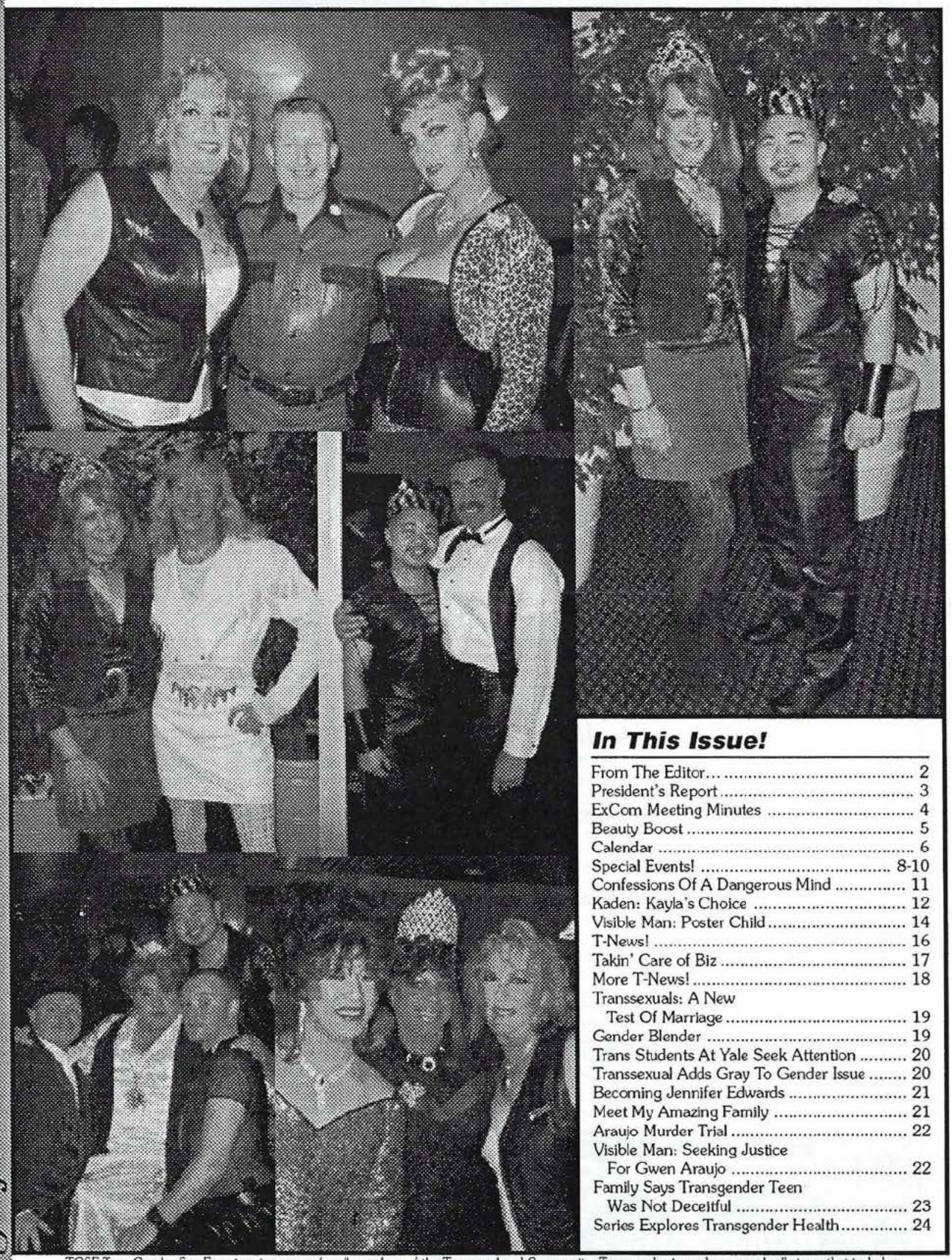
May 2004 — Dedicated to the Memory of Gwen Araujo — Volume 23, Issue 5

TGSF & Imperial Coronation!



In This Issue!

From The Editor... 2
President's Report... 3
ExCom Meeting Minutes... 4
Beauty Boost... 5
Calendar... 6
Special Events!... 8-10
Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind... 11
Kaden: Kayla's Choice... 12
Visible Man: Poster Child... 14
T-News!... 16
Takin' Care of Biz... 17
More T-News!... 18
Transsexuals: A New Test Of Marriage... 19
Gender Blender... 19
Trans Students At Yale Seek Attention... 20
Transsexual Adds Gray To Gender Issue... 20
Becoming Jennifer Edwards... 21
Meet My Amazing Family... 21
Araujo Murder Trial... 22
Visible Man: Seeking Justice For Gwen Araujo... 22
Family Says Transgender Teen Was Not Deceitful... 23
Series Explores Transgender Health... 24

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.

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(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Well my friends, the hour has come for Sylvia Guerrero. The long awaited trial of three young men accused of murdering Gwen Araujo is well under way. And look at you, slavering over every tidbit of information, dissecting every nuance of testimony, extracting morsels of quotes for in-depth analysis, hanging on every word released by the media. For shame!

"I'm a Mom," Sylvia said simply. My God I can't even begin to imagine what this is doing to her. Reliving the nightmare again, after the anguish it must have caused during the preliminary hearings. After she lost her job. Her home. Her life, and her life's blood. It seems like ages ago.

After reading what's been going on so far, I feel worried about the outcome already. The preliminaries led me to believe that the evidence was substantial and concrete. But the beginning of this affair has hardly been convincing or reassuring. But of course the Good Guy (Prosecutor, Chris Lamiero) has a game plan, and has mapped it out with the family. Rest assured this plodding, pronoun flip-flopping has all been agreed to before hand, and it's all part of the act. They all know what's at stake. They all know how the defense will be mounted (blame it on the victim). They've been coached in what to expect. Just chill. Relax. It'll all work out in the end. Trust me. Right?

Of course, the media vampires have smelled the blood in the air. They're creating this tension in our community around this concept called sexual deception. When the defense attorneys indicate that Gwen "must bear some of the responsibility" because she had "presented himself" as a woman," then the media jumps all over that, and wrap you around their little finger, suck you in with the heart rending photo ops and carefully rehearsed soundbytes. And when Tony Serra and Michael Thorman get their clients acquitted for murder on the grounds of some male-privileged (and therefore, of course, God-given) entitlement of moral repugnance, can you imagine what that will do to us? To Sylvia? Will that, technically and legally, be real justice?

Will it be justice if our soft-spoken, mild-mannered prosecutor is lucky enough to get just ONE manslaughter conviction (not counting Nabors), let alone three? How will you feel then? And will putting only a couple of those miscreants in jail on a manslaughter charge be justice enough for Sylvia? It wouldn't be enough for me. And it shouldn't be enough for you.

Heat of passion indeed. If it was a crime committed in such a heat of passion, why the hell did it take so damn long to get the job done! What kind of passion is that? I'm sure Nicole Brown was grateful if these testosterone-driven homophobic football players could sustain that kind of passion for a measly 15 minutes, let alone keep it up for a couple hours.

Oh dear sweet Jesus in heaven I've had sex with a man, guess I'll just have to kill to make it all right so I can feel better about myself. Well buddy boy, it wasn't so revolting when you were getting your rocks off, now was it? I just pray that this jury doesn't buy into that mentality, but it's oh so prevalent right now, running rampant in our media and our society, laid at their feet so convincingly by the defense attorneys.

Because you realize of course that, in returning anything less than a murder conviction, this jury will be telling the world that it's ok for ignorant and profoundly insecure men (and I use the word loosely) to kill someone like Gwen - someone like me, or you - and then get away with it. As if to say there there, it's alright, we understand you were tricked and felt humiliated. Nothin' to it, minimum security, you'll be out in a few years, time off for good behavior (nyuk nyuk wink wink), later dude. This jury could very well decide that henceforth all gender variant people will be considered less than human, worthy only of disposal if we continue to go around "deceiving" people.

With justice like that, what is the alternative? What are we supposed to tell our trans youth? How are we supposed to live our own lives, knowing that society values us so little as people that we're damned if we disclose and damned if we don't? If we encourage 17-year olds to be out and happy in the gender they need to be, then how do we protect them in schools and encourage them in the workplace? Shit, how do we just keep them alive? If society (and this jury) says that they'd rather prefer we be out and honest instead of acting like deceivers, are they going to ensure that we aren't murdered as a result?

Obviously we've got to start having frank discussions with our trans youth about sex and disclosure, and at what point does one tell the truth. Better to be ridiculed and rejected than beaten and strangled to death. Back to that old bugaboo of living our lives in stealth vs. being out. In instances like Gwen Araujo's, the message the defense attorneys are hammering home is "Stealth Equals Deception Equals Death." Would her life been different had she given her new friends full disclosure? Would all she have risked is not having friends like that in the first place?

Continued on Page 3

President's Report

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Girls on Film

It's been a bracketbuster kind of Sunday. (How many of you had UAB, Nevada and Alabama in your Sweet 16? I thought so.) Yesterday I took my girls out for their first event – the Spring Fever Dance – and they did quite well. See picture. More on the dance in a bit.

By the time you read this a new ExCom will have been elected. That's right, the election will be over and done. I have no doubt that the 2004-2005 ExCom will be sensational.

Since we are in a lull, I want to wax philosophic about the upcoming year. Should I be re-elected, I will present the ExCom with a strategic plan in May. I will not sugar coat things and I will tell you that we will need to make some serious choices about our future, especially for our marquee events – Pride and the Cotillion.

Our ExCom will need to think long and hard about our Pride 2004 effort. The same dynamics and circumstances which existed last year will not exist this year. We must think about either a less extravagant float or find some generous soul who will donate a vehicle to us. But beyond the cost of this effort is the time. Last year, many of us worked on the float all day Saturday before the parade. We were too tired to enjoy the other events like the Dyke March. And as I have said before – we were pushed to the max to get monitors. This year, I want to enter a new consideration - a beer booth. We have submitted an application as a way to raise some funds. However, the booth will take a commitment at least 6 people on Saturday and 12 on Sunday. We will also need people to staff our information booth on both days. And regardless of our parade contingent, we will need monitors. As you can see, we will require an incredible commitment of people to help us with Pride. Please volunteer this year. Write me at [redacted] and we will have a place for you. I know that many of you love riding and/or walking in the parade. But the other things are important as well, which is why sacrifice will be necessary. Thus, in terms of, forgive the expression, manpower and financial resources, the Pride effort will need to be considerable.

Next we turn to the Cotillion and I won't dwell too much on this. I keep thinking about and reading what Ayme wrote in the February Channel regarding the Cotillion and she is absolutely right. We need to rethink this incredible commitment of money and time. The money of course I have dwelled upon considerably, but the time and resources required are considerable. Not just on my part but on the part of everyone that is connected with the show – contestants, technical people, MCs, talent. I still think that there should be a way to get a Mr. and Miss TGSF without going through the agony of months of planning and heartache. If we do decide to go forward then I will insist that it be done as economically as we did it at the Marriott. I did a lot of research and I daresay we are not going to get a better deal. Among the first decisions that the ExCom will need to make are whether to have a Cotillion and where it should be held. I want this to be finalized by June.

Speaking of the Marriott, they have stepped forward to provide us with a meeting room for the Mid-Peninsula Support Group. I am very enthusiastic about this project. Since I became president, one of the wishes expressed the most has been the sadness over the lack of this group. The meetings are scheduled to be held from 7-9 PM on the first Wednesday of each month, beginning May 5.. The first meeting will be held in the Nob Hill Room and we will then see how it goes. I hope that after the first 6 months, TGSF will step forward and increase its contribution to this group. One thing I want to stress is that all are welcome – regardless of age, gender, gender identity, race, etc. I also want to try to rotate the facilitator's role among those who have more experience than I do. I am hoping for a very large turnout. I sincerely appreciate Carla Blair's offer to donate refreshments.

On Saturday, March 20, I attended the Spring Fever Dance which was hosted by Carla and the Billy DeFrank Center as a fundraiser for TGSF and the IRLM Court. I want to thank everyone involved for all of their efforts in planning the event and making it so successful. I appreciated all of the donations of raffle prizes and time. But mostly, I want to thank the spirit of camaraderie and teamwork. It was so beautiful to see members of all of the different groups – Carla's, I Love It, TGSF, RGA, DVG, the DeFrank folks, and the court. That's what "Come Together" was all about. I also want to thank Danielle for her courageous effort to bring us all together. That girl has just a beautiful and loving heart. She is right – the time has come for everyone to look inside themselves but also see beyond themselves. We must reach down inside us and pull out that something special which convinced us that the time had come to walk into the light. We must help all of our brothers and sisters who need us.

I was honored to have a place on the dais with Emperor 34 (Sapphire and Steel) Kevin Roche and Empress 34 (the Butterfly Empress) Rachael Janelle, my mentor, my sister and my dear friend. I have also been invited to have a place in her court and I am very honored to accept. Our investiture was Sunday, March 28. The Court has set a very ambitious goal of raising $30,000 in the next year (I would do cartwheels if TGSF could raise even half that) but I know that with the energy and spirit and enthusiasm of Rachael and Kevin, this goal can be reached. I plan to do as much as I can to help them out and I think all of us should help where we can. After my days in TGSF are done (which could be in 4 days or 2 years) I would like to get more involved in their work. Again, the issue is only, as it should be for all of us, how best can I help my community?

Which brings me to my own question of why I chose to run for another term. This is difficult to answer. There have been times, several in fact, when I have felt like quitting. I prepared an article, which you never saw, which was, in essence, my resignation, or at least not my intent to run again. Personally, there are a lot more ways in which I could feel fulfilled and I mentioned some of them in this article. But that one day comes when I meet someone who needs guidance, who needs a hand, who needs a safe place to go. That is what makes me continue. Anne Louise reminds me that what we do is not for ourselves or for the ExCom, but for our community. That also makes me want to continue despite a lot of the grief and attacks I have been subjected to since February. But you know what, that all doesn't matter. If you have a gripe, give me your best shot. You may piss me off and get me angry and upset but I am not going to let anything get in my way of helping this community and for doing the work we need to.

At the risk of arrogance, I feel as if I have done a good job over this last year, considering where I came from. I have made some mistakes and have not done a lot of the things I have wanted. I have gotten involved in things that had nothing to do with helping people. But when I get frustrated or on the verge of saying screw it, I meet that one person who is trying to find herself. I feel as if I can make a difference in someone's life and make sure that there is a place for them to turn. Some have told me that I am the "best president TGSF has ever had." I don't know if this is true. I never sought to be the best president or to do things better than anyone else or even compare myself to anyone. I only have one frame of reference for which to measure myself and I feel as if I have many miles to travel before I approach the stature of my predecessor. I just wanted to make a difference. I believe that I did, which is why I chose to run. It has been a privilege to serve you this last year and I hope that I will be able to finish what I have started.

On April 3, I attended the 23rd Annual Gala dinner for the Billy DeFrank Center, a critical resource for our community. I attended as both TGSF President and as the Incarnadine Crown Countess in the Three Ring Court of Love, Lust, and Laughter, of the Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy of San Jose. I was pleased that our Secretary-designate, Siobhan, attended in her role as the Crown Princess to Her Majesty the Empress 34, Rachael Janelle. I had an opportunity to talk at length with Aunt Fran, one of our Cotillion judges, whose story I am sure you know. The more I get to talk with this lovely lady,

Continued on Page 5

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

It's hard to make comparisons like that after the fact. The "what ifs" will drive you mad. But I'm heartened to see organizations with some clout, like the Horizons Foundation, giving local schools a financial incentive to promote non-discriminatory policies and gender identity education. We've got to start somewhere. That money could do wonders, if even for just one trans youth out there. So if you can't send your money, then lobby your Board of Education to support gender identity education and training in their curriculum and diversity standards, and to have anti-harassment policies in place at all levels - Elementary school on up.

