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

September 2002 Volume 21, Issue 9

Bloomie's is a Blast!

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 2002 - 2003 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Rachael Janelle
Vice President ..... Rachael Hill
Secretary ..... Susan Laird
Treasurer ..... Stephanie Ann Blythe
Education ..... Ally Grillo and Kara Flynn
Outreach ..... Kalani Makanani
Social ..... Aiyana Eveningstar and Gia Luisa

Membership Report

Final 2001-2002 Membership as of:

May 24, 2002 230

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.

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Advertising ..... Inquiries to TGSF Excom
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	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

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WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR...

I like to tell everyone these days that I may have quit cigarettes, but I haven't given up smoking. 'Tis true, as of this writing it is Day 24 tobacco-free. But I tell 'ya, this morning I would've killed for a cigarette, and if truth be known, I wouldn't mind having a little of what Shirley's been getting into lately. But whatever it is, God love her, I always get a chuckle out her column. See page 15 this month.

What I'd like to share with you is something related to my work at Wells Fargo. Three of us Tgirls, employees all, have networked together and have started our own, officially sanctioned, legally approved, employee resource group specifically for transgendered team members. This is way cool. As a result, I feel more confident in saying I foresee a change to their diversity statement to include a recognition of gender identity within the next couple years.

Towards that end, I've received permission from one of my fellow "TG PRIDE" members, Rebecca Ryan, to reprint an official Wells Fargo Memo that was issued to all her co-workers in the Portland area, as she began her transition on the job. The fact that WF's Employee Assistance and Human Resources groups were actively supportive of Rebecca's life change and wanted to retain a valued employee, only encourages us that a more accepting and progressive wind is in the air. You'll find Rebecca's story on Page 17, and without further ado, the WF Memo appears verbatim as follows:

Wells Fargo's Memo:

"We wanted to bring to your attention an exceptional situation regarding one of our fellow team members, Ryan Nay. Ryan is currently on PTO and when he returns he will be coming back as Rebecca Nay, a woman. We wanted to give you information about this situation and help you with any questions regarding his transition.

Ryan is addressing a medical condition in which a person's sense of identity as a man or woman doesn't correspond with their physical sexual characteristics. For people dealing with this condition, there are only two choices: to live in the world as someone you are not; or to go through the psychological, hormonal treatment, and finally, surgery to become a woman. It is a very involved process with Standards of Care that specify protocols. It is also a condition that can involve various disciplines of health professionals. Individuals who choose to take this action have usually done so with much thought.

For Ryan, this is the culmination of required medical and psychological help in planning to improve his life and wellbeing. Ryan is currently developing the hormonal and physical makeup of a woman. When he returns on Monday, he will have transitioned to Rebecca and will dress appropriately as a woman.

"Transitioning" as it is called, is not an unusual situation in the workplace today. There have been other team members at Wells Fargo who have gone through this transition successfully.

We would like to acknowledge it might take time to adjust to Ryan's transition to Rebecca. It is also common to be concerned about making mistakes in terms of what to say or how to address someone who is transitioning. For all intents and purposes everything about Ryan will change to Rebecca including email, employee information, etc. And as guidance, going forward it will be appropriate to address Ryan as Rebecca and as a female.

We also acknowledge that while some may not agree with Rebecca's decision, all will work toward a professional and business working relationship and environment. Wells Fargo has a commitment to respecting diversity and doing the right thing for all team members. Because we would like to be considerate and respectful of all team members involved with this transition, Human Resources and Employee Assistance Consulting will be available today for any questions or to address any concerns that may arise.

Finally and most importantly, we appreciate your support in Wells Fargo's commitment to diversity."

