Friends visit from SGA

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Contact TGSF:

President, Leslie Bailey ..... [redacted]@slip.net
Vice President, Lulu Blau ..... [redacted]@aol.com
Secretary, Roxanne ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com
Treasurer, Janis Ryan ..... [redacted]@hisnhers.com
Education, Nancy Cupps ..... [redacted]@ix.netcom.com
Education, Tianna Marie ..... [redacted]@hotmail.com
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Editor, Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]@aol.com

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Fremont, CA 94536

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- Costumes & Theatrical
- Personalized Service
- Evening Appointments / Minor Alterations Available
- Wardrobe Coordination

Let us help you be all the things you dream!

November - December Socials in Review

By Nicole and Debbie

On Saturday November 13th, 14 of us made it to The Cliff House for Dinner. The Cliff House is a historic restaurant that sits on a cliff overlooking the ocean near Golden Gate Park. It was dark by the time we arrived and it was a bit foggy so there was not much of a view. Debbie and I were running a bit late so Roxanne, Debra, C.J. and Stephanie Anne were already there when we arrived. We headed up to the restaurant where a large table on the upper level was waiting for us. If there had been a view we would have had excellent seats for it. At first we were worried that we reserved too many seats, however by the time we left we filled the first table and overflowed to a second. Kalani, Tianna, Janis and Allie were the last of the group to arrive and populated the second table. Aiyana arrived sometime in the middle, as did Bardi with two other girls. The food was good and there was a good chance to socialize with each other. We might end up doing one of these again, but if you are interested you should read my article on group restaurant events in this channel.

The November End of Month on November 18th had a fairly good turnout. More than 30 in the holiday season is not bad. No special events were planned since Debbie and I were recovering from the Halloween Party. Since no event was planned, we were all over the restaurant. This is kind of neat because the Blue Muse has 3 atmospheres. Some people like to hang out in the bar, some like the front dining room with the windows that look onto the street and some people like it in the back. Debbie and I visited several parties in each area. I was trying to make sure I found any new people but I did not see any.

Part of my duties as Miss SGA has me visiting 2 events (The Coronation & The Ducal Ball) of six courts in the Northern California / Nevada area. The first of these events was the San Jose Court Ducal Ball on November 20th. This event was really quite fun, and as it turned out Debbie and I got the chance to perform. I have been wanting to attend more of these events because there is an entirely new group of transgendered people that go to these events. The costumes the girls were wearing were very elaborate and quite nice; I wanted several of them for myself. We saw a few people from the Sacramento court CGNIE there (Adam, Sisi Lala, and Oscar), we also saw Mark (The make-up artist from Make-up Forever who has been at a few of our socials) in femme mode. Frank (The SJ Emperor) was quite nice and gave us the opportunity to perform. We sang the same song we used for the SGA pageant since we did not have time to practice anything else. We must have made over $40 in tips, which really surprised me, and we gave the tips to the SJ Court as a donation. If any of you are looking for more events to go to, these events would be a good choice. The Court system has a web site at www.impcourt.org where you'll find a calendar that lists many of their events and gives you links to the websites of the individual courts.

The TGSF Mid-Month was held on December 8th at the Lunacee Lounge in San Rafael. This venue is the home of the Miss Marin Pageant, which is produced by the owner of the Lunacee Lounge. In other words this is a place well worth visiting. As usual for this venue a comedy show was held on Wednesday night. About 15 of our members were present during the time Debbie and I were there. We came in after the show had begun and were able to watch about 5 comics. After the show I wandered around talking to the people it seems that I only see at mid-months. There were quite a few people from the North Bay present, including a few people (like Ronda) I had never met before.

The SGA social on the second Saturday of December was a special event. The CGNIE Barn Dance was held on December 11th at Joseph's. Debbie and I arrived at around 7:30 to a rather large turn out for dinner at Joseph's. We had some dessert and socialized down stairs for a while. It looks like Heidi and Monika have become regular's at SGA, we see them there all the time now (which is great). They had great reviews from the cruise they went on. We also saw Michelle and had another interesting discussion with one other girl about doctors in Thailand. After a few hours we went upstairs to the CGNIE Barn Dance. We were concerned about getting a heavy dose of country music (which I have a low tolerance for) but that did not happen. Many of the performers were using contemporary country/rock music. We really enjoyed the show. While we were there Adam, Krystal and Sisi performed, you should remember these people if you are at any of the SGA shows. I also received a warm greeting from Oscar, the current Emperor of CGNIE. This turned out to be a fun evening, I would recommend it for next year.

The Millennial TGSF Cotillion

Saturday, January 29, 2000

San Francisco Design Center Galleria
101 Henry Adams Street, S.F.

Doors open at 6:00pm

Light meal served till 7:45pm

Program starts promptly at 8:00pm

For ticket information call Miki at
415/[redacted]

Benefit: Project Open Hand,
National Breast Cancer Research, TGSF

Tickets available in

San Francisco
- Piedmont Boutique, 1452 Haight Street
- Rosalie's New Looks, 783 Columbus Avenue
- Kimo's, 1351 Polk Street
- Marlena's, Hayes & Octavia
- Good Vibrations, 1210 Valencia Street

San Jose
- Carla's Salon & Boutique
  195 Stockton Avenue

North Bay
- TGIF Social, Santa Rosa
- Marin Co. Continental Wigs
  1121 4th Street, San Rafael

East Bay
- DVG Social, Walnut Creek

Prices
Patron: $100 / Premium: $40
Regular in Advance: $30
Regular at Door: $35

How A Man Became A Woman...

