December 2003 — *Dedicated to the Memory of Gwen Araujo* — Volume 22, Issue 12

TGSF - All Leather & Lace!

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)

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Vice President ..... Susan Laird
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Treasurer ..... Brooke Jansen
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Fine Print

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Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Halloween pictures by Roxy Carmichael-Hart, RSL, Pamela and Laura. Brain pictures provided by Sappho Calfas.

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FROM THE EDITOR...

I was thinking about how I felt when I was still deep in the closet. And remembering the deep sense of fear I felt at being found out for my sissy tendencies. Shame and guilt were my constant companions. Yet, I couldn't help myself. The compulsion to cross-dress overcame all logical reason and sanity. I had to continue dressing in women's clothes. I became excellent at hiding all traces of my "perversion." It was a double life - secret, furtive, restless, the stress of living the big lie. It went on and on for years. It took me a long time to get where I am today. In fact I didn't "come out" of that closet until I was nearly 32 years old, having been married for almost ten years. I am not proud of those deceitful days but I am certainly no stranger to our lifestyle and the pain it can cause.

As recent as twenty-five years ago the "closet" was a generally assumed necessity, an accepted and expected condition that was thought to be permanent. Even our early pioneers weren't interested in publicizing their transsexuality. Their aim was to make transsexuals understood and tolerated, not public. It would seem that remaining in the closet - that is, keeping one's true identity a secret - would be the easiest thing to do. I say that as difficult as revealing one's transsexuality may be, silence is personally and culturally deadly. As the activists like to say "Silence equals death." Widespread silence in the face of injustice is a dangerous, malicious, murderous, and suicidal stance. There are times that "the only place for a just man" is in prison. There are times, too, when speaking out for justice brings wrath, exile, and death as well. That's not to say that coming out has to be, of necessity, any of those times.

Coming out has great rewards but that does not mean that those gains are not gotten at a price. I can not tell you what price you may pay, as it varies widely from person to person and from time to time. Indeed there is "a time for every purpose under heaven" and I am not about to pontificate when any action is timely for you.

In fact most of our heroes are reluctant ones. They were activists who in many ways only did what they felt they had to do at the moment. I'm sure none grew up thinking that "someday I'll be a noted advocate" or "one day I'm going picket, disrupt, and change the world in which I live." In that regard greatness is often foisted upon us. It is an action that seems right in the moment and hopefully it is neither rash nor premature. Transsexuals are becoming more and more open about their lives. Granted, not all cross dressers or other transgenderists are out, and not all are out everywhere. Indeed there are times and places when discretion is the better part of valor.

Still, I believe there are social, political, and ethical forces beyond our control that are at work to make our lifestyle more widely known. If nothing else, we will be outed by those who disparage us, by the mere fact of our numbers and the frequency of our meetings, by significant growth in publications concerning us, and by our own desire to live honest lives. More than any of those reasons, it is simply the desire to be free that will cause us to declare our true selves. As long as we feel the need to hide and to deny, we are at risk for being intimidated, blackmailed, and denied the rights we say we want and must be ours.

The closet does not protect, it suffocates. It is the closet that allows falsehood, infidelity, and prejudice to live. It is like a fungus that must grow in the darkness, lest the sunlight dry, shrivel, and kill it. Coming out is not meant to flaunt one's self but to live the truth. It is my experience that it is the truth that sets us free. Half-truths and deceptions only lead to less-truths and greater deceptions. The web we weave when at first we deceive only continues to grow, trapping us to such an extent that we become paralyzed.

Coming out is an on-going process. At first I told only a special, highly trusted few. Their reactions showed me the value of friendship and what it really meant. Yes, I lost friends in the process. Some who loved me much were compelled to warn me of hell and damnation, of loss and of ruin. Some whom I loved much I haven't seen since. Yet I could no longer struggle against my real self, pretending to be someone I was not, even if I had the charade down pat. There was surely grief in my family, anger, doubt, and recrimination. There were very real times of estrangement. It may be that I lost more than one job over it. I am sure I wasn't hired for others because of my transsexuality.

It is never an all at once process and is seldom a loud proclamation, though some recountings can be very difficult. Yet for the vast majority the truth about me has made not the slightest difference, except the occasional piqued interest in what I write. Most, after all, understand that we need to live and let live. For every friend lost, ten more have filled my life with love, respect, and joy. For every friend who let me down, twenty more have lifted and supported me.

The specifics of all this are purposely vague, as only the individual can determine the rightness of his or her self-exposure. Only the individual can count the very personal and seldom cheap cost of publicly admitting their differences.

Still, the more out we become the easier it becomes for us to live real, and therefore satisfying, lives. As long as we remain silent about our truth, there is no denying the untruths of others. As long as we hide in our self-imposed closets (read prisons) our detractors have no light shone on their lies. As long as we hide our differences, we fail to show how beautiful, how loving, and how good they are.

President's Report For December

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Season's Greetings!!!

Fighting a miserable cold as I start this piece. I'm on the third day of the 24 hour flu.

I want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season. I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving and paused to remember and give thanks for all of the beautiful people and things in their lives.

I was fretting again about not getting last month's Channels out on time again, but again, the ExCom worked very hard to get these out to you in a reasonably timely manner. I especially want to thank Laura Marlowe and Clara for their assistance. And of course, thanks to Rachael Janelle for coming to our rescue and printing the labels. Teamwork at it's finest.

Wasn't that a spectacular Halloween party? I could write pages about it but later in this Channel you'll find an article by our very own Secretary and party planner, the lovely Anne Louise, thanking everyone for their help and efforts and contributions. She stated everything so well that it would be silly for me to try to add to what she said. I hope that she included snaps for herself because she played a huge part in ensuring that this event was an artistic and financial success. I know that I will leave out names but here goes: Thanks to Jackie, Pamela, Laura and Danielle for their hard work in a hot kitchen. Thank you Tommi for running out and getting ice and water and sodas and change. Thanks to Susan and Walt for the tunes. Teri Lee- you did an awesome job on the decorations. Thanks to Everett, Teri, Angela Borges (her last event before her move to Portland), Silia, Sara, Kara and Tommi(and others I missed) for helping with tickets. Thanks to Linda and Sidney for keeping everyone refreshed. Thanks to Rachel Hill, Sharon and Kelly for being judges. And thanks to Jo-An Torres for the gift certificates, and for helping many of the girls get ready (and for some of the winning costumes!. Girl, you looked pretty hot yourself!). Thanks to all for helping clean up. And of course Carla, for everything. And Anne Louise for being this tireless bundle of energy whom I truly adore. I am very proud of all of you and please don't hate me if I have forgotten someone. You're all special to me. Lastly, to my dear sis. Thanks for my nurse's outfit. Words cannot express the love I feel for you.

After a couple of hours sleep – we were cleaning up at Carla's until 2:30 A.M. which made me grateful for the return to standard time – we headed to Rachael Janelle's birthday party. Typical of Rachael – it's her birthday and she winds up doing a ton of work – but we all had a great time. It was also a reminder of how fortunate we are to have this beautiful lady as a part of our community. I recognized her at the October End of Month as the winner from "Roxy's snap cup". I also had a great time talking with her friends Tommy and Michelle (from whom I indirectly received a beautiful suit for work). Mostly we talked about Stevie Nicks and Gene Dolls and I got so enamored with the dolls that I have been studying them and plan to attend a doll show on November 22.

And speaking of the End of the Month – October was our wild "Leather and Lace Event". We had eight lovely ladies compete for three prizes. Our winners were Jamie Fenton, Siobhan Ellis and Geri, one of our newcomers. This event has a special meaning for me since I was a winner last year – my first pageant! Although I did wear my leather and lace get up - complete with my new leather mini – I did not compete because one of the sacrifices you make as president is to step aside so that the other girls can have their moment in the sun. I also want to thank my friend Jenny from the City of Hayward, for taking an interest in TGSF and for attending our event. With her leather coat and leather boots she fit right in. Thanks to Richard, Angela and Everett (I always seem to be thanking Everett!) for taking on the difficult role as judges and selecting from these lovely ladies. And thanks to Sara Roberts for the generous donation of the gift certificates. Angela and Everett were also helpful in keeping Jenny company while I worked the floor. After the meeting, Ally approached me with an interest in running for ExCom next year. I guess we have been successful in conveying to people our importance.

We had our semi-annual event over at MAC in Bloomingdale's on November 9. This is one of my favorite events since the MAC makeup artists are always so friendly and helpful. Three beautiful ladies – Lydia, Maycher, and Vanessa did our makeup and provided snacks. We had a very large turnout as well and I must give thanks to Siobhan for arranging this event as always. This beautiful lady has also decided to be a Miss TGSF contestant and to join the rest of our fair ladies in this event. Our judges are going to have one hell of a time because the choice will be very difficult.

Nice segue into Cotillion news. By the time you read this we'll be less than 2 months from the big event. Lots of planning is continuing and we are making extraordinary progress. Susan has some tremendous ideas for the show and is working hard to make sure that it is an artistic success. This month we'll also have our first contestant meeting with Denae Doyle and we'll know how many brave ladies have stepped forward to compete for the title of Miss TGSF. I know the competition will be spirited but will be friendly. Any of the contestants of whom I am aware would be an outstanding representative of our organization. Lots of us continue to sell tickets so if you need a ticket there will be plenty of opportunity to purchase one. Ticket sales are starting to surge, due in part to Jo-An's aggressive sales work at her weekly events. You better hurry because after January 1, the price goes up to $60. You can purchase tickets from Donna at DVG, Carla, Jo-An at I Love It, Tyler, Kara and Kelly. And you can order by mail (see the flier for details) and on our website thru PAYPAL. Just log on to www.tgsf.org and point and click your way to a good time. (I can't believe I just wrote that).

By popular demand from those at the October End of Month, we decided to hold a November End of Month event after all. As you know we had debated this and originally decided to pass in favor of the Day of Remembrance – an important and worthy event. But my feeling was and still is, as long as there are girls who want to come to the End of Month, then it is my obligation to be there for them. I think it is important to be there for the living while still remembering the dead. I think our best tribute to those whom we have lost would be to open our hands and our hearts to all those who want to join us and who need us. The best way to remember the dead is to create something positive for the living.

Carla held her annual Thanksgiving pot luck on November 22. (For those of us old enough to remember, this marks the 40th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy. I do still recall where I was on that day.) Anyway, in conjunction with this event, Carla held a meeting with Jen and Hector from the Transpowerment Program, which is looking into bringing increased awareness and conscious to issues facing the transgendered community, particularly in the area of health care. These are projects in which we as a community can be very proactive.

I decided to devote my "spare" time to assisting with "California Dreamin' 2004" which is being spearheaded by Carla. I am on their board as Secretary (it's nice to have someone else (Laura) as president of something!). This event will be held in April 2004.

Please make sure you save the week of December 14. That week will include Christmas at the Tarragon on December 14 (details published elsewhere), the TGSF Holiday party on December 18 at the Blue Muse at 7:30 and the RGA holiday potluck on December 19, and the RGA trip to the Nutcracker on December 20. Looks like you picked the wrong week to give up food.

Last month I noted some frustration with our website. I am happy to report that it is greatly improved and changes continue to be made. Kara, thank you for helping Susan with this effort. I know it is a lot of work and I am very appreciative.

Lastly, just remember to have a beautiful holiday season. Tell someone close to you how you feel about them. Hold each other tightly. Open your arms to the new girl. Pray to whatever deity or object you wish for peace and togetherness and love. And to those of you who have not quite gotten to the door, open up that door and walk with pride into the light. We await you.

With love from your sister always,
Roxy

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

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November 2, 2003

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

Present: President Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Vice President Susan Laird, Secretary Anne Louise Mortenson, Education Co-Chair Kelly Anne Marsh, Education Co-Chair Kara Flynn, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani, Outreach Co-Chair Marla Selby, Social Co-Chair Tommi Watson, Guest: Laura Marlowe. Absent: Treasurer Brooke Jansen, Education, Social Co-Chair Aiyanna Eveningstar. At Susan's home on November 2, 2003. Minutes were approved.

President's Report

The Halloween Party was a success. Anne Louise suggested that one important addition would have been a table for the Cotillion where we would have been able to sell tickets. Kelly thought the talent section which we eliminated could have been presented after the costume contest. Marla thinks we have a lot of talent in the group and it would be good to have an outlet. Anne Louise would like to have an event for a talent show. The dinner and dance was a bargain at $15. Susan noted we had great attendance this year: 125 approximately. Last year we had a cut off time when the boat left the pier. Low overhead, a wonderful locale plus Carla's ideas, makes the location a great place to have future events.

