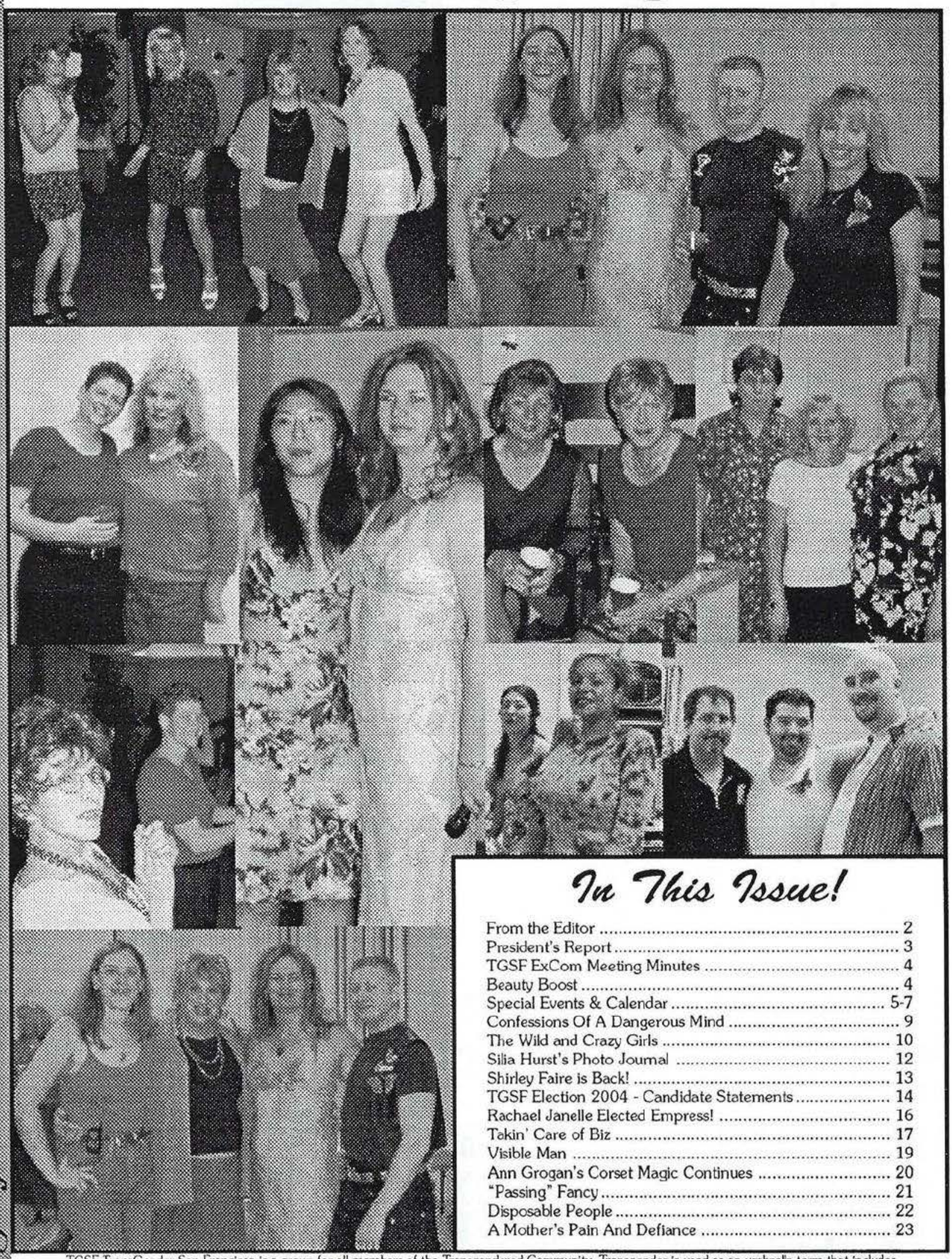
April 2004 — Dedicated to the Memory of Gwen Araujo — Volume 23, Issue 4

# TGSF's Got Spring Fever!



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

# The Channel

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

## ExCom 2003 - 2004 Officers

*(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)*

President ..... Roxy Carmichael-Hart
Vice President ..... Susan Laird
Secretary ..... Anne Louise Mortenson
Treasurer ..... Brooke Jansen
Education ..... Kara Flynn
Kelly Anne Marsh
Outreach ..... Kalani Makanani
Marla Selby
Social ..... Aiyana Eveningstar
Tommie Watson
Miss TGSF 2004 ..... Anne Louise Mortenson
Mr. TGSF 2004 ..... Bobbie Cheung

## Fine Print

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

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Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Rachael Janelle-Light, Roxy Carmichael-Hart, and Silia Hurst

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**WWW.TGSF.ORG**
**NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!**

***Hotline & Voice Mail***
***415-564-3246***

## FROM THE EDITOR...

### *Black and White?*

I wasn't the only one who read Jamie Ray's Op-Ed piece last month ("I Hate Transsexuals," March Channel, p. 21). Both Anne Louise and I had a bell rung after reading what 19-year old MTFs had to say about the tranny generation ahead of them. At the end of his piece, Jaime wrote "who could blame them for living in stealth or disidentifying, even distancing themselves with the trans community? Maybe one day the world will be very different and because of those who are fighting to win acceptance and the human rights battle, there may be a safe place for a future generation of transsexual youth who can proudly wear this label for as long as it applies and then fit in..."

As long as it applies? Excuse me, but I'm transsexual for life. Having the final surgery and getting a legal okie dokie won't change that fact. No amount of denial, records manipulation, document shredding and legal mumbo jumbo will ever, ever change my past and how I grew up. Those of us trannies who are out, open and proud are doing what we can to further the cause of respect, justice and the civil rights everyone else enjoys. But when I read comments from our trans youth like those in Mr. Ray's article, I can't help but want to break out my skillet and start applying some cast-iron therapy. I look at our youth today (let alone our trans youth specifically), and frankly I'm extremely disappointed overall. Loud, obnoxious, ignorant, raised by television nannies or internet avatars - they think the stealth route is the easy way out, the safe bet. I'm probably channeling my mother, who no doubt went through exactly the same thing.

Mr. Ray wrote last month, "Some gender activists who comment on such strategies have said that individuals who go stealth have jumped from one closet to the next. The best way to live life is honestly and in complete acceptance of who and what we are, and that should be okay in society. Exchanging one lie for another, going forward in denial of our past is both unnecessary and dangerous."

Bingo. The problem is that those of us who are out are older, established, mostly accepted for who we are and what we can offer our community and society. We cannot relate to the 13 to 19-year olds trying to stay in school, earn an income and find acceptance. Neither can they relate to us. And for those of us who are putting our asses on the line for the likes of them, well you can understand how feelings get hurt and anger starts flaring. After I read Jaime's article, I confess I did feel like I was being used and unappreciated.

I mean, there are lots of us who are trying to make a safe place for future generations of t-girls, but if they're not going to pitch in and re-enforce our efforts, how can I respect that? If they're going to reap the benefits of what we're sowing - and then go stealth and "fit in" afterwards, virtually ignoring and tossing aside the precedents that we have set, it's hard to find the motivation to continue the struggle so they can do so in complete safety down the road. Especially when the youth of today seem so quick to dismiss our efforts for the sake of their own instant gratification. What's the point of it all?

And how does TGSF fit into this equation? Mr. Ray wrote, "Where do young people with a gender conflict find support for the many issues that they must navigate?" Where indeed? Unfortunately, they can't find it at TGSF, though I wish there was some branch of our organization that dealt exclusively with trans youth. There's so much experience and advice that we collectively could share with those who follow after us. Why aren't we reaching out to them? How can we initiate a dialog to bridge the generation gap and foster the strengthening of our community? Yeah yeah, all it takes is money, right? Maybe if we quit dropping 15 large on the Cotillion every year, we could make it happen.

But when you read stories about mothers of murdered trans youth, like Queen Washington (Page 22) or Sylvia Guerrero (Page 23), and empathize with the struggles they faced in raising a child that was transgendered, you have a brief glimpse of the immense personal and social struggles involved, and the intricate entanglement of trans issues as they relate to personal safety, jobs, housing, social contribution - the list is endless and overwhelming. Then if you're honest with yourself, how can you sit there and NOT feel compelled to do something? Anything!

As we all know, youth is wasted on the young. I can sleep at night knowing that they will have their turn. They, too, will live to their 40's and 50's (Goddess willing) and beyond, and maybe by then we'll start printing articles from them in this old rag, acknowledging that if it wasn't for us who've gone before them, they wouldn't be where they are today. "Bitter, party of one your table is ready" - wishful thinking perhaps, but it'd be nice to see one day.

Regardless of the little credit I give them, the trans youth of today are smart and see what's going on. They know that inroads have been made, and in feeling the pressure to be true to themselves some of them take the risk and live openly. And some of them make it and some don't. But we have to encourage those who are frightened to try - to make the commitment to live their lives truthfully, openly and honestly - just like anyone else regardless of gender identity or sexual preference. That's what our Constitution guarantees to all of us as American citizens. And that certainly is worth fighting for, even if those who come after us don't appreciate it.

## President's Report

**By Roxy Carmichael-Hart**

### *I Wanna be...Elected!*

It's the morning after the Red and White Ball, which was a spectacular event. I'll get to that in a moment. I am starting my report a little earlier than usual since by the time I would normally write this, I might be in a bit of pain, as my implant surgery is scheduled for March 9.

I can't thank everyone enough for their help and assistance for the Red and White Ball. What a great show! I am speechless which most of you know (and probably many of you are thankful for!). The last time I tried to thank everyone I left some names out and caught shit for it, some of which is still hitting the fan. But I do need to mention some names.

I am amazed and astounded (and maybe I shouldn't be) at Ann Louise and Bobby. They both came early and stayed late to help. They looked beautiful, they danced together, they greeted people and all night, and they turned the enthusiasm meter up to 11. I think that everyone who saw them knows why they were selected and why they are so deserving of their titles. I am very proud to have them as representatives of our community and if the first month is any indication, I believe that the record will show that they will set standard by which all future Mr. and Miss TGSF's are measured. And I learned that our lovely Miss TGSF is quite an accomplished pianist. The blues number that she did with Kelly and with Tom Kennard from the Transcendence Gospel Choir really rocked the house.

I was also very very pleased to have Reigning Empress 33 Big Red and President of the IRLM Court, Michael Healy, attend our event. It is extremely important for TGSF to reach out to other organizations with which we share common goals. There are many who participate in TGSF activities that are members of many different groups. One of my goals for next year is to continue to reach out to those groups and perhaps coordinate some events and provide links to each other's websites and calendars of events. Through cooperation and sharing and working together, we can inform and enlighten both the general public and ourselves as to who we are. The only way to get others to understand and ultimately accept us is through education, and anyone who helps contribute to the betterment and the understanding of our community is most welcome to join our big tent. And I was also delighted to see the ravishing Trixie, whom I have not seen since San Jose Pride. She was as outrageous as ever. And she contributed two gifts for our dance contest which we did not hold, so I will save them for our Annual Meeting raffle.

One of the things that I have stressed the most is the importance of outreach. I was very proud of Kelly in that she took the time from all of the things she was doing to help with the music and some of the other logistics to talk to several people about TGSF and to invite them to our End of Month. She also took the time to speak to one young man who has been going through some very difficult personal times. Kelly spoke with him calmly and gently and was even making him laugh. I think her patience and understanding helped him as he begins his journey. My hat's off to you girl! You play a mean harmonica!

Thanks to Madame Steele who brought her three lovely maids, Lacey, Simone and Sapphire to the party and they worked their pretty little butts off cleaning up. As I was noting above, Madame Steele is very active in the IRLM Court but she always makes time for TGSF and helps us when we ask. By the way, I am going to try to attend the San Jose Coronation on March 13, my new body willing and I hope that there is a large TGSF contingent present to support our friends.

To all I didn't mention – thank you so much from all of us. I know that you know that I don't have to put all of the thanks in words. You know that it is in my heart. That is what I love about you. You don't do things because you want to be mentioned or awarded or congratulated. You do these things because you care about us. I love you all so much.

And now the business part of our program....

If you looked in your Channel envelope you probably saw your ballot. If not, go to the trash and dig it out. Yes, it is time to select new ExCom officers. So soon. It seems as if we just got started. I look upon this as a time for promise and as a time for sadness. We have the potential of so many new members with enthusiasm and vision. At the same time, there will be a few ExCom members that will not be continuing. We have had our disagreements and not everything went according to plan but we did a hell of a lot for this community and I am very proud to have served with you.

You'll see a change in your ballots from previous years. We are asking you to approve two changes to the bylaws. One would provide two-year staggered terms for ExCom officers. Consequently, in this election, the President, Treasurer, and one each of the Education, Outreach and Social Chairs will be elected for two years. The Vice-President, Secretary, and the other Education, Outreach and Social Chairs will be elected for one transition year, and next year they will be eligible for two year terms. I am very hopeful that this will provide us with some stability and some continuity on the ExCom and will reduce the learning curve. Like I said, it seems as if you are just hitting your stride and you then have to think about re-election. Of course if the bylaws change doesn't pass it will all revert to one-year terms as in the past. The other bylaws change involves attendance and provides for three unexcused absences as a reason by which an ExCom member may be removed from office. As I have said all along, your position on the ExCom implies a commitment which you should be prepared to live up to. These are not ceremonial or token or figurehead positions. We need to share the workload and everyone must pull his or her own weight.

As for me, I have decided that win, lose or draw on this election, that this will be my last time on the ballot. If the bylaws change passes and I wind up serving two more years, that will give me three years plus on the ExCom. Although I said that continuity is important, it is also critical to bring in new energy and ideas and to groom future leaders. I have no doubt that at least one of the people on your 2004-2005 ExCom will be the next President of TGSF. I don't plan to go away – far from it. I will be just as visible and will do whatever I can to help our community.

One person in particular that I will be sorry to see leave ExCom is Susan. She has been a wonderful secretary and Vice-President. I am happy that she will continue to provide technical support to TGSF, because I could not imagine any of our events without her expertise – can you?