Continued from Page 3

I say in response to your question of why?, "Can't I just be?" You, dear reader, are. No one gets indignant if you have no answer to why you are an optimist or why you like peach ice cream. These days most people will grant you an exemption from the why question if you are gay. In 1960 they would not and were therefore eager to do things to you, many of them nasty. I want the courtesy and the safety of a why-less treatment extended to gender crossers. I want the medical models of gender crossing (and of 20 other things) to fall. That's the politics.

And incidentally, why do you think you are the gender you were officially assigned to at birth? Prove it. How odd.

Ah. I think you need some treatment. After a year of hesitation, two years from beginning, I found to my delight that I had crossed. Look by look, smile by smile, I was accepted. That doesn't make me a 100 percent, essential woman—I'll never have XX chromosomes, never have had the life of a girl and woman up to age 52. But the world does not demand 100 percents and essences, thank God. An agnostic since adolescence, in my second year of crossing I came tentatively to religion and then could thank God in person, who made me inside in my comfort a woman.

You become a woman by being treated as one of the tribe. Nothing else is essential. Being Dutch is being treated as Dutch. You can be a masculine woman, as by some stereotypes many women are, yet still be treated as one of the tribe. No piece of conventionally feminine behavior is essential if the overall effect makes you accepted in the tribe. Biology is not decisive. Big hips, small frame, high voice, hairless face, sexual interest in men, more-than-male amounts of sympathy and readiness to cry: We all know women almost anywhere who vary on these dimensions, in this direction or that, but who are still part of the tribe.

And you treat yourself as one of the tribe too. Being Dutch is being homesick for Holland, inside your head. The dialogue with other members of society about whether Deirdre was part of the women's tribe has a personal side. Does Deirdre treat herself as a member of the women's tribe? Am I a woman? Yes.

Why, then, did Deirdre join the women's tribe? The question does not make sense, because it asks for a prudential answer when the matter is identity. Asking why a person changes gender is like asking why a person is a Midwesterner or thoughtful or great-souled: She just is. An identity is both made and not made. It is a romantic idea, which is strangely paired in the modern world with the anti-romantic ideas of positivism in social science, that we all have an internal identity, fixed and ready made, and the only task is to express it. Will the real Deirdre please stand up? The "realness" is not right. We make ourselves, which is our freedom as human beings.

The romantic view does have something in it. You make yourself Dutch or American, a nurse or an accountant, a recluse or a social butterfly, piece by piece. But you have tendencies, which can be traced back to childhood. Anyone who has watched a child grow is impressed by the thrust of character. The dismal, fretful infant in arms will in 80 years be a dismal, fretful old lady. The cheerful infant will always be an optimist. No wonder people devised a word for it, the soul.

Operative Traumas

There Dee finally was in Dr. Ousterhout's waiting room in San Francisco the day before the cheek and jaw operation, having been photographed and relieved of gigantic checks, $10,000 here, $15,000 there. All her treatment from now to the end of her transition, she reflected as she sat there happily, was going to be paid out of her own pocket and was not tax deductible. Blue Cross and the IRS take a dim view of gender reassignment surgery. They take an equally dim view of cosmetic surgery to make one passable; also of voice surgery for the same; also of fixing the glitches from all of these.

Donald had complained to Blue Cross: "The DSM-IV [Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders] you rely on calls transsexuality a 'disorder,' and, unusually among such 'disorders,' this one has a cure—surgical, including facial surgery. But then you won't pay for it. You can't have it both ways. Either it's a personal choice, in which case the psychiatrists should butt out, or it's a disorder, in which case medical insurance should pay for the cure." Donald was always engaging in little campaigns for justice.

Dee was more realistic: Blue Cross will never pay for this, not in America—except in Minnesota, if you turn yourself over to an ignorant and self-important psychiatrist for two years of "certification" as "genuine." We Americans like telling people what to do, as in Prohibition or the war on drugs. It's not even Blue Cross' money: Over the years I've paid 10, 20 times more in medical insurance than has been paid back to me in expenses. From an actuarial point of view, there's no moral hazard. It's not as if millions of men will step forward to take advantage if gender reassignment and jaw pointing are paid for. The policy is sheer, stupid crossphobia. Sweet land of liberty and of stubborn, self-justifying hatreds.

Dr. Ousterhout's office manager, Mira, came into the waiting room and interrupted Dee's reflections on American character. "Dee, I have some bad news." Uh oh.

"Your sister has been calling and writing the hospital and threatens to sue if we go ahead." "Oh, no, no, NO!" Dee wailed and raged through the waiting room. "A third time. She's tried four times to stop me and succeeded three. When, when, is she going to leave me alone?"

Ousterhout came out to comfort her. "It's a setback. But I'm going to do everything I can." "She claims I'll go crazy when I wake up and realize what I've done." Ousterhout laughed. "That's silly. I've done thousands of plastic surgeries. People like what we do. I've never heard of anyone waking up and being anything but thankful. What's her evidence?" "She doesn't have any. But the psychiatrists will believe anything about this, they are so frightened." "That's their normal state."

Dr. Ousterhout called the psychiatrist in Chicago who had examined Donald for a competency hearing instigated by his sister. His letter about Dee had been ambiguous in its last paragraph; for the operation to happen, Dee needed clarity. It sounded to Dee like more of the self-protection that seemed to be the main object of psychiatric practice. Ousterhout later told Dee roughly what he had said to the doctor on the phone to Chicago: "Do you think Dee is competent to sign the consent form and be operated on?" "Yes." He had said the same to Dee a couple of weeks earlier. "That's wonderful! Could you write that down in the same words? You can send it to California by fax." "Uh...My typist isn't here." "You can write it on a sheet of paper and fax it. You know how to write, don't you?" "Umm. I don't know how to operate the fax" "I'll tell you how over the phone."

Continued on Page 13

ARE YOU A VETERAN?