Or, perhaps it's time our legislation began focusing its efforts towards getting the gender markers on all documents (from High School on up) to begin including checkboxes for trans people (with a directional indicator of course). And checkboxes for gay, lesbian and bi as well. Let's get it all out on the table, in the open, right off the bat. Time to declare what we are, with full disclosure, demand accountability, that we be counted as equal, and that the violence come to an end.

It's time for our public governmental and educational institutions to go beyond only Male and Female. The additional demographic information alone would be enough to really make our elected constituents reconsider just who, exactly, they're representing - you and me - all of us. Numbers like that would speak volumes. Funding would begin to shift. Attitudes and policies would begin to revise. Upgrades would occur. Thinking would change.

Hey, it could happen.

It's the only sane response I can arrive at to this insane situation. Keep the Faith. See you at Pride.

April 4, 2004

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

Present: President Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Vice President Susan Laird, Treasurer Brooke Jansen, Secretary Anne Louise Mortenson, Education Co-Chair Kara Flynn, Education Co-Chair Kelly Anne Marsh, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani. Guests: Siobhan Ellis, Laura Marlowe, Pamela Gray, Allison Laureano. Absent:, Outreach Co-Chair Marla Selby, Social Co-Chair Aiyanna Eveningstar, Social Co-Chair Tommi Watson. At Susan's home on April 4, 2004

Roxy recommended we amend the February minutes for the attendance. All the members of the ex-com were there except for Marla, Aiyanna and Anne Louise. Laura and Pamela attended as guests. Minutes were approved with amendment.

President's Report

Ginny Knuth Award is an award for a member of TGSF in the past year who has made a contribution of Energy, Commitment and Love to the Transgender Community. Roxy recommended that the Ex-Com put the names of the nominees into a hat and choose one. Everyone who has been nominated was worthy and so a random drawing will come up with a good choice. The winner was Susan Laird. Anne Louise is taking the plaque to have it engraved.

Last meeting ex-com members gave Roxy names for the certificates of appreciation which she will print up: Siobhan from Kara, Walt from Susan, Tiffany from Kelly, Terri Lee from Anne Louise, Tommi from Brooke.

Vice President's Report

Laura hasn't heard from Pride about the beer booth application that she's submitted. She really stressed that we were a transgender organization to the Pride Committee. Roxy has submitted our application for our contingent and our outreach booth. She signed up for two days. $85 for two days for the booth. No charge for contingent. We need to decide what we need to do about the float. Roxy has a contact for someone who may know how to get a truck and Anne Louise will try and contact her.

We need to come up with a budget. We may need to think about $1000. Siobhan is going to talk to Mac about getting a sponsorship. Roxy says we can't have any direct banners or slogans on the float. We could have Mac T shirts. We could have a Mac event after Pride. Susan has the big banner for the Pride. Siobhan suggests a special article for the Channel about needing people for Pride for wheel monitors, the beer booth and the outreach booth. We need to let people know where the training for wheel monitors will be. It was noted that the training sessions will be announced on the SF Pride website.

Manpower will be most critical because we're going to need about 50 people for the float and the two booths. It's a lot of work. We need to get our educational material together and updated. Siobhan volunteered to scan and output info. We have to get the booth from Aiyanna. Anne Louise will try and get in touch Everett to help get the materials.

We will like to get all the contestants from the last Cotillion to ride on the float.

Roxy doesn't want to forget about the San Jose Pride. She will donate the $25 entrance fee and will contact Jeff Tucker about the convertible, which he provided last year.

Plans for the Cotillion. We need to look at our options for next year, get proposals. Roxy will get one from the San Mateo Marriott. Siobhan recommends the Holiday Inn where they used to run California Dreamin. It's always been very T friendly and it's always been very good. Roxy says they charge $25 a night to park and the restaurant closes at noon. A lot of people liked doing it in a hotel. Susan recommended the Crown Plaza near the freeway in Foster City. Siobhan prefers to go back to San Francisco, it should be in San Francisco. Roxy felt that it should be done in San Francisco only if it can be done cost effectively. If we let the hotels know we're competing then we'll get a better price. Laura says the way to do it is to send a letter out to all the hotels and ask them to make a bid. They then know we're looking. We'll be having a planning committee meeting. Roxy, Susan and Laura will put together a letter and will contact hotels. Roxy will talk with the Marriott about submitting a bid. She stressed that we needed to make a decision on the venue by June.

Treasurer's Report

About $2000 is in checking and we are up to date on most of our accounts. Advertising: Brooke has drafted a letter but she needs the letterhead. The mail has been picked up by Tommi and checks have been deposited. Brooke has materials that she can pass over to the next Treasurer. The most important thing is the spreadsheet with all the changes on it.

We are required to submit a tax report whether we need to pay or not. Roxy has been in touch with IRS.

Secretary's Report

Tommi has picked up mail and ballots will be tallied. This is the time of year when we get membership renewal. Roxy gave Siobhan the data base and new membership forms. She'll be sending out renewal letters.

Education

Kara noticed that the seminar she was planning will be covered in Cal Dreaming.

Kelly has been in touch with Tiffany Woods. Tiffany is planning an informative meeting with at least one knowledgeable doctor. Tiffany will probably be able to get the Health Department to pay for some of the people who attend. This will be an opportunity for people to get information that can't afford to go to Cal Dreaming. This will be targeting some people who would be missed otherwise.

Outreach

Marla's been keeping up on the hotline. We'll need to check with her. (NOTE: this was not happening. The hotline had not been checked since January. Kara provided me with updates)

Social

Red and White Party Ball debrief. Anne Louise went over the event. It was successful, we made a little money. The entertainment was good. If there was anything we needed it was more people for setup.

Tentative calendar for the year. We need to plan ahead. Anne Louise has been putting together a social calendar. She has been combining lists from Rachael Janelle and Roxy with her own. People commented on the events on the list.

- The next important event for TGSF is the April 29th end of the month and the UNITY event on May 22nd.
- Roxy brought up October 16th The Diablo Valley Girls Dinner.
- December 11th Dinner will be a traditional TG event with help from Bay Area transgender groups. We had over 80 people last year.
- August 8th is a TGSF gong show.
- Hayward Pride may be in mid or late September but they need $5000.
- The Gay Prom is good event, for those 19 to 20, maybe in June.
- A San Mateo park may be a good place for our Summer picnic. Kara has been looking into it. We may have 100 people attend.
- The Ducal Ball will be November 20th at Carla's. The Day of Remembrance will be November 25th

Siobhan said we shouldn't avoid having an event on a day someone else has an event. We talked that the list will give us an idea of when the best times are for events.

Anne Louise would like more events in San Francisco and maybe in the East Bay. Pam says that she wonders if people would come since the member base for TGSF is outside of San Francisco. It's always expensive to run events in SF. Kelly thinks East Bay is good because people from Sacramento and east will come. Siobhan says we won't know if we don't try in SF. We need to reach out to people in SF. Siobhan says why don't we get our individual members to get events together. We could put it in the Channel, ask people to organize. We need to consider all venues, like The Stud and Divas. Roxy asked if there have been arrests at Divas. Allison says a lot of our members feel uncomfortable at Divas.

New Business

Allison is doing a talk on Monday May 3rd at the University of San Francisco on Human Sexuality. She's hoping to get LGBT group Allied to participate.

April 29th is the annual meeting and we'll have a raffle. Jo-Ann is talking about a door prize.

Kelly says CCSF is busy preparing a book. Regina Rollins is very active and the students have been open-armed. People were moved at the event that was held there.

Continued on Page 5

Hey!

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

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

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

President's Report...

Continued from Page 3

the more impressed I am with her courage. It was also great to see Lenny Broberg, who was the MC for that event. I apologized for not being able to find his leather jacket. I had a great chat with Donna Sachet. Actually, the most serious moment of the event when San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzalez and the City Council were honored for their courageous support of the freedom to marry for those who wish to do so. Very worthy. (I want to thank Jo-An Torres for making my tiara with the heart. That was very thoughtful.)

Postscript: The other day at work was Sharron's, our temporary secretary's, last day. I did not get to know her that well, she in fact started the week I was out after surgery. But I made it a point to always greet her with a smile and a "good morning". She came to say her good bye's and then she took my hand. She thanked me for always saying hello, then she said "Stand Tall, Stand Strong, Stand Proud", and told me that she admired my courage. I have no idea what possessed her to say that but she wanted to offer her support. That was one of the nicest things anyone has ever said to me and I will always remember her words. Life is all about making each other feel welcome and accepted, regardless of who we are and where we have been.

Your kind of, sort of, almost, almost not president

Roxy (don't ask)

ExCom Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Roxy noted TGSF was featured in the latest edition of the *Tranny Guide* and there may be a book premiere in June.

Kara was concerned about the way the ballot was presented. Ayme Kantz thought the ballot should be redone because we need to vote on the by-laws before we decide on the candidates whose election is effected by the by-law. Kara put together a compromise ballot that would allow people to vote on the by-law before they voted on the candidates. Siobhan said that what is important is what is in our by-laws that prevents us from using the existing ballot. Roxy said right now there is a ballot that was sent out in the mail 30 days before the election and that is in the by-laws. Brooke said we really don't have to do anything unless there is a problem with the people who are running for Outreach. If there is a problem then we can address that with a runoff. Kelly said if the present ballot is incorrect, we need to nip the problem in the bud and not wait till later.

Brooke moved that we let the ballots be collected and tallied as is and that if there is a problem, we'll address it later. The motion was passed 5 to 2.

This is the last meeting of the 2003-4 Ex-Com. Roxy said we took chances and sometimes we were successful and sometimes not but overall we did a good job. Susan suggested we pulled a rabbit out of hat. Roxy said she was very happy to work with Susan as vice president. Her contributions speak for themselves. She thanks all the present Ex-Com.

Next meeting - May 2nd, 2003 at Susan's 4 PM.

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits

Community Potlucks

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

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

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

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

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

Acne

For some, acne is a supercharged subject, and quite possibly a lifelong battle. For others, it is a minor blip along the road to adulthood and may include the requisite tubes of Clearasil, or a visit to the dermatologist for a prescription of Tetracycline.

Definition

In basic terms, acne is an infection inside a pore. Each pore has a hair follicle, which can become clogged with oil, dirt, and dead skin. Once a "plug" is formed, the infection cannot make its way out, and the result is a pimple. This is what causes redness, swelling, and sometimes pressure. Extracting the pimple cleans out the pore so that it can heal. There are two types of pimples, or blemishes. An oxidized blemish - one that has been exposed to oxygen - is white on top, hence the term whitehead. They are usually liquid inside. Blemishes that aren't exposed to air are called blackheads, since the tops are usually grey or black. The inside is usually hardened sebum.

Common Myths

Acne is caused by chocolate or oily foods. No. If you are allergic to chocolate, then yes, there is always the possibility that you'll have a reaction. In addition, certain food allergies can trigger an outbreak. But, eating foods that you're not allergic to will not cause acne.

Acne is caused by being unclean, and you should wash your face three times daily. No. You can wash and scrub your face until it's raw and that won't make a difference in the number of pimples that keep popping up. In fact, if you wash too much, you risk irritating already sensitive skin, and acne WILL flare up. Washing twice daily, once in the morning and once in the evening, is sufficient. Using the appropriate products will keep acne under control.

Having dry skin means that you won't get acne. Dry skin is just as prone to acne because the dead skin flakes can build up inside the pore.

If someone in your family has it, you will too. Nope. Just because a parent or a sibling has it, doesn't necessarily mean you'll have it.

Acne only happens in your teens. Negative again. I had severe acne when I was 21 because of hormones, and still battle moderate acne now as a thirty-something adult. There is no cure for acne. Once you have it though, it's controllable.

Products labeled Hypo Allergenic or those made for sensitive skin will not cause acne. Absolutely not. If you have a breakout because you've tried something new, no amount of labeling will make it better. Reading labels will make you a better-educated consumer, and knowing which ingredients to avoid will lessen the changes of a breakout or a negative reaction to a new product.

Next month – part 2.

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

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

TGSF Events in May

Saturday / May 1st / Dinner at 6:00pm

Fem Fever - Transgender Dinner Party

Will be held at I Love It! Boutique, hosted by Tiffany Woods. See notice elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Sunday / May 2nd / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCom Meeting

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

Wednesday / May 5th / 7:00pm

TGSF's Mid-Peninsula Support Group

Held on the First Wednesday of every month at the San Mateo Marriott. See ad elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Saturday / May 8th / 1:00pm

Memorial for Roberta "Bobbi" Dunne

Friends of Bobbi Dunne will gather in her memory at the west (ocean side) entrance to the Beach Chalet Restaurant and Visitor's Center at 1:00pm. The Beach Chalet (www.beachchalet.com) is located at the west end of Golden Gate Park. For further details, please call Jim at [redacted]

Monday / May 10th

Seminar: Hormone Use & Other Gender Concerns

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center. To sign up please visit our website at http://www.defrank.org/workshops

Saturday / May 15th / 5:00pm - 11:00pm

Butterfly/Transvision: Flutter To Be Free, and All You Can Be!

A Night Out for Transgender Women presented by the APEB/Tri-City Health Center, to love, share and affirm all that you can be. Come and join us for the year's greatest social and educational event! Fun, Food, Educational Workships and DJ Music/Dancing and other goodies!

APEB is located at 1800B Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA 94612. Call Cseneca Greenwood at [redacted] or Tiffany Woods at 510-713-3274. Email: butterflyprojectatapeb@yahoogroups.com. Event sponsored by the Office of AIDS Administration.

Saturday / May 22nd / 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Unity: A Benefit for TGSF and 2-Spirit

With Lipstick Conspiracy, Trans Central Station and Special Guests! San Francisco LGBT Community Center at 1800 Market St. $15 admission includes refreshments.

Sunday / May 23rd

Kithology Picnic at Dolores Park.

See notice elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Thursday / May 27 / 7:30pm

TGSF End of Month Event

The Blue Muse, 409 Gough Street, San Francisco.

Coming in June!

Saturday & Sunday / June 26-27

San Francisco LGBT Pride Celebration & Parade!

May's Birthdays

5/01	Valerie Cross	5/14	Phyllis Fink
5/01	Susan Agles	5/15	Cindy Martin
5/01	Sylvia Finak	5/16	Vera Sepulveda
5/01	Alicia Kenwood	5/18	Rhonda Shaw
5/01	Cindy Mckay	5/19	Nikki Rillingale
5/02	Consuela Valdes	5/20	Terry Ryan
5/04	Melanie Okubo	5/21	Robyn Smith
5/09	April Brennan	5/23	Angela Pidge
5/09	Gracie Thoreson	5/25	Tianna Marie Devil
5/10	Alicia Chan	5/25	Marielle Valence
5/10	J.F. Schimmel	5/28	Nicole Cook
5/10	Amanda Gonzales	5/28	Siobhan Ellis
5/12	Joyce White	5/28	Magan Regiani
5/13	Sallie Hunt, Lmft	5/30	Jane Bolig
5/13	Serena Anderson	5/30	Chris Silver

Happy Birthday To All!

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Nails Wigs Lingerie

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Serving the Cross Gender Community's needs with sensitive help and understanding.