Upcoming Event for Mr.and Miss TGSF is the Investiture for the SF Ducal Court. This will be on November 9 at First Unitarian in SF, for $10. Roxy has requested Rachel Hill's attendance.

Fund Raising Events: Kelly has a possibility for one at Uncle Charlie's. People are committed, Sophie and Anjelica Devarox, Victoria Secret, Vicki Marlana, will help us put it together. Uncle Charlie may also be donating items for a raffle and some food. They do like to be part of the community at large. The Ex-Com approved going ahead with plans and elected Kelly to head the project.

Day of Remembrance will be November 20th. We don't know how Gwen Smith would like us to participate. The event will begin at 6:30 at Harvey Milk Plaza. There were a lot of people who would still like us to have the regular end of the month on that date so we are going to go ahead with it. People have the habit of going to the Muse and we want to keep that a regular event.

Vice President's Report

Cotillion - We passed out the Contestant packages and Susan outlined ways to keep things moving. Susan talked about the time considerations of having 8 contestants and an unlimited number of debutantes. We can expedite people getting on and off the stage more quickly. The contestants need to be at all the meetings and give us all of the information required. December 7th at 1 o'clock sharp will be the next mandatory contestant meeting with Denae Doyle.

Roxy is thinking about Pride. How much are we going to spend? Who is going to build it? Susan said should have had a video of her unrolling the carpet from last year in her backyard so she could roll it up into two different sections to store. Now it's cleaned and ready to go. It will have a seam down the middle when we lay it out but that will be in a place that won't be difficult to hide. Hopefully Rochelle will be able to get the same trailer. She will probably be amenable if she sees some enthusiasm.

The attendance on the float was not very good. On the other hand, we don't really just want anyone to be on the float. When people are on the float, do we ask them to be on the float, do we sell them tickets? Maybe we should go to Mama's Group and have them help us. We had difficulty in getting monitors last year. Roxy wants to have a beer booth because it might make us some money. We would like to get a good position in the parade like Roxy got us last year. Roxy noted that we need to keep budget and manpower in mind when planning for next year's float. Roxy appointed Susan and Anne Louise to develop concepts.

Treasurer's Report

Roxy presented the members with a four page report. Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Equity. $100 bill for ad for Leather and Tyler's event payment, payment for Channel for $170 and $500 bill for Marirott brings us down to about $3300.

Statement of Income: Last month we had about $2000 and $1100 in expenditure. But $1200 of the revenue was from the Halloween Party. On ongoing revenue we still have the possibility of running deficits.

Accounts Payable: $3500 in debt. Kara was kind enough to trade in her debt for Cotillion Tickets. Roxy feels we still don't have the income to pay the old bills out. We are down to $900 on our debt to the Design Center. Kelly suggests we give at least something to the people who have supported us. It doesn't have to be much. These are the people who are part of us, who have contributed out of their pockets.

Roxy told us that Rachael Janelle has donated a coat, appraised at $2500, to TGSF. Rachel Hill is in possession of the coat and is free to auction it off on e-bay. We hope to use that money to pay back on contributors. Roxy will work with Rachel Hill on this.

Susan wants to get in touch with everyone who gets a printed Channel and see if they would like to get an electronic copy of it. This will cut down printing and mailing costs. There are fewer names already. Susan and Kelly have told people who have sent in e-mail addresses that we will not be mailing them a copy of the Channel. If you want it in print, please contact us. It's a default that we're not mailing it.

Susan feels we also need to make a hit list of all the groups we send Channels to because we do that out of our own pocket. Because they all have e-mail addresses and web sites, they may not need a copy. We could give them some limited log-in, maybe 5 a month for say a news group in Australia It would well be worth our while in the cost of mailing. Half of the newletters we get from other groups often don't get read. Ours may not get read by other groups.

Roxy would like Susan to get together with Rachel to work on finances. Roxy wants to go on record that she offered to pay Rachel Hill, $200 a month out of her own pocket to pay off debts. She was going to donate that to TGSF anyway. She did decline and Roxy is no longer in the position to do that.

Statement of Advertising: We are running Carla's ad for free since of all the donations she made for the Halloween Party which far surpass the cost of running the ad.

Secretary's Report

We have got to get Susan help on the web site. There has been a lot of progress on the web site. Roxy noticed the membership cost is up to $40. We also now have Paypal. Susan and Kara are still fixing things. Rachel Hill donated 5 cameras that came from Bank of America so we could take pictures of the Halloween Party. They are getting developed and Susan is hoping to get those up too.

Pam who built the web site did a wonderful job but she failed to leave any direction on how to use it. Susan believes if we can figure out how some of it works it would make the job of putting up pictures and info much, much easier.

There is a problem of getting someone knowledgeable enough to do the site because they might want to change it and begin again. Then if they leave we'll be in the same situation again. We need someone who knows Unix who wants to work with us. We can all get together as a group and sit down and work out a plan so if something goes wrong we'll know how to fix it.

Next Ex-Com profile, Kelly.

Education

Kelly announced that there is a new stamp out that will help raise money for Breast Cancer. It will cost 60 or 70 cents more than an ordinary stamp book. Please think about spending that extra 3 cents to support the drive on stopping Breast Cancer.

On November 22nd Dr O will be at the LGBT Center. On November 9th there will be two MAC sessions at Bloomingdale's.. The Job Fair at the LGBT went off fairly well.

Kelly said that she had talked to Tiffany about putting an event together with her. Tiffany is pretty flexible in when she can do that. Kara has talked to Candance if she could do a seminar on skin. She is a beautician. December 13th is a possible date. She's down in San Mateo.

Continued on Page 5

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ExCom Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Outreach

Kelly has volunteered to take a turn on the hotline. Roxy has been keeping up on the calendar.

Social

Next Events: November End of the Month will be on 20th. Our Christmas Party will be December 18th. We are going to sing Holiday Carols of all faith. It will be at the Blue Muse. We'll do a gift exchange like last year of about $5. December 14th will be Christmas Party at the Taragon for all the Transgender groups.

Tommi said Jo-An Torres was concerned that her name was not mentioned at the Halloween Party in thanks for the gifts she donated for Prizes. Roxy said she will apologize for the oversight. Jo-An generously gave two $30 gift certificates. She supplied her place and her expertise in getting girls ready for the party, and transportation as well to Carla's.

Tommi is concerned about the Yahoo web site. They are very responsible and don't allow unwanted info. We could have a link that says this is not an official TGSF site. Roxy noted that the link already has this qualifier. Tommi says it's an invaluable site for people who want to know about current events. Roxy noted that the TGSF and Carla's calendars also provide updated information.

New Business

We need more events on the scale of the Halloween Party. Carla is planning a Valentine Party and a Bridal Party. Susan says we need to be concerned about the big Transgendered Picnic in the summer. It was so bad this summer only a few people knew about it. It is a big event. Kelly suggested gaming events, all sorts of things could be organized. If we could streamline the lines of communication, have a plan, then it won't be such a problem to send the information out for all the future events.

Laura Marlowe is president of California Dreaming 2004 for next April and Roxy is secretary. It will be held partly at Carla's and partly at the De Anza Hotel in San Jose. The next planning meeting for California Dreaming is on November 13th at the Pleasanton Hotel. Roxy added that she is on the Board as Secretary.

Roxy suggests if any of the Ex-Com members are thinking of not being here next year they should be looking for replacements. Next meeting - December 7th, 2003 at Susan's 4 PM (following Cotillion Planning Meeting at 1).

WAVE ELECTROLOGY

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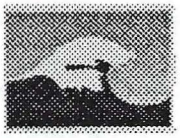

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Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

Storing Your Stash!

Part of the fun of building a makeup collection is figuring out how to store it. My favorite George Carlin routine is the one where he talks in great detail about "stuff". He talks about finding a bigger house to store more stuff. He talks about going on vacation, and packing a smaller version of your "stuff". What about your stuff?

Location, Location...

The most important factor to consider when figuring out how to store your cosmetics is size and portability. Store makeup where you apply it most often, and where you have the best light. If you apply makeup in the bathroom, it's helpful to store it where you can get to it quickly and easily. If you're fortunate to have a large bathroom, dedicate a cabinet to your makeup. If your bathroom is smaller, countertop options work just fine. Remember to keep your makeup away from direct sunlight, heat, and moisture. Cosmetics have ingredients that spoil just like food. A clean covered container will do the trick.

Creative Options

If you travel frequently, it's helpful to have a portable makeup storage container. *Caboodles* makes several popular options. They're inexpensive, and help keep things neat and tidy. They're available at Target. In addition, Target also carries several plastic multi drawer containers. They're usually located among the housewares. These are also affordable, and multiple units can be stacked for clean and easy storage. They keep things tucked away for privacy, but are still reachable in a pinch.

Go Sporty

Tackle boxes (yes the ones used for fishing) are a terrific way to store your makeup. They, too, come with drawers that fold out, and there are many designs available. Though not as attractive as some of the above mentioned items, they're wonderfully affordable, and make great storage containers.

What Professionals Use

Finally, a professional option is a train case. Train cases are available at Sephora. They're a bit more expensive, however, the upside to using a train case is that many of the drawers fold out and the dividers are adjustable. They're sturdy and go anywhere. They're great for travel, as well as for use at home.

With all these options, getting organized is easier than ever. This holiday season, treat yourself. The more organized you are, the more you'll want to add to your growing makeup collection.

Product Of The Month

This month's product is Special Cleansing Gel, by Dermalogica. This cleanser is a wonderful, concentrated cleanser for all skin types. It cleans gently without irritation, and is available at your local salon. Should you have difficulty locating this or any other product, please feel free to email me. I'll be happy to locate it for you.

Best wishes for a magical holiday!

Questions and feedback are always welcome. My email address is 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.

Events in December

Wednesday / December 3 / 7:00pm

The Courage and Skill 2 Love

Presented by the APEB's Butterfly Project. See ad on this page for more information.

Sunday / December 7 / 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! Please join your ExCom and help out!

Sunday / December 14 / 7:00pm

TGSV, RGA, Carla's, TGSF, MPTG, SVGA and DVG Holiday Dinner

Tarragon, 140 South Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086. 408-737-8003. Dinner includes a salad, entrée, dessert and coffee. Entrée choices are prime rib, chicken, salmon or vegetarian. $40.00 per person. Hors d'oeuvres will be served beforehand, but drinks are on your own.

Gift Exchange

Each guest is requested to contribute a gift-wrapped present. Suggested price range: $5.00 – $10.00

Prizes

Two tickets to the January 24, 2004 Cotillion will be raffled, courtesy of TGSF. Gift certificates will be raffled, courtesy of Carla's and Dahl Faces. Be sure to bring a few dollars for the raffle!

Reservations Required! Please contact [redacted]@earthlink.net at least two weeks prior. Please indicate how many guests will be attending, and their dinner choices. Pre-payment preferred, if possible, but cash or check payment acceptable at the restaurant

NOTE: Rachael Janelle and Miss Roxy Carmichael-Hart will host an **After Party Event** at Rachael Janelle's House. They plan to have Special Xmas Desserts, Spirits, Coffee and Tea - and you can help decorate Rachael's Christmas tree. Rachael's house is only couple blocks from the Tarragon Restaurant. [redacted] Sunnyvale, CA 94086 Rachael Cell 408 [redacted] Maps will be provided at the Holiday Dinner.

Thursday / December 18 / 7:30pm

TGSF Christmas Party

The Blue Muse, 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. Ayme is being coerced into leading traditional Christian carols again, and will bring her nifty, limited edition, commemorative songbooks to pass out as well. It would be nice if those of alternate faiths would sing traditional Hanukkah and/or Kwanzaa holiday songs as well! Also be prepared to participate in a Gift Exchange: $5-10 wrapped gift would be appreciated.

December's Birthdays

12/03	Sheila Faulkner	12/20	Jill O'Brien
12/03	Elizabeth Walters	12/20	Barbara Lokker
12/05	Mary Anne Sales	12/23	Cynthia Young
12/06	Ally Grillo	12/23	Toni Martinez
12/07	Kathryn L. Skeens	12/23	Gabrielle Taylor
12/11	Billie Cox	12/24	Janis R.
12/12	Linda	12/27	Jill Dettmer
12/13	Tammi	12/29	Charlene Marie
12/17	Paula Dancer	12/30	Michelle Crawford
12/18	Susie		

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

APEB's Butterfly Project

Presents

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with

Zwazzi and Naomi

Do You Have What It Takes?

