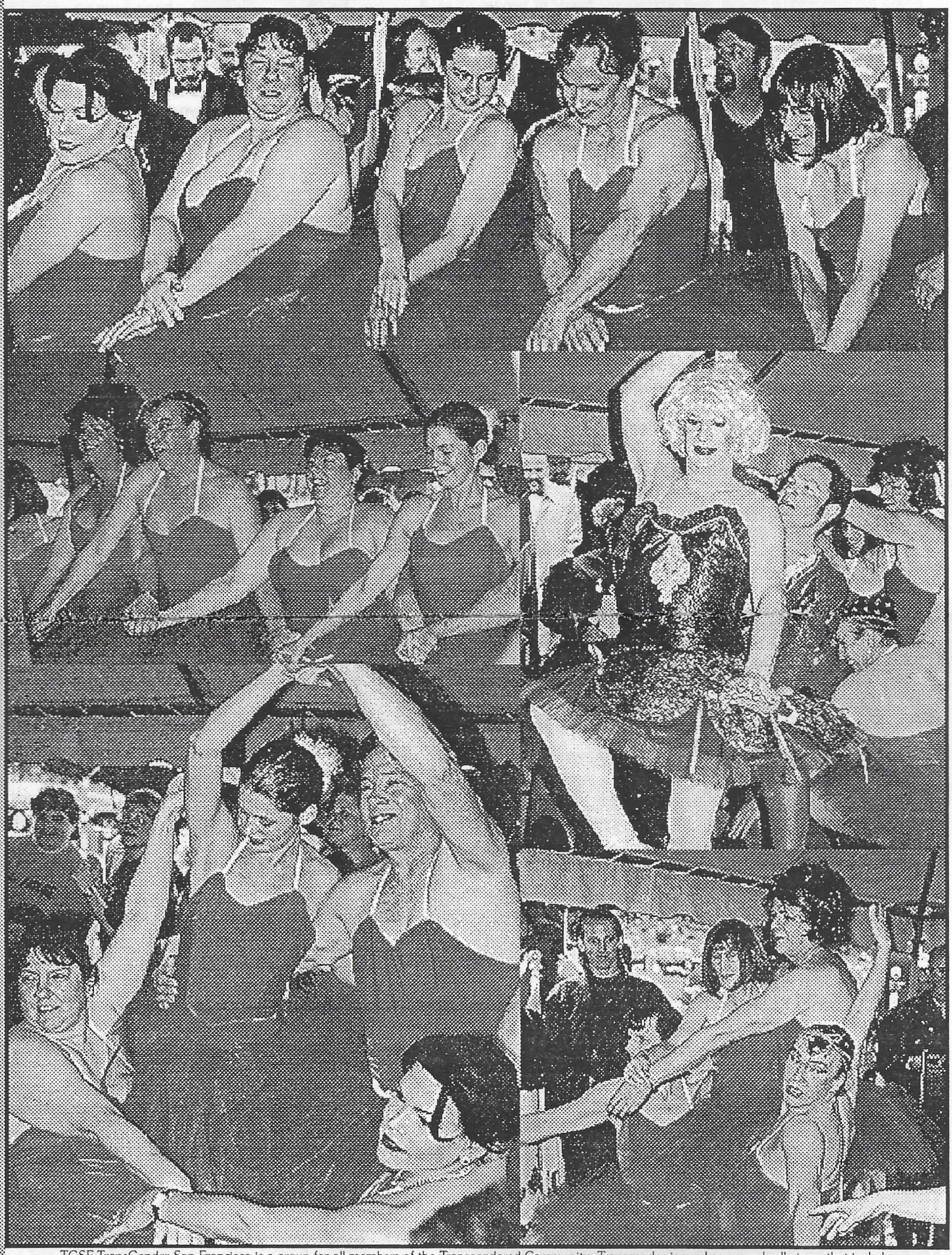
The Change
TGSF's
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

April 2001 "Real" Millennial Issue! Volume 20, Issue 4

Vestal Virgins Peform Ballet!



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2000 - 2001 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Nicole Cook
Vice President ..... Aiyana Eveningstar
Secretary ..... Debbie Cook
Acting Treasurer ..... Debbie Cook
Education .... Stephanie Ann Blythe / Jennifer Antoinette
Outreach ..... Telzey Adams / Kalani Makanani
Social ..... Tianna "Diva" DeVil / Serena Anderson

Membership Report

As of March 15, 2001

Membership 248
Total Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Membership 251
New Memberships This Year 46

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

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz
Advertising ..... Debbie Cook / Ayme Kantz
Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Telzey Adams

Ad Rates

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

Personal ads from TGSF members: $10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. **Please support our advertisers, and tell them you saw their ad in *The Channel!***

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NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR...

I Just Flew In From Vegas...

...And boy are my arms tired <ba dum dum> Seriously folks, it's true. I just got back home a couple hours prior to when I'm writing this, and I feel a little discombobulated. The move to Alameda went well, all things considered. Took six of us 2-1/2 hours to get my goods down three flights of stairs and into the truck, and only 20 minutes to offload it (ground floor right into the house). I took that Monday off and spent the better part of two days wielding power tools, drilling holes, hammering nails, ripping up and rewiring phone lines, planting the heavy furniture down in their designated positions, and rooting around in and shuffling dozens of heavy boxes.

A quick Tuesday in the office, and a half day on Wednesday, and then I was off to Nevada for a quarterly HR staff meeting (and some *ahem* recreational activities) for three days. So I'm back home still faced with some shortcomings of my new crib: absolutely no counter space in the kitchen, and only one small clothes closet. And I got tired of all the boxes piled up in neat columns hogging available floor space, so I've lugged them all to a nice convenient storage shed in my backyard. Yet I'm still experiencing this nagging feeling of things left undone, and am stressing a little on wanting to get back to settling my home, versus making the time instead to publish this zine.

No Rest For The Wicked...

Or should I say weary? I'm exhausted. And next weekend I have to officially move out of the old apartment, so I gotta get over there and patch all them damn little holes in the wall, clean the oven and swab the decks. They'll still hit me for painting and cleaning the carpets, but thankfully that little chapter in my life is almost over. But to make matters just that much more difficult, two weeks ago (the weekend before I was scheduled to move to Alameda) some societal miscreant decided to steal my car! Right out of my complex's "secure" garage!

I've since dealt with the loss. Karma. I'm thankful that the Olds did its job and got the cat and me back to California from the Midwest last September. But still, while it may not have looked like much (other than huge), it ran great and was a nice big comfy ride. My insurance company will only give me blue book on it, and after the deductible I'll probably end up getting back what I paid for it originally. So now it's back to hoofing it if I need to get to the market, and my social life will undoubtedly suffer as a result as well. I hold little hope that the Emeryville Police Department will find the tuna boat (let alone recover it intact). So while I've made my peace with the theft, it's still a pisser all the way around. But what I wouldn't give for 20 minutes with the perp, 100 feet of rope and my riding crop!

More on Vegas...

I found what was advertised as the "only TG bar in Nevada," called the Las Vegas Lounge (located at 900 E. Karen for those of you heading over there anytime soon). I ended up there on each of the three nights I had available, my last stop before heading back to the hotel to crash. A lot like Diva's here in SF (though not as large), with a nightly floorshow and the usual male patrons on the prowl. The dancers were young and beautiful (slim, petite little things - I could just strangle them!), but by the third night their routines hadn't varied, nor had their costumes. Although they tried their best, it became apparent that it was a weary life for them. All of them had had some cosmetic adjustments of one sort or another - boob jobs were *de rigeur*. One girl had these incredibly

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Your Chief Servant

By Nicole Cook

If you are looking at the ballot enclosed in this newsletter you will notice that my name is not on it. I have decided not to run for President again (at least not this term). I had a great time as President but I need to get some things moving forward in my personal life. In order for me to perform the duties of President, it requires a good deal of time from me, which has resulted in a number of plans (both business and personal) to be delayed. I even realized the other day that I have not been skydiving since I took the President's position. So I have come to the decision that it is time for me to take a less time-consuming role in the organization. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the past Presidents of TGSF/ETVC since I have developed an appreciation for their contribution to the organization in the last year.

At the March End of Month we asked for nominees for the 10 offices of the TGSF Executive Committee. It is very important that people volunteer to take theses positions. Even if you are not nominated, if you are interested in serving on the Executive Committee please let one of the members of the Executive Committee know. There are always circumstances where someone has to step down and the ExCom has no candidate to replace them with.

I am not going away, although there is a chance we may move North to the Eureka area. I have already volunteered to drive the truck in this year's Pride Parade so Aiyanna can ride on the float. I am also going to stay active in the Employment Committee of the TG Task Force and I hope to be able to facilitate the completion of the TGSF educational fund project with the new community center. So once I am no longer President I will see you at the socials.