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics

Calendar – May 2004

Other Bay Area Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 **6:00 PM Fem Fever Dinner @ I Love It!**
2 **4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting**	3 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	4 7:00 PM SCT	5 7:00 PM I Love It Social **7:30 PM MPTG**	6 7:00 PM DVG RCC	7 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	8 **1:00 PM Memorial for Bobbie Dunne** 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
9	10 5:00 PM CCHH **Hormone Seminar @ BDF Center**	11	12 7:00 PM I Love It Social	13	14 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	15 **5:00 PM APEB/TriCity -Butterfly/Trans Vision**
16	17 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	18 7:00 PM SCT	19 7:00 PM I Love It Social	20 7:00 PM DVG RCC TG Legal Clinic	21 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	22 **6:00 PM TGSF/2-Spirit Unity Benefit @ LGBT Ctr** 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
23 **Kithology Trans Picnic @ Dolores Park**	24 5:00 PM CCHH	25 7:30 PM SCOUT	26 7:00 PM I Love It Social	27 **7:30 PM TGSF: EOM @ Blue Muse**	28 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	29
30	31 5:00 PM CCHH					

TGSF Membership Application

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

❑ 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.

Special Events!

Saturday / May 1st/ Dinner at 6:00pm

Fem Fever - Transgender Dinner Party

Come join us for an evening of food, fun and health information for transgender women, TVs, CDs. Presented by Tiffany Woods from the Tiri City Health Center (510-713-6690 ext 9).

To Be Held at I LOVE IT! - The Cross Dresser's Paradise, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd #7, Fremont, CA 94539. Dinner 6-7, followed by a special presentation, entertainment, gift bags, Gameshow Jeopar-"T", and Special Guest Speakers!

TransVision is the first ever program for Transgendered women in South, Central, And East county. It is an outreach program under the HIV Prevention Clinic at Tri City Health Center in Fremont. We offer free anonymous HIV testing and counseling as well as safer sex supplies. We have workshops and events for TG women.

We are also at the Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward every Thursday from 4:00pm-6:00pm for counseling or if anyone wants to come and chat about transgendered issues. Its' A Celebration of our Survival. I would like Transgendered women to come and share their stories of daily living in the spirit of validation and affirmation.

Sunday, May 23

Picnic Time!

Please join the trans/genderqueer/intersex/drag & buddies picnic for our spring celebration! This is for the entire trans, genderqueer & intersex community, including FTMs, MTFs, drag, bi and omnigender, two spirit, non-gender, androgynous, freaks, queers, punks, those who transcend the binary gender system, friends, family and allies. All genders, ages, hormone levels and anatomies enthusiastically invited!

The picnic is a temporary autonomous space, belonging to and created by those who come. This jamboree is whatever we make it, there is no central organizing committee, it's a democratic shindig. You are encouraged to take ownership by adding yourself, your creativity and effort to the ruckus. Without you, it just couldn't be so hot!

So, please think of ways you can join in planning, promoting, bring food, drinks & lollypops to share, get together with your friends to organize outrageously fun things to do, be your marvelous self, and above all – get the word out there! Make fliers, pass them out, post online, write your local rag, email your friends, paste and post! Every way you can possibly think to promote the picnic, please do.

Some people you may want to get in touch with:

Sam [redacted] - Tranny Clothing Swap, Resource & Info Table, Activities (Art, Fashion, etc.), United Genders of the Universe

Todd [redacted] - Fliers, Lyric

Molly [redacted] - DJ

Tuck [redacted] - Wrestling, games, hiccup

Kithology; San Francisco Bay Area's Gender, Sex & Sexuality Network, online at http://kithology.net

trans gender san francisco

tgsf

and Roxy Carmichael-Hart

are pleased to announce the rebirth of the

Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 2004

and continuing on the
first Wednesday of each month

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

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Nob Hill Room

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

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

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

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

Coming in July!

RGA Girls and Guys Night Out

Friday, July 30, 2004

San Francisco Giants vs. St. Louis Cardinals. It's time once again for RGA's Fifth Friday and, in what is rapidly becoming an RGA tradition, we are going to the ballgame. Join us at Momo's for dinner at 5:00pm, directly across the street from the ballpark formerly known as Pac Bell, then we will walk across the street to the game. Last year, we watched Barry Bonds hit his 600th home run. Who knows what will happen this year? (If he gets REALLY hot, maybe #700 will be calling).

Please RSVP by July 1 to Gelsey on the RGA Warmline (408) 984-4044, or to Roxy [redacted] or RSVP at any RGA event. You don't HAVE to go to the game after dinner but why would you want to miss out? If we get 25 people, we'll get our names on the scoreboard!!!

Please note that Momo's and the former Pac Bell Park are accessible from Caltrain, BART, and SF Muni. For transit information and schedules, log on to www.511.org

PLAY BALL!

Special Events!

Unity

An Invitation from Miss TGSF 2004

Anne Louise Mortenson

I've seen a new awareness of gender diversity. There's been many reasons for the change, a young generation whose been encouraged to show themselves, the willingness of people of many different sexual orientations to support us, a realization that being trangendered is no longer a form of mental illness. What I think has mattered most is the courage of those individuals who have been willing to stand up and say they're different. When I was young, there was no one to turn to, no one to be trusted. Now I can look around me and see people willing to take the risk, to be proud of who they are not matter what anyone thinks. They give others the courage to stand up and be proud too.

When I first came out to my mother, she told me that she understood, I couldn't help myself. She thought she was being sympathetic. She meant that I had this terrible condition that I couldn't change. It angered me, although I couldn't express this to her. She was one of the kindest people I've ever known. But her thoughts are so typical, that this was something to be ashamed of. Well, I'm no longer ashamed of myself. I'm ashamed of a culture that was so pathetic that it couldn't accept such a natural fact of life that transgendered people exist. I'm proud of the people who are changing that and I'm proud to be transgendered.

Our event on **May 22nd** is called **Unity**, It is a celebration of how far we've come as a Transgendered community and as a member of the greater LGBT family. We've accomplished a great deal. We've done that together. I hope that the great diversity within our community will come together, male to female, female to male, older generation and younger generation, richer and poorer, genderqueer and whoever is searching for their true gender expression. And we're not limited to this. There are many of us who share close ties to the Leather community and the Gay community and other groups in the LGBT community, our friends outside of LGBT, everyone who has been open enough to understand we are ordinary people, who care and love and live like everyone else.

I believe it's time to come together and show our support for one another, for all those who are struggling to come out and those who have and who still struggle against a genderphobic and homophobic culture. We are here. We aren't going to hide, we're no longer ashamed. We have a great community and many friends ready to support us, ready to fight for our rights as individuals, no matter how different, no matter how strange we may appear.

I hope you can all come. It will be a celebration and we'll have music and entertainment. We'll have a few people who will speak from the heart but the event is about us, about getting to know one another. Damon Helton, Kelly Ann Marsh and I have been working hard on creating the event. We've had the help of many, many others. I think it will be a wonderful evening and I hope you will enjoy and remember it.

Unity - A Gathering Of The Transgender Community And Their Friends

With MC Tiffany Woods!

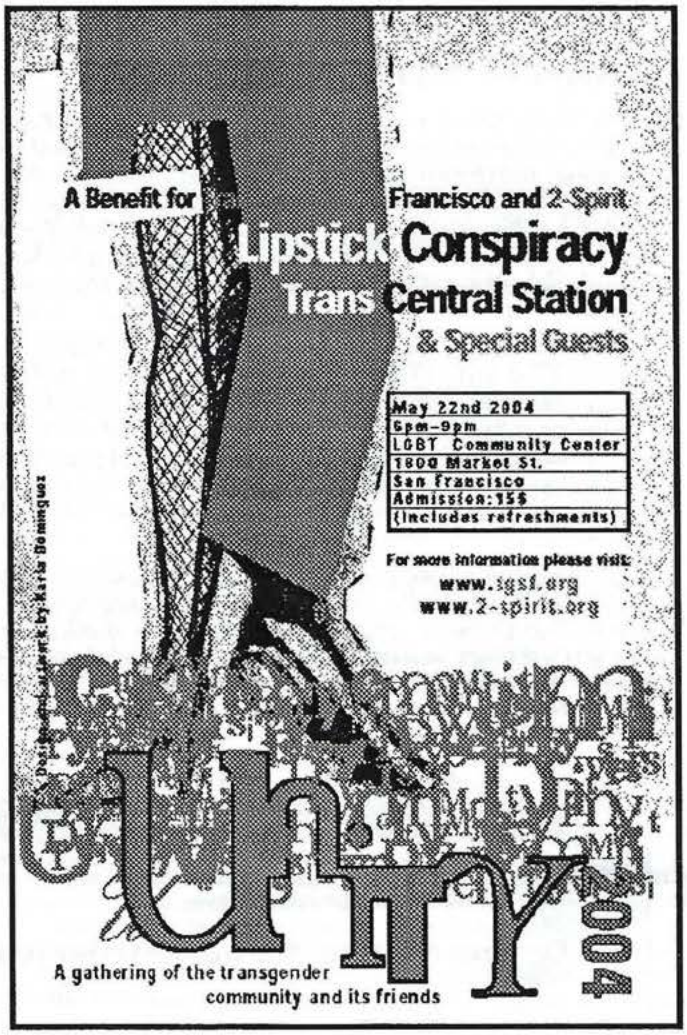
Entertainers -

Lipstick Conspiracy - conspiratorial rock from San Francisco. Clandestine, distinctive, subversive

Trans Central Station - the new transgendered band on the block

Siobhan Ellis - dynamite stand up comedy

Andre the Urban "Hermit"



Joshua Anderson

Anne Louise - the R&B sounds of Miss TGSF 2004

Speakers:

Roxy Hart - President of TGSF

Damon Helton - Founder of 2-Spirit

Daddy Ray Tilton - Mr. San Francisco Leather 1990 and No. Ca. Mr. Drummer 1998

Mr. and Miss TGSF - Bobby Cheung and Anne Louise Mortenson

Unity is a gathering of the transgender community. TGSF, Transgender San Francisco, is happy to be working with 2-Spirit to bring you some great trans entertainment, Lipstick Conspiracy and Trans Central Station. We don't have all our entertainment lines up but don't miss the wonderful Siobhan Ellis, Andre the Urban "Hermit" and Anne Louise.

We want this to be a celebration of transgender pride. Many transgender groups will be here and we're hoping to have more speakers and input. We're hoping to open dialogue between all our groups to outreach to the greater community in SF and beyond who we are. RESPECT! We are people just like anyone else. We are proud to be transgender and respect the right of all to present their gender identity in any way, form or style they would like.

Announcements!

Call For Workshops

TRANS-UNITY 2004!

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

Successful Workshops we have had at Trans-Unity in the past include: FTM 101, FTM Dating, Gender Expression in Performance, Storytelling, Transgender Law, Makeup and Beauty Tips, TG Images in the Media and many more. We are looking for workshops that inform the community, invite dialog and provide support for our diverse population. We are now accepting proposals for Trans-Unity 2004. Proposals are due no later than **May 31, 2004**.

If you have a good idea for a workshop and are not able to facilitate it yourself, please send your suggestion to mhornd@sbcglobal.net. Please include the names (if any) of anyone you feel might be a good presenter for the workshop. Please contact Michele for submittal forms and more information: [redacted] or by fax to Michele Horn Davis [redacted]

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Image Creator

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New GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

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

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

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

Show Your Pride!

"A Mid-Summer Night's Dream" is the theme for this year's TGSF Pride float, featuring our beautiful Miss TGSF Anne Louise Mortenson, and the dashing Mr. TGSF Bobby Cheung. They will be joined by their lovely court made up of our 2004 Mr. and Miss TGSF contestants. Since Pride weekend (June 26-27) is just around the corner, it is not too soon to start planning.

This year, TGSF is preparing for a major effort on Pride weekend. As always, we will need people to help build our float on Saturday before the parade. And, as always, ***we will need contingent monitors!*** Last year, we barely squeaked through with enough monitors. Although we don't know yet how many monitors we will need, we would like to get as many people as possible trained. Training is rather simple – it just requires taking a one-hour training course from San Francisco Pride. Training sessions are held all over the Bay Area so there should be one not too far from you. For the time and location of a training session, please check the San Francisco Pride website at www.sfpride.org.

TGSF once again plans an information and outreach booth on Saturday and Sunday. We will need volunteers to staff the booth, distribute information on transgender issues, and answer questions. For many, the information booth is where people first come into contact with TGSF. As outreach is the most important function of TGSF, the information and outreach booth serves a very important role for the community.

We are also hoping to help pride-goers to quench their thirst by sponsoring a beer booth. Competition is keen and we have not been assured of our space, but if we are successful, this could prove to be a significant fundraising opportunity for TGSF. We will need at least 6 people on Saturday and at least 12 on Sunday to staff the beer booth. (And no drinking of the inventory!)

And finally, we will need people to march in our contingent. All are welcome to join us as we march down Market Street with pride. Dress in costume or just be yourself.

As you can see, our Pride effort will be a major undertaking. It will require a great deal of commitment of resources and personnel. We know that many would rather march in and/or watch the parade. But the other areas are just as critical and are just as important to our community. All of the functions discussed earlier are pieces of the whole package and it takes a team effort to make it work. Every contribution made to this effort is just as important as the next. By being a part of this effort, you will be making a difference in someone's life – and you may be reason why someone is able to walk through that door.

Please join us on Pride weekend and support your community! For more information, please contact Roxy [redacted], Anne Louise [redacted] or Laura [redacted]

The Passing Of An Old Friend

Dear TGSF,

I've recently moved to San Diego but TGSF keeps me in touch with the Bay Area Trannies. I go back to the Ginny Knuth/Nancy Ann Martine days. Incidentally, Nancy Ann's roommate after Ginny's death was Bobbie (Barbara) Williams.

Her birthday is noted in last month's Channel (April 19). I'm sad to tell you that Bobbie passed away on March 11. She was a dear friend and I miss her. I would appreciate it you could include this brief notice in the next Channel.

Barbara (Bobbie) Williams passed away in Orange County on March 11, 2004. She was a member of TGSF, a Certified Drug and Alcohol Counselor, and served on The San Francisco City/County Mental Health Board. She was Nancy Ann Martine's roommate after Ginny Knuth died.

Barbara had her reassignment surgery in Thailand in May 2000. She was a pallbearer at Nancy Ann's funeral, the first I've ever seen in a black dress and heels. She packed the TGSF Library (which was maintained by Ginny and transferred to Nancy Ann's care after Ginny's death) and helped the Board find it a new home. Bobbie was best known to those of us who attended the monthly TGSF poker games. She was a lovely lady and is missed by all who knew her. She is survived by a daughter and two brothers.

Rest in Peace, dear friend.

Carolayn Hughes

Commentary

Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

More ramblings...

Some of you may have noted that I have transitioned (not *that* kind) the title of my column from "Hart to Heart" to "Confessions of a Dangerous Mind". (or not). Why did I change the title, you ask?

When I started there was a lot I wanted to express to people and to offer my thanks to this community as a newbie from the outside who was finding her way. But as president, I am an insider now and I feel a lot bolder and I feel there are some things I have to say. And say them I will, or at least try to. I am saying a lot of things that need to be said and maybe not things people want to hear. So because I have decided to depart from the norm and not sugar coat life, I chose this title to reflect the approach that I want to take. I am going to say things not to win popularity contests or to get votes. I am saying them because I care. One day, I will have the courage like Ayme does to really lay it on the line. She is the real conscious of TGSF and says some things I have only thought about.