Wednesday, December 3, 2003

7:00 - 9:00pm

1800 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612

2nd Floor Conference Room

For more information,
call Cseneca Greenwood at 510 [redacted]
or Courage to Love Institute at 415-401-8094

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Calendar – December 2003

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.

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 707-[redacted]

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

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)
A support group for the LGBT community that meets at 7:30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Women's Health Boutique, 1115 South B Street, San Mateo - (408) 619-2908.

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 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	2 7:00 PM SCT	3 **7:00 PM Butterfly Project** 7:30 PM MPTG	4 7:00 PM DVG RCC	5 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	6
7 **4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting**	8 5:00 PM CCHH	9	10	11	12 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	13 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
14 **7:00 PM TG Holiday Dinner @ Tarragon Plus After-Party at Rachael's**	15 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	16 7:00 PM SCT	17	18 7:00 PM DVG RCC **7:30 PM TGSF Xmas EOM @ Blue Muse**	19 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	20
21	22 5:00 PM CCHH	23 7:30 PM SCOUT	24	25 **Merry Christmas!**	26 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	27 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
28	29 5:00 PM CCHH	30	31			

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.

TGSF Halloween Review

A Thank You to the Community

Halloween 2003 at Carla's, there's a momentary hush, Roxy holds her hand over a beautiful stately lady dressed as a Spanish contessa and her partner, dressed in black, with a dashing cape and the familiar wide brimmed hat of Zorro. The applause mounts from the audience. It's the final contest. This will determine who will win best costume overall for the Halloween Party. The crescendo of clapping fills the hall augmented by hoops and hollers. Stephanie Ann carefully watches the indicator rise on the applausometer. The hot box is reaching its combustion point. Its red lights intense, its fanned flaming streamers shooting to the ceiling. The winners!!! Fay and Sydney!!! The proud couple accepted one of the generous donated prizes. They are warmly congratulated by the other finalists. It was a close call that required several runoffs. How could Silia, the evil red witch, with her stunning bulbous nose, be denied or Angela Acosta shimmering in her gold as Cleopatra or Everett, in his expansive blow-up doll interpretation of the King of California (obviously Arnold finally finding his feminine side)?

It must have been difficult for the judges to pick three contestants for each of the categories. Rachel Hill was our judge for most creative, she was looking pretty snazzy herself, as shapely a gangster that every held a tommy gun. Sharon Carlson, our judge for prettiest, may of not passed as a guy (much too pretty) but she sure made a grand Abe Lincoln. And she looked quite debonair beside her dainty date, Melissa, gorgeous in pink. The sleek leopard, Kelly Anne Marsh, was our judge for scariest. You just wanted to cuddle with her. And our gorgeous and scintillating Roxy our judge for most outrageous. Costumes, costumes, costumes. We had wonderful costumes! There were so many. What about Teri Lee's Black Widow Spider, Stephanie Ann's Spider Girl and Rochelle's Punk Princess.

Halloween at Carla's. What a wonderful night. What a wonderful idea. Thanks to Carla for making it all possible, for all the trips to grocery store to make that delicious feast, the wonderful hall, the months of planning and preparation and let's not forget the prizes she donated for the lucky winners who'll be fussed over in her salon.

The great hall was a challenge. I think Teri Lee could have spent a week decorating. She started on the Friday of that beautiful warm weekend in an empty hall. You can imagine how big that room looked with no decorations in the early afternoon light. She was nervous but just as I suspected there were so many girls who helped over those two days. Kelly Anne Marsh and her little girl Mariah were pure energy putting up lights and skeletons. Stephanie Ann was a pure delight anytime she helps. She revived the Applausometer. Melissa made light work of pinning material high up. And Carla nervously scurrying about gave us a hint of the excitement ahead as she kept telling us of the mounting rsvps. Dozens of girl helped on Saturday, Laura Anne Marlow and Pam Gray especially, Jackie was not only helping in the kitchen but she was cooking at home. And I don't want to forget Pam Lew who did the finishing touches with the hanging balls. Danielle Castro, who had that great costume, was making beautiful platters of cold cuts and Linda was preparing to be Her Most Excellent Lady of the Liquor. Sydney graciously helped her when she needed a break but she held down the bar nearly the entire night. Who did I miss? What can I say, the food was wonderful.

A very special thanks goes to Jo-An Torres for her support. As an important member of the community, her help was greatly appreciated. Not only did she donate two $30 dollar gift certificates to her store but she provided a place for girls to prepare, get their makeovers, get primped and beautiful (unless of course if they wanted to look horrible and macabre). She also provided transportation to the party. Was that a pumpkin I saw rolling down the street after the party?

Another person who needs special thanks is Tommi Watson. She was organizing the food with Carla and she was always there for all the little and big tasks that needed to be done. How about things like having enough fives at the ticket booths? Thank goodness there wasn't a rodeo in town, I can imagine all those cowboys getting into fist fights over that gorgeous cowgirl. Tommi, your costume was sexxxxy!

Then the heavy equipment came. Huge steel reinforced cases of sound and lighting equipment. I helped Susan Laird gather all the big and little boxes that she's been collecting. It took some time crawling through the tunnel like passages in her attic and some heavy hauling to move the big speakers from the stacks in her living room. And once unloaded and unpacked and set up it was incredible. The lights and the sounds were fantastic. Another generous offering from Susan. The community owes her a great deal of gratitude. We were almost set. Except for the ticket takers. Roxy came and took care of that and soon we had helpers for the whole night. Teri Lee, Everett, Angela Borges, Stephanie Ann, Sarah, Silia, and Kara. The ghoulish Brooke gathered all the money and kept it safe. No one was going to mess with that vampire. I hope I haven't missed anyone.

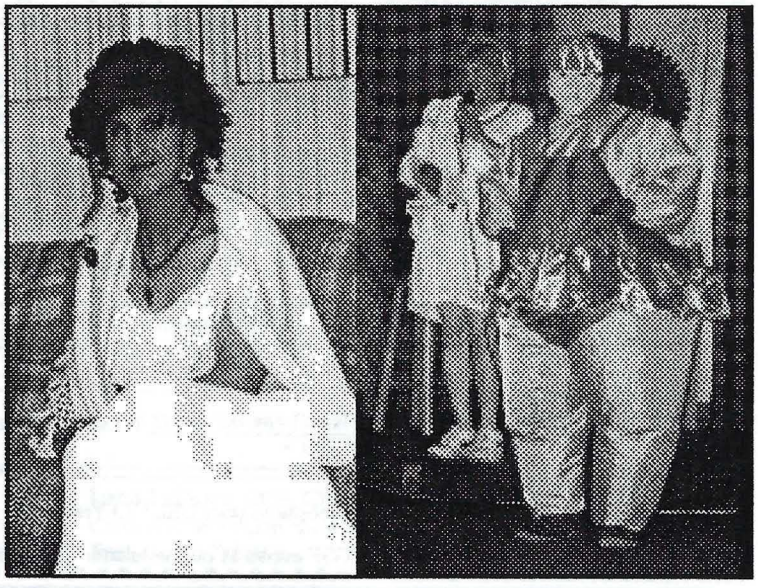
Imagine the hall all clean and spic and span for the service the next morning. Well a lot of girls did. We had that place immaculate by about 2 that night. I wish I knew everyone's name because those many hands really did make light work. Joann vacuumed, Jasmine and Lavette rearranged all those many chairs to Teri's pre-drawn plan to get each to its rightful home. I was very grateful for Everett's help. There are girls like Everett, Laura and Pam who are always there to the end. Can't say I always last that long.

I want to thank everyone so much for coming and supporting TGSF and Carla's. I was incredibly high the whole weekend and I hated to leave Rachael Janelle wonderful party and go home. Carla is excited about having more parties next year. A Red and White Ball around Valentine's Day and A Bridal Party. Those sound great. I can't wait. I also hope we can have some dances in San Francisco next year. How about a prom night: "Under the Sea".

Anne Louise

A note from Roxy

To our beautiful butterfly Anne Louise with the wings of an angel, whose tireless and devoted love for our community enabled all of us to have a beautiful and joyous time with our sisters and friends. I love you girl!



Halloween Pics!

Hart to Heart

So much to do, so much to say.....

The regularly scheduled program will not be seen tonight...

I originally intended to write an op ed piece about the things that bother me and the ways in which we can improve. I intended to write this as a way to show that from the negative can come the positive. However, I also realize that sometimes, being negative has the reverse effect and sometimes it's best to say nothing. However again, also remember that I am a strongly passionate woman and I will work to change the things that bug me. I want to make a difference. I want us to have a purpose and I want us to be more of a community and a family. But then again, families can disagree and I guess we will too. That doesn't mean that I have to accept disagreement, just work to keep us all on the same page.

So instead I will use this space to recap the last year and look to the future. You might have read some of these words before (and some won't make any sense at all). Think of it as that brand new episode of "Coupling" being pulled for a rerun of "Friends". Now, let's go to the videotape.

January

The Cotillion. Those two words say it all. I walked as a debutante and decided that I wanted to be a contestant for Miss TGSF. Maybe some other time. A standard was set that we will work very hard to live up to. Met the amazing Tiffany Woods. Learned that the line between reality and bullshit is very blurry.

February

We had our own version of nuclear winter. When the fallout settled, we lost a great lady. She decided to step aside, having given so much of her heart and soul to this organization. We will never know what might have been. Thankfully, particularly for me, she has never stopped giving to all of us.

March

The fog cleared. I was asked to run for President. Many newcomers stepped up for the ExCom. Amazingly we all ran unopposed. What a country! It was also time to comfort a dear friend who had suffered a great loss. I learned the true meaning of sisterhood and what we should be about. Denae liked me in pink.

April

The unofficial was made official and we assumed our positions with great vision. We bid "bye" to our outgoing leaders (not farewell because many have stayed involved. We set the course for the next year with a vow to do whatever it took to make sure that we are here for everyone who needs us. Created the Rachael Janelle Light award. Had Wendy as a part of the Annual Meeting. Bad hair day. New hair.

May

We got to work with vigor. We adopted an action plan and a fundraising scheme. We did our damndest to get out of debt. With great anxiety and consternation, we remain in the hole, far too great for my satisfaction. By the end of the month, we were ready for the summer kick-off BBQ at Rachael's. We saw "La Cage" and "Miss Vera".

June

Until There's a Cure. We walked arm in arm in Pac Bell Park for AIDS awareness. San Jose Pride, the warm up for the big event. Gratitude to the Leather Boys from San Jose. San Francisco Pride. Building the float – unity, cooperation and teamwork. Riding and walking with pride down Market Street, being appreciated and applauded for who we are. One year anniversary of coming out into the light. And Cotillion 2004 began to rise.

July

Red, white and blonde. Anne Louise joined the ExCom (lucky for us!). GAPA Runway 15 – what a hoot. Running through the Herbst Theatre in my bare feet, drooling at Pussycat Walk, midnight snack at the Grubb Steak. I was born on July 29.

August

AB 196 signed. Liberty and Justice for all. Professional debut in Seattle. Met Amanda Brown. Tommi Watson joined the ExCom (lucky for us!).

September

September 2. A day that will live forever in my heart. End of summer BBQ at Ayme's and Sappho's. Meeting Silia – a girl I know who is going to go far. Reflecting on one year, with the Mercury News. Establishing my friendship with Danielle. Frolicking at the Folsom Street Fair with Jo-An, standing out in my pink amongst the black.

October

DVG Dinner in Walnut Creek. A fabulous Halloween Party at Carla's. A spirit of unity and cooperation and teamwork. Not getting my screenplays past the first round of competition in LA. Starting a new project in my life of which I am very excited. Getting Cotillion tickets on sale. Leather and Lace. He drops the ball!

Nurse Roxy checks her patient for a chest cold or a case of overexposure while Cleo looks on.

November

MAC at Bloomie's, Carla's Thanksgiving on the 22nd. A time to remember and a time to reflect. A time to be with those you love.

Still to come!!!