President's Report

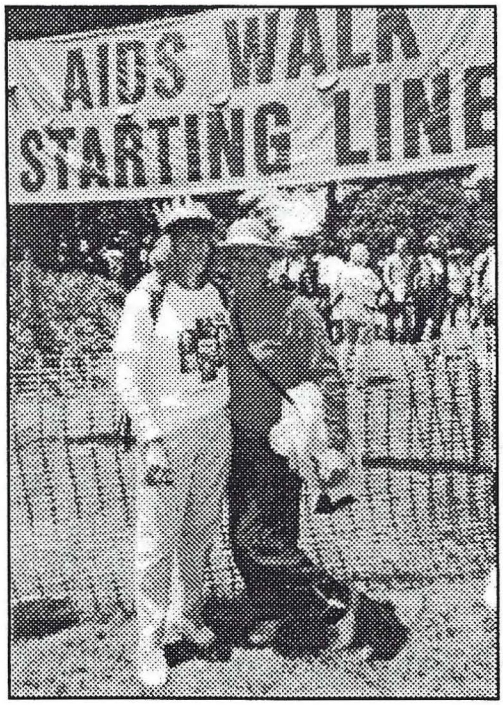
By Rachael Janelle

The ex-com has five months down and only seven to go. The Ex-Com is still going strong with great enthusiasm and positive attitudes. I am sorry to lose a member but we still have nine ex-com members, which are doing a great job. One of the events set by Kara Flynn, the educational chairperson, was an awesome event with the MAC make-up artists at Bloomingdale's July 20, 2002. It can't get any better than that event.

The Bloomingdale personnel were so gracious and the room was set-up with drinks and refreshments. The MAC made-up artists there were all gorgeous and all had great smiles on them. Two of them were from the MAC pro-team, which travels around part of the United States doing models to celebrities. All of them were great. Also, they have Christopher who represents the Angle fragrance line. He was a lot of fun. There was only two sessions and after the first session some of us went to have lunch at the California Café and had many laughs. We did come back to visit the second group which was almost done and said good-bye. I love to do this event. I like to thank Kara for putting on a great event.

That night the San Jose Imperial court had an event at the Savoy Club and some of the girls came to the event which was fun. I had to leave early because I had to be in San Francisco at 8:00a.m. to meet Stephanie Ann to do the AIDS walk in Golden Gate Park.

Stephanie Ann raised $1000 for the Aids walk, which she earned her a crown. This was my second walk and it was a special day to be with 30,000 people walking for a great cause and seeing corporate sponsors to girls like Stephanie Ann and me. The end of the month event was well attended. We had a reception for Becky and Laura who just got married and they have a story to tell. Most of the girls went over to Marlene's after the event, which is always interesting and we got to see some friends. I did miss the Educational event on "Legal issues in the Transgendered World." Because I'm recuperating from surgery which made me not a boy anymore. Now moving on to the Cotillion. If you are interest in being a contestant for the Cotillion or want to get involved please contact me. Don't miss the Halloween on the Bay.



Stephanie and Rachael at AIDS Walk

On the Town

by Aiyana Eveningstar

They say that progress makes us free but between computer virises, system errors, and crashes I sometimes wonder. I've been silent this last few months because my computer crashed and burned in a smoking heap. It gobbled to oblivion last month's "On the Town." In trying to tell people I felt like I was saying the dog had eaten my homework. So this girl is looking for another system. Any type will do but I prefer a Mac. The catch word is cheap or free as money is a tight commodity.

I could call this article how I spent my summer vacation I've got so much to tell. Today I will just try to tell you about the events and places that I've been to and sum up the staff's reaction to me as kind, courgeous, and interested. I had a positive experience at every one of these places.

The movie"The Cockettes" played at the Castro theater in June. It is acceptable to go dressed to the Castro theater for any movie. Even if a person doesn't pass the neigborhood shows that it appreciates the effort often with vocal approval or the silent glance of encouragement. The theatre is one of the few depression-era theatre's left in the U.S. A Hammond organ recital starts each show.

"The Cockettes" is a film full of local history from the late sixties and early seventies featuring many people who were to later become ceriblities of star caliber. For me seeing this film brought tears to my eyes as I have known and worked with many of performers featured some living and some dead. When I first moved here I landed in the come one come all free theatre of the"Angels of Light"which is mentioned at the end of the film. Universal andragenity was the focus of this group. One part of the film does put down the current tendency to divide ourselves into gender catergories. It is still playing around the bay area and is worth checking out.

Club 26 near 26th and Mission had an excellent rock show with two tg bands the first of which Aiyana was too late to review called the Woodyz , I was told that they were very good. The second band "Pepper Spray" which freatures amoung other high powered performers Kennedy and Jorden L"more both regular stars of Trannyshack. To put it simply I boogied my ass off. Lf it could work I personly like to have them play at the Holloween boat party. Venues vary at Club 26 but I believe there is at least one tg oriented event each month.