But...dangerous? Maybe that is too strong a word. Maybe different would be better. But let's look at some folks who have been called "dangerous". Benjamin Franklin. (That idiot will get himself electrocuted.). Jackie Robinson (a Negro will never play major league baseball). Columbus (he'll fall off the face of the earth.) Jesus Christ. Enough said. All of these people have been called dangerous because they took a chance, took risks, did what they thought was right rather than what was popular. (I stole that from Howard Dean who stole it from the movie *Dave*.). Not that in any way shape or form do I compare myself to any of these people. That would be ludicrous. But I am mentioning them to illustrate a point. People who think outside the box are often called "dangerous". I daresay that these "dangerous" people and countless others have made this a much better world. So I am going to throw some "dangerous" thoughts out there for your reaction.

But we've always had a Cotillion!

In the March *Channel*, Ayme made a number of observations and as usual, hit the nail on the head.

We've always had a Cotillion. And the sun rises in the east. I'm sorry but just because we have *always* done something a certain way is no reason to keep doing it, particularly if that way is foolhardy and irresponsible.

I am talking about the Cotillion, which deserves a lot of space and debate because it is our big project and consumes (devours) a lot of our resources – resources we don't particularly have. In the February *Channel*, I wrote of my distress at the lack of ticket sales and the effort that it takes and wondered if this was the best way to use our precious resources. So of course the Cotillion made money and was a huge success and now everyone wants to go full speed ahead, spending another $10,000 because it is FUN.

Fun? Is that why we are here? Hell's bells you can go to Diva's and have fun. You see, I thought the *purpose* of TGSF was to be an outreach, educational and social group – to help others who need to find a way to enter our community. To provide support to people who are alone and don't know where to turn. To give something to our community. Not that there is anything wrong with fun, but we are having fun at the expense of what we need to do. Example – a year or so ago TGSF dropped the rap sessions at the LGBT Center. Why? We couldn't afford them. Yet we could afford to spend $10,000 on the Cotillion. Like the family that will go buy a new Cadillac, even though they can't afford to put food on the table. Typical of the mindset that bigger and fancier is always better, even as the bill comes due. When that happens we say "charge it" or we put it off until another time. We did that with the debt to Rachel Hill, which took me a year to resolve and not without major bloodletting. Our debt to Susan Laird is still not paid off nor is our debt to the Design Center. We must take care of those pronto.

I had to fight like hell to get TGSF to support me and help pay for a room at the Marriott for the Mid-Peninsula Group which starts May 5. I was willing to pay for this myself because it is needed. Has anyone else out there stepped up to assist with this cost? Isn't this a much more worthwhile expenditure of our money? Shouldn't we be helping people?

If You're Going to San Francisco...

I was also amused at the notion that just because we have "San Francisco" in our name, that we can't go anywhere else. A few years ago in the olden times of ETVC, the leaders decided that there were no TG's (a term I know drives them nuts) north of the Golden Gate or South of SFO or east of Treasure Island. News flash! Your president is from Fremont, your vice-president is from Santa Clara, your Miss TGSF is from Occidental. And so it goes. Hell, one of our Miss TGSF contestants was from Stockton and another was from Santa Cruz. Not exactly Nob Hill and South of Market, are they? But these people were willing to represent a Bay Area organization and worked very hard in an effort to do so. This year, we have had events in San Jose, San Mateo and Walnut Creek. Next year, I plan to hit the North Bay, Berkeley, and maybe even take a road trip to Santa Cruz. We are everywhere and we are going to BE everywhere.

About 25 years ago I made my first visit to San Francisco and was enthralled. Well, I have lived in this area and have come to the conclusion that you pay a hell of a lot more just for the name. Yes it is a beautiful city. What's the difference between the exact same dress found in Target and Macy's. The NAME. We pay a lot for the name. I would bet at least 20% more.

Last month, I noted that the Marriott had bent over backwards to help us because they knew our financial situation and worked with us and provided lots of stuff for FREE. When was the last time the Design Center gave us anything FREE? They were quick to kick our ass out of the facility and if we went one minute past midnight we were docked with a $2,500 late fee. And how about getting from the hotel to the Design Center – hauling dresses and equipment and other stuff back and forth. God forbid it should rain and ruin clothes, makeup, staging, etc. And didn't you love that $25 a night parking charge at the Golden Gateway? Puh-Leeze!!! Oh and let's not forget street parking and/or cab fares. And by the way, how much did your hotel room set you back? And how about the restaurant closing at noon? I guess nobody eats lunch, do they?

So why must we do things in San Francisco? Because. That seems to be the only reason. That's not good enough. As I have said previously, we must think of the bottom line. It cost us $125 to rent Carla's space for the Red and White Ball. What do you think it would cost to rent the same space in the City? A grand, easily. No. We need to keep an open mind. If we can get a good deal for an event in San Mateo, San Jose, Hayward or wherever, we will hold our event there. At the every least, we are saving money. At the best, we are bringing our message to the four corners of the Bay Area, informing and educating all about who we are, enlightening those who may never have seen a TG, breaking down barriers left and right. THAT is what we SHOULD be doing.

I am sorry that I always have to be a bitch about money but that's just how I am. You see, I DO care about TGSF and whether it lives or dies. Which is why I have done my damndest to make sure that we do things in a cost-effective manner.

I love the Cotillion. It has provided me with two of the most important moments of my life. But that doesn't mean that we can't do an event like the Cotillion in a manner which is more reasonable and sensible. After working so hard to dig TGSF out of debt, I am not going to go back and spend this organization's money recklessly just to be PC. I will not revert to business as usual. So, I offer this challenge to the ExCom and to everyone. If you want a Cotillion, and you want it in San Francisco, you find a way to do it in a manner that makes sense. If you can't, then let's look at other options for doing this event, even going back to the Marriott, or hold off for a year or until we are more financially stable. I am not doing another event at the Design Center. But if the mindset of this organization is to proceed in a foolhardy manner, count me out.

Transgender Bay Area...I kind of like the sound of that...

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

Kaden: Kayla's Choice

(CBS) Angelina is a single mother facing a choice most parents would find simply imaginable: Should her child grow up to be a man or a woman? "He isn't your typical 11 year old. There isn't enough research on this for a child this young," says Angelina, who asked ***48 Hours*** not to use her full name, or reveal where her family lives. Her 11-year-old, Kayla, was born a girl – but desperately wants to be a boy. "I don't think like a girl. And I just don't feel like a girl," says Kayla.

"I think I'm numb. And don't get me wrong, I still have my issues with it. I still think that I lost something. I've lost my little girl, you know," says Angelina to **Correspondent Maureen Maher**. "There's still some times I keep thinking this is gonna disappear, and it's gonna be the way it was. But if I hold back from who he wants to be, then I'm gonna hurt him as a person."

A few years ago, Angelina was divorced and raising two girls, Ashley and Kayla, on her own. What girly things did Kayla like? "I saw the girly parts during the Halloween times," recalls Angelina, who thought her daughter was just a tomboy. "She ended up being a ballerina one year, and looked so cute. That was the only time I can really think of when she really dressed up and looked like a girl."

"I've always hated dresses and any type of girl stuff," says Kayla, who started showing signs of puberty when she was just 9. Her body was changing and so was virtually everything else about her. She went from a straight A student to nearly flunking out. Then, she seemed depressed and complained about nightmares in which she dreamed she was a boy: "I always thought there had to be some way I could be a boy."

Hoping for answers, Angelina took Kayla to a bevy of counselors and therapists. "I told her [the counselor] that I thought I was lesbian or gay, because I liked this one girl at school," recalls Kayla. "She thought it was a phase I was going through. I didn't, but after I heard it from so many people, I believed them. And I just stopped talking about it." But she didn't stop thinking about it.

One night last summer, when Angelina was trying to have a private phone conversation with a friend, Kayla's frustration finally exploded. "She threw herself on the ground and kicked me, and bit and hit her head. It was a battle all the way down the stairs," says Angelina. "Tried to get her in the room. Started screaming like I was killing her. And that's when I called the Crisis Line. I said, 'Something's not right. I need some help.'"

Kayla was admitted to the children's psychiatric ward of a local hospital, and doctors diagnosed her as bipolar. But Kayla disagreed, and a few days after being released, she summoned the courage to finally confess her secret to her mother. "I was really freaked out by this information," says Angelina, who started doing extensive research on transgender issues.

She took Kayla to a social worker and gender disorder specialist, who agreed Kayla should grow up to be a male. "I walked in and this woman said, 'He knows exactly who he is,'" says Angelina. "She said, 'He,' and that's when I looked at her. I didn't want to say that was enough for me – but that was beginning. This weight came off of me. 'I mean, I'm like, OK.'"

So mother and daughter ripped out all remnants of Kayla's "little girl" room. Then, Kayla got a haircut. "I wanted a boy's haircut," says Kayla. "That was really hard. The bedroom thing was nothing. It was the appearance thing," says Angelina. "And it was going from what looked like as effeminate as my girl to all of a sudden going to looking like the boy that he wants to be." Angelina says that was the last day she saw Kayla: "She was gone after that point." Kayla changed her name from Kayla to Kaden. But as this determined 11-year-old's brain was thinking "boy," her body was still rapidly growing as a "girl."

Kaden's mother, Angelina, supports her daughter's decision to live as a boy, but says the change has come with many challenges: "I hear him moaning and yelling at himself downstairs, throwing clothes around because he can't find something to wear that's comfortable and that's not gonna show his growth."

Kaden wanted to keep his big change a big secret, but like most kids his age, he told his best friend — who then told another friend, who told another friend. It wasn't long before the entire school knew that Kaden was really a girl. "Once I got to school it was hard, and everyone just made fun of me. A lot of stuff happened," says Kaden. "He was being called names. He was being kicked. He was being pushed in class," says Angelina.

When Angelina heard that one of Kaden's teachers refused to call him by his new name, she demanded an emergency meeting with everyone – from the principal to the school nurse. "I just explained to them all that this is a transgender issue here. I need your support," says Angelina. "I said, 'I'm not asking you to accept him. I'm not telling you. You need to believe in this. But he's a child, and he's in your classroom. He's a student — you'll treat him with respect, regardless of who he is or what he does.'"

Continued on Page 15

Trans Teen Wins Right To Transition

by Peter Hacker / 365Gay.com Newscenter
Sydney, Australia Bureau

(Canberra) A 13-year-old teenager has been given the go-ahead from the courts to begin transitioning to male. The teen, who goes by the name Alex, was raised as a boy by her father who is now dead, and has never identified as female. Now a ward of the state, the welfare department initiated the legal action for the child.

On the primary school cricket team, Alex regularly beat the boys at arm wrestling. The court was told that he would wear disposable diapers to class rather than be forced to use the girls' washroom.

"I have uncontroverted evidence not only that the procedure is entirely consistent with Alex's wishes but also that the expert evidence as to the best interests of Alex accords with those wishes," Chief Justice Alastair Nicholson said. He said that Alex was "suffering in a body which feels alien to him and disgusts him".

Under an earlier court order this year, Alex began hormone treatment to prevent her body from maturing into womanhood. The latest decision means he'll begin treatment with the male hormone testosterone once he turns 16. The treatment will have irreversible effects – including her voice deepening, facial and body hair, as well as muscle development.

Words, Words, Words, I'm So Sick Of Words...

by Gina Dumas

For several years, I have considered the difficulties we have brought on ourselves, as we attempt to educate a world slowly awakening to our realities. As the understanding of Transsex and all the Intersexes increases, we seem to paint a bewildering picture of ourselves and the biology of our being, by attempting to cram too many meanings, into words that we use interchangeably. Perhaps it would be better to say we are attempting to stuff too many heads into too few hats. Let me illustrate this point.

If we take the descriptor 'breathing difficulties' and claim that this term alone suffices to cover our understanding of this life threatening condition, then those that do not suffer from breathing difficulties, will assume that they have a grasp of the problem, and that one cure fits all.

When we reflect on issues such as lung cancer, influenza, fractured ribs, the common cold, a broken nose etc, we see that they are all very different causes of the problem "breathing difficulties" and most certainly will not respond to the same treatment. As a very misunderstood community, we do ourselves no favors when we attempt to use a one blanket fits all approach to our issues, it simply doesn't. We most certainly have the common problem "that society doesn't understand the words that define us, and fails to respond to our very different needs". We have banded together around this problem, it is the only commonality we have.

It was very interesting to read the 88 page judgement of Justice Chisholm in the case Re:- Kevin, and to see the evidence that the Family Court of Australia accepted both in this case, and the appeal before the full bench which also upheld the judgement based on the same evidence.

A key was turned in our favor, by the wonderful efforts of Ms Rachael Wallbank (the solicitor running the case), the courage of Kevin and Jennifer, and those who testified with such telling effect. We would be fools to turn the key back again, by muddying the waters so recently made clear. Transsex is an Intersex condition, done sealed and delivered, into Australian law. Let us build on this fact.

From the time of Dr Harry Benjaman and through the fifty years since, this had been posited by the most reputable minds in the field of treating the Transsexed. It has now been accepted as fact. Transsex is not C.A.H., neither is it A.I.S. nor Klinefelters or any of the other Intersexes, but neither are they each other. You will notice that I drop the '-uality' of the descriptor, when I write of the Transsexed, for the word Transsexuality screams the wrong message to those we need to educate. Words can do that.

Words are probably our biggest common headache, we desperately need to redesign the words we use to define ourselves. There is not a single word we use, that was not coined by someone seeking to express a meaning, they are all inventions.

People can be utterly petrified by words that have been given taboo status by their having been pickled in fear, spiced with distortion, or seen in company with the wrong images. Bounce the word Transsexuality in front of a stranger, and you will quickly see what I mean, they more often than not become intellectually constipated on the spot, you can see the fear dance in their eyes.

Continued on Page 15

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Visible Man

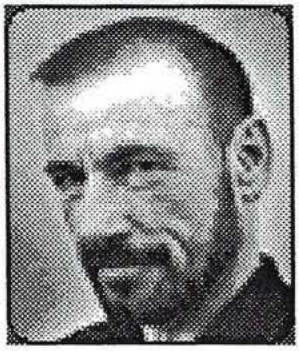
Poster Child

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. His new book, Becoming a Visible Man, *will be published by Vanderbilt University Press in May.*

The mainstream media hit one of the public's hot buttons again when CBS News' "48 Hours" profiled the budding transition of Kaden, a female-bodied 11-year-old who is confident that he is a boy, and wants to live as a boy and become a man. It wasn't a bad show, really. Kaden's mother, Angelina, is very supportive; she's also honest about her reservations and concerns. There's a synopsis with photos on the CBS News Web site. And it is good to let people know that gender variance is present in the young, and also to get FTM people into the limelight. But in this case, I question the difference between news and exploitation.

Children are a major pressure point for conservative forces that seek to turn public opinion against anything they regard as deviant. Is it good to offer up a child who is struggling with his gender identity and body issues? In the long run, it probably is. People need to see that young people do face these issues. It's important that mainstream audiences don't always hear about transgender issues in retrospect from 40-year-old transsexuals who seem to repeat the same lines about how they "always felt like they were in the wrong body as a child, from as far back as I can remember." Sure, transsexual people can say that. And everyone knows our grandparents all walked 10 miles to school every day, uphill, in the snow. People trust what they see with their own eyes, and until people can see that we trans people exist in all colors, shapes, sizes, sexual orientations and ages, they won't understand that gender variance is a commonly experienced phenomenon.