December

The Tarragon, Holiday parties, RGA potluck (all in the same week). Contestant meeting and training with Denae Doyle. Finishing touches on the show. A time for family.

I know I have forgotten some stuff but forgive me. Has it been a good year for you? I hope it has. There is so much more to do, so much more to love, so much more to say...

We'll be right back with more "stuff" in '04.

Now wasn't this more enjoyable reading than the "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind" (my original title for this article because I wanted to say that I saw that movie before the Cotillion last year and because after reading my article you might have considered me to be just a bit dangerous and because I have been told that my mind works like very few. I hope that's a good thing. I'll save the original article for the DVD.).

Be good. Have a good holiday.

Roxy

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]**@hairzapper.com**.

KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC

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ANGEL LEVEL: $500

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

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Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

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Thank you for your support of TGSF!

Visible Man

Remembering Our Dead

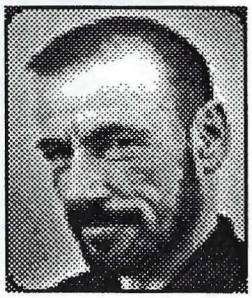
***Jamison Green** offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane. Opinion, advice and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community.*

It's after Halloween, and it's just before Thanksgiving, the time when people in the United States begin to think about fall holidays, the joy or angst of family gatherings, the prospect of hope for the coming new year. But November 20 each year brings an angry sadness to those of us in the trans community as we gather to remember our dead, the transwomen and transmen who were murdered in the past year.

Transpeople do die of old age, the ravages of illness, poverty, accidents and suicide, and we mourn all whom we have lost with equal sorrow. But we reserve a special day to bring visibility to those whose deaths were expressly caused by someone else, those who were deemed disposable, those who were the victims of deliberate, hateful violence.

This year, 2003, we know of 37 transpeople who were murdered since the last candlelight vigils were held in 90 cities around the world. The annual Transgender Day of Remembrance started in San Francisco in 1998, the inspiration of Gwendolyn Ann Smith, my fellow board member at Gender Education & Advocacy, Inc., a tiny nonprofit that is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of all trans and gender-variant people. And violence is certainly a barrier to our health and well-being. The vicious killings of transgendered people, often more than simple gunshots or stabbings, and often involving combinations of weapons and brutally destructive acts that are intended as statements of hatred or disgust, are frequently perpetrated by groups of people, or by one person encouraged by others who witness and even cheer the brutal act. At no time is it more clear to us that we are regarded as less than human.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance is one international statement of response to that violence, a statement that is growing louder and stronger every year. It is a time when transgendered people, our families and our allies, can come together to call for an end to this abuse and waste of human lives. We say the names of those whose bodies have been broken, whose spirits have been extinguished, so that their lives are noticed. Sometimes this is the first recognition these individuals have ever received in life, and it is doubly sad to me that it seems their only mark on the world comes from the stain of their blood on the hands of their killers. Yet this cannot be their only legacy. These people have had families, friends and lovers at some time in their lives. They cannot have been alone from the moment of their birth, touching and impacting no one. They were human beings, gender-variant human beings who struggled to find themselves and sometimes lost their way.



We carry candles in the dark to symbolize their spirits, the fragility of the flame behaving much like our lives — strong and bright in one instant, weighing nothing yet possessing the force to burn and change whatever it contacts, and then suddenly, in an instant, vanishing. We all live with this fragility; we all risk death just walking down the street. And whether more transgendered people are dying because more of us are visible now, or whether more of us are dying because journalists or family members are less likely to deny or cover up the transgender identity of a victim so that more transgender murders are recorded, the fact is transgendered people are being killed just because someone else doesn't like the clothes they wore, or the name they wanted to be called or the incongruity between their body and their gender presentation.

This harsh judgment that others feel powerful or righteous enough to inflict on those of us who are transgendered is a judgment we do not deserve. We must say the names or our fallen sisters and brothers out loud, we must say their names with pride. We must not let the rest of the world forget that they, and we, are as sacred as any vessel filled with the breath of life. And when one of us is snuffed out, scores, hundreds more of us must rise up to take their place, until one day thousands of people, maybe even all people will say it is wrong to take another's life, transgendered or not, queer or not, different or not. And even after that day comes, we must still remember those who died, whose souls have guided us to this resistance, to this action, to this community that seeks its own dignity, its own way of peace.

EAC Update ~ November 2003

Transgender Issues in the Workplace

[Editor's Note: Follows is an email from one of my company's Employee Assistance Consultants, directed to our HR population. I thought you would be interested to read it.]

Diversity is one of the core values at Wells Fargo and we take pride in our diverse workforce. One aspect of this diversity is that there are several transgendered team members that work for Wells Fargo. In many cases the transgendered team member will go through the transition process after they have already been working for the company. Going through this transition while in the workplace can present a unique and challenging situation for those involved. In order to ensure that this transition goes smoothly and respectfully for the team member involved, EAC has partnered with HR, ER and at times Legal on several occasions.

EAC can assist in these situations in the following ways: * Consultation with HR and management about communicating this sensitive information to the work team.

* Assisting HR and management in drafting letters to the work team, talking points to managers, etc.
* Providing support and resources to the team member that is transitioning.
* Providing support and resources to the team as a whole through this process, which has at times meant on-site support.

I am attaching some information that I feel could be of assistance if this is an issue you deal with at some point in the future. This information will also be helpful and educational even if you never directly deal with a transgendered team member. This attachment is an example of a letter that was drafted and sent out to a team by the manager in a work group in which a team member transitioned while on the job.

Roberta Frances Dunne, 1945-2003

Former TGSF member and newsletter columnist Roberta Dunne passed away during the night of November 15th from complications brought about by leukemia. She was fifty-eight years of age.

A peninsula native, Roberta, or "Bobbie" as she was known by many of her friends, grew up not far from Stanford University. A proud and accomplished metal worker with local union 104, Roberta was often the lead person for the construction of many manufacturing and testing facilities for Silicon Valley businesses.

She moved to San Francisco in 1992, to begin her transition from male to female. During transition, she struggled against harsh discrimination at work, which she documented in her New Woman column, for the then ETVC newsletter. She was one of many courageous people in our community who testified before the San Francisco Human Rights Commission on behalf of protective legislation for transgendered individuals.

She served as vice president of the San Francisco Pride Parade executive committee from 1995-97, through which she developed strong ties with many in the greater GLBT community.

Away from her work, Bobbie enjoyed doting on her two cats, traveling, cooking, building computer systems and attending the symphony with her dear friend Jim Gong . After retiring from metal work, she briefly worked for the San Mateo Community College District, upgrading and maintaining their computer database. She spent the last two years of her life at a home she purchased in Fallon, Nevada.

A self-identified "stoic individualist", she did not believe in giving people handouts but did believe in giving them a hand-up. She generously shared her skills and knowledge with others who were willing to learn and work as hard as she did. Her irreverent sense of humor, far from " p.c.", served her well during her many struggles, and was quite infectious.

Roberta is survived by her sister and two brothers, her adult son and several friends who will not forget her. A celebration of her life is being planned for early next spring.

Erin Souza

trans gender san francisco

tgsf

presents

Cotillion 2004

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COME TOGETHER

Saturday, January 24, 2004

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Readers Respond

Dear TGSF,

I would really appreciate it if you would please take the time to read this and forward it to anyone you might know or know of that would be of service to our community. I have taken it upon myself to be a part of this production, and my hope is that people far and near will open their eyes to our equality through diversity. Lara is a magical gal that has taken it upon herself to include the trans community as an important part of V-Day without exploiting us. Her intentions are true and so is her heart. The bigger this production gets the more understanding we all will have in this society. I will be performing in the Vagina Monologues and also speaking about my experience, strength and hope. My heart and soul goes out to each and every one of you.

Love profound,
Danielle R Castro, (408)[redacted]
[redacted]@hotmail.com

Dear Friend,

The 2004 UC Berkeley V-Day movement, celebration and benefit production of The Vagina Monologues are underway. V-Day and The Vagina Monologues address issues of sexual violence, rape, assault, harassment in addition to gender, sexuality, femininity and of course – vaginas! We are writing to you to request monetary donations of support and solidarity. With your help, we'll be able to spread awareness in the campus community and beyond. We are coordinating various events dealing with topics of relationship violence, transgender perspectives on violence and gender and issues facing women of color. These events will then lead up to the culmination of the four performances of The Vagina Monologues itself, February 12th, 13th, 14th and 16th.

This year is the fourth annual production of this fantastic show. The previous three years have been enormous successes and we consistently sold out for each night over a week before the performance. Last year we raised $10,000 for our beneficiaries. This year all proceeds from our production will be going to NARIKA (A help and referral line for South Asian women and children in abusive situations) see www.narika.org, ISNA (Intersex Society of North America) see www.isna.org, and the V-Day fund for the women of Juarez, Mexico.

This movement and production is funded by a variety of grants and revenue generated from the sale of T-Shirts, other merchandise and admission tickets. However, unlike the past three years we've been on campus, we are in need of additional funds because the campus-wide budget cuts have dramatically reduced the grants available to us. Furthermore, due to the success of past years we are expanding our production in order to be both more inclusive and thorough in our educational scope, and to reach as broad an audience as possible. We are bringing in more speakers and performers to our events and producing and publicizing them on a larger scale. We also still must also finance an ASL interpreter for the deaf members of our audience, tech equipment, and merchandise.

We are requesting sponsorship from progressively minded colleagues, friends, and enterprises that support the causes that we are working for. We are asking from anywhere from $200 to $1000, depending on what you're able to give, and we will gladly acknowledge your support in our production program which will reach 2,000 attendees from the university and local community.

If you have questions, please contact us by email berkeleyvm2004@uclink.berkeley.edu or by phone at 510-407-0974. To send checks: Make all checks out to UC Regents and send to the above address of the Gender Equity Resource Center.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Lara Rinzler, Producer, V-Day UC Berkeley 2004
The Vagina Monologues,
[redacted]@uclink.berkeley.edu

Dear TGSF,

I am doing a Membership Drive for my Yahoo Group. The member who refers the most new approved members by December 31st will get a $300.00 Gift Certificate from I Love It.

Thanks!

Jo-An

HTTP://WWW.ILOVEITGIRL.COM. PLEASE VISIT MY YAHOO GROUP! http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iloveitgirl

Remember Our Dead

Change of Responsibility

Friends,

A less than five years ago, I discovered the Remembering Our Dead list, thanks to Gwen Smith. At the time, there were 167 names on the list. It has nearly doubled since then. A few months later, after reading the list a couple of times, I saw that it contained a lot of valuable information that activists could use in their work. That was when I began putting together the Remembering Our Dead Statistics list, using information gathered from Gwen's web site. I listed all the names in chronological order. A few years later, I made a second list breaking things down by state, and this year, I did the same thing for different countries.

Keeping the Stats list updated and accurate was a labor of love, and I saw the information being used during lobbying efforts. However, as the number of murder victims began increasing dramatically, the statistics I gathered and the names I saw began tearing at my heart. The detached outlook I had for this work began to break down, and what was once a labor of love became just labor intensive. I was falling behind in keeping the stats updated, which was not fair to he rest of the community.

A few months ago, I began looking for a dedicated person who would take on this project and help it grow over the next three to five years. I found who I consider the most perfect person to carry on this work, Ethan St. Pierre. Not only is Ethan a close and trusted friend, but he has taken responsibilities off of Gwen's shoulders, making this upcoming Day of Remembrance as successful as last year was. Ethan will ensure the stats list will remain updated. If anyone wishes to get a current update on the statistics having to Gwen Smith's Remembering Our Dead site, you can contact him at [redacted]@aol.com

I wish to thank everyone for their assistance, suggestions and encouragement over the years, when I came to the Statistics list. I especially wish to thank Gwen for all of her help. The Stats list is in good hands now. May those souls on that list rest in peace.

Monica Helms

Book Review

Exploring The Gender Frontier

Review by David Steinberg

Submitted by Stephen L. Braveman, M.A., L.M.F.T., D.S.T.

"The Gender Frontier," photographs and text by Mariette Pathy Allen, with essays by Grady Turner, Riki Wilchins, Jamison Green, and Milton Diamond, in English and German, Kehrer Verlag Heidelberg, 2003, 168 pages, ISBN 3-936636-04-4, $36.

The closet is neither plush nor womblike
It is caustic
Lined with sandpaper
And you will erode yourself
You will disappear.