PPOC

proudly presents the

11th Annual

California Dreamin'

April 26 - 29, 2001

at the

Golden Gateway Holiday Inn

in beautiful

San Francisco, CA

This year's event is sponsored by **PPOC** and co-hosted by:

TGSF - San Francisco

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG) - Concord

RGA - San Jose

Neutral Corner - San Diego

For Registration Information Contact:

PPOC/California Dreamin'

PO Box 18032

Anaheim Hills, CA 92817

or call **(714) 281-0271** (leave message)

Email: **Dianedr@flash.net** or **PPOC2@aol.com**

Fax Registration to: (714) 281-0371

For Secure Online Registration, visit our website:

www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

round hips and ass, and at first glance was quite shapely. But on closer scrutiny, it didn't look natural and it was obvious that she'd had either implants or injections done, and overly so. I have no ass at all and have given much thought to doing the same thing. But while the doctors I've talked to about it all say it can be done, after reviewing results like these, I think I'll just keep my boyish hips and hope that the estrogens continue to shift body fat to my butt.

So I just sat there watching them shake booty for tips, nursing Fuzzy Navels, grimly satisfied that they, too, will have their turn at middle age; and content to let them enjoy their youth while they can. Youth is wasted on the young anyway, and age really is a state of mind. I know Tgrrls (and, for that matter, plenty of other people from all walks of life) approaching 60 who are vibrant, energetic - all with that youthful glint in their eye. Unaffected by what time and gravity has done to their bodies. Full of the realization that life is too short and determined to give it their best shot. They learn to adapt and even welcome change. And maybe that's why I prefer being with people who come from my generation. To paraphrase Abbie Hoffman's credo, I have a hard time relating to anyone under 30 these days. I mean, it's difficult to converse with someone who thinks the definition of "varicose" is nearby. Middle-aged Baby Boomers such as myself either seem to be terrible, bitter cynics or hopeful, vivacious go-getters.

The men who frequent the Las Vegas Lounge aren't any different than the ones you'll find at Diva's or the Power Exchange. The younger ones made it a point to tell me, protesting up and down, that they aren't gay but they'd still love nothing better than to give me head. Of course the older ones wanted the same thing, but at least they carried an intelligent enough conversation before asking the crucial question. The more seasoned gentlemen will make an attempt to get to know you a little, and for a single woman my age who's been there done that, it's more stimulating. I'm more inclined to say yes to an older man who treats me like a person, than to a young hunk who can't take his eyes off my crotch.

The Ultimate Test Of Faith...

Friday afternoon, after our half-day session, I went to one of Vegas' shopping malls, determined to be fitted for a bathing suit (not just sold one). I've been wanting to do this for a long time, but living in the Bay Area doesn't present many opportunities to wear a swimsuit, so I never got around to it. Cutoffs and a sports bra have sufficed all these years, even during the hot summer months in Oklahoma and Minnesota. Yet every woman should have at least one decent suit in her wardrobe. So I went into a boutique called Bikini Bay and spent the next couple hours chatting up the two saleswomen for their opinions and trying on every style, color and make available.

Oh the angst! We've all seen the Sports Illustrated Swimsuit hype and harbor dreams of wearing something that sexy. But when you've got the garment on in the glare of a dressing room, all those mirrors exposing every body flaw, I felt immense empathy with women everywhere who experience the same thing. But the two ladies were friendly and helpful, weren't afraid to give a frank assesment, and I walked out of there with a pretty electric blue one-piece suit with a white crochet sarong wrap.

And I proceeded straight back to the hotel, put it on and headed for the pool. I spent a delightful hour in the jacuzzi and a cooling dip under the waterfall, had a refreshing adult bever-

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March 2001

ExComMeeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Berkeley at the Pacific Center on March 11, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were President Nicole Cook, Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar, Secretary and acting Treasurer Debbie Cook, Education Co-Chair Stephanie Ann Blythe, Social Co-Chair Serena Anderson, Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani Makanani and Outreach Co-Chair Telzey Adams . Co-Chair Jennifer Antoinette was absent. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

President: Nicole indicated that we are approaching the elections and we would like to find out who is going to run again, and who isn't so that we can try to find members to fill the empty spots. Nicole went around the room polling the current ExCom to find out who will be running again. Nicole had declined to run again, but will be available to help with driving the truck in the parade so Aiyana can be on the float. Aiyana indicates that she will run again. Nicole wonders if she would be willing to run for a higher office. She agrees that if she can find someone willing to do the work of the Vice President that she may be interested. Debbie had declined to run again. Stephanie Ann accepted running again. Nicole wonders if she would be willing to run for a higher office and she agreed. Nicole asked if Aiyana agreed to run for President, if she would be willing to run for Vice President and she declined, but agreed that possibly she would run for Treasurer. Kalani accepted to run again for the same position of Outreach Co-Chair. Telzey declined to run again, but would still like to handle the phone and maybe the booth at the parade. Tianna agreed to run again as Co-Social Chair with Savannah as her Co-Chair. Savannah has expressed an interest in running for the board and this would be a great position for her to participate in. Nicole nominated Savannah for Social Co-Chair and she will be contacted to make sure she is willing. Serena initially declined to run again, but when asked if she would be willing to run for Vice President, she accepted to run for that position.

Nominations will be held at this next End-of-Month. The ballot needs to go out in the April newsletter with a reminder to renew their membership. It will be inserted with the newsletter and shipped out. The April End-of-Month is the official election.

Nicole received a fax from Aiyana, which was the final bill from the Cotillion venue. It was quite a bit more than we were expecting. Nicole passed around the spreadsheet with the final tally of the monies from the Cotillion. It shows that we worked along with what was proposed. We came out on budget for all the things we knew about. We are off budget by the things we didn't know about. This current budget will be a really good template going forward so we at least know now about the things we didn't know about before. Aiyana suggested that we could work out how to trim some of the unknown items off of the budget. Coordination is the biggest issue. There are cost savings in the budget that are identifiable and can be taken care of next year.

After looking at what donations we received for the last Cotillion, Nicole brought forth a letter that she had drafted up to send out to many of the largest SRS surgeons in the world. It basically states that each year, TGSF holds a fund-raising event called the Cotillion in which more than 400 members of the TG community come together to have fun and raise money for targeted charities. This year, we fell short and we need your help. It explains the membership base of TGSF and that sometime during ETVC/TGSF's existence, many of our members have used your services in their gender transition. We are asking a number of professionals that have a number of TG clients to consider making a donation to TGSF. It also mentions that TGSF is a 501-c3 corporation and that these donations are tax deductible for those in the U.S. The letter mentions the charities that we had targeted this year for donations. The TGSF Education fund was one of the charities mentioned and that we are in the process of raising funds for our members and members of the TG community together with the San Francisco City College, to allow those who cannot afford it to go to school and earn a degree. Any contributors will be listed in the TGSF Channel newsletter, as well as receive a complementary copy. Nicole asked for any feedback and everyone was in agreement with the letter.

We were able to get Dr. Ousterhout to donate $1,000 to the Cotillion and if we were to receive more, this would definitely help cover our costs.

Nicole is working on a Cotillion manual and it is getting bigger. We are still missing some things like the judge's manual and the contracts. It will be double-sided and added to each officer's manual as well as any of the legal documents we have come across since the library landed at Nicole and Debbie's house.

Anyone who has their ExCom notebooks were again reminded to please return them to the Secretary so they can be updated and returned. They will have the current bylaws as well as the current taxes and CCC filing dates, any legal documents, updated standing rules, current resource guide, insurance documents and anything else that would be pertinent information to the future ExComs.

We need to start thinking about awards. Each position of the ExCom gives a special award and butterfly pin to that special person who has helped them the most over the last year (and it cannot be another ExCom member). It's also the time to give the Ginny Knuth award. Nicole has a nomination in mind and mentioned who it was. None of the ExCom members had a problem with the person mentioned.

Stephanie Ann mentioned that since Dear Diva worked so hard with our Cotillions, that she should receive an honorary membership. Stephanie Ann nominated her and Tianna seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Vice President: The Post-Cotillion meeting should be planned real soon. Many people have been contacted, but many have not responded about when the best time is to hold it. Aiyana will push for the meeting soon.

Aiyana has the applications for the 2001 Pride Parade. She needs checks for the float entry as well as a deposit on the booth. Since she didn't bring the information with her, she will contact acting Treasurer Debbie in the next couple of days to let her know how much it will be.

Since Savannah didn't make it to the meeting, she didn't get a chance to talk about a theme for the float. She has the first input to how the float should look, what kind of music, etc.

Aiyana wanted to talk a little more about the Cotillion. With less attendance at the Cotillion this year, which was unexpected, we could have cut back a little bit on the food. Coordination is the key to understanding how the Cotillion comes together well. The press release information as well as coverage by the posters were a little on the low side. Media coverage was low due to missing the deadlines. Nicole mentioned that those deadlines need to be added to the Cotillion manual being put together. Some of the phone numbers for the places that take our posters and advertise were disconnected or written down incorrectly.

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Meeting Minutes...

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Aiyana questioned the crew payment that was not budgeted for. How was that paid for last year ?? Nicole mentioned that Leslie had put in a lot of her money just to help cover that . .and Nicole and Debbie have done that in the past as well. Getting the extra donations from the patrons would help cover that and anything else that may popup as a surprise.