The Palmetto project played at the Hemlock tavarn on Polk near Sutter is a rather entertaining combination of jazz, show tunes, and scifi effects of the fifties which are played by a device called theramin.out ibasha The tavern is rather straight looking in appearance but was relaxed with my being there. I could write more but I'll save it for next time as my fingers have typed enough. If any of you have a place or an event you would like reviewed by On the Town pleasewrite to Aiyana Eveningstar care of the TGSF post box and tell me the details. My e-mail is down for now But I hope to have it back soon. Go out and have some fun!

PAULA-JO HUSACK, MA, LMFT, CGP
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August 2002

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

Present are: Rachael Janelle, Rachel Hill, Stephanie Ann Blythe, Gia Louisa, Kara Flynn, Susan Laird, and Kalani Absent are: Aiyana Eveningstar and Allison Grillo.

Last month's minutes are discussed and approved.

Karen Andrews submits her resignation. ExCom accepts her resignation. Need for filling the now vacant post is discussed. Rachael Janelle proposes that Rachel Hill be asked to fulfill the post of vice-president. Motion for the proposal is made and voted. Rachel Hill is vice-president.

President's Report - Rachael

The Center - Rachael gave E-mails from Gwen Smith and Dion of FTMI regarding the Center to Kara, about FTMI recent discussions with the center. FTMI will facilitate a transgender monthly meeting at The Center. And FTMI will spare an office with another group in the center. Community meeting of Tuesday, August 27th at the Center is discussed and Rachael Janelle has decided to disengage from further negotiations and has asked Kara Flynn to act as TGSF representative. She said she would. Gia Louisa has delivered TGSF Library books to The Center.

Cotillion - Rachael planning to have a meeting around first week of September. A prize is being put together for the next Miss TGSF and funds are being solicited. Insurance binder for the event must be submitted in a timely manner to avoid last minute difficulties. New format for entertainment is being presented. ExCom members are urged to be involved.

Insurance - Recent quote for liability insurance was not acceptable and ideas are solicited for sources for future quotes for coverage.

Stationery layout is discussed and need for stationery is discussed. TGSF business is encountering difficulty with lack of proper stationery. Proposal for the procurement of proper stationery is made and approved.

The Hotline - Many calls are being received. Many interesting questions. Need for more resources in San Francisco are stressed.

Pride for 2003 - Susan Laird is asked to head the next pride committee.

August Channel Mailing has been done.

Vice President's report.

Halloween - Preparations are well underway and need to spread the word is emphasized. On-line ticket purchases are discussed. Various costume contests that are being run are discussed. Further preparations are discussed. Proceeds to assist with Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. FTMI has been informed of the event and press releases of the event have been sent.

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

Secretary's Report - Rachel (for Susan)

Site preparations are still underway and the structure of the site layout is done. Site map is discussed. Membership database is nearly completed with some minor inconsistencies still to be resolved. Number of non-members receiving newsletter are discussed. Resolution of membership to be continued.

Treasurer's Report

Cash balance is $5776.53. Several donations have been noted and applauded. Discussion of placing the newsletter online as per one donator's request and appropriate earmarking of funds for such action.

Education Chair - Kara Flynn

The Mac makeover is discussed. Very successful event. Many new products were introduced and demonstrated. Photos to the Channel and possibility of a following article are discussed.

Future events and their scheduling are proposed Fashion show and voice lessons are discussed. San Francisco voting seminar is proposed for a meeting at the Blue Muse.

Outreach - Kalani

Number of introductory letters will be sent to various colleges and classes. Database from Nicole and Debbie will need to be acquired for future mailings as well.

Social - Gia

August meeting to be at the Blue Muse as it has been working pretty well for us. Discussion of Christmas Party that may be held at the Thirsty Bear and the date is to be decided pending interaction with other gender-related parties for Christmas. Difficulty with mid month events for October, November and December is discussed. Possible conflict with events with Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas may exist. Possible Spring event of some sort is discussed and the planning and scheduling impacts are discussed. Idea may center around Fetish/Fashion or Leather/Fashion. Proposal is tabled temporarily.

Old Business -

None

New Business

Intent to move ExCom to other locations is discussed. Difficulties with visibility for some members is brought up.