— Colleen Mullins, in "The Gender Frontier"

Mariette Pathy Allen has been photographing gender outlaws since 1978, when she befriended a group of crossdressers who happened to be staying in her hotel. Her first book, "Transformations: Crossdressers and Those Who Love Them," is a thoughtful, stereotype-busting collection of portraits that offer rare insight into the reality of who crossdressers really are, what motivates them to lead their lives as they do, and how those decisions affect their most intimate relationships with others.

Allen's new book, "The Gender Frontier," extends that perspective and insight from crossdressers to transsexuals — the wider, rapidly-growing community of people who are increasingly asserting their right and desire to define gender for themselves — and who, as a result, profoundly call into question the traditional notion that gender is a polar issue — male or female — defined at birth by the shape and nature of a person's genitals.

What distinguishes Allen's photography from so many other images of people who fall outside conventional notions of male-female polarity is the depth of her understanding of, and identification with, the people she is photographing. For 25 years, Allen has immersed herself in the transgender world — attending transgender conventions and gatherings, participating in protests and lobbying efforts around transgender issues — developing close friendships with dozens of transgender individuals along the way. Wherever Allen has gone, her camera has gone with her — recording, documenting, probing everything from mass public action to intimate personal involvements. Over time, she has come to be trusted and welcomed by the transgender community as a true friend and fellow-traveler — someone who is not only sympathetic to the issues of transgender equality, but who also understands that the issues raised by transgender people are important for non-transgender people too. As a result of that trust, Allen is able to photograph her friends and subjects at a level of intimacy and honesty not available to someone who comes to transgender issues as an outsider.

Because she refuses to see her transgender subjects as people fundamentally different from herself, Allen's photographs challenge the reflexive urge of non-transgender people to draw cut-and-dried lines between Us and Them, Self and Other. Because she sees breaking down rigid notions of gender as an important personal and political dynamic for everyone, Allen's photography pushes non-transgender people to see that the people who define their gender in unconventional ways are fundamentally people very much like the rest of us, rather than people who are somehow alien souls.

Overcoming a sense of separation between people living outside social acceptability and people who stay within the boundaries of social norms and privilege is no small feat when the subject in question is gender variation. Traditional notions of gender powerfully color how we order, classify, and make sense out of ourselves and the world around us. It's hardly surprising that most of us therefore hold on to our notions of gender order and classification tightly, rigidly, and that we easily diminish individuals who fall outside the realm of gender respectability from people to phenomena, from first-class citizens to freaks, from members of the human family to strange visitors from some great beyond. We may treat these outsiders with deference rather than hostility, with curiosity rather than disdain, but most of us tend to see people who we can't easily classify as men or women as outsiders nevertheless.

Perhaps the most remarkable quality of the photos in "The Gender Frontier" is that they work so effectively to kick us out of these divisive, dismissive habits. Allen's ability to relate to her subjects as true friends, intimates, and fellow-travelers on the road of life is transmitted by her photographs to viewers who may be far less familiar with this growing community of gender pioneers. Her camera consistently incorporates the respect with which Allen sees her subjects, her appreciation of their fundamental humanity, and her identification with their particular struggle to overcome widespread fear and misunderstanding. Her photographs offer her inclusive, affectionate vision to us — inviting us to come inside the illuminating, and in many ways transformative, possibilities that are created when we leave traditional notions of gender and gender immutability behind.

When we look at the photos in "The Gender Frontier," we are vividly aware that the people in these images do not conform to the fixed notions of man and woman, male and female, that are the staples of our daily diet of gender confirmation and reassurance. As we turn the pages, we are gradually but powerfully inundated with images — sometimes striking, sometimes quite mundane — of people we cannot easily identify, classify, sort, and file into the well-worn categories of our severely limited gender vocabulary. And yet, on another level, we cannot help but notice that these uncategorizable photographic subjects are simply people pursuing the same joys, suffering many of the same frustrations, asking for the same basic satisfactions from their lives as everyone else.

Cas, a female-to-male transsexual who has had to endure the refusal of most of his family to accept his transsexuality, plays affectionately with his infant grandchild while his daughter smiles her appreciation and love. Marla, a painter, sculptor, and writer who used to be an undercover narcotics agent named Mike, paints with her perhaps-10-year-old daughter, both of their attentions riveted to the canvas. Maxwell and Corissa, both transgender, share an affectionate kiss in a suds-filled bathtub.

Each photo is a testament to the possibility of experiencing life's most basic joys, even if one dares to violate some of society's most basic expectations and dictates. Each photo affirms the universality of certain human experiences, no matter how atypical a person's sense of self may be.

Other photos in "The Gender Frontier" document experiences, struggles, and issues that are specific to the transgender community — often issues of fighting against injustice and inequality. Robert Eads says farewell to hundreds of fellow transsexuals two months before dying of ovarian cancer that twenty doctors and three hospitals refused to treat because Robert did not fit into their notions of male and female. A transgender woman dissolves into tears while speaking at the memorial for her friend, Amanda Milan, a male-to-female transsexual viciously murdered in New York while a line of cab drivers watched and cheered. A series of photos follow Tonye's transition to Tony, her shift from female to male, including vivid images of both Tonye's double mastectomy and Tony's phalloplasty (penis construction).

People whose natures call up other people's fears and biases have to deal with issues that more conventionally-oriented individuals are privileged to ignore. But the issues that each transgender person must face in deciding to honor their internal sense of gender are issues that other people must deal with as well, albeit in substantially less wrenching ways. How much do any of us give up aspects of who we are in order to accommodate the expectations and comfort needs of the people around us? How much do we limit our sense of self and of life to avoid potential hostility, condemnation, or even disapproval of our friends and family? How much do we insist, explicitly or implicitly, that the people around us fulfill our detailed expectations of them, lest they force us to examine uncomfortable issues and feelings within ourselves?

These are the sorts of questions that Mariette Pathy Allen raises with "The Gender Frontier." One section of the book, devoted to political activism around transgender issues, documents the growing movements to extend equal rights to transgender people, and to protest the extreme violence that transgender people so often encounter. The other three sections of the book — dealing with youth, portraits, and more extensive narratives of selected individuals — focus on more personal expositions of what it means to live one's life outside traditional gender definitions.

There was a slogan during the political activism of the 1960s and 70s, affirming that "the personal is political" — that all the details of how people lead their personal lives have political content and political consequence. Nowhere is this more true than around questions of sex and gender, where what should properly be the most individual and personal of choices often subjects individuals to fierce social and political punishment, ranging anywhere from social disapproval to active discrimination to arrest to physical violence.

Mariette Pathy Allen has long been campaigning with her camera for understanding, acceptance, and personal growth around the questions of gender, gender diffusion, and gender fluidity. "The Gender Frontier" presents a sampling of her voluminous work on these issues in book form for the first time. It is a look into the heart of the gender matrix well worth experiencing.

More Reviews

N.Y. Exhibit Makes Case for Men in Skirts

By Samantha Critchell

NEW YORK (AP) - This is an era of gender equality. In some households, it's the women who wear the pants. Why, then, aren't more men showing off their gams in skirts?

The problem is that in recent history there has been a feminine connotation linked to the skirt, even though men had worn them for centuries, according to Andrew Bolton, associate curator of the Costume Institute at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"Men feel if they wear it (a skirt), their masculinity will be called into question. But if you've even seen a man in a skirt, the first thing you think of is male genitalia," he said. Roman gladiators, for example, proudly displayed their legs for all to see in short, skirted suits of armor as a sign of their virility.

Bolton organized the newest exhibit at the Costume Institute, "Bravehearts: Men in Skirts," which opens Tuesday and runs through Feb. 8, 2004. French designer Jean-Paul Gaultier, who has been known to send a men's skirt or two down the runway, is the sponsor.

"Historically, men had the panache when it came to getting dressed. They had the lace, they had the makeup. They dressed exuberantly, it wasn't considered either masculine or feminine. Look at Louis XIV or the Greeks in togas," Gaultier said. "I'm not trying to put all men in skirts. I just want to give them the freedom to wear a skirt if they want to. Women fought for years to wear trousers."

The Met was to have a gala in Gaultier's honor Monday night. He planned to wear a long, pleated black skirt with a classic white shirt, a black tie and a tuxedo jacket. "Really, it's very conservative," he said. Skirts on display in the exhibit include modern kaftans from Miguel Adrover and Roberto Cavalli; leather punk-rock outfits by Vivienne Westwood; androgynous coats and "mini-shirts" inspired by David Bowie and Mick Jagger from the 1970s; and Courtney Love's baby doll dress, worn by her late husband, Kurt Cobain, on stage in the early 1990s.

"These definitely were skirts worn to provoke a response," said Bolton with a laugh during a tour of the exhibit. Historical pieces, such as tribal grass skirts, Greek and Hungarian folk costumes and traditional Scottish "belted plaids," large pieces of fabric slung over the shoulder and then wrapped around the waist as kilts, are featured as well.

Bolton included three skirts he ordered on the Web as part of an Internet campaign called "Men Against Trouser Tyranny," which argues that skirts are more comfortable and practical, he explained.

John Galliano's version of a papal outfit, for the Christian Dior Haute Couture collection, also is showcased. The text accompanying the glittery gold coat dress explains that ecclesiastical garments often feature skirt bottoms because they distinguish religious leaders from ordinary men, and "deny and deflect" the wearers' sexual presence.

That's basically the same argument made for the traditional christening gowns that even little 21st-century boys wear. "Children are supposed to be asexual. By wearing the same clothes, it reduces children's sexual awareness," Bolton said.

The shift in attitude toward men in skirts began as early as the 14th century, which is when men and women's clothes really began to look different, according to Bolton; the effeminate stigma really is something fairly new, developed over the last 150 years as strict dress codes and gender rules were adopted with industrialization.

The hippies of the 1960s started to erase the branding, with help from unisex outfits by Rudi Gernreich. Today's hip-hoppers, who don't exactly promote "skirts" as much as jeans with exaggerated 20-inch rises, also helped change stereotypes. Men in pareos and sarongs, at least on the beach, also are becoming more common and accepted.

Bolton said he hopes the exhibit at least provokes questions - if not a change in wardrobe for the average man. "Men's clothing has become so standardized that there's no fun in it anymore. Let's put some fun back in fashion."

Die Mommie Die

By Loren King

Charles Busch is best known as a playwright, director and actor on and far-off Broadway, though he gained a new following with his recurring role on HBO's "Oz." His "Tale of the Allergist's Wife" was a huge mainstream hit on the Great White Way, while his campy, long-running "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" catapulted him into the elite air of the late Charles Ludlam among fans of edgy/bawdy downtown drag shows. Busch's only other film is "Psycho Beach Party," a spoof based on his own play.

But "Die Mommie Die" seems destined to be Busch's signature film. Not only does it deliver plenty of the writer's witty, over-the-top skill at Hollywood parody, it features Busch himself in a number of wild drag getups that are, well, to die for. Busch plays singer Angela Arden, a Hollywood has-been whose better days are recreated in black-and-white TV clips. Dressed in kitschy '60s caftans and headscarves, Arden passes her days drinking, haranguing her surly daughter Edith (Natasha Lyonne), lusting after her young gigolo (Jason Priestley in a Ted Casablanca spoof) and trying to revive her singing career.

The fun of "Die Mommie Die" is Busch's reclaiming and respinning of Hollywood camp, from the boozy broads of "Valley of the Dolls" to the deliciously lurid "Whatever Happened to Baby Jane?" There's lots of wink-winking in the film, but it strikes a balance between high camp and lowbrow that will please both sophisticates and fans of raucous comedy. Busch parodies '50s and '60s popular culture in the reverse of Todd Haynes' "Far From Heaven," the fastidious homage to Hollywood melodrama. Busch's satire is equally spot-on — check out the clip of Angela singing in a TV special — but the era gets more of an over-the-top send-up than reverential treatment. How can Busch be reverent when his subject matter is as joyously campy as Angela's dysfunctional family, including her blowhard husband Sol Sussman (Philip Baker Hall), a Hollywood mogul from the Joe Levine/Dino DeLaurentis school who makes prestige pictures. When Sol pulls the plug on Angela's attempt to revive her career with a gig in the Poconos, she tries to kill him with an arsenic-laced suppository.