One of our biggest problems with money was the program. It wasn't printed correctly with the blank pages on the very first and last page of the booklet. And it also cost way too much. We have a new place in mind that will do the printing at a better price. Color posters were also too expensive to just put out for advertising in places like bars and lounges or even phone poles. They should mostly be black and white except for a very few number for the vendors who are selling tickets.

The venue was also too expensive. The rehearsal the night before was way too expensive. We should look into another venue that is less expensive but elegant and lovely.

Color tickets were also very expensive. Aiyana mentioned that maybe we should consider printing tickets like the SF Coronation did. They are straightforward tickets, no particular designs, very simple looking. But Aiyana wondered how many people saved their tickets and most of the ExCom confessed that they save their ticket stubs. So the ticket printing should stay the same.

Secretary: Membership is at 246 which is up by 4 from last year, but we are below (not by much) 2 years ago. Last month's meeting minutes were approved. Our projects still pending include tax cleanup, bylaws and standing rules updated and printed. These will be done before the turnover of the next ExCom.

Editor: The newsletter went out a little later than normal due to the Secretary not being able to get to SF in time to pick it up.

Publicist: There were no advertising renewals this month.

Treasurer: We currently have $1.537.83 in the bank account. Aiyana returned the last of the checks she had in her possession for the Cotillion. We are positive in the bank account, which is good, but we still have a couple of things left that need to be paid like the last of the venue payment.

Co-Social Chairs: Tianna was informed that the End-of-Month social would be held at Cal Dreamin' this year. We will either hold a pub-crawl and/or a show at the Holiday Inn in SF. There will be a meeting with Joan Goodnight and Marcia Chapdelaine about events happening. Nicole will let the social chairs know when it is in case they would like to attend. Serena mentioned that Jo-An from I Love It ! Boutique would like to do a fashion show (Models will be needed for this if anyone is interested) and that might be a great thing to do for Cal Dreamin' and the voting for the next ExCom will be done during this time. Serena will check with Jo-An to make sure she can do a show during the end of the April month.

A mid-month location for April should be at Annie's again. This was a really great venue last time. Aiyana and Dale were the ones who introduced the members to Annie's for the first time last year and we need to go back to visit. The only thing is that they don't serve food. Aiyana mentioned that maybe we could ask for a donation from members and have a buffet set up for those who would like to participate. Aiyana will arrange this and get back with Secretary Debbie so she can include them in Events Scheduled for the newsletter and Co-Social Chairs to let them know what, if anything, they will need to do.

Serena mentioned that maybe we should do a flea market to raise some money. She asked Stephanie Ann about how much the Women's Building would cost for a room to set up some booths. It's something that is on the back burner at the time, but just something to keep in mind.

Debbie added that Mischa Davis mentioned that a vendor called Wolford boutique would be interested in a special showing of their merchandise for TGSF members. She is also willing to do the coordination. Wolford makes fantastic clothing from fine knits with lycra – mainly women's hosiery but also some underwear, skirts, sweaters, dresses and some men's items. Debbie mentioned that she will get the information to the Social Co-Chairs so they can follow up on that lead.

Outreach Chair 1: Nicole inquired about some no-shows that happened at DeAnza College's most recent speaking engagement. Kalani mentioned that only 1 person didn't show up for 1 of the speaking times and Nicole suggested that we let the instructor know if something like that is going to happen again.

There is another DeAnza class that will be happening in the next couple of days. . .it is covered though so nothing to worry about.

Stanford University on May 11th needs some coverage. Kalani will contact the instructor to find out how many speakers she would like to have attend, and she will make sure to get those to speak.

Nicole suggests that if Kalani continues through to the next term of Outreach, that letters be sent out to those who request speakers to let them know that Kalani is taking the reigns and will be handling all of the requests in the future. There is currently a speakers request form up on the website that is functioning. It is currently pointing toward Nicole and Debbie's email account, but Debbie will change that to point to Kaolin's email so she will start to receive the requests instead.

Outreach Chair 2: Telzey inquired about a call she received from 48 hours asking for Nicole. Nicole contacted the person back, but left a message on their answering machine only. She hasn't heard back from the person yet. A local station, KBX, also asking for someone for information called and we are still waiting for a call back from them as well.

Education Chair 1: Stephanie Ann mention that the possible seminar with Joyce Patterson-Rogers who works with a company called Harper & Greer which is a fashion company of some type will not be able to do the seminar. Also, the plastic surgeon in Santa Rosa that Stephanie Ann was trying to get as a seminar set up with cannot do it as well.

A booklet was obtained from the Harvey Milk Institute and some of the classes mentioned in there may be of some interest to our members. One, for example, TG101 is a class that provides an overview of laws that protect transgender individuals. It is a 1-night class and we should advertise this in the newsletter.

Education Chair 2: Jennifer was absent.

Adjournment: At 5:35 p.m., Nicole makes a motion to close the meeting, Aiyana seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

We would like to hold the next ExCom Meeting, since it is the last meeting before the turnover meeting, at Nicole and Debbie's house with dinner, on Sunday, April 8th, at 3:30 p.m.

Special Topics Meeting: The special topics meeting covered the Election and how to locate people to put on the ballot and how to confirm that nominees will accept the position and such. Also a discussion on the float for the parade.

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

TGSF Events in April

Sunday / April 8th / 3:30pm

ExCom Meeting / Mini Retreat

This month, the ExCom meeting will be held in lovely Sebastopol at Nicole and Debbie's house. We will be providing dinner and with the weather starting to change, it should be a great time to spend outdoors in the country-like setting.

If you are interested in coming to the meeting, please make sure you contact your Secretary, Debbie Cook, and let her know you are coming at [redacted]@yahoo.com or by phone at (707) [redacted] We want to make sure we have enough food for everyone!! And with the elections coming up soon, it would be a great time to get your thoughts in about how you would like to see your organization run in the next year, or even consider running for a position.

Wednesday / April 11th / 7:00pm

TransBay Social

Don't forget that 2nd Wednesday of the month is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. Quetzals is located at 1234 Polk, between Sutter and Bush (right down the street from Kimo's). Park in the large parking structure and walk around the corner to where the coffee shop is located. This event starts at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday / April 11th / 8:00pm

TGSF Mid-Month Social

We've received a request from a couple of our girls for a return excursion to Annie's Cocktail Lounge. It's a small intimate setting. Annie the owner, has actually asked for our presence there! There will be a Chinese or Indian Buffet available to you for $5...so if you plan to partake in the buffet, please make sure you get your $5 to Aiyana. She is being gracious enough to provide the lovely meal (Thanks Aiyana!!)

Annie's Cocktail Lounge is located at 15 Boardman Place just off Bryant across from the Hall of Justice. Cya'll there!!

Thursday / April 26th / 8:00pm

TGSF End Of Month Social

The End of Month social will be held at Cal Dreamin' this year. Join us at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn at 1500 Van Ness Ave. in San Francisco. There will be instructions in the lobby directing you to where the event will be held. We will also provide you specific instructions about the room location at the Holiday Inn in the lobby. There will be more information on the website as the event grows closer. If things go as planned, we will be holding a fashion show with Jo-An from I Love It! Boutique from the East Bay.

New Members since March Issue:

Georgie	Westy Pendragon
Darow Han	Emilee Madison
Jennifer Anderson	Marga Myers

Welcome!

April's Birthdays...

4/00	Joanna Wilson
4/00	Phylicia Anya Morningstar
4/1	Michelle Nelson
4/4	Paula Bacigalupi
4/8	Theresa Sparks
4/9	Veronica Smith
4/12	Julie Freeman
4/13	Tina Kearns
4/14	Chelsea
4/16	Bonnie Smith
4/25	Jamie Faye Fenton
4/28	Stephanie
4/29	Ellie Anderson

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

New Online SO List!

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

Cosmetics Lingerie Fem Fashions Wigs Nails Shoes Cosmetics

Nails Wigs Lingerie

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Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

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Calendar of Events – April 2001

Other Groups

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)
Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. 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.sga-tg.org; 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
A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

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

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

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)
Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month at The Diversity Center, 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	3	4 7:30 PM MPTG	5 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	6 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	7
8 **3:30 PM TGSF: ExComm Meeting**	9 5:00 PM CCHH	10	11 **7:00 PM TransBay** **8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social**	12	13 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: Game Night!	14 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
15	16 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	17	18	19 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	20 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	21
22	23 5:00 PM CCHH	24	25	26 **8:00 PM TGSF: End of Month Social**	27 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	28 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
29	30 5:00 PM CCHH					

TGSF Membership Application

Membership Year runs from May 1st – April 30th; $30 Single Membership; $40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ 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 This Month!

Sunday, April 1st

THE GENDER GAMES

For everyone who is transgender, transsexual, intersex, genderqueer, gender-questioning and their friends, family and significant others. 4:00 - 7:00pm at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave. in Berkeley.

Come fool around on April Fool's Day! Play games with us or just relax in a trans and gender-friendly space. We've got everything from cards, Pictionary, Scrabble, Taboo, Twister and more. Plus good food, music and great people!