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

Treasurer's Report

TGSF Balance Sheet October As of 10/31/99

ASSETS	
Cash and Bank Accounts	11,963.89
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	11,963.89
Other Assets	
Computers	0.00
Event Equipment	1,200.00
TOTAL Other Assets	1,200.00
TOTAL ASSETS	13,163.89
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Distribution of Proceeds for Cotillion 2000	-1,000.00
Insurance	0.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	-1,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-1,000.00
OVERALL TOTAL	14,163.89

TGSF Cash Flow Report October 10/1/99 Through 10/31/99

INFLOWS	
Advertising Income	125.00
Event Income:	
Bar Receipts	235.00
Ticket Sales	1,699.00
TOTAL Event Income	1,934.00
Meeting Donations	110.00
Memberships	150.50
Other Inc, Bus:	
Resource Guides	14.50
TOTAL Other Inc, Bus	14.50
TOTAL INFLOWS	2,334.00
OUTFLOWS	
Awards & Gifts	151.50
Corporate Filing	35.00
Corporate Information Fees	4.00
Equipment Rental	486.49
Event Food:	
Event Liquor	114.03
Event Food-Other	995.83
TOTAL Event Food	1,109.86
Event Supplies	135.38
Printing and Reproduction:	
Tickets	12.04
Printing and Reproduction-Other	169.80
TOTAL Printing and Reproduction	181.84
Professional Services:	
Security Services	150.00
TOTAL Professional Services	150.00
Rent Paid	50.00
Supplies, Bus	26.12
Tax, Business:	
Fed	763.16
State	475.00
TOTAL Tax, Business	1,238.16
Tickets Purchased	-25.00
Transportation	129.30
Utilities, Bus:	
Telephone, Bus	6.34
TOTAL Utilities, Bus	6.34
TOTAL Distribution of Proceeds for Cotillion 2000	1,000.00
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	4,678.99
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,344.99

TGSF Balance Sheet November As of 11/30/99

ASSETS	
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	9,635.81
Other Assets	
Computers	0.00
Event Equipment	1,200.00
TOTAL Other Assets	1,200.00
TOTAL ASSETS	10,835.81
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Distribution of Proceeds for Cotillion 2000	-1,000.00
Insurance	0.00
TOTAL Other Liabilities	-1,000.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-1,000.00
OVERALL TOTAL	11,835.81

TGSF Cash Flow Report November 11/1/99 Through 11/30/99

INFLOWS	
Advertising Income	50.00
Donations	15.00
Honorariums	25.00
Memberships	62.50
TOTAL INFLOWS	152.50
OUTFLOWS	
Insurance, Bus	1,163.00
Postage and Delivery	457.70
Printing and Reproduction	429.49
Rent Paid	195.00
Supplies, Bus	63.72
Tax, Business:	
Fed	42.21
State	184.00
TOTAL Tax, Business	226.21
Transportation	-80.00
Utilities, Bus:	
Telephone, Bus	25.46
TOTAL Utilities, Bus	25.46
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	2,480.58
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,328.08

Another shot of the lovely Miss SGA Winner, Nicole

Shown with Lady Cathy, Liz and Tina Louise (Miss SGA 99)

How A Man Became A Woman...

Continued from Page 11

Nothing worked. The psychiatrist wouldn't do it, wouldn't put in writing what he had said twice and what he believed. He's afraid, thought Dee. He half believes my sister's theories about my waking up and regretting it all and going crazy. He doesn't want to be responsible. Psychiatrists don't. Cowards. Unlike surgeons, who must decide now, they can always waft. "Let's see how she looks after a month in a madhouse. A year."

But Ousterhout kept working, and told Dee to check into the Davies Medical Center as though the operation was going to happen at dawn the next day as scheduled. Ousterhout then arranged for still another psychiatrist to examine her that very evening in the hospital. Dee moaned to her friend Esther, who had canceled her appointments as pastor in Berkeley and driven across the bay to the Davies to comfort her during the evening of terror, "Another psychiatrist! I am so sick of being treated as crazy because I dislike my gender. Would I be thought crazy if I disliked a cleft palate, or a congenital heart defect?" The psychiatrist came in late, brought away in the dark from a dinner party, but he seemed sympathetic. Esther stayed outside in the hall, speaking soothingly to Dee before and after: "It will be all right. He seems sensible." "Unlike most of them," said Dee. "I am so frightened." About 11 p.m. the psychiatrist passed her. "You are competent to sign the consent forms to have the operations," he said. Dee slept.

But next morning the operation was still held up. Ousterhout still needed the examining psychiatrist in Chicago to yield. That would make two psychiatrists, enough to calm the hospital's lawyers, frightened by his sister's letters on Harvard stationery. Again it was up to this man who seemed so ignorant and frightened about gender crossing. All morning Ousterhout worked on him. It was an expensive employment for a surgeon, negotiating on the phone for a plain statement. Eventually the psychiatrist did yield, as he had yielded to the lawyer's expensive pressure in Chicago, and the fax came to California. This time Ousterhout did not tell Dee what he had said.

The operation started six hours late—another, separate surgery would have to be scheduled because of the lost time that day, making it three days of operations—face, breasts, and tummy tuck—instead of two, with three distinct setups, the first morning wasted. The additional bill mounted toward $25,000: legal costs, extra travel, extra days of surgery. Let it go, said Dee to herself. The surgery was going to happen.

When she woke up: Am I crazy? No, just covered in bandages. Her friends Richard and Susan visited, Richard reporting that "she looks like road kill." Ken and Alan, editors on a book project that Dee was supposed to be working on, visited, and Alan's wife, Gail, brought a meal with dishes and all. The following day Esther came and took her home to El Cerrito across the bay, and Dee waited in the empty house for the craziness to come.