Next meeting to be held at Susan's house at [redacted] Santa Clara on September 8th, at 4:00 p.m. Call for adjournment at 5:36pm - approved.

Cotillion 2003

Planning Meeting

September 10, 2002 / 7:30pm

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco

For more information,

contact Rachael Janelle

408 [redacted] ***or***

[redacted] ***@hotmail.com.***

Born As A Male Part IV

Katie's Journey into Womanhood

On May 15, 1999, Katie began the day as herself on a fulltime basis. Accompanying her on a trip to Esprit, a TG convention in Port Angeles, Washington, was Janis Ryan, of TGSF, a friend she had met in a TG chat room on the Internet. Katie said goodbye to her spouse and embarked on this new adventure. She was exuberant and yet well aware of what she had set out upon. Having only been on hormones for six months there still will be times of recognition as a male. This had always bothered Katie. But she was up to the challenge. She had a fabulous time at Esprit being herself.

On June 1, 1999 Katie returned to work in route sales as a female. There were no snickers. She was fortunate she was welcomed and allowed to be herself. She loaded the truck then headed our to her accounts. She wondered how they would react.

To her surprise, acceptance was the word of the day. Although she was read by a few of the customers in her accounts she felt very good about this first day. As each day passed the better they became. Her customers were actually enjoying this new personality that had exploded upon the scene. Katie opened up to her customers more than ever before. They appreciated it.

As the months passed by Katie was finding it easier to pass. Her voice was still problematic and she realized it was the reason she had some difficulties. She worked at improving the tonal quality in her voice. Also Katie felt her masculine nose and profile would give her away, and did at times. This would eventually have to be corrected.

In the middle of June Katie and her spouse decided to look for a home to buy. They settled on a townhome in a gated community. They bought it and found it interesting how escrow decided to do the title. It went as follows: (her spouse's name), a married person, and Katie (last name), a married person, who are married to each other. They sold their other home, and fortunately, Katie, at the time of applying for her female license, told the clerk she needed her old license to prove who she was in order to sell her home, was able to keep it. Therefore, they ran into no problems.

Life was getting better day by day. After being fulltime 1 1/2 years, and not thinking her spouse would ever allow her to have surgery, was told by her, when seeing Katie naked one evening, "that" doesn't belong and to go ahead and schedule surgery. Katie did, and on March 12, 2001, in Montreal, Canada, she became complete. With her surgery she also had rhinoplasty and everything was coming together.

When arriving back at San Francisco International Airport, Katie used the women's restroom and for the first time felt she really belonged. The freedom she felt was awesome. Nothing could calm her enthusiasm in being herself.

With the one procedure of rhinoplasty passing seemed to come easy and with better voice control and quality it was rare someone would even take a second glance much less be sure. Katie was grateful she had it done.

Katie, during this time, maintained her involvement with the TG community, giving talks at college campuses and was a director with PFLAG for transgender concerns. Her spouse, through it all, stayed at her side, once saying a couple months after Katie's surgery, "When I married you (30 years before) I never thought I would become a lesbian." Katie replied, "And I never thought I would become a lesbian either!" They both laughed.

Katie wakes up every morning with a smile on her face and loving life. She knows that there is no alternative to being yourself. And when she passes on she would like these words said at her memorial service: As a man she survived; as a woman she thrived!

This concludes the *Born As A Male* series. Katie is none other than TGSF member **Karen Andrews**.

This Month's ExCom Profile

Social Co-Chair - Gia Luisa

Can Someone Cue Me In!

Actually, I want to say this first before I start talking about myself: The United States of America is the place where Dreams can come true, starting a new life and a place where families can grow.

I left Lima, Peru, South America and arrived in the United States in 1972, with my parents when I was nine. My parents had high expectations for me in my new life here. I know my parents had a dream see their child become someone (mover, shaker) that will make California a better place to live.

When I reached 10, which I called my "wonder years", I started cross-dressing while my parents were at work. One day my dad left work early and caught me in the middle of the act and punished me by yelling & hitting hoping it would end. My parents did not want a son, who would be a cross dresser, but wanted a son who could accomplish his goals in life.

All right, let's fast-forward the tape to August 1996. So what had happened to me during all those years? Well I had three failed relationships, almost proposed, graduated college, and held two jobs to pay back a college loan. During all those years, I had put my problem in a jar, which was sitting on a shelf for decades.