PACIFIC CENTER- a premier lesbian, transgender, bi, gay community center. Located at 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. Call 510-548-8283 for directions, please see our website at www.pacificcenter.org

Amy Wooldridge, Program Director, Pacific Center, 510-548-8283; [redacted]@pacificcenter.org

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Wednesday, April 4th

Stanford Queer Awareness Days 2001 Presents

DANA RIVERS, TRANSGENDER ACTIVIST

Stanford University, Law School Room 180

Stanford Queer Awareness Days (QuAD) 2001 is proud to present nationally-renowned transgender activist Dana Rivers as its first speaker in a two-week program. Rivers will speak on the intersection of the transgender and larger queer communities. Specifically, she will address the need for the lesbian, gay and bisexual community to embrace transgender issues, arguing that a queer person's gender expression is at the root of much of the oppression that he or she faces. A question and answer period will follow.

For more information on other QuAD speakers and events, including Andrew Sullivan, Kate Clinton and Keith Boykin, visit http://www.stanford.edu/group/quad2001.

Full Biography

Dana Rivers is a transsexual woman who has gained national prominence as an activist, speaker, and consultant. Feature articles about her have appeared in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times, Sacramento Bee, Time, and People. She has also appeared with Diane Sawyer on Good Morning America, with Lynn Shear on 20/20, on The Oprah Winfrey Show, with Dr. Joy Brown's syndicated program, and on Hispanic television Univision's popular Cristina show. Sacramento television station KOVR Channel 13 featured Dana in a three part report on transsexualism in February.

Dana has consulted with organizations such as IBM and the California Teachers Association, and has lobbied Congress in Washington to end workplace discrimination based on gender and perceived gender. She is a sought after speaker at universities and conferences across the country. The Colin Higgins Foundation honored Dana in June with one of four Courage Awards for her stand against gender-based discrimination. GLSEN (Gay Lesbian Straight Educators Network) will present Dana with its national Pathfinder Award in October. She was included in People magazine's Most Intriguing People issue last December, and was one of Jane magazine's "Ten Gutsy Women" of 1999. Dana Rivers serves on the board of directors for the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, the International Foundation for Gender Education, and was a member of the board of directors for the Millennium March on Washington for Pride and Equality. She is a sought after speaker by churches, universities, high schools, and human rights organizations. This past April, she addressed several hundred thousand people at the Millennium March and in June spoke at the 30th Annual San Francisco LGBT Pride Festival.

Rivers lost her job because of her gender expression. For over eight years, she was an award winning public high school educator who worked with challenged youth near California's capital, Sacramento. Her sincere and no nonsense approach resonated with students, who consistently ranked her among their favorite and most effective teachers. In addition to teaching history, Dana was department chair and program coordinator for the Media Communications Academy. Students enrolled in the MCA have created award-winning documentaries, newspapers, and yearbooks, and in many cases find themselves devoted to study for the first time in their lives. Yet when it came time for her to follow her doctor's advice and proceed with her transition from male to female by living full time in her appropriate gender role, her employer was less than supportive. Though initially in favor of her remaining in the classroom during her transition and beyond, the school board became influenced by the ultra-conservative Pacific Justice Institute. The ensuing reversal of the board's position and related outcry by Dana's sympathetic students and other supporters created so much tension in the community that she was forced to resign.

Rivers' story crosses traditional cultural lines. Her speaking style is frank, candid, and laced with humor derived from her bittersweet life's journey. As a male to female transsexual, she has witnessed first hand discrimination that comes from ignorance about her rare medical condition, which is called Gender Identity Dysphoria. She speaks to the need for the lesbian, gay and bisexual community to embrace transgender issues because it is many times a queer person's gender expression that is at the root of oppression aimed at them. She possesses a unique vantage point from which to observe the barriers still facing women in our society and economy. As a public educator, she understands the need to create a safe and accepting environment for queer youth, not only in schools and institutions, but also on the streets and in family settings. As a teacher of journalism and technology, she is aware of the power of a positive image, and of the media's responsibility to report accurately and fairly the almost daily stories of gender-based oppression.

Rivers holds a bachelors degree in history and a Masters degree in Business Administration as well as a valid California high school teaching credential. She is the parent of one daughter, Gwendolyn. She presently resides in Northern California. For more information on Dana, visit http://www.danarivers.net.

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Special Events This Month!

Out & Equal Workplace Advocates presents:

April Pride Power Breakfast

Transition In The Workplace: The Transgender Experience

Friday, April 6, 2001, 8:00-9:30 a.m. Sponsor: Kaiser Permanente. Location: Kaiser Permanente's California Division Headquarters, 1950 Franklin Ave., Oakland, one block from the 19th Street Oakland BART station. RSVP: Please call 415-439-4272 or e-mail selisse.berry@theunitedway.com. A $10 donation is requested at the door.

Join us as we hear the experiences of three leaders of the transgender community who have made the transition from one gender to the other. They will share what the process has been like for them and how the workplace environment can either support or hinder that process.

The panel features Cecilia Chung, chair of this year's San Francisco Pride; Yosenio Lewis, national coordinator of the Avanzando Program at Llego; and Gina Eichenbaum, program manager of the transgender recovery program at Walden House. The panel will be moderated by JoAnne Keatley, project director for Health Studies for People of Color at UCSF's Center For AIDS Prevention Studies, and a member of Out and Equal's Board of Directors.

Chung, a post-op male-to-female, is a health worker at the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health. She is a member of the San Francisco Ryan White HIV Health Services Planning Council and sits on the boards of Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, HIV Advisory Board, and Gay dot.com. Lewis, a female-to-male social justice activist, is a member of the San Francisco Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force and assistant director of Trannyfest, the first transgender film festival in the U.S. He serves on the boards of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Tenderloin AIDS Resources Center, and All Our Families Coalition.

Eichenbaum, a male-to-female therapist, is a social worker who has been practicing in the bay area since 1986. She took time off from her practice last year while gender transitioning and subsequently joined New Leaf providing therapy and outreach to transgender clients. In February, she was hired as program manager for the new Transgender Recovery Program at Walden House, the largest provider of substance abuse treatment services in San Francisco.

Monday, April 16 / 6:30-8:30 pm

Transgender 101

The Harvey Milk Institute is offering several classes on gender topics this spring. Transgender 101 should of interest to all TGSF members. Although class size is limited, a second class can be arranged if there is sufficient demand.

Hosted by Marcus de María Arana & Larry Brinkin

Location: Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St @ Collingwood

Course # 2001A-055 - FREE!

This workshop provides an overview of laws that protect transgender individuals. Topics include a description of transgender communities; gender issues in employment, housing, and public accommodations; a description of available resources in the Bay Area that are transgender-specific and transgender-friendly; and what individuals can do to effectively advocate for their own rights.

The workshop also focuses on identifying sexist stereotypes and discussing how they affect the transgender communities, as well as the intersection of LGB concerns with transgender issues. The workshop is participatory, and handouts are available.

Marcus de María Arana is a discrimination investigator for the LGBT & HIV Division of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC) and is the HRC Liaison to the S.F. Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force. He is a former editor of FTM Newsletter, an international publication for female-to-male persons and those questioning their gender identity.

Larry Brinkin is the coordinator of the HRC's LGBT & HIV Division. He coordinated the transgender public hearings that led to the inclusion of gender identity in San Francisco's antidiscrimination ordinances.

You can call (415) 552-7200 to enroll or go to their website to enroll on-line and learn about other course offerings.

<http://www.harveymilk.org>

Saturday, April 28, 2001

GENDERBLAST 3!

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 19th Street/Collingwood, 3 blocks from CASTRO Street MUNI, 9:30am-5:30pm.

9:30-10:00	Registration and Opening
10:00 - 12:00	Workshop Session One (4 choices)
12:00-12:45	Lunch
12:45-2:45	Workshop Session Two (5 choices)
3:00-5:00	Workshop Session Three (5 choices)
5:00-5:30	Closing

Sign Language interpreted, disabled-accessible. Co-produced by Youth Gender Project and Harvey Milk Institute. Check out our web site at http://www.ynpn.org

Genderblast is a free event co-sponsored by Youth Gender Project and the Harvey Milk Institute. The event focuses on transgender, transexual, genderqueer, intersex and gender-questioning youth issues, but all people are welcome to attend.

There will be 14 workshops, two-hours long each, and will have between 2-5 presenters and/or panelists. These workshops will strive to have a *majority* of presenters be transgender, transexual, genderqueer, intersex and gender-questioning folks (in terms of gender), youth 25 or younger (in terms of age) and people of color (in terms of race/ethnicity).

Workshop topics (which are still TBD as of this publication) may include: Anti-Racism for Trans Youth, Intersex Issues 101 (already scheduled) , Feminine Masculinities, Transgender Feminism, Making Your Organization Friendly to Youth of All Genders (already scheduled), Know Your Rights, Creative Writing for Youth of All Genders, Safe Sex Workshops, Trannies in Prison, Trans and Intersex Folks In School, and many more!

For more information or to register, check out www.harveymilk.org or call YGP at 510-665-9234.

Our Readers Respond

Butch - FTM Anthology

Seeking contributors of color for a discussion of butch-FTM masculinity. An anthology currently underway is seeking new material prior to publication. In particular, we are looking for contributors of color in order to guarantee an anthology that speaks to a range of butch-FTM experiences. Most of us were taught there are only two genders - male and female. We know this isn't always the case. This dichotomy has excluded those of us who identify as something other than male or female, or who identify as both.