Anyway, it is imperative that you mail your ballot back to us so it arrives prior to the Annual Meeting on April 29. You may also deliver your ballot to the Blue Muse, 409 Gough Street in San Francisco by **7:30 p.m.** That's when the polls close and we'll count ballots and announce the results that night, and introduce you to your new ExCom. Oh, and a word of advice for those who don't like speeches and/or awards. This is the time when we honor those who have served us, and those who will make the sacrifice for us in the upcoming year. They are all worthy of this recognition and respect. So if you don't want to listen to speeches, then you may excuse yourselves to the bar and also, please feel free to use the bathroom. No one will be offended.

Although it is not a TGSF event, I hope you will all attend California Dreamin' 2004, April 22-25 at Carla's and at the DeAnza Hotel in San Jose. This wonderful event will feature some renowned and respected speakers, surgeons, therapists, consultants and others. There will be subjects of interest for all, regardless of where you are in the gender spectrum. For more information, please contact Laura Marlowe, President at laura_marlowe@earthlink.net. If the name looks familiar, it is because she is on your ballot as our new Vice-President. I am looking forward to working with her.

San Francisco Coronation is next Saturday. There will be a large TGSF contingent present, including our Mr. and Miss. We are everywhere.

Post mortem to that. Most of you knew that I was not feeling well at the Red and White and lost my voice. If you attended the End of Month you know that I lost my voice as well, and I deeply appreciate Anne Louise and Bobby's help in introducing the newcomers. So I was pretty wiped by the SF Coronation and thus missed that event, but we had excellent representation and our Mr. and Miss TGSF were recognized.

It will be held by the time you read this but the Spring Fever event on March 20 is another event for which I want to give lots of thanks. It is a joint fundraiser for TGSF and for the IRLM Court and I appreciate Carla, Madame Steele and the Billy DeFrank Center for their efforts – as well as to everyone who is helping out. I may even do a return gig as "Rock C." (If you attended the Sock Hop at the Savoy you know what I am talking about. It will be the return of the bad ass rock chick.)

Until next time, when we introduce the new ExCom...

*The nearly ubiquitous Roxy Hart*

## *Thanks Again...*

...to Carla and the Billy DeFrank Center for hosting the Spring Fever Fund Raiser on March 20, to benefit TGSF and the IRLM Court. It was a beautiful spirit of Come Together. I would also like to thank everyone who attended, including our own lovely Miss TGSF. Thanks to Madame Steel and Siobhan for being great MC's, and to Andy for all of the tunes. I would also like to thank Carla for the gifts for the new Emperor 34 and Empress 34 of San Jose, Kevin Roche and Rachael Janelle. I am looking forward to working with them both in this upcoming year. And thank you to those who donated items for the raffle. I know the court donated several items as did Jo-An Torres from I Love It. So many people, working so hard for the benefit of all of us. We all appreciate your commitment, dedication and sacrifice. (And I got to take the girls out for a spin!)

**Roxy**

*This article should be a lot longer but I am writing it only a few hours after I got home!*

*March 7, 2004*

## TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

1) February 8, 2004 minutes approved
2) President's Report
   - Terms for ExCom services requested: Damon 1, Kelly 1, Kara 1, Tommi 1, Kalani 2, Allison 2
   - Ballots will be stuffed at Carla's Boutique on Sunday, March 28th (Families who are TGSF members must be sent more than one ballot
   - Nominations for Ginny Knuth (Member of the Year) Award were taken. Qualifications were discussed.
   - Nominations for Certificates of Recognition were taken
   - Pride Parade: Truck & flatbed approx. $1,000. Beer booth – need proof of non-profit status and volunteers- 6 Sat. and 12 Sun. Probably will need 50 volunteers for all Pride events.
   - Fundraisers: Barbeque in Park in May? Susan will check park in Saratoga, Kara will check Central Park in San Mateo. (availability & costs)
   - Need to get renewal letters out in two months
3) Vice President's Report - Susan
   - Cotillion update
4) Treasurer's Report – Brooke
   - Approx. $3,000 in bank, $1800 in debts. Possibly some money due from Silent Auction. Ok to re-pay Susan Laird $600 and Design Center $100.
   - Susan has been looking into Hotels for the next Cotillion
   - We need new advertisers
5) Secretary's Report – Tommi read report
   - Will have a SF event with-in 2 or 3 months
   - Would like to fund a TG support group at the GLBT center
6) Education – Kelly and Kara
   - Encouraging Tiffany Woods to do a workshop
   - Laser clinic workshop April 17th.
7) Outreach – Kalani and Marta
   - Approx. 160 students attended last outreach . Students wrote letters describing what they learned.
8) Social – Aiyanna and Tommi
   - Kelly talked to Lipstick Conspiracy about doing a benefit. El Rio might not be available in the evening. Check SF court so as not to dbl book. Mid-may at latest.
   - End of Month – March 25th – Candidate night.
   - May 5th – Mid-Peninsula group – 1st meeting of group since loss of old meeting place.
9) No Old Business
10) New Business
    - Discuss Pride effort
    - Discuss strategy for raising funds
    - Future ExCom meetings- Feb. 8, March 7, April 4, May 2 (with new ExCom)
11) Adjourn

# Beauty Boost

**by Wendy R. Schultz**

### Time To Go Shopping!

This month, I will attempt to unravel the mystery behind the skin care products that line the shelves of drugstores, pharmacies, and specialty stores. I will suggest things to steer clear of, and things to look for when choosing products. It's not a difficult thing to do. It's just a matter of being choosy, careful, and wise when buying products for your skin. And, as always, I welcome any questions and am available to help.

### Oily

Any person with oily skin will tell you that they actually like it when their skin feels a bit tight after cleansing. They equate tight with clean, and don't like anything that leaves a filmy residue behind. Gel cleansers are best for oily skin. They're light and the detergents wash away dirt, oil, and makeup without leaving anything behind. Since oily skin needs moisture, look for a moisturizer labeled light or non-greasy. Use makeup that is water based or has a matte finish. Natural products containing lavender, ylang, ylang, or grapefruit are excellent for oily skin.

### Dry

The clean tight feeling that oily skinned people love is bothersome to people who are dry. People with dry skin will say that their skin usually feels tight, and sometimes itchy. If you have dry skin, look for cleansers and moisturizers that contain humectants, or substances that retain moisture. This can mean extra oil or emollient ingredients that are soothing to skin. Creamy cleansers are kind to dry skin, and using an oil-based foundation is helpful, too, because it keeps moisture in the skin for as long as possible.

### Sensitive

Sensitive skinned people need to steer clear of products that are fragranced. They need to take extra care to be gentle and not over stimulate the skin with too much rubbing or scrubbing. Some redness is expected, but inflammation could spell trouble. Products that contain tea tree oil, chamomile, neroli, or clary sage are especially soothing.

### Combination and Normal

When choosing a product for combo or normal skin, it's good to go with a product that isn't specifically for either oily or dry skin. Most companies label their products specifically, and if you find one for combination skin, chances are, it'll work just fine.

### Exceptions To The Rule

There is always the chance that products formulated specifically for a skin type can do some damage. You can develop an allergy to something you've used forever, or a product can contain a new ingredient that just doesn't agree with your skin. The first time you try a new product, save your receipt. If you purchase a product formulated specifically for your skin type yet you're less than happy with the results, discontinue use immediately and return it for a full refund.

Questions? Feedback? Need help finding products? Send me an email - BeautyBoost@msn.com.

*Although I'm a licensed Esthetician, I'm not a healthcare professional. As such, please consult with your doctor prior to beginning any new skin care regimen.*

# Special Events!

## Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits

### *Community Potlucks*

Tentative Dates For 2004:April 30, May 21, July 23, August 27, September 24, October 29 and December 3. Held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia. Check board upon entering for room number.

Please bring something to share — food, non?alcoholic drinks, song, poem, raffle item. Traditional food is especially welcome. Contact us to confirm each event.

BAAITS potlucks are clean and sober. Those under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave.

BAAITS has an office at 1800 Market Street #411 in San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-865-5616 / www.baaits.org. BAAITS is a community based volunteer organization creating forums for spiritual, cultural and artistic expression of Two-Spirit people.

### *I Love It Girl*

## Wednesday Night Socials

*I Love It Girl* is a wonderful, safe,informative, supportive, friendly fun environment. And it is all about "The Joys Of CrossDressing". Beginners and full-timers are welcome as well as their Significant Others and family members."My Girls" are very special and our Yahoo group is by invitation only, to ensure our group remains safe and secure.

Our mission is to educate the world about the Joys of Crossdressing. To help Significant Others, Family, Friends and associates accept and support this person within you. For some of us it is a hobby, for some a lifestyle choice, for others it is our nature, but we all agree that it is a culture that deserves love, mutual respect, understanding and support.

Help us make the right impression with significant others who may have little or no exposure to this aspect of our world. Let us present them with the "real, wonderful, warm and loving" world of crossdressing; not the preconceived misconceptions.

Held every Wednesday evening beginning at 7:00pm. I Love It Boutique is located at , 45979 Warm Springs Blvd #7 in Fremont. (between Econo Lodge and Spin A Yarn). Call Jo-An at [redacted] or visit her website at WWW.ILOVEITGIRL.COM

## 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!

## California Dreamin' 2004 Transgender Conference

### *April 22-25 in Silicon Valley*

After a two-year hiatus, California Dreamin' is back!

We're planning seminars for TS's, crossdressers, wives and significant others. There will be presentations on SRS and Facial Feminization Surgery, hormones and your health, electrolysis and laser, and a workshop on legal issues and problems. On the lighter side, you can see presentations on corsetry, perfecting your feminine presentation, wig care and makeup application. Come to the Wives and Significant Others seminars to learn about dealing with TG issues in your relationship. Visit our vendors' room to get a makeover, or shop for jewelry, wigs, accessories and more.

In the evenings, we'll have a reception, hosted dinner excursions to some of our fabulous local restaurants, and a sumptuous banquet in the De Anza's lovely Palm Court Terrace, with live entertainment.

Confirmed speakers include: Dr. Toby Meltzer | Dr. Millie Brown | Dr. Annette Cholon | Dr. Joy Shaffer | Dr. Douglas Ousterhout | Dr. Robert Brink | Dr. Joel Beck | Ann Grogan | Denae Doyle | Lacey Leigh | Chris Daley | Tiffany Woods | Carla Blair | Wendy Schultz | Kaye Beaumont |

For more information visit the Cal Dreamin' website at http://www.california-dreamin.org/ or email us at info@california-dreamin.org.

California Dreamin 2004 is sponsored by Transgender San Francisco, the Diablo Valley Girls, the Rainbow Gender Association and Carla's Salon and Boutique.

### *Please Come!*

## *Youth Gender Project's Community Meeting*

Calling all YOUTH ages 25 and under who are: Transgender, genderqueer, intersex, androgynous, bi-gendered, butch, crossdressers, trannyboys, trans, drag kings, drag queens, gender-bending,FTM, MTF, trannygirls, pangendered, fem/me, transsexual, two-spirit, questioning, partners and friends of any of the above, and others!

Youth Gender Project is creating new programs to serve Transgender, Gender-Variant, Intersex and Questioning (TGIQ) youth. We want YOUR input. What would you like to see us doing? Please come to Youth Gender Project's Community Meeting!

**What:** A gathering to get and give information - A forum to express your needs - An opportunity for TGIQ youth to connect.

**When:** April 24, 2004, 2-4pm **refreshments will be served**

**Where:** LGBT Community Center; Youth Space, 1800 Market St, San Francisco, CA

Here's a chance to make a difference in your community. Let your voice be heard!

Youth Gender Project is a youth-led organization working to empower, advocate for, and liberate transgender, gender-variant, intersex and questioning (TGIQ) youth. We address the challenges facing TGIQ youth in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond by creating and implementing programs that reflect the needs of our TGIQ youth community, and also by educating those who work with us. For more information, please call (415) 865-5625 or send an email to ygp@youthgenderproject.org.

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

# TGSF Events in April

**Sunday / April 4 / 4:00pm**

### *TGSF ExCom Meeting*

The Next ExCom meeting will be held on Sunday October 5 at 4 PM at the home of our Vice President, Susan Laird, at [redacted], San Francisco. A busy agenda is planned and volunteers are needed! The annual SF and San Jose PRIDE Parades are just around the corner! Please join your ExCom and help out!

**Thursday - Sunday / April 22 - 25**

### *California Dreamin'!*

Returns to the Bay Area after a two-year hiatus, and TGSF is a co-sponsor of this terrific event. See ad and notice elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

**Thursday / April 29 / 7:30pm**

### *TGSF End of Month Event*

Election Night! If you haven't sent your ballot in via mail, you can vote in person at The Blue Muse, 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. Support the people who want to lead us, and step up to the plate when asked for your assistance!

***Coming in May!***

**Wednesday / May 5 / 7:00pm**

### *TGSF Mid-Peninsula Group is Back!*

TGSF's reintroduces the Mid-Peninsula Support Group at the San Mateo Marriott. See ad elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

## April's Birthdays

| | |
|---|---|
| 4/00 | Phylicia Anya Morningstar |
| 4/00 | Joanna Wilson |
| 4/01 | Michelle Nelson |
| 4/03 | Elaine Lerner |
| 4/04 | Paula Bacigalupi |
| 4/08 | Davida Frazier |
| 4/09 | Veronica Smith |
| 4/11 | Michelle Ayres |
| 4/12 | Julie Freeman |
| 4/13 | Tina Kearns |
| 4/14 | Chelsea Grammer |
| 4/15 | Sharon Moriarty |
| 4/16 | Bommie Smith |
| 4/19 | Bobbie Williams |
| 4/29 | Ellie Anderson |

***Happy Birthday To All!***


California Dreamin is back!