I started seeing a therapist to find out if I still had the same feelings that I had when I was younger. For the next several years, I asked myself "where I am now?" I started researching on the subject of Transgender and had a better understanding as to where I stand. My therapist and I decided that I should take baby & then major steps to start my new life as GiGi. My name kept changing from GiGi to GG and stopped with the name as Gina at that point.

My next step was finding a support group where I could find others like myself. I placed several calls to many organizations. My first meeting was held in San Jose. The first person that approached me warmly was Rachael Janelle. She extended the invitation to attend the annual Cotillion. After attending my first Cotillion held in San Francisco, January 1999 I attended this event every year. After my first Cotillion event, I asked Rachael if we could start a support group in my area. It's now called Mid-Peninsula Transgender Support and I am one of the two co-founders.

By February 16, 2002, I celebrated my birthday as Gia and a name that really fits me. I extended a dinner invitation to all my "sisters" and close friends to spend the evening with me. I announced that I would be a contestant for Miss TGSF 2003. The next day, I summoned all my strength & courage to tell my parents about Gia on my birthday. I was not sure how this would turn out since my parents and I had never settled an argument together. If I could get my parents to understand why I chose to transition late in my life.

I may someday regret my decision to start my new life and leave loved ones behind. Now I'm trying to start my DJ, songwriter, amateur piano player business, and trying to find work just to survive. You can make your dreams come true if you truly believe in yourself.

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

TGSF Events in September

Friday & Saturday / Sept. 6th & 7th / 10:00pm

Birthday Celebration Weekend

Aunt Charlie's Lounge invites you to come help VICKE MARLANE (Transsexual) Celebrate her 68th Birthday and 50 years in the Biz. Show Time at 10pm. Aunt Charlie's is at 133 Turk St. in San Francisco. Reservation Suggested by calling 415-441-2922.

Saturday / September 7 / 7:00pm

San Jose Court - The Hookers Ball 2002

Location - the Savoy Club, 3546 Flora Vista Ave, Santa Clara. Time - doors open at 7:00, show starts at 8:00pm. Cost $ 7.00. For more information contact Rachael at 408 [redacted]

Sunday / September 8 / 4:00pm

TGSF ExCom Meeting

Next meeting will be held at Susan Laird's house in Santa Clara, [redacted] Call 408-430-2196 x1230 - all TGSF members in good standing are invited to attend.

Tuesday / September 10 / 7:30pm

TGSF Cotillion 2003 Planning Meeting

The Blue Muse 409 Gough street, San Francisco. For more information contact Rachael Janelle at 408 [redacted] or [redacted]@hotmail.com.

Thursday / September 12 / 7:30pm

TGSF Mid-month Event...

Will be held at the White Horse Inn, 66th & Telegraph, Berkeley. And now for something competely different, it's time to try some east bay fare!

Sunday / September 15 / 12:00pm to 6:00pm

Back to School BBQ.

Also Come and check out Eddie and Adams' awesome house. Location [redacted] San Jose Eddie phone 408 [redacted] or Call Rachael for more infor 408 [redacted]

Saturday / September 21 / 5:00pm

Grand Dukes And Duchesses Coronation 2002 A Russian Tropical Paradise

Cost $25. Doors Open At 5pm Showtime 6pm. Location is at the Ramada International Hotel, 1231 Market Street (at 8th Street), San Francisco. Their phone is 800 227 4747.

Thursday / September 26 / 8:00pm

TGSF End Of The Month Event

Leather & Lace event, back by popular demand! Wear your best leather or lace or a combination thereof. Win a prize in one of the three categories! The Blue Muse, 408 Gough St San Francisco.

Sunday / September 29

Folsom Street Fair

Break out your favorite kink and join the largest perv-fest in North America!

September's Birthdays

09/00	Nikki Lynxx	09/17	Lisa Gray
09/01	Tina Louise Vincent	09/17	Michelle Gordon
09/02	Lauren Olsen	09/19	Barbie Cebrian-Paskel
09/03	Carla Cabana	09/22	Liana Kastina
09/03	Terri Turner	09/22	Sabrina
09/05	Betty Byrne	09/23	Sandy
09/07	Luccia	09/23	Francis Frinak
09/08	Melanie Hildebrand	09/24	Milton Miskel
09/09	Jerry Smessaert	09/24	Juana Smith
09/12	Jennifer Antoinette	09/30	Jennifer Anderson
09/13	Julia Debeque	09/30	Sylvia Hakansson
09/14	Jenny Lou Cotton	09/30	Misty Ford

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Coming Next Month!