However, "Protect the Children" is a powerful rallying cry, and nothing will frighten people who oppose transgender and transsexual experience more than seeing children who they believe are too young to make this kind of life-altering decision actually asserting themselves. Will those who don't believe we have the ability to know our own minds be galvanized to greater resistance by seeing Kaden struggle with the words to describe his feelings, to explain the depth of his knowing? Most parents feel their own 11-year-old children are barely capable of deciding what they want to do when they grow up, let alone knowing that they would be content for the rest of their lives having their body altered as dramatically as sex reassignment alters it. According to the current Standards of Care, Kaden is not able to have testosterone or surgery until he is physically mature, but he is able to start on depo-provera to prevent menstruation. It's a start...



But it makes me wonder about the way our medical system treats pubescent transsexual people. Hormones are important to both physical and emotional/psychological development, and simply keeping Kaden androgynous by preventing him from becoming a maturing girl also keeps him from maturing as a boy. How will he and other young transsexual people who receive hormone blockers manage to maintain a socially appropriate self-evolution? Even without medical acknowledgment and treatment, many transsexual people suffer from the inability to mature properly when they undergo puberty with the hormones that their bodies produce, and this causes immense stress. Kaden is spared this particular stress, but he must undergo another kind of stress: watching while his peers mature and he does not.

We don't know what kind of repercussions this treatment has. It is reassuring for most people that the treatment is reversible, but all that really means is that stopping depo-provera will permit Kaden's ovaries to resume estrogen production and reinstate the puberty that is now merely being delayed. While we do know that transsexual people who are permitted to transition hormonally are more comfortable in their bodies, and we also know that young people are usually very concerned about fitting in, why is it that we make young people like Kaden forgo the potential of well-being that hormonal balancing could give him? Most of those effects are equally reversible should Kaden later change his mind. Giving him the chance to have more of a male body and psychological development would, I think, offer him a more realistic social adjustment than making him simply remain an androgynous child.

The media may dub Kaden the new poster child for transsexual treatment. His mother Angelina, who clearly wants to do the right thing, is honest and forthright about her reservations and her awareness of Kaden's positive progress under treatment. She is obviously a loving parent. But will the media make Angelina out to be irresponsible? Will they follow Kaden throughout his process and keep asking him to analyze himself, to keep giving the audience a perspective on his experience that he cannot possibly have? This is a great deal of pressure to put on an 11-year-old. Yes, Kaden is capable of expressing himself, and according to some doctors he is capable of knowing who he is with respect to his gender identity — and that's great. Some young people are this capable, and some are not, and I cannot say what is true or not for Kaden. But the burden of correctness is now upon him. Five years from now, if he was wrong and wants to be a girl again, how will that affect other young transsexual people?

I think Kaden has every right to change his mind. I will not think less of him if he does, and it certainly would not affect my feelings about the correctness of allowing young people access to the medical technology of transition. But I question whether our mainstream media is capable of seeing things in shades of gray, or of showing a spectrum of vibrant color to their audience. They seem to want black or white, nothing in-between. Only time will tell how this kind of scrutiny will affect either Kaden or other young transsexual people. Meanwhile, I wish Kaden and Angelina all the best for fulfilling, productive and loving lives.

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Important Website Update!

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Kaden: Kayla's Choice...

Continued from Page 12

The school has now gone out of its way to accommodate Kaden, and has arranged for a private bathroom and even excusing him from gym class. This is a not-so-small victory in a war being fought on many fronts – including the battle against Mother Nature and puberty.

Although surgery is not an option right now – hormone therapy is, and Kaden can't wait. But Dr. Khalid Hasan, a pediatric endocrinologist at a major pediatric hospital, has concerns about giving an 11-year-old these kinds of drugs. It will be up to him to decide whether Kaden can start taking the hormone – Depo-Provera – to suppress the monthly female cycle.

"We need to get a team approach. And we need to get the opinions of other specialists and do a full analysis and find out if for certain or as close to certain Kaden really wants to go this journey of changing gender," says Hasan. "The good thing is that these medicines are reversible." But before anything can happen, Kaden must undergo an intense psychological evaluation. If the psychiatrist doesn't believe Kaden can handle the hormones, he could stop Kaden's journey to become another gender.

How hard has it been on Angelina? "It's killing me. This was my daughter. This was my first child," she says. "And regardless of what has happened, the changes, it's still somebody that I've lost."

48 Hours wasn't allowed to attend the evaluation, but less than an hour after it began, Angelina said it went really well: "At the end, he said, 'I absolutely believe what he's saying to be true.' And he went ahead and approved to start the shots." "I feel better now," says Kaden. "It takes the weight off my shoulders." And there's more good news: a rebound in Kaden's grades on his last report card.

Does Angelina think they're over the toughest part of the process? "I don't know. I don't think you're ever over the tough part," she says. "And that's why I'm doing this — because Kaden wants people to know it's OK. If this is how you feel, just do it, because there's enough people out there who love you and can care about you."

Transgender Singer to Do Feminine Hygiene Ads

"Foxy Lady" Harisu will be the first transgender individual to appear in an advertisement for menstrual pads. From the middle of next month, Harisu will be appearing as a model in television and magazine ads for imported "UFT" sanitary napkins.

She'll get a guaranteed W100 million an ad for three months. The selection of Harisu, a transsexual, as the model for menstrual pads is setting the advertising world on fire.

Up till now, male stars like Go Su and Gam U-seong have appeared in sanitary napkin ads, but never has a transgender individual appeared in an ad for such a feminine product. The Taiwanese firm UFT really tried hard to cast Harisu in its ads. In fact, when the singer first learned what the company wanted her to market, she was quite hesitant to agree to the project.

UFT, however, explained that the sanitary pads are a cutting-edge product that not only gives women that spring-fresh feeling, but also prevents menstrual cramps. Hearing this, the singer eventually accepted the offer.

This ad will be Harisu's first in three years. Her TV ads will be shot early next month, after which they'll hit the screens. Her printed ads should be in magazines late this month.

Harisu, who's hit song "Foxy Lady" has made her quite busy lately, will return to Korea on Friday. She is currently in the United States, where she will perform a concert after being selected as the "Korean Artist We'd Most Like to See" by the LA Korean Chamber of Commerce.

I'm So Sick Of Words...

Continued from Page 12

Interestingly, those of the otherwise intersexed in our community are often terrified of being associated with the words Transsexual and Transsexuality. I don't really blame them; the words have become associated with very negative images. It will be easier to change the words than to change the images.

Some words imply quite correctly, that something has happened to the person with whom they are associated, something beyond their choosing. To be Intersexed, is one such 'word - person' relationship, even if the word is not understood in the wider community.

To be Transsexed could be understood this way, for the word again implies quite correctly, that Transsex, like the other Intersexes, is not a choice. The biological realities of our lives cannot be laid aside, when they are not convenient on any given day.

Much tension exists in our community over the ownership of words and the concepts associated with them. These tensions are products of the need we have to define ourselves to society and the adoption of new or modified words, will be one sensible and easy way to avoid stealing each others thunder.

I urge the adoption of the "concept words" Transsex and Transsexed. Rachael Wallbank points out that the word 'Transgender' was coined by Virginia Price, an American transvestite. The word Transgender is very much in the same boat. It is a one -blanket-fits-all, that doesn't fit at all.

I do not say that the transvestite part of our community does not share the common problem about which we gather for mutual support, but the reality is, that just as the Intersex conditions (there are around sixty of them) are not the same as one another, and don't all require the same treatment, neither can the word 'Transgender' serve the need we have, to define the particular identity and needs of the Transsexed.

I join with those who urge the adoption of standard meanings for words such as gender, sex, gender roles, sexuality, etc. These are words that bring us to grief as a community, for we use them in confusion of their true meanings. As a community we need to develop and use, simple, crisp, plain English meanings, that will make these terms more effective tools for us.

Perhaps the most glaring examples of our using words so as to confuse, is to be seen in the frequent use of the word Gender when we mean Sex, and we speak of Gender reassignment when what surgery aims to achieve, is Sex reassignment. Gender is a realization of the sexed brain, we have yet to see a reassignment of the brain's sex.

Before the less flexible in our ranks put their Doc Martins through the Internet in rage, at my daring to assail the Holy Grail of 'the concept of gender', may I suggest that we explore the difference between Gender and Gender Roles, and the amenability of these realities to modification.

I agreed that neither genitalia nor chromosomes define Gender. The brain is the arbiter and the brain usually follows the prompting of pre-natal hormonal influences. Thus expressed, the court agreed with the evidence supporting this point of view. Gender is therefore not amenable to modification.

And Gender Roles? Well, I have been using my own definition of these structures in all my recent correspondence and lobbying. 'signaled to you by a person's Sex, one assumes (sometimes incorrectly), that we know this person's Gender, and that they will live in a pattern or role, that each culture sees as normal for that sex.'

As Gender Roles differ between cultures, we are able to see that Gender Roles are, at least in part, constructed by the culture in which they exist. Gender Roles are therefore amenable to modification. Should Gender Roles be redefined as 'Sex Roles'? I think so. It is our gender which drives us towards identifying with a Sex Role.

Our community needs to change the minds of those who change the laws, we will struggle to do this, until we settle on a standard use of words to express to the legislators our socio-biological predicament.

A law is a fence, placed around a concept for the purposes of administration. Our legislators cannot frame a law on ethereal concepts such as "how long is a puff of smoke" or "what shape will a cloud be in ten minutes" they need certainty, certainty that the concept at the center of a proposed change, is defensible in the public eye. They will always seek confirmation of any facts we put to them in support of law change. They have always sought this validation from the professional bodies of law and medicine. This will not change, risk taking is not their business.

We as a community have the task of presenting defensible concepts to the legislators, based on the facts we are best able to support, expressed in words that always have unambiguous meanings.

I propose that we need at least a national consensus on the words we use in our submissions, and in arriving at this consensus, the last thing we should have in mind is any attempt to make one blanket fit all, or we will have "trouble with words".

I Am My Own Wife

Gay Playwright Wins Pulitzer For Drama

Christopher Lisotta, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

Playwright Doug Wright has won the 2004 Pulitzer Prize in drama for his one-person show "I Am My Own Wife," about a real-life transgender East German who survived both the Nazi regime and the repressive Communist era. "I'm weak with exhaustion, but it's happy exhaustion, like the feeling you get after a nice, long hot bath," Wright told Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network about his reaction to Monday's Pulitzer announcement.

Wright, 41, worked on the play for more than a decade. In the early 1990s Wright traveled to Berlin, where he was introduced to Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, who by then was in her early sixties. Born Lothar Berfelde, von Mahlsdorf lived as a woman, and became known for her museum-quality collection of antique furniture. The meeting led to Wright interviewing von Mahlsdorf for hundreds of hours over the course of several years. She died in 2002 at the age of 74.

"I would go so far as to say that Charlotte grew up in a regime where discrimination was enshrined in law," he explained. Wright said he thought President Bush's stand on the Federal Marriage Amendment and the push to change the U.S. Constitution showed that the issue of limiting rights was still alive and well. "It makes the play particularly cautionary," he added.

The play was workshopped in San Diego in 2002, and later shown in Chicago and New York before coming to Broadway's Lyceum Theater in December 2003. The current production stars Jefferson Mays, who plays more than 30 characters, and is directed by Moises Kaufman ("The Laramie Project").

"I Am My Own Wife" also explores whether von Mahlsdorf was an East German spy, and the nature of personal narratives and lies people tell themselves and others. The New York Times called the play "the most stirring new work to appear on Broadway this fall" in a Dec. 4 review. "Charlotte paid a very provocative and controversial price, but I do think she maintained her singularity in the most repressive regime the West has ever produced, and that's an achievement in and of itself," Wright said.

But Wright stressed that von Mahlsdorf's unique story and her sexual identity didn't make the play an overly difficult sell. He also noted he didn't want to make von Mahlsdorf a saint. "I think that's what makes the piece more accessible," he explained. "I'm neither lionizing nor demonizing Charlotte. I hope that we've moved beyond the nature of gay theater. We are increasingly visible. Her sexuality was a critical aspect of her nature but it was not all-defining."

In the meantime Wright is in the process of directing a staged reading while dealing with the increased press attention of being the newest Pulitzer Prize recipient. "I keep calling my boyfriend every hour and saying, 'It's three o'clock and I'm still a Pulitzer Prize winner,'" he admitted. "It's thrilling, and as a writer it's great to be acknowledged for an unapologetically gay work. That's really gratifying."

Queen City

You know you're in Vegas when a beauty contest requires proof of natural gender. In the city's grand tradition of pushing the envelope, the Riviera is inviting all divas in drag to enter "The World's Most Beautiful Transsexual Contest" **July 22 to 24**.

"Unlike other beauty pageants, proof of natural gender will be required in the form of birth certificates or doctor's genetic verification," said Riviera publicist John Neeland. Pre-op and post-op transsexuals will be considered, he said.

Competition will include evening gown, swimwear, talent and stage interviews, with $5,000 in prize money going to the winner, plus a round trip for two to the Virgin Islands.

The event will be produced by Norbert Aleman and Jimmy Emerson of Starr Pro Productions.

Man's J-Lo Plastic Surgery

By Matheus Sanchez, Evening Standard

Michael - Before

A television makeover show has tried to turn its latest participant into Jennifer Lopez - and his name is Michael. MTV's I Want A Famous Face, where contestants undergo thousands of pounds' worth of plastic surgery to look like their favorite star, has managed to turn up the shock factor another notch after twins Matt and Mike Schlep went under the knife to look like Brad Pitt.

Jessica - After

Now transsexual Michael J Tito, 23, has been given hormone treatment, jaw and brow sculpting and cheek implants to look like Latin diva J-Lo in a program screened last night in the US. Tito also underwent breast enlargements and bottom implants. An online vote declared the transformation a "match".

Tito, who is changing his name to Jessica, said he was pleased with the result but admitted after the program that no one had actually mistaken him for Lopez. "No, but my people tell me all the time I am very J-Lo-ish," he said.

"I am her fan. I love her. I think she is beautiful. I just wished I would have gotten my breasts a little larger."

Arrest In TG Teen Shooting

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(New York City) A 20 year old Brooklyn man was arrested Thursday and charged in the shooting of a 14 year old transgendered teen. Police said that Jamel Stevens became enraged after discovering the 14-year-old with whom he had sex was biologically male.

The teen, whose name is being withheld because of her age, was shot four times February 21 in the Bedford-Stuyvesant area. Police said she was struck twice in the left arm and once in each of her legs. The teen was hospitalized for a week at Kings County Hospital Center

The teenager had been living as a female for nearly a year, and police said she had engaged in sex with Stevens for cash. When Stevens bragged of his sexual exploit people in the neighborhood told him that the girl was born male. He then went home and returned with a gun. Furious, Stevens chased the girl pumping four bullets in her.

Stevens was identified by the teen through mug shots. He was arrested by officers at his home and surrendered without incident. Stevens is charged with attempted murder, menacing and criminal possession of a weapon.

But some in the neighborhood said that Stevens was the real victim and that he had been "deceived" by the teen.

"It's just noticeable that he's a guy," Rafael Hernandez, 17, a neighbor of the victim told the New York Post. Crystal Gonzalez, 19, said she had warned the teen to stop dressing like a girl. "But he didn't listen to me," she said. "There are a lot of crazy people in this world who don't accept gay people."