CALIFORNIA Dreamin 2004

April 22-25, 2004
at
Carla's
and the
Hotel De Anza
in downtown San Jose

Scheduled Speakers include:

Dr. Toby Meltzer Dr. Millie Brown Denaë Doyle
Dr. Joy Shaffer Dr. Stephen Braveman
Dr. Douglas Ousterhout Theresa Sparks
and many more . . .

www.california-dreamin.org

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# Calendar – April 2004

## Other Bay Area Groups

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

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

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

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

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

***FTM International***
A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 160 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

***The Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)***
TGSF-sponsored support group for the TG community that meets at 7:00 pm every Wednesday of each month at the San Mateo Marriot Hotel, Nob Hill Room, in San Mateo. For more details please contact Roxy at [redacted] **Debuts May 5th!**

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

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

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

***I Love It Girl Socials***
Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at [redacted] for directions and more information.

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1<br>7:00 PM DVG RCC | 2<br>8:00 PM PacCtr<br>8:00 PM RGA | 3 |
| 4<br>**4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting** | 5<br>5:00 PM CCHH<br>7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting<br>8:00 PM DVG | 6<br>7:00 PM SCT | 7<br>7:00 PM I Love It Social<br>7:30 PM MPTG | 8 | 9<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr | 10<br>8:00 PM FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA |
| 11 | 12<br>5:00 PM CCHH | 13 | 14<br>7:00 PM I Love It Social | 15<br>7:00 PM DVG RCC<br>TG Legal Clinic | 16<br>8:00 PM PacCtr<br>8:00 PM RGA | 17 |
| 18 | 19<br>5:00 PM CCHH<br>8:00 PM DVG | 20<br>7:00 PM SCT | 21<br>7:00 PM I Love It Social | 22<br>**California Dreamin!** | 23<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr<br>**California Dreamin!** | 24<br>**2:00 PM Youth Gender Project @ The Center**<br>8:00 PM FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA<br>**California Dreamin!** |
| 25<br>**California Dreamin!** | 26<br>5:00 PM CCHH | 27<br>7:30 PM SCOUT | 28<br>7:00 PM I Love It Social | 29<br>**7:30 PM TGSF: Election Night @ Blue Muse** | 30<br>**7:00 PM BAAITS Potluck @ The Center**<br>8:00 PM PacCtr | |

## TGSF Membership Application

**Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / $40 Single Membership; $45 Family.**

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

*Please Print / Check all that apply:*

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

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

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

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

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

# Announcements!

## Thanks

Thank you to all who took the time to call and write and generally check to see how I was after my recent surgery. I appreciate your concern. The girls and I are doing well, though we are all a little sore.

Special thanks to Roxy's "angels": Wendy Schultz, Rachael Janelle, and Arlynne Camire for the time you spent taking care of me and for generally being the loving, caring, giving and supportive people you are.

**Love,**
**Roxy**

## Dear TGSF,

I'm gathering string for a possible story to add to our same-sex marriage coverage, focusing on how marriage laws are applied to transgender people in same-sex relationships.

Obviously, in California, the law permits transgender people to change their legal gender. In addition, it's my understanding that marriages involving transgender people have been upheld by a number of trial courts in California.

So I'm hoping you can refer me to married couples in the Bay Area, or anywhere in the state, whom I could interview . Feel free to circulate this far and wide, and have folks contact me directly ASAP. Thanks a bunch for your help,

**Yomi S. Wronge,**
**Staff Writer, San Jose Mercury News,**
**Ridder Park Drive, San Jose, CA 95190 /**
**(408) 920-5744**

### *Call For Workshops*

## TRANS-UNITY 2004!

We are now accepting proposals for Trans-Unity 2004. Proposals are due no later than **May 31, 2004**.

TRANS-UNITY is an annual multi-cultural, substance free celebration of the regional transgender community: transsexual, gender-queer, and cross-dressing individuals, and those who love and care for them. Participants come together for a day of educational workshops, discussion groups, entertainment, music, refreshments and relaxation. TRANS-UNITY began in 2000 and is the largest annual celebration gathering of the transgender community in the country.

Successful Workshops we have had at Trans-Unity in the past include: FTM 101, FTM Dating, Gender _Expression in Performance, Storytelling, Transgender Law, Makeup and Beauty Tips, TG Images in the Media and many more.

We are looking for workshops that inform the community, invite dialog and provide support for our diverse population.

If you have a good idea for a workshop and are not able to facilitate it yourself, please send your suggestion to mhornd@sbcglobal.net. Please include the names (if any) of anyone you feel might be a good presenter for the workshop.

Please contact Michele for submittal forms and more information: mhornd@sbcglobal.net or by fax to Michele Horn Davis [redacted]

trans gender san francisco
tgsf

*and Roxy Carmichael-Hart*

*are pleased to announce the rebirth of the*

## *Mid-Peninsula Support Group*

*Beginning*

***WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2004***

*and continuing on the first Wednesday of each month*

*San Mateo Marriott*
*1770 South Amphlett Boulevard*
*(Highways 101 and 92)*
*San Mateo, CA*

***7:00 - 9:00 P.M.***

***Nob Hill Room***

*All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification, etc..*

*$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.*

*For more details please contact Roxy at* [redacted] *or write* [redacted]

*Please note: This is a support group. The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF. You are encouraged to speak to your personal physician and/or therapist regarding your specific treatment and care.*

*Financial assistance provided, in part by Transgender San Francisco*

*As a TGSF Member*

## *Exercise Your Right to Vote!*

*Cast your Ballot in person at*
*The Blue Muse*
*Thursday, April 29 / 7:30pm*

# Commentary

## Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind

**By Roxy Carmichael-Hart**

### *School is in Session*

With apologies to Jack Black and the School of Rock (whose lines I rewrote in part below)

*Maybe I was just in a haze*
*But I was stuck in my boy phase*
*It don't take much to memorize your lives*
*I feel like I've been hypnotized*
*But then that magic girl she came to town*
*And she spun my head around*
*She said "Life is in session, don't take no more jive*
*And yes, I'm now alive...yes, I'm alive*
*And if you wanna have a better bet*
*One thing you should never forget*
*Life got no reason, life got no rhyme*
*Maybe you'll get it right this time."*

I have been asked why I use so many rock (and movie) lyrics in my writing. To that I answer, why not? Sometimes music is the best way to express things. When Baz Lurhman wrote Moulin Rouge, he didn't give a shit that the songs he used were anachronistic. He did it to show that music is timeless and the thoughts expressed in those lyrics are timeless as well. If something can be said beautifully through music, why try to do it another way? It is, to use a term I utterly despise, like reinventing the wheel.

Although my first exposure to music was through Elvis and The Beatles, I grew up weaned on the Stones, The Who, Zeppelin, ACDC, Sabbath, Deep Purple and all the others. I had the severe misfortune of growing up in Miami during the disco phase and got the "joy" of hearing KC and the Sunshine Band and the Bee Gees every five minutes. No one was happier than I when disco died a well-deserved death and no one was happier than I when punk and new wave hit the scene. So this is why, at a 50's sock hop, I chose to do songs from the eras I loved. That is me and those of you who know me know that I won't do anything that isn't me. That is why, at a Mexican restaurant, I tried to persuade the mariachis to do "Smoke on the Water". Without success, I might add.

Another thing I like about rock is that it is honest (before the MTV sell outs of course). Rock ain't afraid to tell you what's on its mind, just like Roxy ain't afraid to tell you what is on her mind. I got no axe to grind, unless it were Jimi Hendrix' axe.

So why do I bring this up? It all goes back to what we have been saying about being transgendered and that is being true to yourself. You came all of this way to be the person you are, so why try to be anyone different? You would be amazed at the number of people who think that because I am transgendered, that this is the limit of my interests. I am no more tied to that interest than say an African American is automatically tied to Arethra Franklin or The Color Purple. Or that I like movies only dealing with TG issues. Or that I read books dealing with only TG subjects. It's just perpetuating the stereotype that we must like a certain thing because of what our presentation is. It's just another label that someone has tied to us. Cross dressers are party girls, drag queens are gay, all Chinese people own laundries. You kind of see how stupid stereotypes are?

Personally, I love any movie that will make me laugh. Give me Jim Carrey or Jack Black any day. I love all kinds of restaurants. I love going to Pac Bell Park to see the Giants. I love watching the NFL. And next Sunday I will be sitting in front of my TV filling out my brackets like millions of other Americans and probably lots of TG's as well. This is how I have always been and will always be. I still do all of the things I love, I just do them as a girl.

Every community has its diversity. Every community has its bad side. Every community has its jewels. I am no one to judge who is right or who should be participating in our community. All I can do is to point to our masthead where we talk about who our community includes. To me, it includes all those of every age, race, creed, gender, gender ID, sexual preference, or position on the gender spectrum. None of us have any right to tell anyone whether or not they should be part of our group. The other night, at RGA, I spoke to a young woman who had been dressing for a grand total of an hour and a half. She was trying to see where she fit in. I have heard that story so many times. Fitting in. I got a strange sense of déjà vu because I recall not long ago standing where she was, asking the same questions to Jackie, who was standing where I was that night. Some day, hopefully, that same woman will be standing where I was, trying to help someone new find out where she fit in.

And so it goes. We take and we give but we need to give far more than we take. When we do that, our community will be helpful and strong. Whether you were with ETVC at its beginnings or dressing for an hour and a half, there is a place for you with us. We are not going to stereotype you as one thing or another. You need to put on those ruby slippers and find it out for yourself. James Brown said "I don't want nobody to give me nothin'. Open up the door and I'll get it myself". We need to open that door. We need to take that hand and lead that person to wherever they want to be. But they have to make the first move. Which is why outreach is the most critical thing that we do. As you will see below.

I get lonely sometimes. I don't have a partner right now and to tell the truth it would not be right to bring another person into my life when I could not make them my number one priority. I can accept that for now. It was really bad for me on Valentines Day, which has historically been a jinx for me. I got engaged on Valentines Day 10 years ago and what a BFD (as in "disaster") that turned out to be.

So, not being a girl that goes to bars or answers personal ads, I turn to the phone and I won't get into details. I made a call where you pay $4.99 for the first minute. I wound up getting connected to a T-girl in Florida. We had a nice chat, exchanged information about ourselves and then did our business. Then, she began to open up to me and the next thing I knew, I was trying to help Eric become Erica (not her real name). I told her that she should try to find a support group or a group like TGSF or RGA in her area and to also look for a therapist.

She was very grateful and told me that no one had ever taken an interest in trying to get her started on her true path. All she wanted was to have the chance to be Erica full time. Someone reached out to her. Someone cared. Outreach can take the strangest paths. You might be on one of those paths. I want there to be a person who reaches out to you to help you in the same way.

*And if you wanna have a better bet*
*You must never forget*
*Life got to reason, life got to rhyme*
*Maybe you'll get it right this time.*

For those about to live, I salute you.

**Rock C**

### *Significant Other Support - East Bay*

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

# From Miss TGSF 2004

## The Wild and Crazy Girls

**By Anne Louise Mortenson**

Bobby and I had just been to the Coronation and we're heading back to his place. We had worn our crowns as Mr. and Miss TGSF. The Coronation was our second grand occasion as representatives of the TG community. It had been a wonderful event for the gay community. People had dressed to the hilt and were fascinating to watch as they were introduced to the reigning Empress and Emperor of the Imperial Royal Court.

We finally found a place to park on the street only a few minutes away from his house. "The reason I walk a head of you is because I know the way, " he told me. I had been kidding him all night that he didn't let a lady go first.

"Lead away, Sir Galahad," I said, trying to sound nice about it. I did want to let him know somehow that I liked him.

We got back to his place and we started talking about who we were.

"I'm at the extreme end of who a trangender person is. Not that many people take it this far, only a few of us," he said.

"So you're at the radical end of the spectrum?"

"No, " he said emphatically, "not radical, extreme."

"Have you changed your body?" I had to ask him.

He paused and looked at me as if I had missed the obvious. The facial hair was obvious. "I'm taking hormones and I've had chest surgery." Of course he had performed his snake routine at the Cotillion barechested, what was I thinking? I guess I had just been thinking of him as a guy from the beginning. I had never thought of him as a girl.

We seemed worlds away, Bobby is so much younger than I am, born in another country, becoming something I still am and me wanting to be what he once was. I had trouble sleeping for just a little while because I was in a strange place. I woke up early the next day just out of habit.

Oh well, it would give me more time to get ready to the Memorial Service for the Emperor Norton. The first question was when to shave. It's the worst part of getting ready. I hate having facial hair. I really have to go back to electrolysis and get rid of it once and for all. I try to save it to last but today I just did it first.

I even put on the false eyelashes. I couldn't find anyone to help me the day before. After a couple of tries I got the right side positioned correctly but the other side wasn't quite right. The outside never quite tucked down into the corner of my eye and the graceful curvature of the eye wasn't followed by the deep black of the lashes. But I didn't want to do it again. It looked ok if I just kept my eyes wide open. I love the way false eyelashes look. My eyes felt naked the night before because it seemed every girl at the Coronation was at least wearing a pair twice as long as these. Come to think of it the tiaras were at least twice as long as mine too.

I got to Marlena's maybe a half an hour early. The bus was leaving the bar at 9:30 to go to the memorial service. I was surprised to find Rachael Janelle, Madam Steele, Jo-An, Angela and White Satin already there, milling around the bar. Rachael warmly greeted me and gave me her seat. Jo-An was giving White Satin a quick makeover. Dab, dab, dab. Everyone was in high spirits.

We loaded on the bus and lumbered off leaving a trail of tour bus exhaust in the beautiful sun lit Hayes Valley. I wrongly believed it was going to be sunny everywhere. To my surprise the Empress Jose took the tour bus mike and started bantering. I was on the edge of a seat with Rachael and Angela and couldn't do too much more than listen. As we snaked our way through downtown to the freeway, she began to muse on the nature of being gay. "We are not second class citizens. We are as good as anybody else," she told us. "I knew that long ago."

She described getting up in the morning. "I know who I am. I get up and shave. I look in that mirror and see who I am. I have no illusions. I put on a little bit of blush. 'Louise, I tell myself, how pretty you are'." I think she said "Louise", I wasn't sure. I lost the thread of her story and began to wonder what she meant by having no illusions. Did she mean about being a physical man? Did she mean about being gay?