The next operation was all right. And the next, the third. The order of operations was unclear to Dee afterward, since some were combined: nose job, bones under the eyebrows ground down, hairline moved forward, jaw pointed, lip scar fixed, eyebrows lifted, breasts augmented, tummy tucked. Her recovery was quick, though she looked puffed and bruised for a while each time. You can't have your face taken off and put back on three times without looking odd for a while. More than the wounds, she was worried about the repeated general anesthetic, because some people have reactions to it months afterward. But it didn't happen. None of the surgery then or later hurt; the pain in recovery was masked by drugs. The recovery was inconvenient and embarrassing, because you needed to nurse yourself and you looked a mess. But not painful.

Between surgeries she stayed home at Esther and her friend Marty's and went to church a lot. The First Baptist Church of Berkeley—American, not Southern, Baptist—said on its coffee mugs, "FBCB—Not your typical Baptists!" Theologically, Baptist churches of any sort are libertarian, though your typical Baptist doesn't act as though he believes it. Every Sunday for the six weeks she stayed with Esther, she would go to the music-filled service and listen to Esther's elegant sermons and for the first time experience a church-centered life. The congregation was "welcoming and affirming," which meant it had a varied membership. A gender crosser with a face horribly bruised seemed not to give them pause. At the coffee hour after the service Dee would move among the ladies of the church watching her manners and observing theirs, welcomed and affirmed.

Vocal Discord

The damned voice. Dee called the office of the speech surgeon in San Francisco to check on the voice operation she had scheduled there for early December. "Oh," said the secretary, "That's been canceled." "Canceled? What do you mean?" "The doctor decided not to do it." "Why didn't you tell me? Did he say why?" "I'm not at liberty to say" "Oh. So my sister got to him." The coward, thought Dee. "Why didn't you call?" "I'm not at liberty to say." "So you canceled a surgery because the patient's sister threatened you and then didn't tell the patient? May I speak to the doctor?" "I'm sorry, but the doctor's not in. I have to go." "Good-bye. Have a nice day." Great, Dee thought, I've found a surgeon who's a coward. All psychiatrists and at least one surgeon. Can't go to Holland to teach with this male voice.

Dee made an appointment with another voice surgeon, one in Philadelphia. After the operation the voice didn't seem to work, but Dee hoped. She would have to go back to Philadelphia to have the operation assessed. She would stop off in Philadelphia again on the way out to Holland.

A few weeks after Dee arrived in Holland to teach at Amsterdam's Erasmus University, a full-page article with a flattering photo of her appeared in the leading Dutch newspaper, NRC Handelsblad, the New York Times of Holland. It focused on her views about economics and love, treating her gender crossing as an interesting sidelight. That's how the Dutch press reported on her. A Dutch-language business magazine did a long article on the revival of Adam Smith, noting that "Deirdre McCloskey is a Chicago girl," a free-market feminist, and quoting her at length on an economics that might make sense to women. A sidebar noted that "Donald is Deirdre" and reported her opinion that "tolerant Nederland is de goede plaats om te transiteren van het mannelijke naar het vronwelijke bestaan": that tolerant Holland is a good place for the transition from a masculine to a feminine way of life. Yes.

The world's largest program on gender crossing is at the hospital of the Free University of Amsterdam. The program is well-known among gender crossers. Dutch people are amazed at where the program is, because the hospital is part of a university founded

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Brooklyn Girl Grows Hair On Chest

Written by Norah Vincent
(c) 1999, The Village Voice
Provided by Brenda Lana Smith (Brenda-[redacted]freeserve.co.uk)

Drew Seidman, nee Susan: "In every one of my previous lives I had been a man."

When you consider what happened to the now famous transsexual Brandon Teena in Nebraska in 1993, you begin to appreciate how much courage it takes to be a man. To be a man, that is, when you started life as a woman. The current film 'Boys Don't Cry' tells the story of Brandon Teena (nee Teena Brandon) in graphic detail. (The film's director, Kimberly Peirce, first encountered the story, as broken by Donna Minkowitz, in The 'Village Voice' of April 19, 1994, and was inspired to turn it into a movie.) Though born and raised a girl, in her late teens and early twenties Brandon lived as a young man in Lincoln and then rural Nebraska, managing at first to fool her group of intimate friends and even the teenage girls she dated into believing she was male. When two of Brandon's male friends discovered her secret, they beat and raped her brutally. A week later, they hunted her down; along with two other occupants of her house she was shot at point-blank range, but she alone was stabbed in the belly with a hunting knife. Though Drew Seidman lives in New York City, where gender is a bit more fluid than in the white-bread hinterlands of the Midwest, every day the 23-year-old has to live with the knowledge that the same thing could one day happen to him. November marks the sixth month of a female-to-male sex change process that he's chosen to undergo. "I know I'm a target," he says calmly, "but I think I'm less of a target than 'm-to-f's" (that is, male-to-female transsexuals). "Most people just think I'm a kid in a baseball hat," he adds, shrugging. And he's right. If you're a six-foot blonde ex-male with hands and feet the size of Brooklyn, you're probably never quite going to pass muster as a female. But the five-foot-five-inch, 145-pound Drew, whose mannerisms are astoundingly boyish and whose voice is starting to sound almost like a grown man's, passes most of the time, even though his name is a little androgynous. He took it from his favorite great-grandfather, who taught him fishing and carpentry. Drew, formerly Susan, began the process of changing his sex by seeing a psychotherapist who, after several months of analysis, provided him with a letter to a physician from whom he could then obtain a prescription for hormones. He started self-injecting 200 mg of a testosterone compound, or "T" as he calls it, back in June. He has been administering a one cc intramuscular injection every two weeks ever since. (Insurance covers none of these injections until an official name and sex change is made on legal documents, allowing the newly "male" person to claim them as coverable male-hormone therapy. A three-month supply of "T" usually costs between $40 and $100. A supply of syringes is an extra $60.)