Stevens arrest came as a jury in California was hearing the case of three men charged with killing another transgendered teen, 17 year old Gwen Araujo. Defense lawyers told the court Thursday that their clients should not have been charged with murder because it was a classic case of manslaughter because the trio felt "shame and humiliation" after discovering Araujo, which whom they had had sex, was born male.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Assets, Liabilities, and Equity

as of 20 April 2004

Assets

Cash	$2,260.70
Event Equipment	
Decorations	$1,000.00
Food Service	$200.00
Office Supplies	$50.00
Total Assets	$3,510.70

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	$1,193.74
Equity	$2,316.96
Total Liabilities and Equity	**$3,510.70**

Statement of TGSF Income, April 2004

Revenue

Memberships	$190.00
Donations	$1,110.50
Advertising	$0.00
Total	**$1,300.50**

Expenses

Newsletter	$500.00
Telephone	$50.00
Miscellaneous	$0.00
Total	**$550.00**
Net Income	**$750.50**

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

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

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give

as of April 20, 2004

Sappho Calfas & Ayme Kantz	*$100.00*
Elizabeth Jeffords	*$1000.00*
Rachel Hill (notification of United Way Pledge)	*$960.00*
Jessica Ames	*$250.00*

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

Contact TGSF!

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More T-News!

Suspect Charged In Silicone-Induced Death

Christopher Curtis, Gay.com PlanetOut.com Network

On Friday a transgender woman was arraigned in Dougherty County, Ga., to face murder charges in another transgender woman's death from industrial-strength silicone injections. Myasha Thomas, 31, was arrested Thursday along with four accomplices. The court listed her legal name as Stephen Thomas.

Police believe that on Dec. 10 Thomas injected the 23-year-old victim's face and chest with industrial-strength silicone in order to enhance the woman's appearance. But soon after the injection, the transgender woman, whom police identify only by her birth name, Andre Jeter, fell into a coma. A month later she would die from multi-organ and respiratory failure.

James Paulk, the chief investigator for the Dougherty County district attorney's office, told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network he received calls from others who claimed similar injections from Thomas. "They were assured that there would be no medical problems," he said. "But within 30 days they would have to go to the hospital."

Paulk said he knows of four such alleged victims, but believes there are more. "I know they're out there. And they're going to experience some major medical problems shortly," he said, adding that all of the suspects involved are also suffering from the effects of silicone injections.

Dr. Jason Schneider, who serves on the board of directors of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), explained that using industrial silicone that is not health-care grade causes many problems. "It's not necessarily sterile," he said. "Infection is going to be one of the higher risks out there. The immune system can respond to it like it's a foreign body, causing inflammation."

Dallas Denny, board member of Gender Education & Advocacy, an organization for transgender people, described how silicone injections could change, sink or even migrate to different body parts. "If someone gets it in their chest, it can move to their ankles," she explained. "Removal is difficult," she said. "In terms of getting silicone out, several plastic surgeons have told me it's nearly impossible. Once you get it done, it permeates the tissue. You're pretty much stuck with it."

People find out about the dangerous procedure usually when they admire someone who recently had an injection, Denny said. That person acts as a runner, bringing others to "pumping parties" which are held in bars or someone's home, where a big boring needle is used to inject the silicone.

Denny noted silicone injections are not just a problem among transgender people. "It happens a lot in Asian communities. It's becoming common with HIV-positive gay men who are trying to reduce the appearance of sunken cheeks or a sunken chest. It's common in the drag community, and sex workers who are trying to improve their marketability."

"We've got to get the word out," she said. "There can be no delay."

Nikkia Scott, identified as Freddie Clyde in court records, said her silicone injections have not caused any serious health problems.

Man Charged With Murder For Silicone Injection Death

C.G. WALLACE
Associated Press Writer

A man accused of injecting industrial-grade silicone into men who were living as women and wanted to look more feminine was charged with murder after one of them died. In an indictment unsealed Wednesday, Stephen Oneal Thomas, 31, was also charged with practicing medicine without a license.

Thomas, who is living as a woman, had been working Dougherty County for at least a year, holding "pumping parties" where he would inject silicone into cheeks, lips, breasts and buttocks, said prosecutor Ken Hodges. He said Thomas did much of his work among people who compete in elaborate beauty pageants for men living as women.

Industrial-grade silicone is sold in hardware stores as a sealant. It is not sterile and can cause extensive tissue damage when absorbed into the bloodstream.

Andre D. Jeter, 23, of Montgomery, Ala., suffered convulsions and fell into a coma Dec. 10 after getting injections in his face and chest during a pumping party. He died a month later.

Mark Edwards, 23, Freddie Clyde, 22, and Kontavius Parks, 23, were also indicted for allegedly helping Thomas inject silicone in at least five men. The co-defendants are also living as women.

Among men living as women, silicone injections are seen as a cheap and secret way to appear more feminine. "I do know there are people who sort of make the circuit, pumping people with silicone," said Dallas Denny of Gender Education & Advocacy, a support group for transgendered people.

Most of the material injected "can be bought at Home Depot," and is often mixed with paraffin, oil or even peanut butter, she said. The injections are often given in a hotel room or in the back of a bar, Denny said.

Politician Announces He's Transgendered

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(Rapid City, South Dakota) South Dakota's only out politician announced Monday that he is preparing to undergo sex reassignment to become a woman. Tom Murphy said that he had "pretended long enough."

The 48 year old Rapid City alderman said he will begin immediately living as a woman, but did not indicate what his new name will be. Right now, he said, people can refer to him in the masculine

Murphy said that for the next year he will begin hormone therapy and dress as a woman, a prerequisite for reassignment surgery. But, he said that he will not wear women's clothing in the council chamber. He said he will not seek reelection in 2005. He has been letting his hair grow long and will soon undergo laser treatment for his beard.

Murphy said he has identified with females more than with males since he was young. He began visiting Internet chat rooms after he retired from a 22-year military career. "I found out I'm not alone," he said. "It's just amazing, the common bond we have. From what I understand, people on the council have accepted me," he said. Murphy was appointed to fill an unfinished term in 2000 and the next year won a spot on the council. He won another two-year council term last year.

In January Murphy testified against a bill in the state Legislature that would ban same-sex marriages. The measure eventually died in the House State Affairs Committee. "It's a hate bill. That's what I see it as," Murphy said.

It is believed the Murphy will be first sitting transgendered politician in the United States. He said that once his reassignment is complete he will probably leave the community. "I think I'll be discriminated against in trying to find a job," he said.

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The Gay-Marriage Debate May Cast Doubt On Validity Of Unions Involving People Who Change Gender

Transsexuals: A New Test Of Marriage

By Yomi S. Wronge
Mercury News

Depending on how you see things, Fran Bennett and Erika Taylor are a heterosexual or lesbian couple. Either way, under California law, they're married. That's because the couple tied the knot before Bennett, once a popular Bay Area disc jockey known as "Weird Old Uncle Frank," had what is commonly called a sex change.

Their marriage — and possibly thousands like it involving transsexual women and men across the Bay Area and country — is already testing the boundaries of marriage as the nation wrangles over the rights of same-sex couples to wed.

Many transsexual couples have until now fallen under the mainstream radar as they've continued to marry, or remain married despite having changed genders. And now they're worried the contentious debate over same-sex marriage will cast an unwelcome spotlight on their largely quiet existence. "If the Orwellian religious right has their way, they could pull the plug on all of us," said Bennett, 50, a San Jose resident who made national headlines in 2002 when she announced her transition from male to female.

Threats from religious conservatives, as well as President Bush's push for a constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages, make couples like Bennett and Taylor uneasy. "I am concerned that if there's a federal change defining marriage only between a man and woman, and I no longer qualify as a man, then could they try to dissolve my marriage?" said Fairfax resident Dani-Marie Kleist, 54, a transsexual woman who married as a man 12 years ago.

Transsexuals — people who have an innate sense they were born the wrong sex — have a legal right in California to change their gender on various forms of identification. Those who elect to have sex-reassignment surgery can also apply for a new birth certificate that reflects their corrected sex. There are an estimated 35,000 to 60,000 transsexuals living in California.

Able to marry

Transsexuals have long been able to marry in California and many other states under a variety of circumstances, including marriages entered into before a person makes the transition to the opposite gender, and those that would be considered heterosexual after a person changes gender.

"It's a precious right that we already have," said Shannon Minter, a transsexual man and legal director at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, one of three organizations that filed a lawsuit in March for six same-sex couples arguing that denying them the right to marry violates California's constitution.

While Minter believes marriages like Bennett and Taylor's can't be undone, she said they underscore the arbitrariness of using gender as a basis to restrict marriage. If these marriages are called into question, some wonder whether the larger gay and lesbian community will fight equally as hard for the rights of transsexuals to marry. "I'm scared this will divide the LGBT community as opposed to bring it together," Taylor, 36, said of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

The major groups advocating for same-sex marriages, meanwhile, say it's all one battle. "When we look at transgenders, we see that denying same-sex couples the right to marry has all kinds of unintended consequences," said Jim De La Hunt, policy director for Marriage Equality California, a non-profit, grass-roots group advocating for the freedom of all people to marry.

Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity differs from their anatomical sex. The term includes cross-dressers, people whose sexual organs are ambiguous at birth and transsexuals.

Some political analysts believe it benefits gay and lesbian groups to avoid talking about this little-known community in the context of same-sex marriage. "Middle America is having a hard enough time with just plain old vanilla gay marriage," said Larry J. Sabato, director of the University of Virginia Center for Politics.

Quiet strategies

Opponents striving to ban gay marriage are already quietly planning ways to head off transgender people before they reach the altar. "Transgender marriage isn't marriage. It's an invention, a violation of a universal social principal law of a male and a female," said the Rev. Lou Sheldon, leader of the Traditional Values Coalition. Sheldon calls transgender marriage "the next wave" in the battle to protect traditional marriage ideals.

That sentiment doesn't surprise Gwendolyn and Bonnie Smith of Antioch, a legally married lesbian couple who have lived in peaceful domesticity for more than a decade, but now fear backlash given the current political climate. "I'm scared that, somehow, they'll come up with a way to reverse 12 years of my life," said Bonnie Smith, 35, who married Gwen Smith before Gwen made the transition from a man to a woman.

She cited recent family court decisions regarding transgender marriages, including one involving attorney Mathew Staver, whose Liberty Counsel is representing the conservative Campaign for California Families in suits filed to outlaw gay unions. Staver is appealing a Florida court decision to grant child custody to a transsexual man in a divorce case.

Similar divorce issues have been argued in U.S. courts only six times. Those in New Jersey and Florida have upheld the validity of such marriages; Kansas, Texas, New York and Ohio courts have declared them invalid, Staver said. "I think the whole gay marriage debate, although it may not always be phrased this way, is a debate about gender," he said.

Intersexual? Transsexual? Male, Female Aren't So Easy To Define.

Gender Blender

By Eric Vilain, to the Los Angeles Times

This was the moment of truth. The ultimate test before the coronation. A deacon would extend his hand below the robe of the future pope and check for the presence of two testicles. Middle Ages legend has it that this rite was started after Joan, an Englishwoman and a cross-dresser, managed to get elected pope in 855 but was discovered two years later because of an ill-timed childbirth.

Will we soon be witnessing such surreal examinations in our city halls? After all, if the Constitution will allow only marriages between a man and a woman, the county clerks had better make sure that they are issuing licenses legally. Patting down the two male organs would ensure an absolute certainty of sex identification. Or would it?

In reality, sex isn't so straightforward. Let's take testicles as a defining characteristic of a man. Are individuals with only one testis "real" men? The "two-testicles rule" would disqualify about 3% of male newborns a year — about 4.5 million Americans total. Does one need to produce active sperm or eggs to be considered a man or woman? Adding a fertility criterion would eliminate millions more from both categories.

If conventional wisdom cannot easily define men and women by just a simple look at the private parts, science should help us distinguish between the sexes. Since 1921, we have known that women have two X chromosomes and men an X and a Y chromosome. This is the fundamental genetic distinction between men and women.

But still, it's been difficult to find clear-cut answers. Olympic Games officials have struggled with the science of "sexing" individuals for many years — often after high-profile cases of gender confusion. In the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, U.S. runner Helen Stephens beat Polish runner Stella Walsh in the 100-meter sprint, winning a gold medal and breaking Walsh's 1932 record. The Polish press falsely accused Stephens of being a man. Ironically, after Walsh was killed during a 1980 robbery, her autopsy revealed male genitals. Decades later, Erica Schinegger, who won the women's downhill skiing world title for Austria in 1966, was two years later found to be chromosomally male and, as such, disqualified for the Olympics. Her case forced the International Olympic Committee to require all athletes to take a test counting the number of X chromosomes.

In 1990, scientists learned that a gene called SRY on the Y chromosome is what makes fetuses become boys and not girls. In 1992, the Olympic test was perfected to detect the presence of the SRY gene.

But even that was insufficient. Any genetics expert knows that there are exceptions to the chromosome rules. There are females with a Y chromosome; there are males with no SRY gene. At the Sydney Olympics in 2000, the IOC decided to "refrain from performing gender tests," conceding that no single test provided a complete answer.

Identifying the gender of intersex and transsexual individuals poses an even more complex challenge. Intersexuality is defined as the presence of "ambiguous genitalia," making it impossible to tell easily whether the newborn baby is a boy or a girl. It occurs at a frequency of 1 in 4,000 births. Plastic surgery of the genitals is often performed to conform a typical appearance of one sex or the other, and a male or female legal sex is assigned shortly after birth. Many of these children grow up feeling alienated from their legal sex identity and undergo reconstructive surgery as adults to regain their dominant gender identity. If intersex adults change their legal sex, which sex should be considered when they marry?

Continued on Page 21

Trans Students At Yale Seek Attention

By Annie Hung
The Yale Herald

For many, cross-dressing elicits images of Jack Lemmon and Tony Curtis carousing about in curly wigs, gaudy dresses, and stuffed bras in the popular 1959 film *Some Like It Hot*. While pop culture has historically cast transgender issues in a comedic light, a series of events at Yale this past week, co-sponsored by the Yale Women's Center Board and the Gay and Lesbian Co-op, addressed more serious transgendered issues as part of Trans Issues Week.

Transgendered issues lag about 30 years behind the gay and lesbian revolution, and some believe that delay is partly reflected in the immediate Yale-New Haven community. "In general, even most open-minded, liberal, progressive Yalies may not understand why people would be transgendered or identify themselves as transgendered," Lauren Krywanczyk said. As the coordinator of Trans Issue Week, she hoped that the invited activists, authors, and performers would increase trans awareness at Yale and in New Haven. "It's something that needs to start being more visible and understood," she said.

With audiences that varied from gender studies majors and LGBT community members to curious Yale students and New Haven citizens, guest speakers addressed the central issues of transgendered individuals, included dispelling common myths. To begin, they explained, different people have a variety of reasons for cross-dressing. Many gay men may do so because they feel less constrained by conventional codes of manhood. Transgendered people, however, may cross-dress to alleviate unsettling feelings of not exactly fitting into the gender to which they were born.

"[Transgendered people] often feel like they don't fit in the box," said Helen Boyd, author of *My Husband Betty*, a reflection on straight females's marriages to transgendered men. "No matter how big the box is, they still feel they don't fit." Now married six years to her cross-dressing husband, Boyd encourages other cross-dressing men and their straight female partners to be more open with their situation. "Four years ago, I was dragging him out of [our New York] apartment," Boyd said proudly. "Now he's on the cover of my book."

At Yale, Krywanczyk hopes for a time when more transgendered individuals will feel comfortable expressing their gender identity on campus. While the gay and lesbian scene has generally enjoyed support from fellow Yalies, the transgendered community remains "virtually nonexistent." As someone who identifies herself as "gender queer," or someone who prefers to remain fluid gender-wise, Lauren decided to be more declarative of her gender identity this year—she cut her hair short and began dressing in buttoned-down shirts and ties.