For those who question this dichotomy, conversations about gender and sex can go thousands of different directions. This book is an opportunity to talk about why we identify the way we do, about why we change identities, and about the search for identity when the words being used just don't fit. It is an opportunity to talk about wanting a penis, masculinity, about sex and relationships, about communities and conflict, and about finding home. We want to talk about who gets read as butch and why? What are different cultural ideas of "male" or "masculine"? What are some of the economic issues involved in transitioning F to M? Is masculinity read the same on a white butch's body as a butch of color? Whose butchness is the most or least visible?

We'd love to talk with someone who grew up in a culture that didn't split genders so cleanly into the idea of male/female. Is that person you? How is your gender different because of it? And what about some of you who have immigrated to this country? How does the experience of being an immigrant affect your experience of gender? Let's talk about being FTM and identifying with dyke community and culture. Or being a butch who often gets seen as a man and welcomes that perception.

Let's talk about the tension within lesbian communities when a butch begins to identify as transgender? Are we 'losing our sisters'? Let's talk about what it means to identify as a transgendered butch. Let's talk about misogyny. And penis envy. And our lovers. Let's talk about who we are, and who we would like to be. What we look like, and what we want to look like.

We're looking for works that include both personal stories and analyses of those personal experiences. We are interested in contributors who want to write their own pieces, individuals interested in being interviewed, or potential taped dialogues between butches and FTMs. For example, we would love to see a taped discussion among queer youth who identify as butch or FTM. We could transcribe and co-edit such taped discussions for inclusion in this anthology. We welcome non-fiction in a variety of genres, including essays, creative non-fiction, non-traditional prose, and poetry. We also welcome black and white photographs and line drawings.

Contact Info: <[redacted]@yahoo.com>; [redacted] >Minneapolis, MN 55407, U.S.A.

Are You A Veteran?

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

Dear TGSF,

Jewish Family and Children's Services is looking for volunteer speakers for the LGBT Jewish Speakers Bureau. We are especially looking for Jewish-identified transgender and bisexual speakers of all ages to join us. Speakers will have opportunities to make an impact in the Jewish community by being visible and heard. If you are interested, please contact Margaret Rothman by phone at (415) 449-1228 or by e-mail at margaretr@jfcs.org.

If you have any questions about the Speakers Bureau, or in general about the LGBT Outreach Project that I am developing here at Jewish Family and Children's Services, please feel free to contact me. Thanks very much!

Margaret Rothman
LGBT Outreach Project Coordinator
Jewish Family and Children's Services
Phone: 415/449-1228

Transcendence Gospel Choir

TG/TS/CD persons are invited to participate in a world first: the forming of an all transgendered gospel choir! We are seeking individuals from across the TG spectrum who have singing experience, preferably in a choral setting. However, anyone with a praise in their spirit is welcome.

The Transcendence Gospel Choir is a music ministry for the transgender community and will perform, primarily original gospel music, in worship services, at pride events, and as outreach to the community itself.

- We acknowledge the strong spiritual calling of the trans experience.
- We remember the mystical and healing responsibilities of our trans-ancestors: priests, berdache, shamans, two-spirits, and hijra.
- We empower ourselves and reclaim our calling.
- We answer the call while affirming who we are, like Joan of Arc.
- We will transcend boundaries and restore hope.

Join us on March 28 and April 4 at 7 pm as we begin this ministry at the City of Refuge, 1025 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Come and be prepared to sing. Individuals interested in soloist positions should bring the sheet music for a song that will demonstrate their abilities.

For more information: Call (510) 859-2639 x3264 or (415) 861-6130 ext 16; Or visit http://members.home.net/amor2k/tgc.htm; Or email tgchoir@onebox.com.

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Our Readers Respond

A Shot In The Arm For Trans Rights

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

There has been a lot of talk in the media lately about transgender health care. This column will be no exception.

By now, you have probably heard that things are on track for the city and county of San Francisco to approve health benefits for city workers undergoing transsexual procedures. It's a very big deal, and makes San Francisco the only place in this country willing to take such a bold step. It's also led to plenty of those "only in San Francisco" comments floating around the press.

I always find "only in San Francisco" to be an interesting phrase, and doubly so in this case. I simply cannot understand why the concept of providing fair treatment to a group of people should be an "only in San Francisco" event, and one that is held up as little more than a joke.

It really makes me wonder what lies behind some of the press on this health benefits proposal. Do some of the pundits seriously expect me to believe that hordes of transgendered people are set to descend on San Francisco, intending to make off with some sort of "special rights" coverage that will benefit transgendered people in favor of the needs of the non-transgendered?

San Francisco stands poised to make a bold statement about basic civil rights. Given the city's history of providing equal rights for its citizens, making sure that city workers have equal access to health care seems like a perfectly reasonable action to take.

You may be a little confused as to how making sure that city-employed transsexuals can get surgery is an example of providing equal rights. Let me explain: if a city employee were to face breast cancer, they would be eligible to have a mastectomy covered under their benefits package. But if that same person were to require a mastectomy due to being a female-to-male transsexual, then that procedure would have to come out of their own pocket: by making a particular identification, a transgendered person instantly becomes ineligible for benefits that are freely given to those who are not transgendered.

I'm not a city employee, but I do note that every health plan I've been on has included a basic exclusion against any transgendered health coverage. Transsexual surgeries are routinely discounted, labeled as "cosmetic" or "experimental." I have yet to understand how this is considered experimental, given that the first modern vaginoplasty (the creation of a neo-vagina and surrounding structures) was performed in 1931, and the first modern phalloplasty (the surgical formation of a penis) dates back to 1948. Certainly, after more than 50 years, it has to be something other than experimental. You can probably guess my feelings about considering transsexual surgeries as "cosmetic."

But the standard exclusions go much further than just genital surgery and hormone treatments. They can go so far as to exclude anything that can be tied to transgenderism. If someone does indeed get vaginoplasty, then develops health complications that can even remotely be tied to that vaginoplasty – then their insurer can avoid paying on that claim. That's just not right.

Frankly, it is things like the above that have kept me out of a lot of doctor's offices. I don't need to have my physical ailments to magically be linked into my transgenderism, simply to make sure that my insurer doesn't need to pay an otherwise valid claim.

It is important to note that the coverage planned for San Francisco isn't something that will "spare no expense." It includes a cap of $50,000 per person, for life. It also requires the patient to cover anywhere from 15-50 percent of the cost of surgery, rather than paying for it all. This covers a lot of needs, but does keep things from going overboard.

It also requires that a person work for the city for a minimum of one year before they are eligible to take advantage of these benefits.

I find it curious that, if you were to believe some of the news reports on these benefits, you might suspect that a flood of city-employed transgendered people are going to rush off to their doctor for a quick "nip and tuck." This isn't exactly the case.

From the estimates of the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force, there are a mere dozen people employed with the city who identify as transsexual. Of those, approximately half have already handled their surgical needs, or do not desire surgery. So this leaves, at current, only six people who would be using these benefits to get some form of transsexual-related surgery. Hardly the droves of people that some have indicated.

Of course, this brings up one of my pet peeves: why does the city only have 12 transsexual-identified employees out of a work force of around 28,000 people? Seems to be small numbers when compared to the estimated 16,000 transgendered people within the city. Of course, maybe knowing that San Francisco will provide equal medical coverage will draw more qualified transgender applicants to apply.

I can't stress that more: we're not talking about city-employed transsexuals getting so-called "special rights." We're talking about health care, which is a basic civil right. And we're talking about equal coverage for equal work. Neither of these seem like difficult concepts to grasp, do they?

So when these benefits come up to a vote by the Board of Supervisors and approval by the mayor, I trust our leaders will strike a blow for equal rights, and make the city and county of San Francisco a proud model that other cities can follow.

Hey – maybe there is something to this being an "only in San Francisco" happening after all.

Gwen Smith will never ask you to turn your head and cough. She can be found on the web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

Appeared in the Bay Area Reporter, March 9, 2001

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Shirley Faire

Open Your Eyes

Close your eyes. Think of yourself after SRS. Isn't it wonderful? You're the woman you always wanted to be. Somehow, you're impossibly more beautiful, more desirable than you ever imagined. Being 6'3" and 245 lb. make not a whit of difference. Holy Smokes, are you already having sex? Constantly? Except when you're wearing one new outfit after the other, each more gorgeous than the next? Don't you have to work for a living any more, or are all those lovers supporting your new, lavish lifestyle?

Open your eyes. You're in the intensive care unit after SRS. You've just vomited for the third time. A short while ago, they took out all the tubes that were clustered down your throat. You didn't know that one of them went down into your lungs until they pulled it and you felt it sliding out. You're vaguely aware of pain in your crotch. The predominant sensation is of tightness, as if somebody has yanked the back of your underwear and draped it on a hook: The excruciating pain is from your new breasts. The slightest movement shoots sharp spasms across your chest as if it were being torn apart by a hundred cat claws. You start shivering. No matter how many blankets they pile atop you and tuck under your shoulders and feet, you shiver and cannot stop shivering.