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By August, Susan's vocal cords had begun to thicken and after one brief episode of bleeding, her period was gone. She-now he-hasn't seen it since. Soon other male secondary sex characteristics started to manifest themselves. "My sex drive went through the roof," Drew says. "I felt like I had to have sex once a day or I would die." He also says that he became increasingly aroused by even simple visual stimuli, such as a beautiful girl walking down the street. "I was into porn as a girl," he says, "but now I'm really into porn." He laughs and adds, "It really gives me insight on males." He has begun to grow a peach-fuzz beard, which he shaves ritually. The stubble is very fine and soft, and may never produce anything that really resembles a full beard, but it's not beyond the realm of possibility; some female-to-males enjoy copious growths of facial hair. Patches of hair are beginning to come in on his chest, on his knuckles, and on the backs of his hands, but nothing you'd spot if he didn't point it out. He's also begun to notice that he has more energy and stamina than he had before, and he seems to be experiencing a second adolescence-though, of course, a peculiarly boyish one. "It's weird," he says. "I do things that teenage boys like to do. I go out and eat large amounts of really gross food, and I laugh at dumb jokes."

But other effects of testosterone don't seem to have played a role in Drew's transformation. He says he thinks that it's mostly a myth, for example, that testosterone causes undue aggression to manifest itself. On the contrary, he says that testosterone has had a calming effect on him, which may be in part because the rage and confusion Susan felt as a woman has been mitigated by becoming a man. The conflict has been largely resolved, and Drew says he feels much better in his skin than he did before making the switch.

But the switch is by no means complete. Slowly Drew's body is growing bigger. His neck is an inch thicker than it was, his calves an inch and a half, his biceps almost two inches. His thighs are nearly two inches leaner, and the weight that used to reside there has redeposited itself around his waist. "I have a little belly now," he jokes, lifting up his shirt to show me. He then proceeds to open more of his shirt to show off his newly enlarged and defined shoulder muscles and a heftier set of pecs underneath his deflating but still bound breasts. He plans to have both breasts removed in February when he goes in for some basic f-to-m surgery: a double mastectomy.

Drew plans to undergo a minimally invasive type of mastectomy in which the surgeon will make a small incision below the nipple. Through that aperture the breast tissue will be removed. Sometimes this entails liposuction, after which the incision will be stitched, leaving a barely noticeable scar behind. (The nipples will later be appropriately resized and repositioned to appear male.) For up to three months after the surgery, Drew will have to wear a compression vest that will enable his skin to attach itself to the newly exposed pectoral muscles. Then, if all goes well-and, presumably, if Drew builds a musculature he's proud of-he'll be able to walk around in public without a shirt. "I've spent my whole life hunching my shoulders in order to hide my breasts. When I was a teenager, my parents even sent me to a doctor hoping to cure my bad posture. Last year, when I told them I was transitioning, I was finally able to tell them why I had been slouching all my life. I had always hated my breasts."

Most women must understand the enormous sense of liberation entailed in doffing one's shirt in public with impunity. When many of these women were girls, being able to go shirtless on a hot day had to have ranked as one of the most enviable advantages of being a boy, along with being able to urinate standing up.

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How A Man Became A Woman...

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in the late 19th century by religious conservatives (thus "Free": free to be reactionary), and the university still tends a little that way. It would be like Oral Roberts University developing in its second century a program for the support of gay marriage. The Free University program has helped many thousands of gender crossers on the model of "illness," with diagnosis and treatment. Dee needed to visit it to get hormones, since American prescriptions are not honored outside America.

They wanted a psychiatrist to interview her, though to Dee it seemed pointless. She was not officially in the Free University program, which for political reasons has to extend the transition to two years of agony between the genders, following the Benjamin Standards, the accepted medical protocols for gender-change operations. But the program would prescribe hormones, so she couldn't offend its personnel by standing up for patient rights. Anyway, she liked the Free University program. It's good, she said to herself, a lot better than the hospital programs in the United States dominated by the example of Johns Hopkins. The big university hospitals at home, run by psychiatrists, try to cure gender crossing, and fail. The Free University Hospital, run by an endocrinologist, tries to help, and succeeds. Though on the silly model of illness.

The young woman psychiatrist asked Dee the usual questions, mentally running down a checklist of the gender crossing illness. "When did you first want to be female?" "Were you effeminate as a child?" Dee could see the psychiatrist's eyebrows rise when she got an answer that did not fit the conventional "diagnostic" list thrown together for the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders out of junk science. Dee thought, She does not realize how silly the list is.

So what? Does it matter? Can she hurt me? Can she stop my prescription for estrogen or tell my potential surgeon in Australia that I'm not "really" a gender crosser? Damned right she can. Time for action.

Dee started lying. They all do it. A psychiatrist proposes to withhold a desired and harmless life from a free, sane adult based on no scientific evidence and no intelligent empathy for the patient and no understanding that the DSM's list of symptoms rewrites the society's myths about gender. We need to examine you. For two years. Wait, wait. We might not ever approve you. Chances are we won't. Dee knew a gender crosser from Galesburg, Illinois, an otherwise normal working-class person, who after two years and $2,500 of "therapy" from a local psychologist was still being delayed: You have more issues to work on. You will always have "more issues to work on," dear. It's therapy for the therapist, Dee thought indignantly.

Of course the gender crossers lie. They can read the DSM just a well as the psychiatrists can. Pat Califia, who wrote Sex Changes: The Politics of Trans-genderism (1997), notes, "None of the gender scientists seem to realize that they, themselves, are responsible for creating a situation where transsexual people must describe a fixed set of symptoms and recite a history that has been edited in clearly prescribed ways in order to get a doctor's approval for what should be their inalienable right." "Oh, yes," Dee said to the Free University psychiatrist, "I've always had these desires. Oh, yes, Doctor, ever since I can remember. Oh, yes it's just like being a woman in a man's body. Oh, yes, I hate my penis." Oh, yes, Doctor, whatever your dopey list says. The psychiatrist's eyebrows returned to normal.