"I prefer to appear aesthetically as a man," she said. "But I still don't consider myself a man entirely—I don't want to be called by male pronouns." For those who are still in the process of grappling with their gender identity, periods of self-discovery can be difficult times. "I'm still hesitant to call my-self transgendered. I'm still in the process of looking," Krywanczyk said.

While Krywanczyk may not notice a strong awareness of transgendered issues at Yale, she has certainly found acceptance in some places. One of Krywanczyk's three suitemates, Ariane Lotti, even seemed surprised at the idea that living with a transgendered person would cause any concerns. "It's never been a problem," Lotti said. "[Lauren's] a wonderful person, and it's never been an issue for any of us at all."

But Lotti's current comfort may be partly due to her early exposure to diverse sexual orientation within her community. "I've known people who were gay since I was little," she said. "I've always been taught to see a person, not to start categorizing them immediately."

The reception of Trans Issue Week on campus seemed to prove that peers were generally accepting. Still, the extremely limited presence of a transgendered community indicates that this comfort level is not yet where many would like it to be. One of the main points of Boyd's campaign is to allow transgendered individuals to come to terms with their sexuality at an earlier stage in life. Doing so would help them avoid a self-defeating complex typically adopted by older people who still persist in rejecting their "deviant" sexuality.

"These people want to be able to preserve continuity in their lives," Boyd said. "They want to keep their job, their references, their resume, and still maintain their identity [when they change their gender]."

Unfavorable reception by peers at work is a universal challenge for all individuals with diverse sexual orientations. At Yale, former employee Erin Dwyer filed a lawsuit against the University for allegedly neglecting state discrimination laws and failing to address the verbal abuse and death threats Dwyer received at work.

"Listening to the speakers brought home to me that these are people who deal with regular things like families, jobs, school on a day to day basis, and their gender identity is not the biggest part of their life," Megan Fountain said. This week, she attended both the panel discussion and the performance by the African-American transgendered artist and activist, Imani Henry, on Wednesday.

Moreover, some current and graduated Yale students believe that the University could do more to support students with different sexual orientations. They would like to see on-campus, coed housing alternatives and more combined male-female public restrooms, some issues that the gay and lesbian community has already been pushing.

Trans Issue Week laid down some ground rules few Yalies were aware of: Always address someone as they present themselves and never assume that transgendered means a complete sex change—the umbrella term includes everything from cross-dressing to transsexuals, who undergo surgery to shape a male or female image.

Furthermore, as Krywanczyk hopes, the events cleared space for more open dialogues about transgendered issues on campus, which ultimately may help more students feel more comfortable expressing their gender identity.

"I'm glad to be a woman—and I feel sympathy for those who feel they have been hard-wired to fight against both biology and society," said Liana Epstein, who attended the Boyd session. A psychology major, she will study the impact of transgendered people on the gender violence rate in the South Pacific this summer. "One or the other is hard enough...but both? It must be completely overwhelming," she said. "I hope that someday our society is open minded enough to allow everyone to be who they are and not have to live a lie."

Transsexual Adds Gray To Gender Issue

O. Ricardo Pimentel
Arizona Republic

The debate on gay marriage is passing Kelly Rekila by. It is, in fact, ignoring her. Rekila is a male-to-female transsexual in Phoenix. This means that she was born anatomically a man but is a woman in every other respect. In how she thinks, feels, acts and simply is. You only need to talk to Rekila for a short time to believe this to be absolutely true. She is slim, feminine and sports a short woman's coif. She's about 5 feet 8 but can accurately be described as petite.

The debate on gay marriage has focused on whether gays and lesbians can enjoy all of the same rights that accompany civil marriages among heterosexuals. And, of course, there has been talk of a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage. Rekila argues convincingly that she is not gay or lesbian. She is a woman who tried very hard to be a man for a very long time and was an utter failure because she couldn't be something she really isn't.

The first failing occurred in grade school, where she was bullied for her effeminate mannerisms. She failed at it in her family, which invoked religion to make her feel sinful for simply being. She failed at it in the Air Force, from which, she said, she was honorably discharged early because she wasn't deemed to be fitting in. And she failed at it in a string of jobs in which she had to put "M" on the application but was soon derided and made miserable for acting too much like an "F."

Rekila's concerns stem from the language of a proposed constitutional amendment. You know, that stuff about "marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman." So who's a man and who's a woman? If your birth certificate says you're a man but you aren't really, where do you stand with this amendment? She asks this question not only for herself. She's not even sure she ever wants to be married. She just wants to be a woman "legally." She worries about those who are intersexed as well. This, according to a definition found on the Web, means a "person having the characteristics of both male and female biological organs or genitalia."

Rekila asks simply how we're going to determine who qualifies as a man or a woman. "Would it be a chromosome test, the gonad test, the genitalia test, the hormone test, the birth certificate test?" she writes in a letter she gave me right before we talked. And, of course, many of you are now saying, "Oh, good grief. It's how you're born." But to hear Rekila's story and to talk to her is to know that "how you're born" isn't just about the equipment you're born with. Rekila realized this soon after starting school in Fitchburg, Mass. She found herself playing with her second-grade friend, Lisa, on a playground segregated by gender. She was consistently on the girls' side.

Soon, she wasn't allowed to play with Lisa anymore, which made Rekila profoundly sad. Rekila tried but she just couldn't be a man. She was miserable. "I was viewing my strong desire to be a woman to be a sin," she said. She was raised a Pentecostal. At Washington State University, she even had a girlfriend. The relationship ended when it became clear to both that Rekila "didn't know how to be her boyfriend," she said.

In the Air Force, she tried to outmen the men, becoming "a parody of men." But she couldn't pull it off. The Air Force believed their officer

Continued on Page 21

Meet My Amazing Family

David Ottewell
Manchester News

Her father used to be a radical lesbian, her mother has given birth to four children by sperm donor and they all live under the same roof with two of her parents' friends from university.

Welcome to the world of 11-year-old Eleanor Whittle. The Stockport schoolgirl addressed a conference in the Swiss city of Geneva to discuss her experiences of living in a "non-traditional family."

Her 10-minute speech to a panel arranged by the International Service on Human Rights and the International Research Centre on Social Minorities discussed the unusual living arrangements back home in Heaton Mersey.

Her father, Dr Stephen Whittle, is a female-to-male-transsexual who started living as a man in the 1970s and is now raising four children with his long-term partner, Sarah Rutherford.

Eleanor, Gabriel, nine, and seven-year-old twins Lizzie and Pippa, were all conceived by sperm donor. The family of six also lives with two of Dr Whittle's old university friends.

Eleanor said she regarded her speech as an opportunity to challenge prejudice. "We are just an ordinary family but there are no words to describe us", she said. "There are many different types of families nowadays and they all see themselves as families. I have noticed at school people don't bother standing up for what they think is right.

Short-listed

"It is important to have schools work towards getting rid of all insults using gay and lesbian and transsexuals. "Many people only laugh to cover up how they are feeling. "I want the world to recognize all sorts of families that are different as families."

Dr Whittle was born female and set up the Manchester Lesbian Collective as a teenager in 1974 but the following year decided to change sex and begin living as a man. Now 49, he became an academic after claiming he was forced out of a number of jobs because of his transsexuality. He is a leading writer on transgender theory and has been short-listed for major human rights awards.

Dr Whittle said he was "immensely proud" of his daughter being invited to give the speech on an international stage. "She knows my history and my campaigning and has done her own things at school," he said. "She is quite a fiery person and very politically aware. When she was about five she said she wanted to be a diplomat.

"We have told our children from when they were young about the story of them and how they were born and through that, the story of me. "To other people it might be non-traditional but to her [Eleanor] it is totally ordinary. The only thing she says is that it is an exciting family."

Gender Blender...

Continued from Page 19

Although the validity of marriage of an intersex person has not been tried in court, legal challenges to marriages of transsexuals abound. Transsexuals believe that they have been born in the wrong body and often pursue a difficult and painful process of surgical reassignment. But courts often don't recognize the change of sex and invalidate spousal rights of transsexuals. In the 1999 landmark case of Littleton vs. Prange, a male-to-female transsexual was denied the right to sue under a wrongful death statute for the death of her husband. The Texas Court of Appeals referred to sex provided by "our creator" as opposed to sex created by physicians and rejected "man-made" sexual organs.

Sex should be easily definable, but it's not. Our gender identity — our profound sense of being male or female — is independent from our anatomy. A constitutional amendment authorizing marriages only between men and women would not only discriminate against millions of Americans who do not fit easily in the mold of each category, but would simply be flawed and contrary to basic biological realities.

Eric Vilain is chief of medical genetics at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

Adding Grey to Gender...

Continued from Page 20

to be gay. According to Rekila, her fitness reports had all the telltale language. But they didn't have to worry about either asking or telling. Rekila wasn't having anything to do with sex. "The concept of sex is unthinkable for me because of my current state," she said.

Three years ago, an emotionally drained Rekila hit bottom and began therapy and soon learned to accept who she is. She started hormone therapy as well. An operation to complete the process, anatomically, is the goal when it is financially feasible. It isn't cheap.

Her driver's license now has an "F" where an "M" used to be, made possible, essentially, by a note from her doctor. But she worries about what a constitutional amendment means ultimately for her and people like her. Rekila, who is a driver for a transportation company, doesn't have an answer. She has no language that she would introduce, instead. She'd just like us to start giving it some attention.

Folks on both sides of the gay marriage issue would have us believe that the issue is black and white. Rekila, who was born Kenneth but is now Kelly, is proof that for many people it is far more complex than any of us could have imagined.

Becoming Jennifer Edwards

Via CBS News: 48 Hours

To Allison Helsel, her stepfather was always a regular dad. Ed Kozlowski was loving and attentive, and he raised her like his own. But Allison, 23, says she didn't know that her fun-loving father, a computer programmer who loved motorcycles, had a long-kept secret that was causing him great pain. Correspondent Troy Roberts reports. "We were always happy," recalls Allison. "I could never sense any kind of depression or anything."

So it was quite a shock when a year ago, Kozlowski, then 46, phoned his stepdaughter and told her that he had always wanted to be a "she." "It was a conscious effort I had to make every day to make sure my movements were masculine, that my conversation was 'masculine.' I was tired. I couldn't endure it anymore," says Kozlowski.

After Kozlowski told his family of his plans to live his life as a woman, he then had to come out to his community in Oldsmar, Fla. To make matters even more complicated, Kozlowski was a public official who chaired meetings of the town's code enforcement board. While he had been dressing as a woman for a while, he only wore men's clothing at City Hall.

One day last spring, he decided to come to work in a dress and makeup, and before a stunned room, he introduced himself with his new name: Jennifer Edwards. "It was very important to me. I agonized over it. It was a big relief to be able to finally be myself," says Kozlowski, now known as Jennifer. It was headline news - and quickly became the talk of the town.

"Some were shocked, and awed; at least they were curious," says Jennifer. "But all in all they treated me very well .The majority of reaction is probably, 'Well, you're doing something you wanna do and if it makes you happy, OK, just don't do it to me.'" But she admits that she encountered snide, ugly comments as well: "Almost daily. I've had people come right up to me and say, 'You're disgusting. You're sick.'"

"For people to look and have something to say, they're very closed-minded," says Allison. "That's what's wrong with this world today. Who cares what they think, as long as my Dad is happy?" Jennifer plans to have sexual reassignment surgery. But first, she has to live full-time as a woman for a year. And that means she can finally be herself.

So far, it's been a lot of work.

"I've really learned how to appreciate a little bit more what the feminine gender has to go through just to present themselves," says Jennifer. "A guy can roll out of bed five minutes and he's on his way to work. Maybe he can shave in the car if he had to. You've got a dozen steps to go through just to do your basic good morning world and get out the door."

Jennifer has hired image consultant Kelly Machbitz, who has helped other transsexuals. "I hear the word passable a lot. They don't want to look like a man, dressing like a woman," says Machbitz. "She wants to be feminine; she's a wonderful student. So she's doing very well. I'm very proud." Along with makeup and etiquette, Jennifer has another challenge - learning to shop for her new womanly figure.

"I think I look OK. I mean, for a 47-year-old woman, I'm doing all right," says Jennifer. "I'm 5 foot 7 inches, 135 pounds. I'm a size 8, 10 dress. So I'm very lucky. I was a slight individual to begin with." "She has nice legs," says Allison, laughing. "It's not fair! I was very jealous!"

Continued on Page 24

Remember Gwen Araujo!

NTAC Press Release

Araujo Murder Trial

On October 3, 2002, 17-year-old Gwen Araujo was slowly and brutally murdered at a party after young men with whom she had previously had sex discovered that she was anatomically male. After finishing their "Tony Soprano-type" hit, they drove the teen's body to a site over 150 miles away and buried her in a shallow grave.

The nation's transgender community, riveted by the brutality of the case, is looking forward to final justice in a trial where defense attorneys will attempt to affix blame to the victim. The trial for Araujo's murder, currently in the jury selection phase, is slated to begin March 29 in Oakland, CA.

Jason Cazares, 24, Michael Magidson, 23, and Jose Merel, 24, are each charged with murder with a hate-crime enhancement in the slaying of the Newark, CA teenager, Gwen (born Eddie) Araujo. California is one of seven states nationwide that has hate crime enhancements that cover "gender identity" or expression - the transgendered. An additional suspect, Jaron Nabors, 21, entered a plea bargain earlier to voluntary manslaughter and will testify on behalf of the state against Magidson, Merel and Cazares.

The men had speculated about the true gender of Araujo, an attractive girl from the neighborhood that they knew as "Lida." According to Nabors' testimony, at one point the accused sat around Merel's kitchen table and discussed a "Tony Soprano-type" murder and a plot to "get rid of her body" if their suspicions of her anatomical maleness were confirmed.

"Fear and hatred of 'gayness' drove these men to plan, and carry out a stunningly heartless murder," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC). The murderers "were attracted to a beautiful female," she added, and "couldn't live with others knowing of their affection towards a girl who was not born female."

Meanwhile, defense attorneys are telegraphing strategy to turn the trial around by affixing blame to Araujo for her murder. In his line of questioning, Michael Thorman, attorney for defendant Michael Magidson, suggested that he might ask a jury to decide whether the killing was not a first-degree murder but instead a manslaughter - a killing committed during a heat of passion. "It all goes back to deception, and reaction to deception," argued Tony Serra, attorney for defendant Jason Cazares.

"That's like saying any woman who was deceived by some guy with promises of love or marriage, and who is later dumped, can plan and carry out the man's execution and plead innocence due to being deceived," said Foster of NTAC. "That logic is specious and weak."

Foster admitted that this type of defense, blaming the victim for her different gender situation, was not surprising. But she added that it "shouldn't factor into the conviction or sentencing if justice is properly carried out. If it draws a first-degree murder conviction in any other situation, then it should draw a first-degree murder conviction in this case, regardless of Gwen's transgender status."

According to reports, seventeen year-old Araujo was invited to the loose party at the Merel home, setting the stage for the fateful event. After repeated questioning by the party-goers, Araujo was discovered to be biologically male and was reportedly set upon by Magidson and Jose Merel. The men beat, kicked, and bludgeoned the teen with a can of soup and a frying pan.

Cazares then told Nabors to go with him to his house to retrieve shovels. Once they returned, Magidson strangled Araujo, hogtied her and wrapped her in a blanket, and Cazares finished by twice smashing the teen in the head with a shovel. They then drove in the early morning hours to a remote spot near Placerville, CA, and buried Gwen in a shallow grave. Nabors eventually led police to Araujo's body.