You lie in bed for hours and hours. You want to move, but you're afraid of the pain. When the discomfort of lying in one position becomes too much to bear, you tell your body to move, but it refuses. You lie there. Close your eyes.

Open your eyes. It's several days later. The doctor doesn't want you out of bed, but you feel a bowel movement coming on. Call the nurse. She'll know what to do. Lift your back, she says. And she slides a bedpan under your naked bottom. The movement, like all movement, sends those familiar pains though your chest. With the pan under you (you hope in exactly the right position), you feel both the comfort of relieving yourself and the embarrassment of doing it in front of another person who will have to clean you and dispose of your smelly mess. Close your eyes.

Open your eyes. The doctor is telling you that this is the day when you can begin to dilate. He shows you your surgery with a big hand mirror and you feel several emotions at once, including dismay at how raw and red and open and vulnerable you appear. And he wants you to stick a foreign object into that hamburger? Let me show you how, he says. He lubricates the dilator with KY Jelly. Open please, he says, and slowly shoves the dilator up into you. Tell me when you feel discomfort, he says. Constantly, you think, but concentrate on the dilator going in and in through new, swollen tissue of your vagina until the discomfort focuses into, well, almost pain. Good, he says. Now you can do it yourself. Close your eyes.

Open your eyes. You're home again and relieved to collapse onto your own bed, where you don't ever want to move again. Your breasts still hurt, though not as much. You can't sit down without feeling as though you're perched on an upright doorknob. You're tired, so tired, and you look like hell and you don't much care, though you wish you did. It's time to dilate, which the doctor told you to do religiously four times a day for the next six weeks, tapering off very gradually over the next year until you only have to dilate perhaps twice a week for the rest of your life.

You're scheduled to return to work in a couple of weeks. How will you find time to dilate? You call work to reassure them that everything has gone OK, and that you hope to be back as planned. Your boss then tells you he is sorry, but as it turned out they realized they could not get by without someone in your position for so long, so they had to hire another person. They are giving you two week's severance pay. Close your eyes.

NTAC Press Release

Two TG Movies Win Awards At Sundance Film Festival

"Southern Comfort" Wins Best Documentary, "Hedwig" Wins Dramatic Directing Award.

The heart wrenching story of a man dying of ovarian cancer in Georgia and the doctors who wouldn't treat him, won top honors at the Sundance Film Festival for best documentary. Participants in the film have intimated to sources at NTAC that the film could be submitted for consideration for an Academy Award.

The film traces the final year in the life of Robert Eads, an unfailingly good-humored 52-year-old female-to-male transsexual from the back hills of Georgia. Diagnosed with ovarian cancer after having lived as a man for many years, Eads was refused treatment by more than two dozen doctors, who feared his presence in their offices would embarrass and offend other patients.

At the Sundance Film Festival Director/Producer Kate Davis was a bit shell shocked when the film won for the Best Documentary. With her at the mike were some of the cast. When she spoke of "the ease at which the people of the film had allowed her into their inner most beings", the crowd cheered and clapped. As the cameras scanned the audience you could see people crying at the injustice of what had happened to the main character, Robert.

Lola, Robert's love, had the best comment of the night, "This film shows we are all human even if some of you find us a bit fruity." The quip had the crowd laughing. When Max, Robert's adopted son, stepped to the microphone, at Kate's urging, he quietly said "This would make Robert proud."

The film, "Southern Comfort" closes with the words "Nature delights in diversity. Why don't human beings?" Indeed when the lives of many transgenders, such as Robert Eads, hang in the balance; it's a question that begs an answer.

The second movie to capture a Sundance Award was strictly transgender-themed, as opposed to trans-participated. Hedwig and the Angry Inch, featuring John Cameron Mitchell in his illustrious filmmaking debut, won the dramatic directing award. As the press touted, "wicked humor, explosive imagination, and a gold mine of original rock 'n' roll" makes this off-Broadway hit a possible contender for cult classic status to a new generation.

The title character, Hedwig was born a boy named Hansel in Communist East Berlin with a deep desire to become a female American rock star. She falls in love with a handsome American GI who promises to liberate her, but there's a catch. In order to marry and emigrate Hansel must "leave a little something behind." Surviving a botched sex change operation that leaves her with an "angry inch" she finds herself stranded in a Kansas trailer park the very day the Berlin Wall comes down.

Unswayed from her dream, Hedwig - replete with Farrah Fawcett wig and immaculate makeup - forms a rock band dubbed The Angry Inch. During that time, she falls for a 16-year-old Jesus freak she renames Tommy Gnosis, who in turn steals her songs and becomes the rock star Hedwig always dreamed she'd be. Indomitably, she fiercely performs in crumbling theme restaurants seeking recognition, retribution, and reconciliation with her other half. A beautiful and transcendent spiritual journey, this brilliant musical is every bit as powerful on screen as it is on stage.

NTAC salutes independent filmmakers such as John Cameron Mitchell and Kate Davis; as well as the organizers and judges of the Sundance Institute. What they achieve with their art, and courageous support of a subject others would shy away from, fosters an increased level of understanding of transgenders around the world.

March 2001

TGSF Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash	$1,474.33
Event Equipment	
Decorations	$1,000.00
Food Service	$200.00
Office Supplies	$50.00
Total Assets	$2,724.33

Liabilities

Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	$1,000.00
Taxes	$0.00
Insurance	$0.00
Utilities	$0.00
Operations	$0.00
Total Liabilities	$1,000.00
Equity	$1,724.33
Total Liabilities & Equity	$2,724.33

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	$220.00
Advertising	$0.00
Cotillion	$682.50
Donations	$20.00
Social	$860.00
Education	$0.00
Outreach	$0.00
	$1,782.50

Expenses

Cotillion	$15.02
Halloween Party	$0.00
Big Shew	$0.00
Pride Parade	$110.00
Social	$100.00
Education	$0.00
Outreach	$0.00
Newsletter	$178.48
Operations	$0.00
	$403.50
Net (Positive) Income	**$1,379.00**

TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give

as of March 15, 2001

Mischa Davis	$20.00
Nicole and Debbie Cook (1998 Halloween Party)	$1,487.44
Nicole and Debbie Cook (1999 Cotillion)	$1,555.74

(The 2 donations by Nicole and Debbie were made in the past, but never officially mentioned in the Channel.)

Bless You and Thank You!

Two More TG Murders!

Houston Man Dressed As Woman Killed

[Monday March 05 12:56 PM EST] Houston police found the body of a man dressed in women's clothing early Sunday morning. Police discovered the body at about 4:30 a.m. in the parking lot of a business at 7844 Ave. E in downtown Houston.

Investigators told News2Houston that 29-year-old Francisco Javier Luna suffered several gunshot wounds, including one to his face, stomach and shoulder. Residents reportedly heard several gunshots and called police.

When police arrived they found Luna's body lying beside a maroon 1994 Dodge Dynasty with paper dealer tags. Detectives said that Luna was wearing women's clothing and makeup. A brown ladies wig was also found near his body, police said. The shooting is under investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact the HPD Homicide Division at (713) 308-3600 or Crime Stoppers at (713) 222-TIPS.

Jealousy Over Transgendered Girlfriend May Have Led To Teen's Death

A Buffalo, N.Y., teen who was beaten, strangled, and sexually assaulted with a broomstick may have been murdered because of his relationship with a transgendered girlfriend, The Buffalo News reports. The charred body of James J. Mack was found behind a Catholic church on January 22. Authorities say that five teens lured Mack to an apartment, where they hit him with beer bottles, kicked him, dropped a television set on him, stabbed him, sexually assaulted him with a broom handle, strangled him with an electrical cord, and then put his unconscious body facedown in a bathtub filled with water.

They then set the lifeless body on fire in a large trash container. Autopsy results concluded that Mack died of drowning in addition to blunt-force trauma and strangulation. Erie County district attorney Frank Clark said that Mack's relationship with a transgendered teen known as Tashia was at the heart of the motive for the crime. Mack's relationship with Tashia appears to be a motive for at least two of the five actors, Clark said. I think 'jealousy' is the right word for it. He refused to elaborate further. Four young men and one young woman, ages 18 to 20, have been charged with the crime. Friends and relatives apparently believed that Tashia, a biological male, was a woman.

Remembering Our Dead
<http://www.gender.org/remember>

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Phyllabuster

HRC Amends Mission Statement to Include TG

[I have just learned that the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has amended its Mission Statement to be inclusive of transgenders.

This is a surprise. Welcome at that! This struggle for TG inclusion began in July 1994 when Karen Kerin & I first learned that HRC led the TG exclusion from ENDA. 6-1/2 years. I am numbed. I am not sure of what to say.

Is the fight with HRC over? I truly hope so because it was such a huge waste of years of effort that could have been placed in other avenues. BUT IT WAS NECESSARY, and I was glad to be a part of it.

Even so, Questions remain:

1. In future fundraising letters, will be see LGBT throughout OR WILL IT BE

L&G throughout with an occasional mention of B&T?

2. With this mission statement (below) that says in part, "that works to advance equality based on sexual orientation and gender expression and identity, to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work, " HOW CAN HRC REFRAIN FROM PUSHING FOR TG and gender-variant inclusion in ENDA?