Sleep of the Just

There's no case, Deirdre would argue, for letting psychiatrists get at a gender crosser. People say, "Wait a minute. It's an irreversible step. Better check it out." But the psychiatrists don't know how to check it out. They know nothing about it and are not interested in learning. To make them assess gender crossers is like making a brain surgeon do open-heart surgery. It's not in their competence. The excitement these days in psychiatry is about drug treatment of psychoses. It's wonderful that some clinical depression and even schizophrenia can be helped with drugs. But gender crossing is not a psychosis, and there is no medical evidence that it is associated with psychosis in any form. We might as well have psychiatrists check out people with brown hair or people with cheerful dispositions or people who like to visit Venice as often as they can. Just to make sure.

And The Step is not irreversible. When Deirdre made this point people would get indignant. They at least know that much. "What are you talking about? Someone cuts off his penis and you say it's reversible?" Please, listen. Operations—not that the operation is the essence of it all—can be reversed, sometimes. For example you can take out cheek or breast implants. True, with current techniques reconstructing a penis is very expensive. That's the only advantage that males-to-females have over females-to-males in cost and effectiveness: Because it's easier to remove than to make, their male-to-female operation is a fifth the cost of the female-to-male one, a compact, low-end car instead of a Mercedes. But so what? Forget about reconstructing the penis. Many men do not have penises, on account of war or accident or disease. This does not for most purposes make them less men. A man is a man because of his look and behavior, not because of what is secretly in his pants. And beyond the contents of pants, one's behavior and dress can be changed back. The hormones, too, have partly reversible effects. Deirdre would smile and say, "If I stopped female hormones and started testosterone, in five or six months I'd be acting like a jerk again!" The joke worked best if there were lots of other women present.

Anyway, Deirdre continued, we need to ask whether we want to invite psychiatrists to have power over all the comparably important business of life. Having a baby is well and truly irreversible, more so than gender reassignment. A new human being is brought into the world. Well, shouldn't everyone have many years of psychological counseling before having a child? And getting married, though reversible at some cost, like cheek implants, is pretty serious too. So likewise is choosing a career, or buying a house, or taking up golf. If these were treated the way gender crossing is treated we would need for each a certification from psychiatrists achieved through hours and hours of expensive conversation; maybe some drugs; or, if nothing else works, hooking 'em up to the house current. Such certification and treatment would be ab-

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Brooklyn Girl Grows Hair On Chest

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Drew remembers this as his first childhood obsession with being like the boys. "I always wanted to pee standing up. I finally devised a way to do it in the woods, but it wasn't the same." At five, Susan was placing rolled socks in her underwear and looking at herself in the mirror. "It just seemed righter," Drew says.

Of course, believers in reincarnation have little trouble explaining this phenomenon of feeling more at home in the body of the opposite sex, but the rest of us generally have a difficult time getting our minds around it. The stereotypical explanation we most often hear for transsexualism is one in which the person describes feeling like a woman "trapped" in a man's body or vice versa. Although Drew makes a point of saying that he by no means speaks for all or even most transsexuals, he mostly subscribes to this typical view. But there's more to it, he explains. "It's much more than skin I'm wearing," he observes, describing his situation in what seems a much more organic way. He says he opted to change his sex because he couldn't envision a future as a woman. He couldn't imagine growing old as a woman. The bottom line is that Drew wants to be seen, on the outside, the way Susan has always felt on the inside-as male.

He doesn't discount the past life explanation entirely, but he doesn't lend it undue credence, either. "I went to see a fortune-teller on the beach in Venice once," he recounts, "and I asked her about my past lives. She said that she had never seen this before, but that in every one of my previous lives I had been a man. For whatever that's worth."

Drew doesn't seem sure about whether or not he'll opt for surgery below the waist, partly because it's expensive, and partly because it's a much more involved procedure than a mastectomy. He has basically two options.

One surgery, called metaidoioplasty, would take his already enlarged clitoris (the testosterone alone has made it grow to about three times its normal size) and disconnect the lower part of it from the vulva, making it into a kind of miniature or micropenis. The surgeons would also reroute the urethra through the new phallus, thereby enabling Drew to urinate standing up. Thereafter, he could use a pump that would stretch the blood vessels and might enlarge the penis slightly. This surgery would allow him to retain sexual feeling.

The other surgery, phalloplasty, which Drew says he's not considering, entails taking a large skin graft from the inside of the forearm, wrapping it around grafted fatty tissue, and fashioning something that resembles a normal size penis. This penis would, of course, not be sexually functional or sentient, so what Drew might gain in size he would lose in performance and, to a certain degree, in satisfaction.

In general, these surgeries range in cost from $18,000 to $65,000. Some surgery may be covered by insurance; how much depends on how insistent a person is and on whether or not a mastectomy (or a hysterectomy) can be justified medically. This, of course, means that such justifications must be made before the person changes her name, and therefore her sex; many non-transsexual women undergo these surgeries for other reasons. Persuading insurance companies to cover these procedures is apparently not onerous, or there are a lot of pre-op transsexuals willing to scrape the bucks together: Of the estimated 30,000 self- labeled transsexuals worldwide (10,000 in the U.S. alone), between 3000 and 10,000 have undergone surgery.