She never stopped talking the whole way to the graveyard somewhere in the hills above San Francisco off 280. She told us the whole story of the Emperor Norton. How the rich man became a pauper because of the unscrupulous behavior of some businessmen. He disappeared for a few years and then started up with his rich friends again. Soon he had proclaimed himself the Emperor of the United States and the Protector of Mexico. This didn't seem to bother anyone. In fact he was welcomed again by high society. Policemen took to saluting him on the street. He printed his own currency. He could go to fancy restaurants and get a gourmet meal on the house, go to posh events, meet dignitaries and live the high life before going back to his single room in a boarding house. The Empress was obviously sweet on the man. She affectionately described his two dogs, Bummer and Lazarus, who were his constant companions. Their deaths were great events in his life. Despite the fact that the city, the country and the world for some reason failed to abide by his periodic proclamations, he lived happily this way for another 20 years. When he died in 1880, his funeral cortege was two miles long and 10,000 people came to the funeral.

Then about forty years ago, the Empress decided that the gay community needed to come together. She struck on the idea of reviving the spirit of Emperor Norton. She went to the cemetery he was buried at and told the management she was the Widow Norton and that she wanted to hold a memorial service for her husband. The manager called the directors of the cemetery and told them about the strange request. The directors soon arrived in a fancy limousine. The Empress told us she sweating in anticipation. After being questioned by the directors they left telling the manager to let her do whatever she would like. This began the tradition of having memorial services at Woodlawn for the last thirty-nine years and also to the beginning of the Imperial Royal Court.

After seeming to go around in circles, and being scolded repeatedly by the Widow Norton, the sleepy bus driver finally found the correct road to the cemetery. Upon arrival, our comedy began. Rachael and Jo-An frantically hauled big plastic bags stuffed with wedding dresses onto the bus. We had to change quickly and hurry to catch the procession that was already leaving to climb up the hill to the gravesite. There was absolutely no privacy except for maybe the fact that the height of the bus off the ground made it difficult to peer in the windows. But there was no one to watch us anyway. They had all left. After pinning and tying the dresses on, we rushed to catch up. Rachael and Jo-An were smart enough to bring some fur stoles along for the cold and we wrapped those around us with one hand while with the other we held up the borrowed wedding dresses to prevent them from being dragged on the ground or tripping us. We clumsily climbed up a steep hill, wondering what happened to the memorial gathering. There was no one else in sight.

Here we were a bunch of T girls, safety pinned into wedding dresses, lost in a fancy cemetery surrounded by marble tombstones and vaults, asking strangers for directions for the Emperor Norton's grave. "Which way did they go?" Rachael asked a bewildered mourner who had no idea who "they" were. He said he didn't know and frowned. We didn't find any smiles when we got there either. Everyone seemed quite demur as the Empress held court graveside to the Emperor. We jumped and flitted about the periphery of the crowd, admiring the thick wool coats and windbreakers of the sensibly dressed spectators, trying to keep from shivering in the brisk wind. There was a stark contrast between our zany white and their somber black. I huddled in a fur stole, so grateful to have something to keep me warm but Angela and a few others had nothing. Jo-An hovered about like a humming bird, her thin little frame didn't seem to have any natural insulation to keep her warm.

After what seemed like an interminable amount of time, we were announced. The Empress told the crowd in her glib fashion that she had noticed a bunch of men in dresses that had been frequenting the bars that she had been visiting. She wondered who they were. She found out they were transsexuals and invited them to be hat check girls at the Coronation. And they were. "Well more girls joined them and then they had a big event of their own. They are wild and crazy girls and you never know what they will do."

We were on. We tried to line up as best we could for the wedding procession. The two Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence we had drafted started up through the crowd. Then there was some confusion about who would go next. We straightened that out but meanwhile the two sisters were on the ground trying to fix the little cassette player that had malfunctioned leaving us without our procession music. We trickled haphazardly though the milling crowd and around the emergency cassette repairs. Miraculously (maybe through divine intervention?) we got the tape player going and we lined ourselves up for the mock wedding between Angela and Chris. Madame Steele presided but I couldn't hear what she was saying from behind. Somehow Mark Leno was cajoled into coming up and officiating and then the marriage was consecrated with a kiss.

***Continued on Page 13***

# Support Your Organization!

## TGSF Sustaining Memberships

### FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

***Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition***

### *GUARDIAN LEVEL: $2500*

Recognition & Benefits:

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

### *PATRON LEVEL: $1000*

Recognition & Benefits:

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

### *ANGEL LEVEL: $500*

Recognition & Benefits:

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

### *CENTURY LEVEL: $250*

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Framed Recognition Certificate

### *MERIT LEVEL: $100*

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

*Clip & Mail Today!*

### *Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!*

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

Please indicate your level of giving:

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

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

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City/State: _____ Zip: _____

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

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

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

***Thank you for your support of TGSF!***

# Silia's Photo Journal!

## *Silia's East Coast Journey*
## *Togetherness With Purpose*

**By Silia Hurst**

*In Baltimore, Maryland*

I start my journey by meeting James Halleman at the Wayne Way Center, located at 1315 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, PA., to discuss legal matter. I was introduced to one of the NTAC activists by the name of Rachel, while visiting and taking care of legal business.

I also had the pleasure of meeting Roz Carpenter, who is the Outreach contact person for The Greater Philadelphia Chapter, Renaissance Educational Association. It was great meeting such warm hearted and loving individuals.

*Silia Hurst & James Halleman - NTAC Activism Chair*

On February 8th, I arrived in Boston. I couldn't believe the customer service person in charge of the luggage for Trans Airline. My luggage was damaged and she said (Michelle) to me "We are not responsible for certain damages". Then she began to treat me like uneducated individual. Let me tell you, I had to read this young lady her rights. I demanded to speak to her superior. I also made a formal complaint in regard to her behavior towards a paid customer.

After my normal introduction (when treated badly) I arrived to the North station (Fleet center) where I was to meet Ethan. While I was entering the station with my damaged suitcase, a handsome man offered to help me with my luggage. Lord, if I wasn't married, I would have? Anyway, I spotted Ethan and yelled out his name. I was so happy to know that Ethan was still waiting for me. I had a great time while on TransFM Internet Radio. Ethan and Karen Martin made me feel welcome. It felt like being at home.

*Silia & Rachel*

*Ethan St. Pierre & Silia on TransFM Internet Radio*

I begin attending various Renaissance's around the East coast area. Our first Renaissance we attended was Renaissance Delaware. We were welcome with open arms.

I had the pleasure of meeting Diane Boykin who is truly a leader and one of the most well presented individuals I have ever met. Members of the Renaissance were truly an inspiration and an asset to the TG community. I met Jennifer Costello who keeps in contact with Susan Laird our TGSF Vice President.

*Attending Renaissance Delaware (10th Anniversary)*

## *Greater Philadelphia Chapter, Renaissance Educational Association's Monthly Meeting*

I attended the monthly meeting. It was a blast! There were about 83 members that attended this months meeting. I didn't realize that this meeting included various meetings during the evening. When I realized what was going on. I would always arrive when the meeting or meetings have just ended. The story of my life, backwards. I took plenty of pictures and the members are so conservative and so much fun!

*Member, Angela Gardner - Editor and Chief / TG Community News*

*Roz Carpenter - Greater Philadelphia Chapter - Renaissance Educational Association's Outreach and Contact Person*

*Leslie Fairmont - One of the Founder's of Delaware Renaissance*

*Roz Carpenter with Renaissance members*

*Just socializing with beautiful Renaissance members*

# Shirley Faire

## Return Engagement

### *Dear Editor,*

Hi, I'm back. Gee, it's been a long time since nobody but you and your mom read me. I needed a break, but then I missed being ignored, so here are a few highlights from MY LIFE over the past year or so. (Well, that cleared the room...)

It's been a good year. January 2, 2003, my third grandson was born. What a birthday: 1/2/3. When the doctor told my daughter that delivery of her third child would have to be Caesarian, but she could pick the date within a six day window, she saw the once in lifetime (and century!) opportunity: 1/2/3. "Why didn't you pick December 31 for the tax break?" I asked. "Dad, I don't want to make you feel bad, but that's a question every man has asked," she replied. Old habits die hard.

Last April I got elected President of my cooperative company. Not as big a deal as it might sound. Well, yes, a big deal for a tranny to be elected by a 95% male membership to be numero uno. But the day-to-day running of a coop is by a general manager, who reports to the president. The GM gets paid. The president has to earn her bread by the sweat of her brow, but still function as president. (Someone observed, "You're both a general and a private." In truth, more of a private.) So, this fall, when another company (not a coop) offered me a management job AND money, I said yes.

The last four months have been humbling. As president, I had been full of ideas and pushed hard to get them accomplished. If I wasn't more successful, it was because I couldn't be in the office all day, every day. Well, now I have the time, but implacable reality keeps forcing me to reduce my expectations and extend my deadlines. Instead of waving my wand on the mountain top, I've come to dwell in the valley where I plant my big ideas one little seed at a time. Some grow. Some don't.

While 2003 was a good year for me, it wasn't a great one for the world. What more need be said about Iraq, except that it may be the lever of Bush's own creation that wedges him out of office—unless he can pull Ben Ladin [sic] out of a hat (or cave); or scare up enough bigotry and fear of "the homosexual agenda" among the peasantry. It's pretty disgusting when the country that couldn't ratify an equal rights amendment is seriously considering an unequal rights amendment.

Let me tell you something about THAT, children. Whether Bush wins or loses—even if he gets his Bill of Wrong approved (which, I think we can all agree, is an election ploy)—the events of Valentine weekend at San Francisco City Hall changed the consciousness of everyone who was there, and many who watched. We are not who we were. I'm not.

We have been to our mountain top, we have seen the power and glory of pure love and we will not be denied. There will be resistance and setbacks, but the cause is true and right: Marriage is a public declaration—and society's recognition—of love and commitment between two human beings, and the right to marry is a right to be shared by all. Unless you're a church. Then you can be as hate-filled and exclusionary as your god commandeth. But only in church.

Parting wish: When you say your prayers tonight, and every night, please remember to thank God for Mayor Gavin Newsom.

**God Bless,**
**Shirley**

## The Wild and Crazy Girls...

***Continued from Page 10***

Jo-An yelled to us from the back, "Now everyone, dance!" We all started dancing about. I luckily found a space in an almost semicircle in front of the mourners. I started to twirl about like a dervish, the petty coats lifted skyward and sent the satin and lace high into the air. I felt a crazy exhilaration. I twirled my skirts higher and higher in my dance of liberation. It seemed like I all had only begun when it came to a sudden end and we were being ushered back through the crowd. But my minute's worth of freedom had fulfilled me. I think everyone loved us.

The rest of the proceedings seemed to last forever not because the Widow's tongue was less than fascinating but because the sky refused to open up and let the sun warm us. We were shivering. Angela complained about being cold and I huddled close to her and wrapped my fur around her. Rachael said something about waiting until after the ceremony for pictures, so we all waited. Jo-An still flitted about trying to warm up by being in constant movement.

The Widow Norton stood placidly, looking prim and proper in her black Victorian dress and large glittering pendant. The breeze died down for a moment. People were still. "United we stand, forgotten we disappear one by one," she told us. Words that could be said over and over. I wanted to remember them. I felt a rustling under my skirts, Jo-An was telling someone behind me that she knew where she could be warm. I felt her crawl under my petticoat and huddle beneath me. I braced myself between Angela and Jo-An, pressing my legs gently against her back.

I couldn't stop thinking about the Widow's comments about men in dresses. I had just read something in the Channel about a young transgendered woman who hated transsexuals. "Those people, some of them much older than me, look like men in dresses, ew!" she had told Jamie Ray. She said she had never had sex with a woman even though she had a penis and facial hair. Was "her" life an illusion? I emphasize the "her" because we all know in the LGBT community how important the pronouns are in declaring who you are. Who was the Widow looking at in the mirror? When I look in the mirror, I see a transgendered person. I'm proud of who I am. There have been transgendered people as long as there's been human beings. It's actually something quite natural. But I'm not about to criticize anyone else for their point of view. Who am I to judge? We must all respect one another. Room for everyone, we must stand united, none of us must be forgotten.

Rachael wisely came up to me and said, "You take Jo-An and the others back. We'll just keep the "brides" here for pictures. We slowly returned down the hill. I tried to wrap the fur around Jo-An and myself but it was clumsy to hold in place as I walked. Jo-An kept catching one of my petty coats with her shoe so I was trying to hold it up without letting go of the fur. I was afraid we were ruining the beautiful wedding gown in our crazy expedition.

I imagined we looked even more bedraggled and even more of a spectacle to the strangers we passed. Jo-An was in her own world and didn't seem to notice their stares. She told me about a TG friend of hers who had recently lost her mother who she dearly loved. She had been crying over at Jo-An's place, "I love It", in the east bay. The woman had told her she had rather be there then anywhere else. The thought brought tears to Jo-An's eyes. Here I was being so concerned about appearance and Jo-An was thinking about what was really important: supporting each other, caring about one another.

We were in reverse back at the bus, hurrying madly to change and the huge bags of clothes out of the bus before everyone came back and waned to get on. But it didn't seem a big problem and I even had a chance to raid what was left of a buffet. Hmmm, cantaloupe, melon, grapes, bagels, when had I eaten last? On the way back were lulled by the wonderful anecdotes of the Widow. She repeated her quip about how you never know what those wild and crazy girls might do. I took it as a great compliment. I still wondered if Louise was a personal name she used or an expression or maybe just something I just wanted to imagine. I wanted to think of it as something we shared. I could share a name with an Empress. A wise and courageous Empress at that.