As I said above, after a 6-1/2 year struggle, I am grateful, yet numbed, and cautious of the result. But I am pleased on the face of it. It is champagne time! - Phyllis]

HRC & Gender Identity

In March 2001, the Board of Directors of the Human Rights Campaign amended the HRC mission statement to better reflect the ongoing work of the organization on transgender issues. Our mission statement now reads:

"As America's largest gay and lesbian organization, the Human Rights Campaign provides a national voice on gay and lesbian issues. The Human Rights Campaign effectively lobbies Congress; mobilizes grassroots action in diverse communities; invests strategically to elect a fair-minded Congress; and increases public understanding through innovative education and communication strategies.

HRC is a bipartisan organization that works to advance equality based on sexual orientation and gender expression and identity, to ensure that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community."

We owe thanks to the visionary activists and organizations who have been our partners in our work on transgender issues, highlights of which are listed below. We look forward to our ongoing work together as we craft a shared vision of a world that honors and respects all people regardless of sexual orientation, gender expression and gender identity.

[Dear Friends,

The fact is that HRC has done a good thing. They are to be thanked. I thank them. I also keep my "powder (and my keyboard) dry" to see if their actions are consistent with their new words:

1. Keep watch on their web page to see if the new Mission Statement translates on through their other web site subordinate positions.

2. Watch their publications and especially the frequent requests for donations to see if TG gets mentioned merely once or twice like the bisexuals have been mentioned only once or twice per donations request letter for the last several years.

3. See if they continue to resist putting TG and gender-variant folks into ENDA.

Let us not be completely negative. Thank HRC for what they have finally done. Encourage them to continue. But monitor them also and point out their inconsistencies when and if they arise.

I hope this war with HRC is over. It may be. If so, we can unite against those who stereotype and discriminate against ALL LGBT folks. But I do not want peace with HRC so badly that I will not monitor their compliance with their own Mission Statement. - Phyllis]

Transcending Transgender Support Group

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

Facilitators: 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.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

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Lambda Letters Hails Reintroduction of Transgender Rights Bill

Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist of the Lambda Letters Project, announced today that Assembly Member Jackie Goldberg has graciously agreed to introduce a bill (AB 1649) to ban employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people in California. Hinman said, "We at Lambda Letters have been working for passage of a transgender rights bill for three years. We are very grateful to Assembly Member Goldberg for introducing the bill this year." AB 1649 is a virtual duplicate of A.B. 2142 which was approved by the Assembly last year, but died in the Senate.

Lambda Letters has been part of a team seeking reintroduction of the transgender civil rights bill this year. Eric Astacaan, of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE), and Francisco Lobaco, of the ACLU, worked hard on finding a legislator to introduce the bill. Hinman and Lambda Letters worked on building community support for the bill. As the result of Lambda Letters' work, 10 individuals and organizations agreed to sponsor the bill. The cosponsors include three mainstream church bodies, three Rabbis, three civil rights organizations and a fair employment and housing commission.

The church bodies are as follows: The Northern California/Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. (Congregational churches.); The Board of Church and Society of the California/Nevada Conference of the United Methodist Church; and The Santa Clara County Council of Churches.

The civil rights organizations are: The California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE); The Friends Committee on Legislation; and The Lambda Letters Project.

The bill is also sponsored by the Sacramento City and County Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission.

Boyce Hinman stated that his organization would leave no stone unturned in the drive to pass AB 1649 this year. He thanked CAPE and the ACLU for their invaluable assistance and he invited any and all who support justice for transgendered people to join in securing the passage of AB 1649 this year.

People who are interested in tracking the progress of this and other important civil rights and health legislation are invited to visit the Legislative Update list maintained by the Lambda Letters Project on its web page. To do so, direct your browser to; www.lambdaletters.org Then click on the Legislative Update button.

The Lambda Letters Project is California's oldest statewide organization lobbying on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual , and transgendered community. It helps people write letters to elected officials on these issues and also on HIV/AIDS, issues of concern to people of color and women's issues. It delivers well over 100,000 such letters each year.

People wishing further information on the project may visit the Project's web page at www.lambdaletters.org, send a request to LambdaLP@aol.com or call (916) 965- 6851.

Expanded Hotline Hours!

Hotline hours have been expanded to include 10pm to 2am. It's a great time for those of you that wait until the kids or other family members are asleep to address your transgendered correspondence. Telzey still answers the phone live from 7pm to 10pm. And now Debbie and Nicole answer the phone live from 10pm to 2am.

California DMV Advisory

Courtesy of Ann Vitale's newsletter

On October 14, 2000 the California Department of Motor Vehicles implemented a new program in response to a growing "Identity Theft" problem. All requests for name changes, including name and gender changes, are being verified against Social Security records.

In most instances, a temporary license is issued with the request. However, if the name and gender do not match those on file with the Social Security Administration, a letter is sent to the applicant stating that a permanent license cannot be issued as requested.

Social Security will not change the name and gender flag without adequate documentation for the name (a driver's license), and will not normally change the gender flag before genital reconstruction. The California Department of Motor Vehicles, in turn, will not issue a permanent license until the records match. As a result, newly applying trans individuals are inadvertent and unanticipated victims placed in a "Catch-22" conundrum. An agreement has been reached with DMV for those trans individuals who are currently affected and have received a letter denying a permanent license because the records did not match. Beginning Friday, March 9, 2001 they should call Ms. Sally Walker (916) 657-4484 at the Pre-Licensing Division of the California Department of Motor Vehicles. Procedures have been implemented for corrective action.

A good faith effort is being demonstrated to implement a long-term resolution for future applicants. We will announce its implementation as soon as it is in place.

In the interim, it may be advisable to delay filing DMV Form DL 328 until the new procedure is implemented.

This procedure will not impact those trans individuals who currently possess a valid permanent California license in the name and gender of choice.

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NTAC Press Release

Sylvia Rivera, Peter Oiler Pack The House At NTAC Reception

Two guests of honor - Peter Oiler of the Winn-Dixie lawsuit, and Stonewall hero Sylvia Rivera - wowed a recent reception held by The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC). NTAC's Feb. 17 event was a Lobby Days kickoff reception at the True Spirit Conference in Washington DC.

The two speakers (and a third, with a little help from Peter Oiler's wife Shirley) packed the reception room to beyond capacity. There were literally folks standing in the hallway craning to hear the speeches. Sylvia Rivera announced the re-creation of her 70's era activist group and gave a poignant first-hand recount of the events at Stonewall - the event credited with beginning the Gay Rights Movement. Afterwards, Peter Oiler described his life post-Winn Dixie, and the galvanized community support.

Guest of honor Peter Oiler's speech drew correlations between what happened to him, and the rights that many Americans take for granted. He detailed his current fight with the regional supermarket chain, and explained how this was an employers' attempt to affect employee behavior on their own time. Oiler did a surprisingly wonderful job of tying together the needs of all Americans; describing how African Americans even still are struggling to be able to enjoy an equal share of the American Dream. Summing it up, Oiler noted, "We can all work together," as has been exhibited in his case, to make that a reality.

"I've been very fortunate ... I've found so many friends since this has all happened," said Oiler during his speech. He and his wife Shirley thanked all of the various groups who've stood shoulder-to-shoulder with them during the past year. Indeed they feel it's helped build a sense of community, and hopefully a greater understanding of the plight of transgenders of every stripe.

"Nobody should be kept from being able to live their lives," Oiler finished, "because of fear."

NTAC member, Sylvia Rivera was the STAR of the evening! She began her speech by announcing her newly resurrected group, Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries (STAR). The group, begun in 1970 barely a year after Stonewall, has come back to the forefront of activism with new life and renewed direction.

During a portion of the evening, Ms. Rivera agreed to a retelling of the events of the Stonewall Riots. The crowd packed in closer and literally sat hushed, like children, at the feet of the doyenne of Stonewall as she told the story.

Some interesting facts: Stonewall was perceived as a drag bar, but Ms. Rivera disputed that, saying "they wouldn't allow the drags queens in there." Instead it was a bar where white middle class patrons came to pick up hustlers. And the actual flashpoint for the rioters was not Judy Garland's death, as popularly theorized, but the fact that the police came for the second time in a week to raid the bar. The street girl who was the first to be arrested snatched the keys from the police and ran into the bar.

When the police began the arrests, it was pocket change that was thrown at them (a reference to a common practice at the time for police to take payoffs to keep from busting a bar too frequently.) Once riot police began a line movement down Christopher Street, "the street kids formed a chorus line, kicking their legs in the air and chanting.

"This was the true beginning," stated Ms. Rivera, "of the (GLBT) revolutionary movement."

But Ms. Rivera's first love is the most marginal of the transgender community, the street youth. As such, her rejuvenation of STAR seeks to give that segment a positive direction for their energy in a world of severely limited opportunities. STAR's first task is organizing the Amanda Milan Vigil for a street girl whose killing, five days before New York's Pride Parade, made national headlines.

"I want to give these girls a sense of history," Ms. Rivera said during her speech at the NTAC reception. The grand dame of activism added that the transgender community "has been sold down the river for 32 years!"