But whatever the relative losses and/or gains involved, Drew is sure that the choice he's made is the right one. Unlike a great many transsexuals, he's been blessed with a girlfriend who was his lesbian lover when he was a woman and has been willing to brook his change into a male. That, in itself, is rather miraculous. Likewise he has a family that accepts him completely. His four sisters refer to him as their brother, and introduce him as such to their friends. His parents call him their son, and treat him like one-which means that he and his father now enjoy man-to-man chats. "My uncle doesn't hug me when he sees me anymore, the way he did when I was a woman," Drew says. "He shakes my hand now. It feels great." When someone calls him "sir"-whether it's on the street, in a restaurant, or in a bar-Drew still gets a charge out of it. But, of course, this raises the sticky question of what makes a man a man. What, after all, does calling someone "sir" or being fooled into doing so really mean in a society as androgynous as ours? Non-transsexual people are mistaken for the opposite sex every day. So what is it that will finally draw the line? Will it be when the breasts are gone and the approximated penis is in place, or will it be when Drew has lived as a man for a good 10 years? After all, most of being and feeling like one sex or the other has to do with being treated like a member of that sex. Drew won't really know what it's like to be a man until he has lived it for a long enough period of time to make it count. Having missed boyhood, the most formative years of gender identification, he may never feel quite like a "real" man.

Drew has had arguments about this very question with guys in bars. He relates it this way: "They tell me that wanting to be a man and having surgery can't make me a man." And it's true that Drew will never have a genuine penis, and perhaps most importantly wasn't born with one, but he insists that this doesn't matter. "I'm not sure I can tell you what makes a man a man," he says, "but I know it's not a penis."

He has a point. Most people would agree that if you lop off a traditional biological male's penis, or even if you merely castrate him, he doesn't cease to be male. He wouldn't then pass for a woman on the street, for example. So is it primarily our hormones that make us what we are? This seems truer, since they are responsible for so much of what we associate with each sex. Hormones are, after all, the prime ingredient in Drew's transformation. Removing the organs is entirely cosmetic-a far less subtle and complex process, if for no other reason than reconfiguring one's various knobs and crevices has no chemical effect on the brain. But these kinds of questions don't seem to bother Drew much. He's more concerned with enjoying his new life, and appears content to let the rest of us bicker over the details. Smiling his slightly too pretty smile, he sums it up quite simply: "I just can't wait to be a dad."

New Online SO List!

New online mailing list for wives and SOs of crossdressers and men who consider themselves to be transgendered; no topic off limits. Attitudes range from complete acceptance to really struggling. Open to women only—no crossdressers please! Women need a place where they can feel safe to discuss these issues.

Write to Jenni at **www.aluckywife@aol.com** and explain a little about your situation.

Girl Talk Final TS Frontier

Written by Keay Davidson
(c) 1999, San Francisco Examiner
Provided by Brenda Lana Smith R.af D. (Brenda-[redacted]freeserve.co.uk)

New techniques help male-to-females speak like women

"I'm applying for sex reassignment surgery," Cameron Diaz announces to her stunned spouse halfway through the new film "Being John Malkovich."

That's easy for her to say: She's a woman. Transsexuals typically want to change their voices as well as their bodies, and long medical experience shows it's far easier for a female-to-male transsexual to acquire a masculine-sounding voice than for a male-to-female transsexual to acquire a feminine-sounding voice.

But now, new therapeutic techniques are helping male-to-females to sound convincingly feminine - and without necessarily undergoing surgery on their vocal cords, a University of Washington speech therapist said at a San Francisco conference Friday.

For decades doctors have successfully lowered the pitch or frequency of female-to-male transsexuals' voices by giving them injections of male hormones. By contrast, female hormones do not raise the voice pitch of male-to-female transsexuals, or "transgendered persons" as many call themselves.

Consequently, many male-to-females have chosen to have their vocal cords surgically altered. Surgeons stretch the vocal cords in hopes of raising their frequency to a more female-like pitch.

Unfortunately, the results are sometimes terribly unconvincing, as if the surgeons had tried to make Barry White sound like Minnie Mouse.

Alternative, non-surgical techniques should also be considered, speech therapist Michelle Mordaunt, of the University of Washington, said Friday at the annual convention of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association at Moscone Center.

To successfully "pass" as women, male-to-female transsexuals can exploit the differences between male and female speaking styles, explained Mordaunt, who over the last three years has given speech therapy lessons to 10 transsexuals, nine of them male-to-females.

She cited numerous ways in which even a male-to-female transsexual cursed with low pitch could sound remarkably feminine. They include:

Speaking over a wider range of frequencies than do men. Mordaunt explained that when a woman talks, her voice tends to range across a wider frequency band, from high to low, than do men's voices, which are usually more monotone. "Pitch variability is greater for women," said Mordaunt.

Speaking at varying rates. Female speech tends to vary in speed, with slow patches followed by "short rushes of speech," Mordaunt said.

Talking more "from the head" than "from the chest." When men speak, a higher percentage of air comes from their larger chest cavities, giving their voices more of a foghorn quality.

By contrast, Mordaunt said, women's speech tends to have a "lighter" sound because they generate more sounds using smaller body cavities, namely the upper portion of their "voice boxes" around the throat and head.

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How A Man Became A Woman...

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surd for the reasons it is absurd for gender crossing. The psychiatrists don't know anything worthwhile about having a child or buying a house or being a gender crosser, as most psychiatrists admit. And even if they did know, in matters not affecting other people's rights we regard ourselves as free individuals. The freedom question is, why not? There's no case for a special enslavement of gender crossers to the psychiatrist except that there are so few crossers that no one troubles to care.

Gender crossing is also called "gender dysphoria," Greek for being uncomfortable with your birth gender. Being uncomfortable with, say, poverty or brown hair or lack of fluency in French is not labeled a disorder. A threat to order, the order that gender is irrevocable. Deirdre was surprised that psychiatrists allowed themselves to be cast as gender police. Nowhere in the literature has a cure been reported for the "disorder," except the cure of letting people be who they wish to be, which has done its work for tens of thousands.