A loyal, mysterious maid, played by Frances Conroy of "Six Feet Under," echoes the twisted maids in films ranging from "Rebecca" to "Mommie Dearest." Busch draws on "Mommie Dearest and Joan Crawford's steely, wacko persona throughout the film. There's a delicious reading-of-the will scene, an acid trip shot with all the tacky, surreal nuttiness of a B-movie, a competitive relationship with Daddy's girl Edith and a vaguely incestuous one with her horny gay son, Lance (Stark Sands). Lyonne has some delightful moments in her role as the spoiled, conniving Edith, recycling some of her campy characterization from "But I'm a Cheerleader."

The twist at the end — echoes of "Baby Jane" — cleverly ties up the story in a way few broad comedies ever bother to do. But the heart of the film is all Charles Busch, who captures the indulgences and fun of glossy soap operas and Technicolor melodramas, but never lets his spoofing condescend to the audience or sink into mean-spiritedness. The anarchy in "Die Mommie Die" is of the John Waters school: There's a big-hearted humanity to these narcissistic, often clueless characters, even when they're telling dick jokes, getting drunk at funerals, engaging in threeways in front of the kids or committing murder.

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]**@hairzapper.com**.

Feeling Born in Wrong Body Drives Woman to Castration

By Dan Nephin
The Associated Press

McKEESPORT, Pa. (AP) - It would have been easier, Catherine Watson says, if her body and mind were the same gender. Biologically, she said, she was born a male, but as a child she identified with being a girl and began dressing as one at age 9. She eventually went to counseling, accepted who she was, and had her name and gender legally changed. "For some reason, God screwed me up. That's how I look at it," said Watson, 45. "I consider it a birth defect because I have never functioned as a male. ... I have been a woman all my life."

Unable to afford a traditional sexual reassignment surgery, Watson said, she turned to a man who offered to do it at her home. Though exact numbers are difficult to determine, doctors and advocates who work with transgendered people say the frustration felt at being in the wrong body is enough to push some people to such ends, though cases are extremely rare.

Self or underground castration probably happens more than the few instances that appear in the media, according to transgendered advocates and doctors. It's also more likely to occur among men interested in extreme body modification than among transgendered women, they said. "This is difficult for people to understand who are not transsexuals themselves, but our bodies are prisons," said Jessica Xavier, a transgendered health care researcher in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer Boylan, a Colby College professor who underwent sexual reassignment surgery last year, said she can identify, somewhat, with the drastic step Watson took. "It seemed to me one step short of suicide. That's not to say that I don't fully understand the melancholy and agony of people out there with this condition," Boylan said.

So-called "cutters" - people who perform castrations or penectomies - generally operate in the country's heartland, Xavier said, and prey upon transgendered women who can't afford legitimate sexual reassignment surgery. "Usually what happens is, a small practitioner will come to a small city, quietly put out the word that he's in town and can do (the procedure)," she said. "He will perform as many procedures as he can before word gets out that he's a butcher and he quietly leaves town."

Sexual reassignment surgery is expensive and rarely is covered by insurance, Xavier said. Male-to-female sexual reassignment surgery can cost between $10,000 and $25,000, according to Bean Robinson, executive director of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Inc. in Minneapolis. Female to male surgery can cost upwards of $80,000. She could not say how many sexual reassignment surgeries are performed annually. "I don't see it that often, but you do hear about it," Dr. Eugene Schrang of Neena, Wis., said of self or underground castrations. Schrang is one of a handful of doctors who do sexual reassignment surgeries in the United States and said he has performed about 1,000. The risks of self or underground castrations are great, he said. "You can get so much scarring," Schrang said. "You could hurt yourself badly" or die, he said.

Watson said she planned to undergo proper sexual reassignment surgery. She took estrogen and medication to suppress testosterone as part of her preparation. But after a financial setback when her former partner developed cancer and another when a doctor said he wanted more money, Watson became desperate.

One day several months ago, she saw herself in the bathroom mirror, with a body that didn't match who she was. "I got so depressed, I wanted to kill myself," she said. She turned to the Internet looking for someone who would castrate her and make her look "more feminine."

She found a man who she said told her he was a doctor and had performed 23 castrations. On Sept. 12, on the dining room table of her home in suburban Pittsburgh, she said, he castrated her in a procedure that went awry when she wouldn't stop bleeding. "I think he cut some of the arteries," she said. "I was screaming at this point. I was out of my mind." He had given her pain medication and anesthetic spray, but they were wearing off, she said. The pain was horrible, she said. "I went into survival mode. I said, 'We need to call an ambulance,' at which point he packed his belongings and left," she said.

The man, Doug Lenhart, is charged with practicing medicine or surgery without a license, aggravated assault and reckless endangerment. His attorney said Lenhart was trying to help Watson. Still, Watson said she is happier after the procedure and hopes to complete sexual reassignment surgery.

A doctor has agreed to donate his time and Watson, who has been unemployed since the incident, is trying to come up with the estimated $5,000 needed for the hospital operating room rental, anesthesiologist and technicians. She's even selling her BMW motorcycle and whatever possessions she can, she said.

"This is not a cosmetic thing. ... This is who I am, the very fabric of who I am as a person," Watson said. "You have to have this surgery. This is not something you can live without."

TS's Eligible For Olympics, IOC Says

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London - Athletes who have undergone sex-change operations will be eligible to compete in the Olympics for the first time under new rules being finalized by the IOC. The International Olympic Committee convened a meeting in Sweden last month of medical experts in the field and will announce its policy in the next few weeks.

"We will have no discrimination," IOC medical director Patrick Schamasch told The Associated Press on Thursday. "The IOC will respect human rights." Details are still being worked out, but Schamasch said transsexual athletes will be eligible for the Olympics once they have passed a certain amount of time after gender reassignment.

"The trend is to have an ineligibility period," he said. "Then after certain conditions have been fulfilled, the athlete will be able to compete in his or her new sex." The exact length of the waiting period hasn't been determined.

Schamasch said officials want to make sure that any side effects of hormone therapy have worn off. Schamasch said he didn't know whether there were any potential transsexual athletes in line to compete in next summer's Athens Olympics, but he noted that several international sports federations have asked the IOC for guidance. "We need to be proactive," he said.

The rule covers both male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals. Some contend male-to-female transsexual athletes would have a physical advantage against other women. Men have higher levels of testosterone and greater muscle-to-fat ratio and heart and lung capacity. However, doctors say, testosterone levels and muscle mass drop after hormone therapy and sex-change surgery. Until 1999, the IOC conducted gender verification tests at the Olympics, but the controversial screenings were dropped before the Sydney Games.

One reason for the change was that not all women have standard female chromosomes. In addition, there are cases of people who have ambiguous genitalia or other congenital conditions.

Over the decades, there have been various accusations of men impersonating women and competing in the Olympics. "The eligibility of transsexuals to participate needs to be clarified and dealt with," Arne Ljungqvist, the IOC medical commission chairman who organized the meeting of experts in Stockholm. One of the best-known cases of transsexuals in sports involves Renee Richards, formerly Richard Raskin, who played on the women's tennis tour in the 1970s.

Recently, Canada's Michelle Dumaresq made news competing as a mountain bike racer. Formerly Michael, Dumaresq had gender reassignment surgery in 1996 and competed for Canada at last year's World Championships in Austria. She finished 24th in the downhill discipline. "I'm in contact with several other athletes with a trans history and some could qualify for the next Olympics," she said in an e-mail message. Dumaresq still has a license to race. While mountain biking is an Olympic event, her discipline is not.

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The Controversy Continues...

Bailey Under Investigation

Northwestern Investigating Whether Professor Got Consent for Book on Transsexuals

Queery.com

EVANSTON, Ill. (AP) — Northwestern University officials will form a committee to investigate accusations that a psychology professor who wrote a controversial book on transsexuals did not get permission to include his research subjects in the work.

J. Michael Bailey's latest book, "The Man Who Would Be Queen: The Science of Gender-Bending and Transsexualism," includes stories from several transsexuals on gender bending.

Northwestern's vice president for research, C. Bradley Moore, wrote in a Nov. 12 letter to one of the subjects that the dean of the university's arts and science college recommends a full investigation. Moore also wrote he agreed with the dean's recommendation and wanted a committee formed to investigate the allegations.

Northwestern spokesman Al Cubbage said an investigative committee will be formed to look into the allegations, which could violate university ethics guidelines if true. Bailey did not immediately return telephone messages left Tuesday at his office.

Anjelica Kieltyka, who filed a complaint about Bailey with Northwestern in July, sees the university's action as a positive step. "I think it definitely gives credence to the complaints and the evidence that we were presenting," said Kieltyka, whose experiences were included in Bailey's book.

His book relies on interviews with people seeking sex-change surgery and other transsexuals he talked to over the years to weave a narrative that he says depicts the transsexual experience and is supported by the latest research on transsexuals.

Critics say Bailey's work is based on outdated research and presents a skewed perspective of the transsexual community that is popular with religious and political conservatives.

NTAC Press Release

Prof. Blanchard Quits HBIGDA

In a November 4, 2003 letter to the President and Executive Director of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA), noted gender researcher Dr. Ray Blanchard resigned his membership in protest of the HBIGDA stance on the controversy over J. Michael Bailey's recent book and research methods.

"It is with deep regret that I tender my resignation in the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA)," Dr. Blanchard, Head Clinical Sexology Services Professor of Psychiatry, of Toronto's Clarke Institute, wrote: "I have long supported the goals of the HBIGDA. It is therefore a matter of some sadness that the recent actions of the HBIGDA Executive have made it necessary for me to disassociate myself from this organization. I am referring to the appalling decision of the HBIGDA Officers and Board of Directors to attempt to intervene in Northwestern University's investigation into the allegations made by certain members of the transsexual community against Prof. J. Michael Bailey."

Blanchard referred to a HBIGDA letter responding to concerns over Prof. Bailey's book and research methods raised in a July 2003 letter from Professors Lynn Conway (University of Michigan), Deirdre McCloskey (University of Illinois at Chicago), Ben Barres (Stanford University), Barbara P. Nash (University of Utah) and Joan Roughgarden (Stanford University).

The Conway, et al, letter stated, in part, "As a result of the widening investigations and the growing controversy, many people will turn to HBIGDA's leaders and ask your opinions about Bailey's book. We urge you to begin your own investigation into Prof. Bailey's motives, methods, and activities—including his "research" methods, his treatment of human subjects, his veracity, and his methods of reporting and publicizing his "results."

Prof. Bailey is a faculty member at Northwestern University in Chicago. Bailey's book is based on Prof. Blanchard's theory of autogynephilia, a term described as love of oneself as a woman. Bailey's book, "The Man Who Would Be Queen" proffered that there are only two types of male-to-female transsexuals: homosexual transsexuals and autogynephiles.

A letter dated October 20, 2003, by the HBIGDA Board of Directors stated that, "a relationship of trust and mutual respect between the scientific and the transgender communities is essential to further its mission to promote the health and well-being of transgender and transsexual individuals and their families. It is felt by many of our members that this poorly referenced book does not reflect the social and scientific literature that exists on transsexual people and could damage that essential trust."

The HBIGDA letter added that, "We hope that the Office for the Protection of Research Subjects at Northwestern will consider the ethical issues that are involved and we will be sending them a copy of this letter so that they are aware of our concerns. We are also preparing a separate letter to Northwestern University to express our concerns directly." The letter concluded with a plea for all parties concerned to exercise professionalism and treat the relationship between researchers, practitioners, and the community with great care.

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) echoes the HBIGDA concern. It is essential for the transgender community to project a cohesive image during a time when we are undergoing vicious attacks from without. Despite differences over gender theories, research results and techniques, we can ill afford to continue a divisive, self-consuming internal battle.

"Dr. Blanchard had a unique perspective that may well be missed on HBIGDA," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of NTAC, "but hopefully this resignation doesn't become a self-regenerating controversy of its own. "It is time to let the University investigations and the civil lawsuits surrounding this controversy proceed on their own."