Serra, the attorney for Jason Cazares, has argued that his client did not participate in the killing, a statement contradicted by preliminary hearing testimony that his client struck the victim in the head twice with a shovel in the garage of Merel's home in Newark.

"The bottom line here is that these men despised Gwen Araujo for who she was and how her being transgendered affected them," said NTAC chair, Foster. "They conspired to kill her, discussed where to bury her, effectively carried out the plan, and no one did a thing to stop it."

NTAC, as well as transgender, bisexual, lesbian and gay citizens nationwide, avidly look forward to a full and proper conviction, and stiff sentencing of all parties involved. "This was a cold, premeditated murder," Foster added, "irrespective of whether the victim is straight or transsexual."

Visible Man:

Seeking Justice For Gwen Araujo

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. His new book, Becoming a Visible Man, *will be published by Vanderbilt University Press in May.*

The first witnesses took the stand on April 15, 2004 in the trial of the three men accused of murdering 17-year-old Gwen Araujo, now underway in Hayward, California, just outside San Francisco and only a few miles from the Newark home where the murder took place on October 4, 2002 at a party that had begun the prior evening. The youngest of the four young men involved has plea-bargained and agreed to testify against the other three. The three men are each represented by different attorneys, and each is seeking different treatment in trying to beat the murder rap.

Attorney Michael Thorman made a pitch for a voluntary manslaughter charge for his client, Michael Magidson, appealing to one of the basest "instincts" known to man: homophobia. He said his client's reaction "was one of anger and rage and shock and revulsion" when he realized that Gwen (who called herself Lida at the time) had a male body. Magidson had previously had oral sex with Araujo. "Mike Magidson does not deny having responsibility for Eddie's death. It happened because of a discovery of what Eddie had done," Thorman said. "This is a case that tells a story about deception and betrayal." Thorman's consistent use of Gwen's male given name, Eddie, is calculated to convince the jury that they should perceive Gwen as male, and that they should view "his" flirtatious, feminine appearance as a ruse intended to lure Magidson into having homosexual sex.

Gloria Allred, attorney for Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen's mother, said Thorman was trying to blame the victim, and that Gwen had every right to be the person she wanted to be.

Deception and betrayal are heavy concepts, ones that are often used to weigh down or crush the spirits of transgendered people. Because our bodies don't conform to our gender presentation (or expression, or identity) we are frequently accused of trying to trick people into accepting us for who we know we are. It's a glib line of defense, well suited to appeal to the average person who is threatened or offended by homosexuality and confused or knocked off balance by gender variance. Our lack of conformance to gender-normative standards, to "appropriate" gender-role behavior, is easily viewed as a deliberate flaunting of convention, and those who perceive it that way seem to think we should know better than to tempt the hand of fate by breaking gender boundaries. They say we deserve what we get when we cross those lines that define what they think is the natural order.

I don't agree with that position. I believe that transgendered people are not trying to be something we are not, but instead we are trying to be more of who we are. It is not our fault that we often have genders that do not correspond with our bodies, or that we have bodies that are different from those of others in our gender (or sex) category. When Nicole Brown, the woman who touched Gwen's genitals, took it upon herself to announce to the others at the party that Araujo was "a man," she set in motion a cascade of horrifying events that never would have happened if people were not ignorant about transgendered people or about sexuality. If Brown and Magidson and the other defendants had been more aware, better educated and less homophobic, they might have reacted much differently. They might have been interested in Gwen's story. They might have thought, "So that's why I sensed so much feminine strength in her," or "So that's why she's so attractive."

I don't believe for a second that murder (or manslaughter) is a justifiable response to attraction, to shame about having been attracted or to the revelation of unexpected body parts. Let's get real here, and not just technical, rhetorical or semantic: Being transgendered is not wrong; killing is wrong. These young men ruined many lives with their inappropriate reaction to Gwen's existence. Her existence was not inappropriate. I feel sorry for these ignorant people, but ignorance is no excuse for murder, and if these three young men's attorneys are successful in their quests for reduced sentences or (in one case) acquittal of their clients, then I think the entire LGBT community should respond in firm, resolute, nonviolent protest that does not stop until real justice is done.

It is time for homophobic violence to stop. It is time for transgendered people to be accorded basic human dignity. And it is time for those who believe they are justified in indulging in a sense of superiority to give up their smug notions of self-righteousness against which they judge those who are different from themselves.

Remember Gwen Araujo!

Please Help Gwen's Family!

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

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

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

Account number
[redacted]

You can also contribute to the **Horzons Foundation Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education**. Contact Horizons Foundation; 870 Market, Suite 728; San Francisco, CA 94102; Telephone 415.398.2333; Fax 415.398.4783; info@horizonsfoundation.org; www.horizonsfoundation.org.

Thank you!

Gwen Amber Rose Araujo

February 24, 1985 - October 3, 2002

Transsexual Miriam Rejected By Reality Show Winner

Irish Examiner.com

The pre-op transsexual wooed by six unsuspecting men in a controversial reality dating show is rejected by the winner in the final show tonight. *There's Something About Miriam*, broadcast on Sky One, showed six men competing for the affections of Miriam, who they thought was a women.

But the Mexican 22-year-old was born a man and, when her secret was revealed, she was called untrustworthy and deceitful by the winner, lifeguard Tom. He initially agreed to go on the cruise, despite being mocked by the other contestants.

But he later changed his mind, saying: "I wouldn't want to spend a week on a boat with someone I couldn't trust, someone who's deceived me and everybody else."

In the final show, viewers see Miriam choosing Tom over martial arts instructor Scott as the winner of £10,000 ($14,945) and a week together on a luxury cruise.

Scott said before being told "I do like surprises", and added: "I've met someone that I do really like. I feel more for her every time I see her. I would love to spend the week with her". But after she was revealed as a pre-operative transsexual, he said: "Now I don't respect her one bit."

Earlier in the show, viewers had seen both Tom and Scott penning love poetry to the model in their attempts to court her. A show spokesman described the declaration as "difficult" for Miriam, who had formed close bonds with the contestants, all of whom were stunned by the news. She said she had enjoyed Tom's company: "[He] always makes me happy, this has been a whole new experience for me. I've had such a great time and I would never forget this moment."

The broadcasting of the show had initially been delayed after the six contestants threatened legal action. They received payouts after deciding to take their case to the High Court in an attempt to ban Sky from screening the show after they only learned at the end that Miriam was not a woman. The men received an undisclosed sum last month to drop their threat of court action.

Sky also apologized for "any upset caused" to the contestants, who made a number of allegations against Sky One and production company Brighter Pictures, including conspiracy to sexual assault, defamation, personal injury and breach of contract. In return, Sky, which had shelved There's Something About Miriam, pending possible legal action, was able to transmit the controversial reality show.

[Ed.Note: Better to have loved and lost? Despite the humiliation Miriam must have experienced, she at least didn't get murdered for her troubles...]

Family Says Transgender Teen Was Not Deceitful

MICHELLE LOCKE, Associated Press Writer

The family of a slain transgender teen took issue with a defense attorney's claim that the death was a crime of passion ignited by deception.

Gloria Allred, attorney for the family of Eddie "Gwen" Araujo, called that blaming the victim and said Araujo was living honestly as the woman she believed herself to be. "The real betrayal was by the defendants," said Allred.

Araujo was beaten and strangled to death after her biological identity was revealed in a confrontation in October 2002. Three men are on trial for murder in the case, Michael Magidson, 23, and Jose Merel and Jason Cazares, both 24.

Magidson and Merel had both had sex with Araujo after meeting her in the summer of 2002, according to earlier testimony. Prosecutor Chris Lamiero has described all three as cold-blooded executioners who decided Araujo deserved to die.

But in his opening statement Thursday, Michael Thorman, the attorney representing Magidson described his client as a mild-mannered man swept away by explosive emotions after discovering he had unwittingly had sex with a man. Magidson was "upset beyond reason," said Thorman.

Outside the courtroom, Allred said it's not clear what Magidson thought about Araujo's gender but "whatever he believed, he had no right to inflict such a terrible act of violence against her. Any attempt to rationalize it or to justify it is really an insult to Gwen and her family."

But Thorman, also interviewed outside court, said that although Araujo had the right to embrace what she believed to be her true gender, it was deceitful to let Magidson think he was having sex with a woman.

The attorney for Merel has not made an opening statement yet, but Tony Serra, representing Cazares, spoke to jurors Wednesday.

Serra said outside court Thursday he agrees the case was a crime of passion but that is not his client's defense. He maintains that Cazares did not strike Araujo, and instead tried to protect her in the confrontation. Serra says Cazares helped bury the body in a remote area near Lake Tahoe but says that was out of loyalty to his friends.

Serra said he expects his case to hinge on the credibility of Jaron Nabors, 20, who was initially charged with murder but pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of manslaughter and agreed to testify against his friends.

Nabors testified in the preliminary hearing last year that Cazares didn't deny hitting Araujo with a shovel to make sure she was dead after she was strangled. Serra says that's not true. "We believe (Nabors) has no credibility," Serra said. "He's the one that was paid dearly for his testimony."

Online SO List!

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

Hey!

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

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

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

Series Explores Transgender Health

By Emily Bingham And Tara May
The (Michigan) State News

When Rachel Crandall came out as a woman after living in the body of a man for 35 years, she lost everything. She said she lost her job because the hospital "wasn't too thrilled about having a transsexual" on staff. She lost her wife, her house and many friends. And she lost her health insurance.

It's an issue a lot of transgender people face, said Crandall, executive director and founder of Transgender Michigan. "What are you supposed to do when you don't have any money?" she asked, adding that transgender people face a plethora of issues.

Women or men who choose to take hormones to help alter the physical biology of their sex to fit their gender often have trouble finding doctors willing to fill prescriptions for them, or they're embarrassed to see a doctor at all.

"A lot of trans people end up sharing needles and ordering hormones off the Internet," she said. "In major cities all over the world, trans women especially are getting AIDS by sharing hormone needles. These are issues doctors need to know about, and they just don't get talked about. It's getting worse every year."

Crandall said she knows people who have been escorted out of doctors' offices because the doctor didn't want to treat a "person like this." But she said there's hope in a new generation of doctors - more and more of whom are asking for information about transgender issues. Hospitals, schools and organizations across the state are asking her to speak.

Crandall came to speak Tuesday at a diversity series conducted by the College of Osteopathic Medicine. The college surveys its students to find out what they're interested in learning more about. Students overwhelmingly asked for a conference discussing transgender issues, college spokeswoman Pat Grauer said. This is the second year the diversity series has received funding from the university.

Students, many of whom are studying to be doctors, attend the lectures to gain insight into the perspectives of people who might be their patients someday. "As physicians, some of us don't know what they go through," said Amy Litwinski, a second-year osteopathic medicine student. "It's foreign to a lot of us."

Litwinski said she enjoys the lectures because they address issues not usually covered in classes. "It helps us be more empathetic toward patients," she said. "We're interested in trying to help treat patients the best we can."

And that really is all Crandall and the rest of her panel want.

"We find a lot of doctors who are neither accepting or polite with us," she said. "The way to change that is to have panels like this. When these young doctors-to-be are out practicing in a few years, hopefully they'll remember."

Bobby Cheung, Mr. TGSF 2004 (left), and Mr. Damon Helton, - both looking buff and tough!

Becoming Jennifer Edwards...

Continued from Page 21

So when Allison looks at Jennifer Edwards, does she see a woman who is also her father? "It is very confusing, because I see a woman, but I say 'dad,' and that's what I'm used to," says Allison. "My dad said I won't have to stop calling him dad. I don't have to stop saying that. I can say that for the rest of my life."

Is Jennifer still the same person who raised her? "To me, on the outside, no. On the inside, yes, because the love is still there on the inside. It's just the appearance is different."

But there is one woman who's having a much tougher time with this extraordinary change - Kozlowski's second wife. 48 Hours agreed to call her Liz. "He should never have married me having those feelings. I mean, all trust went out the window," says Liz. "I choose to remain anonymous because I'm tired of people thinking I should have been able to control it. I'm tired of their snide little remarks. I'm tired of being told it's sick."

After a nine-year relationship, Liz divorced the person she knew as Ed Kozlowski: "My reaction was, 'This is it. The marriage is over. I don't want to be married to a woman.'" "I think some people looking at you would say what you're about to do is an extremely selfish, selfish thing," says Roberts to Jennifer.

"Yes. My ex-wife has expressed that to me, so has my mother and my brothers," says Jennifer. "My family's turned their back on me. They don't speak to me. I had no other choice. I was going to break and I couldn't go on." What does she now have? "My self respect," she says. Jennifer realizes the sex-change surgery she's about to undergo is both dangerous, and irreversible. But to her, it will be a relief.

"To tell you the truth, if I died during the surgery next month, I would have died the happiest person I've ever been," says Jennifer.

Finally, Jennifer Edwards, 47, who was born Ed Kozlowski, is about to have the sex-change surgery she's been dreaming about her entire life. "I have the brain of a woman. I have half the body of a woman now. I just want to complete it, I just want to be whole," says Jennifer.

It may be a dream come true, but it's a very expensive dream that's not covered by health insurance. There's $8,000 for the surgery alone — in all, more than $50,000. "I've gone through all my savings, I've gone through my retirement, I've gone through cashing an insurance policy. I've sold a lot of things," says Jennifer.

It's been a long and exhausting road for her, especially over the last year, as she's been closely following stringent medical guidelines to qualify for the surgery. To help her successfully pass as a female, these guidelines call for extensive hair removal, and a full year of taking hormones while dressing as a woman. How has this therapy affected her emotionally?

"In the beginning, when you first come on the estrogen, you get the mood swings," says Jennifer. "I caught myself crying at a dog food commercial one day." But after all these preparations, Jennifer still needs the approval of two therapists before she can finally undergo surgery.

Dr. Kathleen Farrell is one of Jennifer's therapists: "Her brain sex is definitely female. And her body was male." Does Jennifer consider herself to be mentally ill? "No, I don't. The rest of the world may, a lot of the world does, I know, but no, it's not a mental disorder," she says.

"I understand that my Dad feels trapped in someone else's body," says Jennifer's daughter, Allison, who admits that it's a lot for her to absorb. "There's just more to it I think that I need to know. Just why? How come now?"

Jennifer moves in with her friend Sandra, who's also a transsexual. She'll accompany Jennifer to Miami Beach for the surgery. It sounds incredible, but to keep costs down, urologist Dr. Harold Reed will perform this surgery as an outpatient procedure. Jennifer will spend the night in Dr. Reed's recovery area - and only enter a hospital if there are complications.

As Jennifer enters the operating room in Florida, Allison is anxiously waiting by the phone - a 1,000 miles away in New Jersey. "It's getting late," says Allison. "Makes me nervous the later it gets. I don't know what to do with myself."

After nearly five hours, Jennifer's transformation is complete.

Four weeks later, the pain of the surgery is just a memory to Jennifer, and she and her friends are looking forward to launching a Web site to help transsexuals. "It's amazing. I feel for the first time in my entire life that I'm a whole person," says Jennifer.

Now, there's one thing left to do - have her sex officially changed on her driver's license. "I've waited for this for a long, long time," she says. Jennifer, however, admits that one of the greatest challenges ahead is acceptance.

"I'll have to put up with being taunted my whole life, probably if I want love," says Jennifer. "I'm an oddity. How many people are going to want to extend their hearts to me? There's a lot I have to look forward to, but there's a lot of loss ahead of me too. It's not all behind me yet."