A resolution was passed in August 1997 at the annual meeting of the American Psychological Association in Chicago, a quarter of a century after homosexuality was removed from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. Homosexuality "is not a mental disorder and the American Psychological Association opposes all portrayals of lesbian, gay and bisexual people as mentally ill and in need of treatment due to their sexual orientation." A year later the American Psychiatric Association said the same. Most American gender crossers want the same liberation from psychological/psychiatric torture. They want gender identity "disorder" removed from the list of madnesses and another sentence added to the resolution of 1997: "The same is true for gender crossing and cross-gendered identification." The Canadian gender crossers object, because under their national health service they get money for the operation as long as the "disorder" is in the DSM. Consistent Canada. Merci bien.

Dee would sometimes wake up at night and be unable to sleep, though it was rare. The sleep of the just, she said to herself. But she watched for signs of doubt. She worried that at 3 a.m., stripped of the day's masks, doubt would surface. It never did, and she slept better as Deirdre than as Donald.

She could recognize doubt. Donald couldn't sleep for doubt when he was chair of economics at Iowa. He knew from the experience that he should not go into administration. Just or unjust, you have to be able to sleep. The new president of Harvard in the 1990s had a similar problem and took a year's leave. When Donald left a permanent job at the University of Chicago in 1980, he knew doubt at 3 a.m. His wife would become angry if he talked of his Chicago doubt, for it was tedious after a while to listen to the whining. My ex-wife would like Deirdre better if she knew her, she reflected. No angst.

Contributing Editor Deirdre N. McCloskey is a visiting professor of humanities at the University of Illinois at Chicago, teaches economics and history at the University of Iowa, and is Tinbergen Distinguished Professor at Erasmus University of Rotterdam. Her most recent books are The Vices of Economists, The Virtues of the Bourgeoisie (University of Michigan Press) and Crossing: A Memoir, from which this article is excerpted. ((c)1999 The University of Chicago. All rights reserved.)

Boys Will Be Boys

Biology is Not Destiny for Attendees at Female-to-Male Transgendered Conference

Written by Ryan Gierach
(c) 1999, Frontiers
Provided by C. Jacob Hale ([redacted]@aol.com)

On Oct. 8, the Hilton Hotel and conference facility at the Burbank Airport welcomed hundreds of transgendered people and their parents from around the globe. They all gathered to take part in a three-day international conference for female-to-male transgendered persons (FTMs).

Called "Forward Motion: Celebrating Cultures, Advocacy and FTM Lives," the conference was designed for those who were born with the physical characteristics of women, but who self-identify as males.

The programs and workshops covered a wide variety of topics including health and fitness, medical matters, FTM and MTF (male-to-female) unity building, legal issues, spirituality, family issues, relationship creation and maintenance, FTM history and more.

"Finally, I found a place where I can meet and talk with many others like me," said Steve Kucharian, an Armenian from Teheran, Iran. "I came from Iran— I come from a country [where] they kill people like us. I heard the other day they killed someone I knew, a MTF transgendered; they killed my friend."

Organizers said more than 400 individuals registered at the conference, which included some 130 events. In addition to the exhaustive list of workshops and programs offered, many cultural, recreational, and social events took place, including a running art exhibit, a social, and even a Dating Game. Indeed, according to one of the conference organizers, Nick Adams, the conference seemed almost to have too much going on. "Of course, if that's the biggest complaint," he added, "we did all right."

This was the third such conference. The first was held in 1996 in Seattle and the second in 1997 in Boston. "We had 403 attend this one, which is something of an increase from the past two," Adams said. "This year's conference went very well, excepting the occasional minor technical glitch, and we're very pleased."

At a closing ceremony attendees shared their thoughts and feelings about the conference with the organizers and presenters. Padraic, a transgendered man from Arizona, summed up many attendees' feelings when he joked, "I will dispel the rumor that testosterone injections take away the ability to cry."

Tobias Forster, who traveled from Melbourne to attend, said his "courage to stand as me" had been strengthened by the weekend. "The most important experience I had," said Forster, "was just to be in the room with 300 transgendered individuals. In Melbourne if we can get five in one room it's breaking real ground."

Another highlight, Forster said, was a workshop for those transgendered persons who have decided not to undergo the surgery and treatments required to "make the physical transition" to their psychological gender. "In Australia you're looked on as something of a queer if you identify as a man and don't take the hormones," he said. "It was enlightening to me that there is a valid middle ground."

Perhaps the most important of the programs, according to one participant, were those that addressed parents, families, and significant others. "My Mom came, she wanted to ... meet other Moms and Dads," said Abe.

From both sides of the gender line, transactivists say they sometimes feel out of place, even in the queer community. But for FTMs the lack of support can be even greater.

"I saw here a demonstration of care, compassion and concern," Kate Bornstein, a performance artist and transgendered woman told her brothers at the end of the conference. "Now take it out there and back home with you and spread it around!"

Girl Talk Final TS Frontier...

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So she trains her male-to-female clients how to rely more on talking "from the head." "It's one of the best things for my clients, and it takes stress off their vocal cords," she said.

Women also tend to use characteristic gestures while speaking, Mordaunt noted. She advises her male-to-female clients how to deploy similar gestures, such as brushing one's hair backward or using her hands in an "animated but subtle" way.

Such gestures shouldn't be overdone, she cautions. "You shouldn't flip your hair backward 100 times a minute," she said with a laugh.

One of Mordaunt's success stories also spoke at the hour-and-a-half session titled "Voice Treatment for Transgender Clients: Clinical and Consumer Perspectives." Judy Osborne, a male-to-female transsexual in Seattle, gave a witty speech about her experiences as a man who became a woman -in voice as well as body.