## Important Website Update!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [redacted]

# ExCom Election Statements!

## TGSF Election 2004

Welcome to Election 2004. This month you will make one of the most important decisions that you can make. You will select your leaders for the next year and perhaps in some cases, two years. Granted, our election may not have the magnitude of the recent California Primary, but we can beat them in one way. I have full confidence that the members of this organization will far surpass the paltry 28 percent turnout that California recorded. We can, we must, and we will do better.

The positions on which you are voting are not figurehead positions. They require dedication, commitment, and hard work. I am very pleased to present to you the candidates that have stepped forward on your behalf. Please support them and please remember to vote. Ballots must be received in the TGSF mailbox (in the stamped return envelope only) by Wednesday April 28 or must be delivered to the Blue Muse by **Thursday, April 29** at 7:30 p.m. Thank you for your support.

### *Candidate For President*

### Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Hello. My name is Roxy Carmichael-Hart and I am your President. I humbly ask for your support for a second term.

When we took office last year, this organization faced an uncertain future. We were heavily in debt, we had a severe leadership vacuum, membership was declining and apathy was rampant. One year later, I am proud to say that our debt has been virtually eliminated, we have some dynamic people running for office and our future has never looked brighter. We had a wonderful Cotillion, we have had two fabulous parties – all of which made money – we have expanded our outreach into the community to bring in FTMs, the leather community, the courts and any others who want to walk with us. We had a beautiful Pride Parade float. And our debt is almost gone. We have much work to do to maintain the momentum but we are getting stronger all the time. I would like to think that the leadership I provided during this past year made a difference but I know that without teamwork, none of it would have happened.

Please support me and the others running for office as we remain fully dedicated to assist those who wish to walk into the light. In closing, I know I am not the perfect one, but ya'll be rockin' when I am done!

Thank you for your support.


KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC
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### *Candidate for Vice President*

### Laura Marlowe

Hi! My name is Laura Marlowe, and I'm running for Vice President of TGSF.

I've been fairly active in the TG community, and have been attending ExCom meetings as a guest for several months. I'm very excited at the prospect of joining the ExCom and working more closely with the other ExCom members on the Pride Parade, the Cotillion, and other events.

I believe that TGSF's work in our community is very important, and I look forward helping with that work.

### *Candidate for Secretary*

### Siobhan Ellis

Many of you know me, or know of me. I've been in the TGSF community, now, for 4 years having moved from Australia. I competed in the Cotillion 2004, and came 2nd runner up.

I'm running for secretary, which means I'll be responsible for the membership database and the web site. My pledge to you, the members, is that as a member of the ExCom I will do my best to promote TGSF, and what it stands for. I will not involve myself in petty politics, and I'll work towards greater co-operation of all the TG groups in the area.

I believe that our own internal fighting is more damaging to ourselves than to anyone else. It is time to stop squabbling and get on with promoting our cause, and helping others like ourselves.

Thank you!

# ExCom Election Statements!

## Candidate for Treasurer

### Pamela Gray

Hi, my name is Pamela Gray, and I am running for treasurer of TGSF.

I am looking forward to serving TGSF and the bay area transgender community. I will do my best to help TGSF remain on sound financial footing by providing Roxy and the ExCom with timely, complete financial information so that they will be able to make informed decisions.

## Candidate for Outreach Chair

### Kalani Makanani

Hello, My name is Kalani and I am your current TGSF Outreach Co-Chair. I am again running for Outreach Co-Chair because providing outreach has been my past commitment and is my present and future commitment to TGSF.

I have provided outreach to numerous members within the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered communities and also have spoken to over 3000 college students within the past four years. However, there is still a tremendous need for outreach to many other areas and communities.

We have a fantastic group of candidates this year for Outreach and I hope you will consider me for one of the positions so I can continue to represent the transgendered community on behalf of TGSF.

Thank you for your consideration.


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## Candidate for Education Chair

### Damon Helton

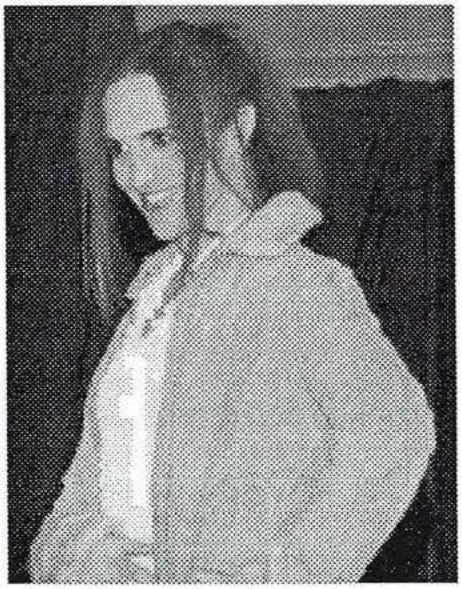
Hello, many of you may know or recognize me, I am the 1st runner up for Mr. TGSF. I am currently running for an Education Co-Chair position with TGSF.

It would be an honor to fill this position and work and coordinate educational opportunities with TGSF's members, professionals who interact within the trans community, and the general public.

I not only feel that it is important to keep TGSF's members up to date with pertinent information, but also help others understand our differences and needs. This is as simple as cross knowledge of MtFs and FtMs and extends to the need of the general public becoming aware, raising knowledge and understanding of the trans community. As I see this to be a huge task, I also feel as though not only I, but my co-chair partner will achieve our goals in shining colors!

## Candidate for Outreach Chair

### Kara Flynn



Hi, I'm Kara and I'm running for the Outreach Co-Chair position.

I feel that the community has provided so much for me along my journey that I'd like to be able to give back. Thus, I would be honored if you would elect me to this position to work on the general population's educational awareness of transgender people and how we can reach out to those that might need help.

If I'm not elected, along with those who aren't elected as well, I think an Outreach Committee can be formed to assist those that are elected. The more people are able to give, the further we can reach.

## Important Website Update!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [redacted]

# Congratulations Rachael!

## Rachael Janelle Elected Empress!

### *Yes it's official!*

Rachael Janelle-Light is the newly Elected "Empress 34 of the Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy of San Jose." Kevin Roche was elected Emperor 34 of the Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy of San Jose!

The IRLM is San Jose's Imperial (drag) court, which raises money for local under funded service agencies and charities; this year we raised over $25000 dollars. The Emperor and Empress (that's me!) put together the fundraising team (the "Court") and coordinate the efforts of that team for a year. It's a lot of work and a lot of fun for a good cause.

New monarchs get to pick a name for their reign and their court; Kevin will be known as the Sapphire and Steel Leather Emperor, Rachael as the Butterfly Empress, and our Court will be known as the Three Ring Rainbow Court of Love, Lust and Laughter. Visit www.irlm.org if you'd like to know more about the court, and for event schedules and photos.

Thank you for all your love and kindness and making me dream from true!

**Empress 34 Rachael Janelle**

*Left to Right:*
*Bobby Cheung/Mr. TGSF 2004, Anne Louise Mortenson/ Miss TGSF 2004, Madame Steele, Tyler Fong/Mr. TGSF 2003, and Damon Helton/1st Runner-up Mr. TGSF 2004*

The *Three Ring Rainbow Court of Love, Lust and Laughter* will be doing a show on the first Sunday of each month.

Empress Rachael Janelle will be hosting the first show on **April 4, 2004** at Tinker Dam, 46 N. Saratoga Ave in Santa Clara — 408 243 4595; show starts at 9:00pm.

Please coming help Empress Rachael Janelle on her first show!

*Roxy with Empress Rachael and Emperor Kevin*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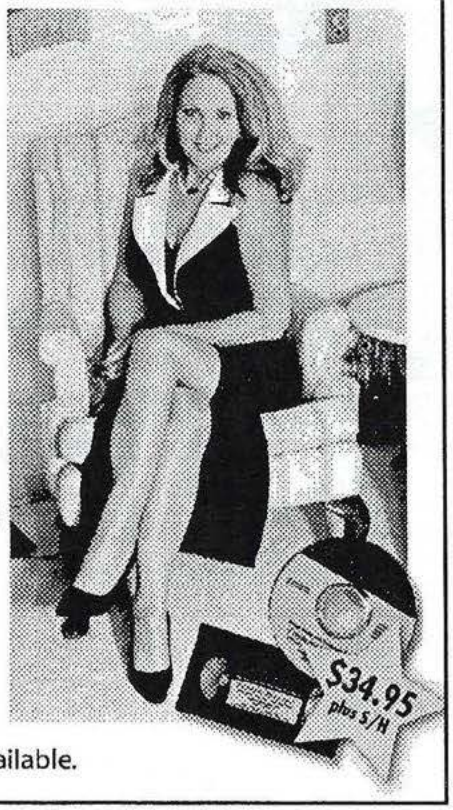



Private Consultations Available.

# Takin' Care of Biz...

## TGSF Assets, Liabilities, and Equity

*as of 7 March 2004*

**Assets**

| | |
|---|---|
| Cash | $2,316.22 |
| Event Equipment | |
| Decorations | $1,000.00 |
| Food Service | $200.00 |
| Office Supplies | $50.00 |
| **Total Assets** | **$3,566.22** |

**Liabilities and Equity**

| | |
|---|---|
| Accounts Payable | $1,193.74 |
| Equity | $2,372.48 |
| Total Liabilities and Equity | $3,566.22 |

## *TGSF Income, March 2004*

**Revenue**

| | |
|---|---|
| Memberships | $0.00 |
| Donations | $0.00 |
| Advertising | $0.00 |
| Total | $0.00 |

**Expenses**

| | |
|---|---|
| Newsletter | $500.00 |
| Telephone | $50.00 |
| Miscellaneous | $0.00 |
| Total | $550.00 |
| **Net Income** | **($550.00)** |

### *Transcending Transgender*

**Sponsored by**
**City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries**

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

## TGSF Donations

***Our Friends Who Give***
**as of March 20, 2004**

*(non monetary, but to be used for fund raising)*

***Joanne Handa ..... Jewelry Gift Albums***

***Miss Trixie ..... CD Player***

***Roxy Carmichael-Hart ..... $223.40***
***(postage & return envelopes)***

***Bless You and Thank You for Caring!***

## Contact TGSF!

### *2003-04 Executive Committee*

**President**
Roxy Carmichael-Hart ..... [redacted]

**Vice President**
Susan Laird ..... [redacted]

**Secretary**
Anne Louise Mortenson ..... [redacted]

**Treasurer**
Brooke Jansen ..... [redacted]

**Education**
KaraFlynn ..... [redacted]
Kelly Anne Marsh ..... [redacted]

**Outreach**
Kalani Makanani ..... [redacted]
Marla Selby ..... [redacted]

**Social**
Aiyana Eveningstar ..... tbd
Tommie Watson ..... [redacted]

### *Other Email Addresses*

**Editor,** *The Channel*
Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]

**Miss TGSF 2004**
Anne Louise Mortenson ..... [redacted]

**Mr. TGSF 2004**
Bobby Cheung ..... [redacted]

**Webmistress**
Susan Laird ..... [redacted]

**Calendar ..... www.tgsf.org**

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

# TG News!

## First Chinese TS Gets Marriage Certificate

**Shenzhen Daily**

Transsexual Zhang Lin received not only a new ID card, but a marriage certificate in Peng Township, Shuangliu County in Southwest China's Sichuan Province on March 15.

Transsexual Zhang Lin received not only a new ID card, but a marriage certificate Monday in Peng Township, Shuangliu County in Southwest China's Sichuan Province. This was the first marriage certificate issued to a transsexual in China, marking the nation's recognition of transsexual marriages, the Yangcheng Evening News reported on March 16.

Zhang Lin, 37, and her husband, Yang Qicheng, planned to hold a big marriage ceremony May 1 with 500 guests. Zhang had married a woman before her transsexual operation and they had a 12-year-old daughter.

The girl was a little puzzled by Zhang's change of sex. She asked Zhang on Monday: "Dad, what shall I call you then?" Zhang did not answer but told reporters that she and her husband would try their best to give the girl a good education and living environment.

## What Do YOU Do To Keep Safe In The B-Room?

The education committee of PISSR (People in Search of Safe Restrooms - www.pissr.org) is in the process of developing a "know your bathroom rights" pamphlet/booklet and a training about bathrooms and other sex segregated facilities.

### *Bathroom Access Coping Strategies*

One of the topics that we are addressing is bathroom access coping strategies. Some of the suggestions that the committee has discussed including in this section include: don't make eye contact, make eye contact, layer clothing, go with a buddy, don't talk, do talk, act like you belong, have witty comebacks ready, go to a b-room when others aren't going to be in it, etc. Tell us what you do to get access to a sex-segregated bathroom!

We would love to hear form folks what other bathroom coping strategies they have come up with in order to use the bathroom. We are including strategies that are specific for folks with different gender identities and folks who are using either bathroom, as well as some that will work for anyone in any bathroom. So whether you are a butch woman who uses the woman's room or a transwoman who uses the woman's room or genderqueer and use different bathrooms every day, we want to hear what you do to avoid someone harassing you, assaulting you, kicking you out, or calling for security.

We are also interested in hearing specific things that you have done to diffuse a heated situation in a bathroom (if you have been verbally or physically threatened, or have dealt with security or police).

How you can tell us your strategies: Please e-mail Jody at Marksamer@nclrights.org with your strategies by **April 7th**. Be sure to let us know what bathroom the strategy works for you in and a little bit about your gender, just so that we can place the strategy in the right place.

Thanks for your help!

## Important Website Update!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [redacted]

## TS Steals Spotlight at Miss Universe-China Show

Chen Lili, a 24-year old transsexual from Sichuan Province, was granted an opportunity to appear at the contest to display her good shape and look. The Miss Universe headquarters says she can not enter the next phase of the beauty pageant because she is not born a woman.

The orange bikini and chocolate-color wig shone under the spotlight, outlining the enchanting figure of Chen Lili, a transsexual Chinese woman, at the Miss Universe-China competition in Southwestern Sichuan Province.

Though barred from the contest because she was born a man, Chen was given the chance to perform on Sunday and she cut quite a figure, reported Monday's Shanghai Morning Post. "Chen seemed to outshine all the 37 beauty queen contestants on the stage," the paper said.