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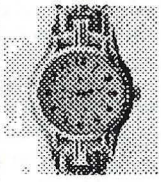

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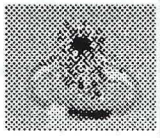

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Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Assets, Liabilities, and Equity

as of 20 November 2003

Assets

Cash	$4,509.94
Event Equipment	
Decorations	$1,000.00
Food Service	$200.00
Office Supplies	$50.00
Total Assets	**$5,759.94**

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	$3,686.50
Equity	$2,073.44
Total Liabilities and Equity	**$5,759.94**

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenue

Memberships	$0.00
Donations	$0.00
Advertising	$166.67
Cotillion Tickets	$850.00
Total	**$1,016.67**

Expenses

Cotillion	$600.00
Newsletter	$466.83
Operations	$51.44
Miscellaneous	$0.00
Total	**$1,118.27**

Net Income ..... **($101.60)**

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as of November 15, 2003

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

More TG News

Police Panel Alters Transgender Rules

Jaxon Van Derbeken
SF Chronicle Staff Writer

The Police Commission has approved new guidelines on how police will deal with transgender suspects, including banning officers from using strip searches alone to determine a person's gender.

The panel voted at its meeting Wednesday night to bar police from requiring proof of a suspect's gender or challenging their stated identity, except when legally necessary to fill out citation forms for an arrestee to appear in court.

The panel also required officers to address transgender suspects by their self-identified gender rather than their biological gender.

The new policy calls for officers to avoid holding transgender suspects in stationhouse cells, requiring them instead to take the suspects to the sheriff's jail, where they will be separated from the general population.

The entire Police Department will be retrained in line with the policies. "We have started the training," Chief Alex Fagan said.

TG Woman Murdered on Oakland Street

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Oakland, California) A transgendered Oakland woman was gunned down Thursday, and left to die on the street. Police are withholding her name, pending notification of next of kin.

Two people passing by in a car notified police that a woman was lying in the road. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

People living nearby told investigators they heard a gunshot, but none called police, and no one seems to have witnessed the shooting. Investigators believe the woman may have been a sex trade worker. Transgendered prostitutes are known to work streets in the area. The murder is the city's 105th homicide victim of the year.

Barbara J. Anderson

Ph.D., L.C.S.W.
Clinical Sexologist

Certified Sex Therapist

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Threatened With Lawsuits Network Pulls Transgender 'Reality' Show

by Peter Moore
365Gay.com Newscenter, London Bureau

(London) It was supposed to be a lighthearted reality show with a twist, six men vying for the love of a beautiful woman, but in the end Sky television was forced to destroy the tapes when everyone connected with it threatened to sue.

Find Me A Man was filmed in Spain last summer and was due to be aired next month. It challenged six contestants to woo a voluptuous South American brunette called Miram after picking her out from a line-up. At least some of the men reached levels of "intimacy" with her. But, it was not until the final episode that it was revealed Miram was a pre-operative male to female transgender.

The producers told Broadcast magazine Friday that it had made a point of never referring to Miriam as a woman. "As Miriam is a transsexual, I would never refer to her as male or female. She is a gorgeous creature," a spokesperson for the producers said. The men accused Sky and the producers of a string of offences including conspiracy to commit a sexual assault, defamation, personal injury and breach of contract.

"Six of them went onto this reality TV show on the understanding they'd have to do various tasks to win the affection of a very beautiful woman," said their lawyer, Rod Christie-Miller.

"After they'd been encouraged to have sexual contact, they found that she was a he — they all found it extremely traumatic." The ad for contestants for the show offered "the adventure of a lifetime" with a $15,000 prize to men aged 20 to 35 who "want it all" and are "fit and up for everything."

The show also came under attack from British transgenders who accused it of using transgenderism to create "a freak show environment" which served only to further alienate transsexuals from mainstream life. Miram has gone into hiding, allegedly fearful for her safety.

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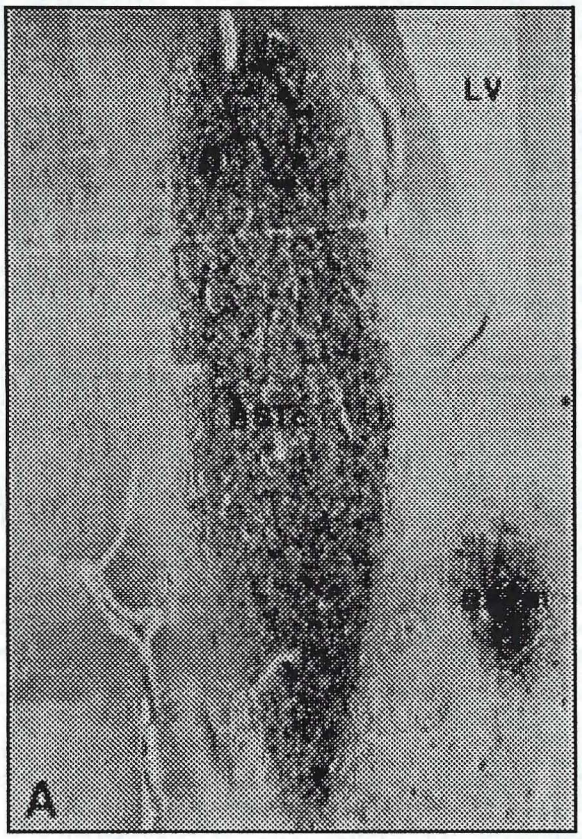
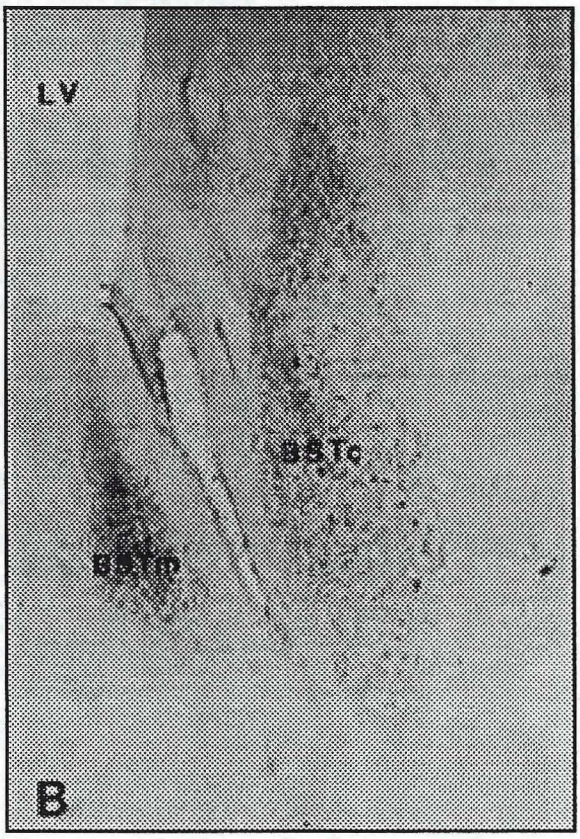
Brain Pictures...This is a Test!

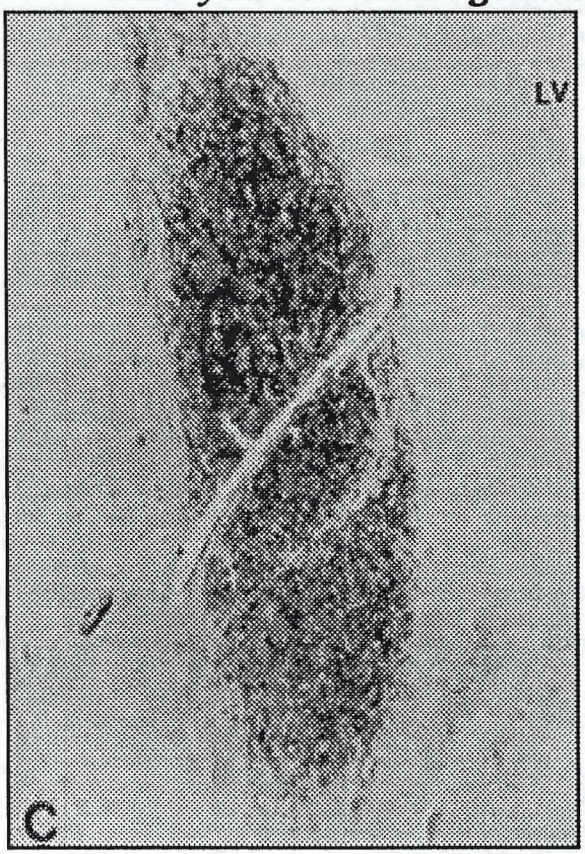
A. Male Brain

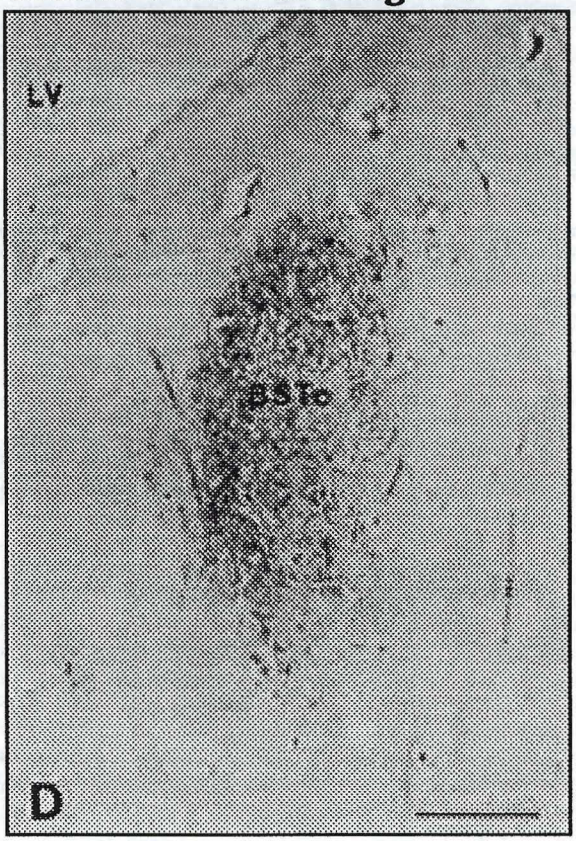


B. Female Brain



Can you tell what gender the two brains below belong to?





*See **www.symposion.com/ijt/ijtc0106.htm** to read the study these pictures came from. It's very interesting reading!*
(Answers: C = Gay Male, D = Male to Female Transsexual)

Remember Gwen Amber Rose Araujo!

Stabbing, Bludgeoning Greets Transgenders

Report Reflects Extreme Violence Brought In Transgender Murders

Murders of transgender persons, statistics show, are much more likely to be up close, personal, and brutally violent than other murders. At least, that's what the best available information tells us, according to a report on GenderTalk radio (www.gendertalk.com). According to host Nancy Nangeroni, "A close study of the best available national murder statistics reveals that transgender persons are nearly twice as likely to be stabbed to death as other murder victims, and more than three times as likely to be beaten or bludgeoned to death. This tells us that the murders of transgendered persons tend to be committed with an especially heightened level of anger and passion. It's a lot easier to pull a trigger than it is to stab or bludgeon someone repeatedly."

A former executive director of the International Foundation for Gender Education, Nangeroni bases her comments on her study of general murder statistics from the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) website and information on the murders of transgender persons, at the "Remembering Our Dead" website (www.gender.org/remember). To date, she says, no formal study of this information has been undertaken at any level, although the significantly heightened risk of violence suffered by transgender persons has been noted by The First National Survey on Trans Violence (1997).

GenderTalk's tally of the US transgender murder cases listed on the "Remembering" website, the only known collection of transgender murder information, reveals that 25% of the victims were stabbed, while 19%were bludgeoned (including beatings). Homicides with guns (44%) and other weapons (12%) account for the remainder. The BJS website shows that, for the most recent year tallied (2000), 66% of all US homicides were committed with guns, 14% with knives, 5% with blunt objects, and15% with other weapons.

This revelation about transgenders' extreme victimization comes as preparations begin for the 5th annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, taking place on Thursday, November 20th.The remembrance, organized by Gwen Smith of San Francisco, was inspired by community response to the murder in Brighton, MA of Rita Hester, a transsexual woman who was brutally stabbed to death in November of 1998.Following her murder, a community-organized candlelight vigil attended by over 250 mourners wound through the streets of Brighton, leaving candles and other memorabilia on Rita's doorstep, and inspiring a musical video tribute, "In Memory of Rita." One year later, the first memorial vigil was held in San Francisco, leading to the growing annual observance. In 2003,over 55 separate gatherings will take place in cities and on campuses around the world.

Says Nangeroni, "The police failed to bring Rita's killer to justice, and the press paid little attention. That's why these things keep happening. Too many people believe that transgender persons deserve what they get, and don't really consider the source of such extreme violence."