"Will we continue for another 32 years" Ms. Rivera asked the crowd, "while our kids on the street continue dying?" Calling for action now, and taking action on the upcoming Amanda Milan Vigil during her killers' murder trials will begin to answer that question, she replied.

"Transgendered people must learn to speak for themselves!" Ms. Rivera exhorted. "The Gay and Lesbian Community doesn't speak for us! Politicians don't speak for us!"

"Speak for yourselves!"

National Gay And Lesbian Task Force Press Release

National Policy Roundtable Discusses Current Political Climate, Sex In GLBT Politics

March 7, 2001 - What is the current federal climate for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) political movement?

This question kicked off a round of federal briefings for 35 executive directors and co-chairs of GLBT and HIV/AIDS national organizations at the eighth National Policy Roundtable last week. The Roundtable is convened by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute. During the two-day meeting in Washington, D.C., participants discussed recent shifts in political power for the GLBT movement at the federal level. Leaders also participated in three different briefings — one examining the new administration of George W. Bush, another assessing the chances of further progress with federal agencies and a third looking at the future of GLBT politics in the current Congress. On the second day, participants discussed the role of sex in politics for the GLBT community.

"The political will of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender movement will be tested now more than ever," said Tim McFeeley, NGLTF Political Director and convener of the National Policy Roundtable. "Shifting power at the federal level demands that we build the GLBT movement's political infrastructure from the ground up to pressure and leverage legislative change at every level. This is the opportunity and the mandate for our communities in the next four years."

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National Policy Roundtable...

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During a briefing on the White House, Vicki Shabo of the polling firm Lake Snell Perry and Associates discussed how presidents tend to use opinion polling, the demographics of George W. Bush's base vote and which voters George W. Bush is likely to court during the next four years for his election effort. Citing polling data, Shabo pointed out that the majority of Bush's base voters support sexual orientation employment non-discrimination laws and hate crimes laws that include GLBT people. Other participants in the White House briefing included David Boaz, Executive Vice President, Cato Institute, and Rich Tafel, Executive Director, Log Cabin Republicans. Participants and panelists discussed what policy priorities might be likely to move in the Bush Administration, its relationship to GLBT political organizations, and ways for GLBT advocates to approach the Administration.

During the second briefing, examining federal agencies, openly lesbian and gay appointees from the Clinton Administration discussed advances that were made in the last eight years and how to maintain them. Panelists included Len Hirsch, President of GLOBE; Marsha Martin, former Special Assistant to the Secretary of Health and Human Services; Thomas Hehir, professor at Harvard University School of Education and former Director of the Office of Special Education Programs at the Department of Education; Fred Hochberg, Deputy Administrator for the Small Business Administration; and R. Paul Richard, Senior Advisor at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

During the third briefing, lobbyists and political strategists discussed the state of GLBT rights in Congress. Discussion focused on the Bush tax cut, the power-sharing agreement in the Senate, and the likelihood of both pro and anti-GLBT related legislation making it to the floor of the House and Senate. Congressional briefing panelists included NGLTF's McFeeley; Nancy Buermeyer, Deputy Director for Legislation, Human Rights Campaign; David Medina, Legislative Representative, AFL-CIO; and Robert Raben, former Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, U. S. Department of Justice.

The Roundtable's second day focused on how sex issues often impact GLBT political efforts. A series of panels discussed the tensions many find dealing with sex and how sex issues play out in the media, strategic policy planning and in confronting political opposition. The panels were organized and funded by Judy Guerin, National Coalition for Sexual Freedom (NCSF) and Jeffrey Montgomery, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs. Both Guerin and Montgomery are steering committee members of the roundtable.

Roundtable guests and presenters for the sex and politics discussions included Mary Francis Berry, Professor of History and Law, University of Pennsylvania and Chair of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Eric Rofes, longtime activist and author; Robert Bray, Director, the Spin Project; Amber Hollibaugh, lesbian activist and author; Kevin Jennings, Executive Director, Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network; Craig Bowman, Executive Director, National Youth Advocacy Coalition; Rudolph Serra, attorney; and Melinda Chateauvert, Public Affairs Director, NCSF.

The National Policy Roundtable is convened by the NGLTF Policy Institute and is made up of the executive directors and other representatives of national GLBT and HIV/AIDS organizations. A description is available at http://www.ngltf.org/pi/npr.

NTAC Press Release

S.T.A.R. Resurrected - Will Organize Amanda Milan Vigil in New York

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) is proud to announce its strong support of the Amanda Milan Vigil in New York by a newly resurrected group that harkened back to the days of Stonewall. The organizing group, Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries, or STAR, has recently had new life resuscitated into it by one of its founders, Sylvia Rivera. The move by the board of NTAC only highlights the history and fresh new direction undertaken by this storied group.

The upcoming vigil will coincide with beginning of the murder trial of the two men charged in Amanda Milan's death. Ms. Milan, a transgendered woman well-known and well-liked among New York's street-workers, had her throat slashed in front of dozens of witnesses in the early morning hours of June 21 last year. The killing drew national attention due to the reactions of the bystanders at the scene. After 20-year-old Duayne McCuller sliced Milan's jugular, leaving her dying on the city sidewalk, nearby cabbies who watched the incident stood by cheering and applauding. Both McCuller and accomplice Eugene Celestine - the man charged with both encouraging him and supplying the knife - go on trial sometime in April.

Ms. Milan's death and bystanders' response inspired outrage from the national transgender community. An outpouring of grief and anger drew an estimated 300-plus to a candlelight vigil in memory of the victim - unprecedented for the death of a street-worker. Most notably it galvanized New York's gay, lesbian, bi-

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STAR Resurrected...

Continued from Page 17

sexual and transgender community like nothing since ... Stonewall! Thus it's fitting that Ms. Rivera, widely credited with instigating the Stonewall Riots in 1969, resurrects her creation from that era to coordinate the Amanda Milan Vigil in 2001.

Sylvia Rivera and the late Marsha P. Johnson originally founded STAR in New York City in 1970. Both Rivera, then 20, and Johnson, who was in her late twenties, are widely known as the street queens who helped propel Stonewall from a routine police bust of a queer bar to a revolutionary call for greater LGBT activism and rights.

Now some thirty years later, Sylvia Rivera continues her street level activism pressing for civil rights for queer people, and all people facing discrimination. Ms. Rivera has been the guest of the Transgender Center of Bologna at World Pride week, was arrested with the Soulforce delegation in their action at the Catholic Bishops Conference in Washington DC, and also arrested in support for the Irish Lesbian and Gay Association in New York's St. Patrick's Day Parade - all just in the past year!

"I've spent forty years of my life on these streets," related Ms. Rivera in a recent reception held by NTAC at the True Spirit Conference in Washington DC. After a long, hard life, punctuated with a period of homelessness in the mid-90's, Ms. Rivera is now drug and alcohol-free and living in a cooperative communal residence reminiscent of the 60's, aptly named Transy House. Most especially, Ms. Rivera is excited about rebuilding STAR.

STAR is also rather well known in New York's LGBT community due to the many books and articles, which cover Sylvia's role in Stonewall and the movement that grew from it. A street queen version of Transgender Menace, STAR aims to galvanize the poorer and most oppressed members of the transgender community - a segment that is most difficult to politically organize.

"The young girls respond to Sylvia very well," said Rusty Mae Moore, a board member of NTAC who also works with STAR. "They instantly see that she is a survivor in a very tough game in life." In a world of limited opportunities, "Sylvia tells people, get a job, get a real life." For more information on STAR, visit their website at: www.geocities.com/catskillmarina

At right, Emperor Tom and Empress Chablis at their recent Coronation

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 3

age while drying in the warm Nevada sun, and finished my novel. Feeling very relaxed, I went back to my room, got in the tub and shaved my legs, slithered into thigh-hi's and a short leather dress, and made it to the Voodoo Lounge at the top of the Rio resort (50 stories up!) while it was still daylight. On their open patio high over the valley, I sipped a strawberry margarita and watched the sun set over Vegas, seeing the Strip come alive as it grew darker. Did you know that while the MGM Grand Hotel is all green glass during the day, from a distance it glows this incredible purple color at night?

Naturally, I lost all the money I had budgeted for gambling. I did hit a 140-dollar winner on a 2-dollar bet playing nickel slots, but other than that didn't have much luck. Still that was a decent jackpot and afforded me more opportunities for mischief than I otherwise would have had. I had a great time there, but I've learned that I can only handle about three nights in Vegas before experiencing sensory overload. Now it's time to get back to the salt mine and focus on what's important to me. But before I go, I just want to take a moment to urge any of you wanting more involvement in our community, to consider volunteering for one of the available ExCom positions coming up next month. Elections are right around the corner and many opportunities will be available. Think about giving some of your time and talent. I'll make no assurances that it's a cakewalk, but if you polled previous ExCom members (particularly those who've served in one capacity or another for several years) you'll learn that the experience can be immeasurably rewarding and satisfying. TGSF needs you to step up to the plate and take your turn. At the very least, exercise your right as a member and vote!

See 'ya next month...