Chen was invited to address the audience before the contest. She talked about her country boy life and said she really "cherished the opportunity to perform here as it means so much to finally stand on this stage". She performed the song "Wind Season" in Cantonese. Though trying to be feminine, her voice broke in parts, but still the audience gave her great applause.

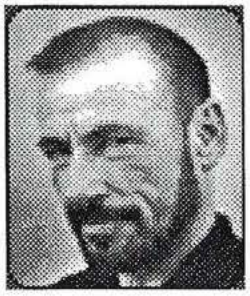
Chen applied to enter the 54th Miss World Competition, but was denied entry in February as "it would be unfair to the other candidates if we allow a transsexual to participate", said a Sichuan official in charge of the contest.

The 1.73-meter-tall Chen Lili, formerly named Chen Yongjun, meaning "brave soldier" is a stunning fashion model in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality. She underwent a sex change operation last November in east China's Shandong Province, and picked up the new name "Lili", inspired by a popular Korean transsexual star "Harisu", or in Chinese "He Lixiu", who is her idol.

She was registered as a woman on her national ID from the Nanchong police authority in Sichuan on Feb. 11. As Monday is International Women's Day and Chen's first women's day, she had a list of activities with which to enjoy the occasion after Sunday's performance.

"Shopping, facial, spa, I will do everything women enjoy to celebrate my first women's festival," she said.

# Visible Man



## Love and Obliteration

*Jamison Green offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane. Opinion, advice and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community.*

On February 12, 2004, I arrived at San Francisco City Hall just a few minutes after Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon became the first lesbian couple to be legally married in the United States. Reporters, news vans and cameras were everywhere, and GLBT people were hugging and smiling and generally expressing elation punctuated by occasional disbelief. Inside, in the rotunda area, I watched California State Assemblymember Mark Leno perform two wedding ceremonies, pronouncing the couples "spouses for life" instead of "man and wife." It was truly almost unbelievable.

Flying in the face of President Bush's declaration of support for a Constitutional amendment barring same-sex marriage, and watching as the Massachusetts State legislature squirmed and resisted their own highest court's directive to provide same-sex marriage for citizens of that state, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom had just had enough. He ordered the city clerk to issue marriage licenses to gay couples, and city officials, marriage commissioners and Assemblymember Leno started performing marriages, one after another, for as long as they could.

His Honor the Mayor extended the city clerk's office hours each evening, and through the long holiday weekend, to get as many couples married as possible before a possible injunction is issued, though at this writing, I'm not sure such an injunction will be forthcoming. And that is likely to increase the ire of the Alliance Defense Fund, the Liberty Counsel and the Campaign for California Families, all code names for groups that, like the Bush Administration, view marriage as an institution that is weakened, if not fundamentally threatened, by same-sex relationships. What a great way to spend Valentine's Day and the Presidents' Day holiday: getting married when the President says he thinks it's OK to deny you and your bride or groom the right to do so.

Assemblymember Leno also introduced important state legislation on February 12: Assembly Bill 1967, the Marriage License Non-Discrimination Act, to provide for gender-neutral marriage. This bill says:

"Section 300 of the Family Code is amended to read:

300. (a) Marriage is a personal relation arising out of a civil contract between ~~a man and a woman~~ *two persons,* to which the consent of the parties capable of making that contract is necessary. [...] (b) *Where necessary to implement the rights and responsibilities of spouses under the law, gender-specific terms shall be construed to be gender-neutral, except with respect to Section 308.5.* [Section 308.5 states: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California." I wonder why this section wasn't simply deleted, but I suspect that will be revealed as this bill is discussed and debated in committee and on the floor of the legislature.] 301. ~~A~~ *Two unmarried* ~~male~~ *persons of the age of 18 years or older,* ~~*and an unmarried female of the age of 18 years or older, and*~~ *who are* not otherwise disqualified, are capable of consenting to and consummating marriage.

There are provisions for the marriage of people under the age of 18 with parental consent.

The number assigned to this bill is significant: 1967 was the year the U.S. Supreme Court struck down prohibitions to interracial marriage (Loving v. Virginia). It may surprise some readers to learn that California, in 1948, was the first state in the U.S. to legalize interracial marriages. It took 19 years for the rest of the country to catch up. Now, once again in California, we have the opportunity to legislate against prejudice and inequality, and because of Mayor Newsom we will fight this battle in the courts as well as the legislature. And we have more reason to be hopeful about the outcome with respect to fairness and equality than we ever have before.

This is an important issue for transpeople, too. Transsexual people who think they have earned the right to heterosexual marriage privileges simply because they have had some genital reconstruction need to be aware that bigoted anti-trans forces could choose to campaign to remove their legal access to reassigned sex status. Gender-neutral marriage rights would go a long way to protect and preserve transsexual marriages, too, whether or not those marriages look like heterosexual ones. It behooves all transpeople, heterosexual or not, to join the fight for same-sex marriage.

It is almost impossible to describe the joy and poignancy of the moment — the many moments that have been taking place in San Francisco City Hall since Phyllis and Del took their vows and filed their papers shortly after 11 a.m. last Thursday, February 12. I saw brides in gowns skipping arm-in-arm though the elegant rotunda area. I saw blushing pairs of grooms wearing jeans and leather jackets. I saw the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence encouraging a lesbian whose partner is not an American citizen to go ahead and get married to help her partner remain in the U.S. (though if these marriages are ruled invalid, that standing would not hold, either). I saw couples that had been together for over 10 and 20 years finally being able to have their union recognized within a civic institution.

And that night on the television news, I saw my friend Willy Wilkinson and his female partner, Georgia, getting married in the first wave of ceremonies. Willy identifies as transgender, on the FTM spectrum. He appears male, but he is legally female. While in some jurisdictions he could marry a woman if he has nothing more than a driver's license that declares him male, his legal status is still female until he meets the qualifications of the state or country in which he was born and is able to change his birth certificate. But what if he doesn't want to be legally male? What if he wants to be in that in-between, trans state, as Willy does? Same-sex or gender-neutral marriage is the way to go. And Mark Leno's bill seems to be the best way to get there right now. Here's hoping the Massachusetts legislature will one day see the light.

But just because we've made this progress, we should not become complacent. The forces behind the Bush Administration are formidable and well-financed. Though we have drawn a line in the sand, thrown down the gauntlet and committed ourselves to fight, we face an uphill battle.

Already the forces in opposition are carving out their turf. According to a February 13 press release from the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), "the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) is retreating from its long-established policy of investigating and enforcing disciplinary action against sexual orientation-based employment discrimination against federal workers. The OSC removed references to sexual orientation-based discrimination from its complaint form, the OSC basic brochure, training slides and a two-page flier entitled 'Your Rights as a Federal Employee.' The OSC also removed from its Web site a press release issued by the OSC in June 2003 that announced the settlement of a case involving discrimination based on sexual orientation against an applicant to the Internal Revenue Service," the HRC release said.

This is an alarming tactic: obliterating the enemy. The federal government will simply pretend LGBT people don't exist. There was another uproar recently over the removal of footage of an LGBT demonstration on the Capitol Mall from a National Parks Administration film that showcased the function of park rangers in Washington, D.C. The current administration and their right-wing "Christian" cronies want LGBT people to go away, and if they can't make it happen in reality, they'll make it happen in their propaganda. This is media manipulation of the very worst sort. It is our civic duty to ensure that our voices are not silenced, our civil rights are not denied and our lives are not sacrificed to their ideology of hatred and bigotry.

As Mark Leno said the other day, if there is one way in which all human beings are alike, it is in our ability to love and to make solemn commitments to our relationships. Standing up for the civil rights of all people was never more important than when a powerful elite tries to pretend that reality is only what they want to see through their own blindered eyes. Let's show the world that a diverse populace is all the more beautiful for its rainbow colors, and that trans people, whether we are gay, straight or bi, can be perfectly at home wherever people are given their equal rights and respected as themselves. Let's have love obliterate hate.

## New GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

**Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center**
**www.defrank.org**

GenderQueer, Trans, and Gender Questioning Youth Group The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center is PROUD to announce the start of a new GenderQueer, Trans, and Gender Questioning Youth Group (new name to be announced in the future).

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

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

*Part One*

# What Goes Where, When You Wear A Corset?

**(c) by Ann Grogan 2004**
**President, ROMANTASY Exquisite Corsetry**

## *Excerpt from Corset Magic: A Fun Guide to Trim Your Waist and Figure*

Let's be honest, when you wear a corset and ask where your waistline goes, we're mainly talking about moving fat. I've got fat. You've got fat. All of God's children have fat, except maybe Martina Navratilova. Or Lance Armstrong. Before we talk about fat, and then about organs and bones, let's talk about the illusion created by corsets, and the first thing you'll notice when you wear a corset. Then we'll talk about anatomy. We'll do this in two parts for The Channel, so stay tuned for the full picture in future editions.

### *Corsets Create an Illusion*

Reducing your waist just two to three inches by wearing a corset will look like five or six, because any waist reduction, by contrast, seems to broaden the shoulders and widen the hips. The more the reduction, the more dramatic the effect. Try it and you'll find that your friends will be gasping in disbelief. I can't tell you how many times I've had my corset laced down only about two inches to a 21.5-inch waistline, when someone is absolutely convinced that I have a 16-inch waistline!

David Kunzle, Professor of Art History at UCLA and author of the fascinating book (now out of print), Fashion and Fetishism: A Social History of the Corset, Tight-Lacing and Other Forms of Body-Sculpture in the West, confirms this fact. He says that "The most immediate visual effect of waist-compression is to enhance the secondary female characteristics of comparative breadth of bust and hips, and at the same time increase the comparative slenderness of waist . . . ."

Those of you who wear corsets know about the illusion effect which, Kunzle says, is rarely mentioned today. American Victorians even used the term "illusion waist." If you want to enhance the illusion, you can pad your shoulders and wear gathered or A-line skirts which emphasize the hips. I've heard that one tight-lacing lady even wears hip pads to make her hips look even wider. Pity I don't have that problem! Interestingly, I find that A-line skirts also work magically in reverse, to smooth out and disguise my ample hips.

In the Gender Image Salons I offer, I teach men who want to become women or who want to temporarily improve a female image with corseting and illusion. I suggest that they not discard, but rather move, shoulder pads in about one-half inch from the shoulder seam toward their neck. They should choose pads about one-half inch thick at the outer shoulder edge and tapering down toward the neck. These pads should not be rounded.

This is because men naturally have large neck muscles that slope diagonally from their lower hairline to join their shoulder. Think of how the neck on a typical 300-pound linebacker on a football team looks. He may even look like he doesn't have a neck. On the other hand, women have obvious necks with clear vertical sides that join the horizontal shoulder line forming an L-shape. A round shoulder pad on a cross-dresser does nothing to emulate that L-shape, while a tapered shoulder pad does.

Combined with a corset, this dressing tip can create spectacular results for transgendered men. The tip can also work for women, as well, if you pad out where nature has been quite modest in her gifts to you.

### *The Greater Your Hip Spring, the More Dramatic the Illusion*

"Hip spring" is the difference between the waist and the widest hip measurement. The greater that difference, the more impressive the results. That's why a voluptuous person who wears a corset can appear more stunning than a small, slender person with a smaller waistline.

And that's why padding the hips can create a fabulous result. I know a European lady who is said not only to have had a bosom augmentation, but also pads her hips when she corsets. Take a look below at Marcia, with a stunning 19-inch hip spring. Her corset by Sue Nice closes at 23 inches over the corset, but her hips measure 41 inches (her snug natural waist is 26.5 inches). Amazing, don't you think? She says she is not in pain either, even reducing her natural waistline by six inches, and I've personally seen her wear this corset tight-laced for three or four hours, eat a full lunch and socialize at our Bay Area Corset Club periodic gathering.

To understand hip spring, let's use a hypothetical. Let's start with natural measurements and compare hip spring, then continue with corseted waistlines. For example, if Person One's natural waist is 30 inches, but her hips are 45 inches, then her natural hip spring is 15 inches. If Person Two's waist is smaller than that, say 25 inches, but her hips are only 35 inches, then she has a natural hip spring of 10 inches. The 10-inch natural hip spring is quite a bit less impressive to the viewer than is the 15-inch hip spring. In other words, a 15-inch hip spring will appear quite a bit more extreme than a 10-inch hip spring.

Now, let's say Person Two dons a corset that reduces her 25-inch natural waistline by four inches to 22 inches over the corset (or, 21 inches under the corset). Four inches is quite a bit of reduction for a small frame, and for most folks, will feel very restrictive. Considering Person Two's natural 35-inch derriere measurement, then her corseted hip spring is 13 inches. Person One, somewhat squishy at the waistline, then dons a corset that easily reduces her waistline six inches, from a natural 30 inches to 25 inches over the corset (or, 24 inches under the corset). Her hip spring will be 20 inches, a stunning difference! Compared to Person Two's tinier waistline, Person One's waistline will look a good bit more impressive to the viewer—doggone it! It just ain't fair—but it's a fact: full-figured folks benefit from corseting!

If you're blessed with a voluptuous, curvy figure, you can wear corsets right now, rather than wait to lose weight first. There's no reason to delay the rewards of corseting, Including a more impressive corseted figure than Twiggy-style bodies present.

### *Our Organs and Some Skeletal Structures Move Readily*

Yes, there is more than simple illusion going on. From personal experience, I know that things move around inside when I corset and waist train, and that they move rather easily. They move readily in heavier people. Stuff that's in our abdomen is sort of squishy and fluid. There is real anatomical change which contributes to the illusion.

Remember, however, that even if things move around inside our bodies, as Leslie Kutsche, M.D., states in Valerie Steele's The Corset: A Cultural History, "There can be marked anatomic deformity without any alteration in physiologic function." (Henceforth my references to Steele will come from this most recent book of hers, unless otherwise noted.) This all goes to say that just because things move, that does not indicate danger or risk to your health.