Attorney

Merrisa L. Coleman

Family Law, Domestic Violence, Estate & Financial Planning And Transgender Issues

Tel (408) 265-9681 • Fax (408) 265-9681

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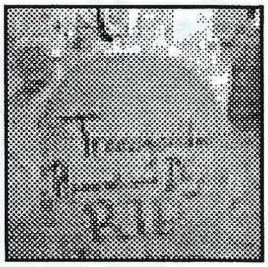
A support group facilitated by Janetta Johnson and Portia Denard; Where: City of Refuge, United Church of Christ, 1025 Howard Street, San Francisco CA 94103, (415) 861-6130. When: Every Friday, 6 pm to 7:30 pm. Food and snacks will be provided.

S.F. School's Day Of Remembrance

Gay Student Groups Honor Transgender Victims Of Homicide



Rona Marech, SF Chronicle Staff Writer

Some of the cardboard gravestones were tilting or had been knocked over by the wind. But the message was clear: Atop each of the small, gray markers were the letters RIP and the name of a transgender person who had been killed in a hate crime.

Julia Carrizales, who died of strangulation in Webster, Texas, in 2000. Sissy "Charles" Bolden, slain in 1999 in Savannah, Ga. Jose Angel Osuna, shot in the chest and stomach in San Diego in 1990. The names continued on signs in the auditorium and up and down the hallways. Cinnamon Perry, shot down by someone in a passing car in Houston in 2003.

George Washington High School's gay organizations, Go and the Gay Straight Alliance, planned the mock graveyard and the sign campaign in honor of Transgender Day of Remembrance, a nationwide event founded five years ago in honor of Rita Hester, who was stabbed to death in Boston in 1998, and other transgender homicide victims.

Students also made a public service announcement, passed out black armbands and organized a panel of young transgender speakers. Yesterday's events also commemorated the first anniversary of the death of Gwen Araujo, the transgender Newark teenager who was killed last October.

"The fact that she was so young hit home," said Benish Khan, 16. "It's scary that it could happen in the Bay Area because we're so diverse, and there are so many people here who regard themselves as different. . . . We thought this would be a good way to increase awareness and appreciation for different people."

George Washington High in the Richmond District is one of six California schools — including Antioch High School and four others in Southern California — that planned activities honoring the day. Gay advocates and educators say that these small actions are symbolic of a noticeable shift in attitude toward transgender individuals — people whose internal sense of gender doesn't match their biological gender.

"Gwen's death and the subsequent media coverage have raised awareness in a good way, in society and in schools, for transgender people — particularly for transgender young people," said Carolyn Laub, the executive director of Gay-Straight Alliance Network, which links gay and lesbian clubs in the state.

"Gwen was young, so it really struck a chord with young people and parents, school teachers and administrators. . . . We've definitely seen an increase in people wanting to learn more about what they can be doing to make sure school is a safe place and what happened to Gwen doesn't happen again in their community."

Mateo Cruz, one of yesterday's panelists, said that since Araujo's death, the Pacific Center in Berkeley, the gay and lesbian community center where he works, had received three times as many requests for speakers and trainings. He participates in at least five panels every month.

In addition, while no one tracks out transgender high school students in the state, their ranks are increasing, Laub said. "Five years ago, when I started the network, there were no out transgender students I knew of," she said. "No one was talking about this. Just in five years, there has been a real change." That correlates to the growing number of Gay Straight Alliance clubs in the state, from 50 to 370 in five years, she said.

Gay students at George Washington High School say that while homophobia and intolerance exist at the large, multiracial school, the environment for gay students is generally accepting. Aside from a comment or snicker here and there, the events yesterday inspired little controversy, and the 40 or so students who attended the panel listened with rapt attention.

They clapped and yelled encouragement when one speaker said she was nervous and broke into applause again when Cruz said that even though his family had cut him off since his transition from female to male, "I've never been happier. I feel so happy and confident about who I am."

As students filed out at the end of the period, Marion Weaver, 14, said, "I never knew they had to go through all that just to be who they are." "I thought it was quite awesome that they are so comfortable with themselves and can be themselves without hiding it," said Holly King, 14. "I learned that you can't just hide and act like everyone else. You have to be individual and be unique."

Remember Gwen Amber Rose Araujo!

Statement By Elizabeth Birch On Fifth Annual Transgender Day Of Remembrance

Gwen Araujo

February 24, 1985 - October 3, 2002

WASHINGTON - Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch made the following statement today on the fifth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, Nov. 20, 2003:

"Within the past year, 37 families that we know of have had to mourn a loved one's senseless loss to anti-transgender violence. Countless more individuals - whose very act of living honestly are some of the most courageous members of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community - are harassed on a daily basis. Ultimately, some are brutally attacked. And too many cannot find work or lose work because of their gender identity and expression. While our community has made great successes in the past year, we are still far behind where we should be in educating America about gender identity and expression.

"Unfortunately, there are many within our own community who remain unaware of the issues transgender Americans face. I implore gay Americans to honor our transgender brothers and sisters by taking it upon ourselves to learn more and to help those outside the GLBT community come to a greater understanding as well. Today, we take time to recognize the lives lost, but we must also commit to do everything within our collective power to ensure this violence ends. At the Human Rights Campaign, our work will not be done and our efforts will not cease until transgender Americans are free from the fear of discrimination and hate violence."

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender political organization with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that GLBT Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

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 [redacted]**@yahoo.com** and explain a little about your situation.

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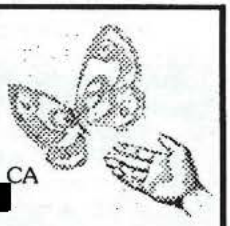

Eddie Araujo, Jr. Memorial Fund *[Checks made payable to the "Gwen Araujo Fund" or "Araujo Family Fund" are equally and as gratefully accepted.]*

San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023-5578. Account number [redacted]

Transgender Remembrance Day

PlanetOut

Nov. 20, 2003 is the fifth annual Transgender Day of Remembrance, a day of mourning and memorial for those killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice sparked by the 1998 murder of Rita Hester. Over the past five years, we have seen high-profile cases like that of Gwen Araujo (read her story below), as well as murders that went by without coverage — at least one death a month in the United States.

While the rest of the GLBT community was celebrating our "big gay summer," a series of lethal attacks terrorized the Washington D.C. area and alarmed the trans community nationwide. This past year, the HRC marks 37 known people felled by anti-transgender violence — much of it shockingly brutal.

In New Haven, Conn., Jessica Mercado was stabbed to death before her attacker set fire to her house. Nireah Johnson and her friend Brandie Coleman were sitting in their car in Indianapolis when an assailant shot them point-blank in the head — then burned their SUV. As the long-awaited onset of the Gwen Araujo trial is set for early 2004, take a moment to remember the courageous members of the trans community who have been lost to the violence that stems from fear and hatred. Then take another moment to think of the rest of us — our continuing efforts to live comfortably in our identity, honestly in our sexuality and safe in our community and our country goes beyond the borders of L, G, B or T to bind us together.

The Gwen Araujo murder case In August 2003, an Oakland judge set the trial date for the three California men accused of killing transgender teen Gwen Araujo. On March 18, after preliminary hearings, the judge had ruled the suspects must be tried on murder and hate crime charges.

On Oct. 3, 2002, the 17 year-old Araujo was beaten and strangled to death at a house party in the small Silicon Valley town of Newark after it was learned that she was biologically male. Investigators found her body in a shallow grave between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe. In the preliminary court hearings, witnesses gave grisly details of Araujo's final night. In addition, one of the four suspects, Jaron Nabors, agreed to plead guilty and testified against his accomplices.

Araujo's murder instantly became a lightning rod for the transgender community in California's Bay Area and across the nation. The circumstances surrounding the crime are strikingly similar to the 1993 murder of Brandon Teena, which was the basis for the award-winning film "Boys Don't Cry." Both had taken bold steps — with great pains — to live their lives in the ways that seemed natural to them, and both were murdered as a result of others finding out they were actually transgendered.

Araujo didn't get a chance to make as big a difference in the world alive as she has done now that she's gone. Her family remembers her as an unfailingly positive person who was loath to badmouth anyone, even those who made fun of her and drove her from school. Her friends remember her as fashionable and funny, a regular teenager. Most of us will only get the chance to remember her not as an individual we knew, but through the eyes of others, or as a powerful example of the real perils facing transgender people everywhere.

In honor of her courage, in honor of the love and understanding she's inspired, and in honor of the very real individual who didn't get a chance to tell us her story in her own words, Gwen Araujo was PlanetOut's Person of the Year for 2002.

Gwen's family set up a fund in her name. Contributions can be sent to the Eddie/Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund, San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023-5578.

Transsexuals New Focus of Companies' Legal Protection

By Daniel Sorid

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) - Corporations and lawmakers are expanding protections against sexual harassment and discrimination to cover transsexuals, cross-dressers and others who fall outside the traditional notions of gender identity.

In the last two years, 19 companies in the Fortune 500 — including Bank One Corp. and Microsoft Corp. — have banned discrimination based on "gender identity and expression." Sixty-five cities and counties have similar protections, with 16 ordinances passed in 2002.

The measures extend protections to men perceived as effeminate and women viewed as masculine. "There is a sense that laws specifically based on sexual orientation are not capturing everyone," said Daryl Herrschaft, deputy director for work-place issues at the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest lesbian and gay political organization.

In August, California's recalled governor, Gray Davis (news - web sites), signed legislation banning discrimination in housing and employment based on gender stereotypes or transgendered status. Three other states — Minnesota, Rhode Island and New Mexico — have similar protections.

Another four states — New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Massachusetts — have had either court or administrative rulings that could be interpreted as banning discrimination against gender expression or status as a transsexual, according to Human Rights Campaign. Socially conservative groups have opposed the measures, arguing they force owners of religious businesses to support a way of life they morally oppose, and would hold up transsexuals as role models for children.

At some companies, however, the protections are seen as a straightforward way to comply with a patchwork of statutes that protect transsexuals in some cities and states, as well as to reduce taunting and discrimination against those whose appearances clash with more traditional beliefs.

Proponents see the trend as a natural progression from the protections for women and gays against harassment. "Gender identity and expression was the next step," said Maria Campbell, director of diversity at SC Johnson & Son, based in Racine, Wisconsin.

Transsexuals are disproportionately pushed out of jobs, kicked out of housing, and beaten up or murdered, according to studies. Excluded from a society confused and sometimes disgusted by their way of living, they tend to get less education and are more likely to lack health insurance, studies show.

A survey funded by the District of Columbia in 2000 showed that most "gender variant" residents earned less than $10,000 a year, with one in three saying they had been a victim of violence or crime brought on by hatred of gays or transsexuals.

In a poll of 392 male-to-female transsexuals in San Francisco in 1997, nearly half the respondents reported facing job discrimination, while a quarter said they faced housing discrimination. "Even though it's only a patchwork, at this point this is how civil rights proceeds," said Riki Wilchins, executive director of the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition in Washington, D.C. "Ten years ago there was none of this. All this has happened very quickly."

A Growing Confidence For Transsexuals

A growing sense of protection among transsexual workers is tangible in a city like San Francisco, considered one of the country's most liberal places to live. Indicative of that is the experience of Ina Fried, a technology reporter who in May came out to colleagues and business contacts as transsexual.

Fried (pronounced Freed), who was born male and had always used the name Ian at work, said she wanted to feel "whole" in her life. Her employer, CNET Networks Inc., said it has made a conscious effort to accommodate employees "transitioning" from one gender to another. When designing its new headquarters building in San Francisco, for instance, it included unisex bathrooms to accommodate transgendered employees. "I think I've been very lucky," Fried said in an interview. "For a lot of people the experience of being transgendered is still greatly more difficult."

The term "transgender" is often a term appended to the name of gay and lesbian groups, even though many transsexuals and cross-dressers do not consider themselves gay. But it is the gay community's success gaining protection and prominence in government and private-sector jobs in recent decades that has, in part, led to calls for expanded transgender protections.

"Transgender issues are really seen as the next frontier, as a way to really make the work place safe for everyone," said Selisse Berry, executive director of Out & Equal Workplace Advocates, based in San Francisco. "People are finally much more comfortable with the words gay and lesbian," Berry added. "They're not familiar with what the word transgender even means, and sometimes people's only connection is either drag queens, prostitution, or some movie."

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Important Website Update!

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