It's pretty certain that corsets change the cross section of your waist from oval to round so that from a front or back view it appears smaller than it actually is. This knowledge was common in the 1800s, the heyday of the corset. However, no one seemed to know precisely where the fat, organs, flesh, and bones actually went during corseting. Indeed, there is little information about old-time corset enthusiasts or tight-lacers.

According to Kunzle, Victorian women avoided medical exams and ". . . resorted to subterfuge because doctors at this time could not be relied on to show any understanding for the psychology of disease, self-inflicted or not . . .Most information comes from autopsies performed on bodies of the poor."

O.Y. Dalziel, a long-term tight lacer from London, pointed me to one published X ray from a 1904 monograph by Abadie Leotard, M.D., of a corset wearer reproduced in The Great Book of Lingerie by Cecil Saint-Laurent. It shows that the upper ribs are pushed upward by corseting and the lowest ribs are likely pushed forward. Other than this, Dr. X. knew of no other X-ray of someone who corseted before those published in The Corset News Letter provided by modern-day tight lacer Cathie Jung.

### *Basic Anatomy*

For a basic understanding of anatomy, I started with the Boss Man himself, Henry Gray, M.D. who wrote the book on anatomy, Anatomy, Descriptive and Surgical, first published in the mid-1800s. My editor friend, Walt Kleine, loaned me his 1952 edition. I pored over the pages for hours as would some first-year medical student. Here's what I learned.

The ascending and the transverse colons are located directly behind the waistline (and are potentially primarily impacted by corseting). The following organs are located slightly above or at the waistline (and are potentially secondarily impacted by corseting):

1. Two kidneys (on either side of the spine in the back of the abdomen, near the bottom of the right part of the liver. Kidneys are about four inches in length, more than an inch thick and perhaps more than two inches in breadth.)

***Continued on Page 24***

## Passing Fancy

**PlanetOut**

*How important is it to "pass"? Is it all about who you are? Does it exclude you from the trans community? Some PlanetOut transpeople speak their mind.*

### *tat2freak*

Passing in the trans community has both positive and negative aspects. First, if you pass, then it is easy (especially for FTMs) to be "stealth." This means that pretty much no one can tell that you were born a different gender. So life can be easier, since our society believes in a binary (male and female) gender system. There are many FTMs who are stealth and do not wish to associate with their transitioning in any way, shape or form (in a sense denying their "roots").

Second, being able to pass in the trans community sometimes gets a person "dismissed" from association. Basically, this means passing so well that other transpeople don't realize you are trans. To me, this is one of the negative aspects of passing.

Example: When I was introduced into the trans community (mostly MTF), no one there even thought I was a transman. I was considered a boyfriend of my female friend. For me, this meant when others were talking (especially if it was something good and juicy), they would look at me and turn away. It wasn't until a month later when my friend told them I was trans and was competing in the Mr. Transgender San Francisco competition (Mr. TGSF) that they realized they had ostracized me (ironic, as most of them have been ostracized by many people for not "passing"). I was even questioned why I was running for this title by others who still did not know I was a transman. When I told them my status and told them I have the battle scars to prove it, they were shocked and immediately apologized.

So in short, passing has both sides to it. It really depends on the person and if they want society to know that we, trans people, are here, everywhere — even when we do pass.

For me, I believe in giving back to the community. So I do public presentations and workshops to educate and further the trans equality movement(s). When I show up to these events, I generally mix and mingle with everyone, and they have no clue who I am — until I'm introduced as the presenter. So, yes, I pass, and to me it is a "blessed curse."

### *christiboy*

Personally, "passing" completely as a woman is not a concern for me, and I actually hope that when I begin dressing full-time in college (this coming fall) I do not pass completely. Because I do not feel completely like a woman or man, it's not an illusion I would like to show.

Assuming I can pass, it would sometimes be easier to pass as a woman for basic outings in public so that negative confrontations do not occur. But I believe from what I have already experienced that putting myself out in the world as transgendered forces people to confront this touchy issue, and I hope I can give them at least a positive impression of TGs, to put a face on the issue that so many do not think applies to their lives.

### *punkpig*

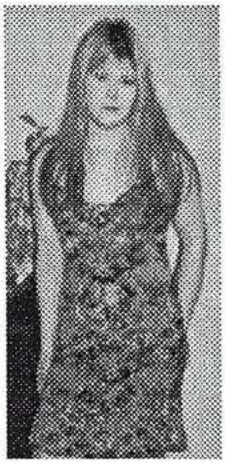
I pass. That was the whole purpose of transitioning for me. When I started passing more often, I was thrilled, but it drove me crazy that I wasn't passing 100 percent of the time. I found that the more often I passed, the more upset I would become when I didn't. Before I started testosterone, I could often pass until I opened my mouth. It was great when my voice changed and I didn't have to be silent just to continue passing.

I've been passing 100 percent for over a year now. I often get comments like, "I don't believe you used to be female," or "I never would have known." This is a huge compliment to me, not to mention a relief. I hated not passing. All I ever wanted was to be seen as a guy.

I often take for granted how much I pass now. I sometimes forget how miserable it made me when I didn't pass, or when friends would slip up and call me "she" sometimes. As time goes on, I'm more and more of a regular guy and less and less of a "trans" guy.

I don't care about being invisible as a trans person — to me, the point of transitioning was to be a guy, not to be a transsexual. I'm not ashamed of being trans at all, but I don't usually tell people, because I think it's irrelevant. If it wasn't for my body being so different, I'd hardly tell anyone at all.

For people who do know, though, I'm very open about it. I just don't want to be seen as "that trans guy," and have people make a big deal about it. Because it's not a big deal to me, it's just life. And life is the way it should be now.



### *sandrarose*

I try to look my best. Yes, I do try to pass, but only around normal, well-adjusted, social people. Why bother trying to pass around someone who is going to say something nasty just to hurt you no matter what you look like?

### *flamingskull*

I am a 19-year-old FTM trans-in-training. As a pizza cook from NY, I can fool the most discriminating eye. I started at 12, so I've had plenty of practice hiding the fun-bags and training my voice. Four years in ROTC fixed my walk into a permanent "man-march" and I think I've been able to find my most "masculine" facial expressions (which I use frequently).

### *transjen*

I'm a 56-year-old MTF, living full-time and on hormones, but with no surgery of any kind (except some electrolysis). I'm tallish for a woman (5'10"), but otherwise I pretty much have feminine features. For the most part I pass, but it's not a big issue for me. Often I'll deliberately give myself away just for the fun of it, to watch reactions.

I'm very happy to be trans and would never go back, although I've alienated my two daughters, who mean the world to me. It's nice to be "under the radar," and it's difficult to say if I'd still be full-time if I were exceptionally tall and masculine. I'd like to think that I would, but it's definitely harder for those girls — they have my admiration.

## PISSR

### *People In Search of Safe Restrooms*

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

# Disposable People

**By Bob Moser**
**Southern Poverty Law Center (splcenter.org)**

*Stephanie's mother, Queen Washington, flips through her scrapbook.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a city with no shortage of desolate neighborhoods, you'd be hard-pressed to find a bleaker spot than the corner of 50th and C streets. On one side there's a decaying school, its playground barren as a prison yard. Extending up a couple of blocks is a string of deserted apartment buildings with boards and burned-out holes where windows used to be. Just across the way, folks still live in a set of matching brick buildings.

It's a tough place to grow up, especially when you're different. Especially when you're convinced that you're a girl with a boy's anatomy. Especially when the other kids taunt you and throw bricks at you and you have to quit school because you can't stand it anymore. Especially when you're determined to live openly as a transgendered woman, considered by many the lowest of the low. Stephanie Thomas could have told you all about it. Until last Aug. 12.

Around 11:30 p.m. the night of the 11th, 19-year-old Thomas and her best pal, 18-year-old Ukea Davis, reportedly told friends they were going to a nearby gas station for cigarettes. Nobody can say for sure where they actually went. But just about everybody in the city knows that a little after 3 a.m., the friends were sitting in Thomas' Camry at a stop sign on the corner of 50th and C. Almost home. Then a car came up beside them, and the two were pelted with fire from a semiautomatic weapon.

According to an eyewitness report, another car approached after the shooting. A man got out to see what had happened. Davis was already dead. When the man nudged Thomas' shoulder to see if she was still alive, she moaned in confirmation. But her helper fled as the first car returned. The gunman got out and fired more shots, making sure Thomas was dead. By the time rescue workers reached the bloody car, she was. Like her friend's, Thomas' body had been pumped full of bullets — at least 10 apiece.

A block up 50th, Thomas' mother, Queen Washington, got the news at 5:30 a.m. She'd been well aware that it was dangerous to be transgender in D.C. — or anywhere else in America, for that matter. But she hadn't seen this coming. "If he'd known somebody was after him, I'd have known," says Washington, a feisty administrative assistant at the federal Bureau of Land Management who never got used to calling Stephanie "she." "We were tight. He'd come by just that afternoon with his girlfriends, before he went to get his nails done. We kept it real, him and I. He knew I'd always protect him as much as I could."

Washington knew early on that protecting her youngest kid, whose name was Wilbur when she adopted him at three months, wouldn't be easy. "He was a beautiful child, always very dainty, always very feminine. In first grade, a teacher — a teacher, mind you! — called him gay. I had to immediately go up to the school and get her straight. He came home that day and my neighbor told him gay meant happy. We looked it up in the dictionary. 'See?' I said. 'It's true!'"

It would have been tough enough to grow up gay on 50th Street, even when you could run home to the lavishly decorated apartment where Washington has lived for 35 years. But Wilbur wasn't gay. By the time he was 8 or 9, his mother "knew for sure that he wanted to be a girl." At 14, he began to live that way, borrowing the name Stephanie from a cousin he admired. He joined a local support group called SMYAL (Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League), where he met Davis. The two became inseparable friends, helping each other "transition" into living as females.

Washington, who has stubbornly refused to abandon her neighborhood because "kids here need someone to love them, need to see people who are trying to be about something with their lives," became a kind of surrogate mom to Davis, whose own folks were not so accepting. But it wasn't easy for her, either. "It's hard for a mother," Washington says, thumbing through a scrapbook she's assembled in memory of her son-turned-daughter. The pictures show Wilbur on the beach during family vacations; Wilbur clowning with his cousins; Wilbur in his early teens, grim-faced and downcast.

"That's the last picture of him as a boy," his mother says, "before he became who he was." By contrast, she flips to a photo of Stephanie at 18, bear-hugging her mom. "Look at that smile!" she says. "He was a happy person — after he came out. You see? He didn't have those sad eyes no more." The only thing that would have been worse than the brutal murders, Washington says, would have been never seeing that smile. "At least he had a chance to be who he was," she says. "I told him, God don't make no mistakes. I know you didn't make yourself. Who would make up a life like this? Who would be something the world hates?"

## Vigils and Violence

Even in a city with the nation's highest murder rate, the execution-style slayings of two transgendered teenagers was bound to cause a stir. Mayor Anthony Williams spoke at an emotional vigil for Davis and Thomas. D.C.'s congressional delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, forcefully urged police to investigate the double homicide as a hate crime.

The best friends' joint funeral was packed. *The Washington Post* devoted a 3,500-word feature to the two lost lives. Local transgender activists redoubled their efforts to forestall another tragedy. Police vowed to do the same. Last Aug. 12, on the first anniversary of their deaths, there was another vigil for Davis and Thomas.

By now the sadness had hardened into bitterness — over the lack of an arrest in the case, over police officials' reluctance to classify the murder as a hate crime, and over the continued violence that had claimed another transgendered victim, Kim Mimi Young, in April. The mayor came again, along with the chief of police. Frustrations were vented. Promises were made. And then all hell broke loose.

Early on the morning of Aug. 16, four days after the vigil, one of the District's best-known transgender nightclub performers, 25-year-old Latina immigrant Bella Evangelista, was shot and killed by a man who had paid her for sex. Police arrested 22-year-old Antoine D. Jacobs as he pedaled away from the scene on a bicycle, charging him with first-degree murder and later with a hate crime.

Four nights later, shortly after a vigil was held for Evangelista, police found the dead body of Emonie Kiera Spaulding. The 25-year-old transgendered woman had been brutally beaten, shot, and dumped nude in a stand of scraggly, trash-strewn woods bordering Malcolm x Avenue. Her clothes were found a day later in a nearby Dumpster. Another 22-year-old, Antwan D. Lewis, was arrested a few days later and charged with second-degree murder — but not, so far, with a hate crime.

The same night Spaulding's body was found, another transgendered woman, Dee Andre, survived a shooting near the U.S. Capitol. Alarmed transgender activists convened a series of community meetings, hoping to calm nerves and band together against the violence. Instead, the meetings only added to the sense that D.C.'s transgender community was in a state of emergency: "We heard of at least 14 other assaults happening that same week," says Jessica Xavier, a local activist and volunteer coordinator.

If this wave of crimes could somehow be tied together — if there were a serial perpetrator, or some kind of "trigger" event — the city's transgender population might be resting a little easier. But the assaults and murders appeared to be isolated cases of hatred. And though the sequence of events was extraordinary, the violence was not.

In 2000, Xavier had conducted the first study of transgendered people in the District. At the time, the results had seemed plenty disturbing. Of the 4,000 transgendered residents Xavier identified, a whopping 17% said they had been assaulted with a weapon because of their gender identity. Four years later, the violence appeared to be spiraling out of control even more — despite the fact that D.C.'s Metropolitan Police in 2000 had launched an innovative Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) designed to tamp down the violence.

"We're scared," says Mara Kiesling, executive director of the Washington-based National Center for Transgender Equality. "This spree of violence made us feel more vulnerable than we deserve to feel. I'm sure it's increased the hopelessness for a lot of people. When you start hearing about 18 events in a week, you don't know what to do."

But if they aren't sure what to do, folks in Washington's transgender community certainly know what to think. "What we're seeing is a war against transgendered women," says Xavier. "And it's not only here — it's happening everywhere in this country."

While the past year's murders and assaults are "unrelated" in the law-enforcement sense of the term, most of the incidents do have at least one thing in common: "transphobia," which Jessica Xavier calls "the most powerful hatred on the planet." "We are regarded by most as disposable people," she says. Though the government compiles no statistics on anti-transgender hate crimes or murders, the unofficial numbers appear to back up her assertion.

## Out and At-Risk

What has made transgendered people such popular targets? "It's partly because we're coming out into the daylight," says Toni Collins, who works with Earline Budd at Transgender Health Empowerment. Jack Levin, the criminologist, agrees. "There are more transgendered people who are coming out, willing to expose themselves to the possibility of victimization," he says. "It reminds me of the period beginning in the '80s when gay and lesbian Americans began to come out in larger numbers. They exposed themselves

**Continued on Page 24**

# Remember Gwen Araujo!

## Please Help Gwen's Family!

As Gwen's murder trial date approaches, Syliva Guerrero (Gwen's Mother) and family can use all the support they can get!

Please consider a donation to the Eddie Araujo, Jr. Memorial Fund *[Checks made payable to the "Gwen Araujo Fund" or "Araujo Family Fund" are equally and as gratefully accepted.]*

San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023-5578.

Account number
[redacted]

Thank you!

*Gwen Amber Rose Araujo*

*February 24, 1985 - October 3, 2002*

## Murder of Gwen Araujo Spurs Philanthropic Fund

SAN FRANCISCO – With the Gwen Araujo murder trial set to begin on March 15, Gwen's family, community activists, and **Horizons Foundation** have joined forces to create the Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education. This fund will make small grants to school programs that promote understanding of transgender people and issues among youth. Gwen's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, said, "I am so committed to ensuring that what happened to my daughter does not happen to anyone else. The hatred of others because they are different must stop, and this fund will help break the cycle of ignorance and violence – with kids in their schools and with their parents."

Horizons Foundation is a philanthropic social justice organization that has been serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community throughout the Bay Area for more than 20 years. "As a community foundation, Horizons has a special responsibility to pull together all LGBT people in the Bay Area, through a vehicle such as this fund, to help end the kind of violence and hatred that led to Gwen's death," said Roger Doughty, Executive Director of Horizons Foundation. "We are proud to be the home of the fund and to work closely with Gwen's family and other members of our community to have a real impact on youth."

The Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education will be advised by a group of transgender and education experts, and will accept donations from the community on-line via the Horizons Foundation website and through the mail. Horizons encourages other community organizations, youth advocates, and communities of faith to consider supporting this fund.

For more information and press photos, see www.horizonsfoundation.org.

Horizons Foundation is a social justice philanthropic organization serving the entire spectrum of LGBT communities. To fulfill this mission, Horizons creates strong organizations meeting the needs, advancing the rights, and celebrating the lives of LGBT people and communities; generates a diverse group of informed, generous supporters giving time, energy, and resources to the LGBT community; and educates the public about the nature and impacts of homophobia.

Horizons Foundation; 870 Market, Suite 728; San Francisco, CA 94102; Telephone 415.398.2333; Fax 415.398.4783; info@horizonsfoundation.org; www.horizonsfoundation.org.

## A Mother's Pain And Defiance

*Sylvia Guerrero, mother of slain transgendered youth Gwen Araujo, faces the trial of her daughter's accused killers with anxious resolve*

**By Patrick Letellier**

**From *The Advocate*, March 30, 2004**

*When 17-year-old transgendered youth Gwen Araujo was bludgeoned and strangled to death by three men who discovered she was biologically male at a party in October 2002, her death took a heavy toll on her mother, Sylvia Guerrero. A former legal assistant, Guerrero went on disability when her daughter's body was found in a shallow grave in the wilderness 150 miles from their Newark, Calif., home in the eastern San Francisco Bay area. And while she has been active in transgender activists' protests following her daughter's death, she is struggling to put her life back together. She has lost her job, was evicted from her home, and has had her disability payments come to a halt.*

*The trial of the three men charged with killing Gwen Araujo began on March 15. Not long before,* The Advocate *talked to Guerrero about the trial and what she's learned about transgendered people.*

**How do you feel about the trial?**

Nervous. And part of me is scared of the details. But I need to know. I'm that kind of mom. From the moment Gwen got to that party to her last breath, I want to know what happened.

**I understand the past year has been difficult for you and your family.**

They didn't just take Gwen that night—they took my whole life. The pain is still as intense as it was a year ago. Pearl [her oldest child] didn't work for a long time. Brandon [her 15-year-old son] now lives in Virginia with his father because he had a hard time handling this. He was in junior high when they discovered Gwen's body. One of the kids at school asked, "Is that your faggot brother they killed?" He used to get A's and B's, but his grades dropped to D's and F's.

**What do you know about transgender issues that you didn't know before?**

I didn't know what *transgender* meant. Gwen never used that word. But she knew who she was, and we were on the same page about that. We discussed the sex change she wanted, her name, all of it. But I never realized the suffering that goes with being transgendered.

**When did you realize that Gwen was different from other children?**

Before she was even 2. As a mother, you just know. She would always play with Pearl's Barbies, never with Tonka trucks.

**How did she come out to you?**

We were in our pajamas in my room, painting our toenails. She was 14. She said, "You know, I'm different. I don't feel like a boy." She said she felt like a freak, and people always called her names. She said, "I'm not gay." I don't think at that age she knew what she was, but she knew she didn't identify with her body. I bought her clothes and makeup. I stood up for her. And I've been criticized for that, as if somehow I allowed this to happen.

**What would you like other transgendered teenagers to know?**

Never be ashamed of who you are. Hold your head up high and reach for the stars. Love yourselves for who you are.

**How do you think the media have handled Gwen's death?**

Not good. A lot of what they say is wrong. She was never buried in a dress, and her tombstone does not say "Gwen." Those murderers buried her—do you think she'd want to be buried now? No. She's in a wooden urn in my home. And it says, "Gwen Amber Rose Araujo." Amber Rose is the name I chose when I thought I was going to have a girl. On the urn there's a quote: "Fly free, our beautiful butterfly angel."

## 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!

## Online SO List!

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

## Disposable People...

*Continued from Page 22*

to the risk of being victims of homophobic offenders. The same thing is happening with transgendered people now. They are encountering much the same violence, for much the same reasons."

In the case of transgendered victims, the violence often has a pattern. "So many of these crimes are discovery crimes: 'We thought you were X, but you were actually Y, so we killed you,'" says Lisa Mottet of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Transgender Civil Rights Project.

In the notorious cases of Gwen Araujo, the 17-year-old beaten and strangled last year in California, and Brandon Teena, whose brutal murder inspired the movie *Boys Don't Cry,* the "discovery" was made by friends. More often, it's a sex partner. "For someone who is confused about his sexual identity, or kind of shaky in the sex department," Levin says, "it may seem like a personal attack on his virility, on his sense of machismo, to find himself with a transgendered woman."

Budd, like many transgender activists, believes the "discovery crime" motivation is often bogus. Most transgendered people are up front with potential sex partners about their identities and anatomies, she says — and even in cases where they're not, "how can you say that's an excuse for killing somebody or beating them up?" Bella Evangelista's murderer, Antoine Jacobs, is reportedly considering a "panic defense" when he goes to court.

According to Sgt. Brett Parson, head of Washington's GLLU police unit, Jacobs told police he and Evangelista "were engaging in sex for hire, he liked it, the act was completed, they parted ways, and some of his friends said, 'Hey, man, that's a dude,' and he returned and shot her." Budd suspects that Jacobs simply got embarrassed when his friends found out he'd been with Evangelista, who was well known as a transgendered woman in the neighborhood where Jacobs lived. "This was all to show off for the guys," she says. "He came back and confronted her, and when she turned around to walk away, he pulled out a gun and shot her and just continued to shoot her. In the back. And that's a panic defense? Come on now."

Beyond fear and machismo, activists point to two bigger factors that help stoke the violence. One is the dearth of anti-discrimination and hate-crime laws that mention gender identity (as opposed to sexual orientation, a category that does not apply to transgendered people). Though four states and nine municipalities have added transgendered people to their statutes so far in 2003, only 24% of the U.S. population is currently covered.

Then there's the forgotten factor. "Look at the victims," says Mottet. "Because they are transgendered, they have to be in places that are extremely dangerous to begin with. Even if they're assaulted or killed for reasons other than hate, they still wouldn't have been targeted if they weren't transgendered, because they'd be able to stay in school, have family support, and hold down jobs. "Society pushes people into the streets in order to survive, and they're not allowed to survive there. That's a societal hate crime."

Media accounts of murders like Bella Evangelista's or Emonie Spaulding's often link the crimes to street prostitution. That infuriates transgender activists, who say it's a form of blaming the victim. "The implication is that it's your fault for being beaten or killed," says Jessica Xavier. "But a lack of privilege means you don't have a choice." Or as Mottet puts it, "Sure, they have a choice: They can freeze and starve, or they can try to make a living."

"The classic profile," says Mara Kiesling, "is a 13-year-old who's thrown out of the house when she decides to transition. She's kicked out of school for wearing girls' clothes. She can't get a job because her says 'Andre' but she looks like a girl. "What's going to happen? Most likely, she'll end up in a situation that makes her especially vulnerable — living in shelters and low-income neighborhoods, doing sex work as a matter of survival."

### On the Streets

Earline Budd and Toni Collins can tell you all about matters of transgender survival. The co-founders of D.C's Transgender Health Empowerment both landed on the streets in their teens. Both ultimately struggled their way to better lives, partly because they got their diplomas. But with their activism, they maintain a tight bond with the "girls" in the streets today. Collins, a tall elegant woman who's about to mark her 20th anniversary as an information-systems manager for a D.C. firm, recently spoke to transgendered teenagers in SMYAL, the support group Stephanie Thomas and Ukea Davis belonged to. "Out of the 20 in the group, all between 15 and 18 years old, only two were currently in school. One had a job. That left 17 of those 20 with no intention of going back to school. They dropped out because they were harassed."

Sooner or later, most of these teens will wind up on 5th and K. This triangle-shaped, open-air downtown corner, a few blocks from the city's silvery new convention center, has in recent years become Washington's best-known transgender "stroll" — a place to advertise their wares for potential clients. "A lot of the girls who frequent 5th and K are homeless," says Budd. "That's one of the reasons they prostitute — along with substance abuse. But it's always a matter of survival. The fact that they're estranged from their families is the starting point."

Prostitution is dangerous enough when you're several blocks down K Street, in the separate area where straight hookers find clients. But 5th and K tends to attract the sketchiest kinds of customers. "The straight female prostitutes are turning dates for $100 a whop," says Collins. "Guys know they can go over to 5th and K and get a transgender to give them what they want for little if anything. These girls are desperate, and they don't have pimps to keep them from getting beaten and make sure they get paid OK — or even get paid at all. Sometimes they'll give you $20, get what they want, then beat you and take the $20 back."

Budd and Collins have no end of horror stories from their time on the streets. Budd has especially vivid memories of a gang in the 1980s whose idea of fun was "to catch you, beat you, snatch your wig and knock you out." Now, she says, it's even worse. "5th and K is just rampant for assaults. I think guys feel like, 'Man, I'm going to go out and beat me up a faggot tonight, one of them ones dressed in women's clothes.'" As in most major urban areas, such hate criminals know exactly where to find their victims.

Budd believes the Washington police's GLLU, recently given an award by Transgender Health Empowerment, may have begun to make a dent in the violence. "They make a lot of drive-throughs in that area, and it's probably decreased the amount of crimes that happen right there." But not necessarily the crimes that happen when "girls" are picked up and driven away.

Even with the GLLU putting a kinder face on the police force, activists and cops agree that almost none of the violence that happens to transgendered women on the stroll — or elsewhere — is ever reported. Why? The main reason is that Washington — like San Francisco, Houston, Philadelphia, New York and every other big city with a large transgender population — has a history of police abuse that everybody in its transgender community can recite, chapter and verse. "Cops?" Collins says. "You don't even want to get me started on that."

*Michelle Bramblett, Tamara Cobb, Angela Freeman, Karmetriya Jackson and Joe Roy contributed to this story.*

## Ann Grogran's Corset Magic...

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2. The lower part of the liver (on the right front side mainly under the right ribs)

3. The spleen, which is adjacent to the liver in the left upper quarter of the abdomen

4. The stomach (bending from left to right in a quasi L-shape, below to the left of the liver, but with most of it above the true waistline)

5. The pancreas (on the left front side behind the stomach)

6. The duodenum, or lower half of the first part of the small intestine (below the stomach and toward the bottom of the liver)

The abdomen is the largest body cavity and contains the stomach, liver, pancreas, spleen, and kidneys. Its shape and size vary with age and sex, and from individual to individual. The lower ribs and muscles circle the abdomen, with the diaphragm above and muscles behind.

I was surprised to learn that the stomach moves more than any other organ in the body, and that it can stretch to 10 or 12 inches in length and four to five inches in width! No wonder we can so easily stuff ourselves to the point of misery, and no wonder that corseting does not painfully squish the incredibly flexible stomach—unless we have eaten too much before lacing into an overly-tight corset.

As for bones, the spine goes vertically through the approximate middle of the torso. Ribs are elastic curved bones that form most of the "thoracic walls." There may be 11 or 12 on each side. The first seven are "true ribs." Cartilage connects them behind with the spine, and in front with the sternum. The remaining five are called "false" ribs. The first three attach to the rib above. The last two, or "floating ribs," are free in front.

The distance between the ribs is more in front than in the back, and more between the upper than between the lower ribs. Ribs get longer from the first to the seventh and then get shorter. The twelfth rib is much shorter than the eleventh and points slightly downward. Cartilage, especially between the false ribs, is elastic, more so in our youth. We hardly ever fracture our sternum because our ribs are like a spring, can bear a lot of force, and move.

Dr. Gray mentions examples of diseased organs such as an enlarged liver or spleen pushing the ribs outwards, and the "pigeon-breast" condition which causes a depression on either side of the sternum. What specifically happens to these structures for those who corset, is fascinating and will be covered in Part Two of this article in next month's *Channel*.