Sunday / October 6

Castro Street Fair

Saturday / October 19 / 6:00pm

Wine, Cheese and Tranny History

Learn about the proud history of transgendered people! We'll be getting together with Susan Stryker for wine, cheese and historicism at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California. See announcement in this issue for further details.

Saturday / October 26

TGSF Halloween On The Bay

An evening on the bay with costumes. A three hour excursion on San Francisco Bay. See ad in this issue for further details.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

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Calendar of Events – September 2002

Other Bay Area Groups

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

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

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

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

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

FTM
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 4:00 PM TGSF ExCom Meeting	9 5:00 PM CCHH	10 7:30 PM TGSF: Cotillion Mtg	11 7:00 PM TransBay	12 7:30 PM TGSF: MidMonth @ White Horse	13 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	14 12:00 PM Back 2 School BBQ 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 7:30 PM TGSF: EGM Leather & Lace	27 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	28 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
29 11:00 AM Folsom Street Fair	30 5:00 PM CCHH					

TGSF Membership Application

Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / $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? _____

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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.

Our Readers Respond

Special July Makeover Event Enjoys Glamorous Time

Almost 20 ladies (both TG and GG) enjoyed their makeovers by the 5 fabulous MAC makeup artists in Bloomingdales in the Stanford Shopping Center. The makeup artists included Tiffany Johnston, MAC Pro Team Artist based in San Francisco; Suzanne Chu, MAC Pro Team Artist based in San Francisco; Louise Zizzo, Trainer for the South Bay and Peninsula region; Ginnie (Louise's assistant), and Maycher Carig, Product Specialist for Bloomingdales.

Everyone learned great tips including foundation basics, incredible eye makeup fashions, and the latest on lip gloss colors. The artists were able to blend soft colors to match skin tone, hair color, and their current wardrobe.

We'd like to thank **Patty Knight** who organized this great event, **Maycher** who helped put it all together at the last minute, and both Bloomingdales and MAC for taking the steps necessary to put on such an event. Thanks also go out to **Siobhan** and **Jamie** for recommending the event via the MAC counter. If you have any makeup concerns, questions, or just need to purchase more, we encourage you to stop by the MAC counter in Bloomingdales inside the Stanford Shopping Center. They are wonderfully supportive of the TG community and have worked with many of the local girls. Say hi to Maycher and Patty (when she returns from maternity leave).

SGA Says Hi!

Here is our current web address:

http://www.transgender.org/sga.

It is the one Debbie Cook made for us some years ago. I recently made updates to it including a Calendar Events Page.

Things are starting to pickup for the SGA we have found a new home at the Lambda Center in Sacramento. If you check out the updated website you will find that the SGA is still alive and well - come see us some time!

PS: Back issues of our newsletter will be available at our website in PDF format in the near future.

Thanks,
Heather (SGA Chairperson)

KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC
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TGSF Seminar Review

The TGSF Legal Issues in the Workplace Educational Seminar occurred on August 10th with three outstanding guest speakers. Sheryl Harris, Legal Aid Society - Employment Law Center lawyer; Marcus Arana, Discrimination Investigator for the San Francisco Human Rights Commission; and Chris Daley, National Center for Lesbian Rights - TG Law Project lawyer, presented valuable information dealing with TG rights in the workplace. There were about 10 transgendered individuals who endured one of the hottest days in San Francisco while talking about TG issues in the San Francisco LGBT Center.

Sheryl discussed her pamphlet, Employment Discrimination Protections for Transgender People in California. This presentation discussed local and national laws, an individual's rights and protection under these laws, and reporting gender identity discrimination.

Marcus discussed many of the local TG laws associated with employers in San Francisco, how they enforce these laws, and what you can do to solve any local issues with your employer concerning TG issues.

Chris presented information concerning changing legal documents. He discussed the many ways to change your name in the state of California, and how to change other legal documentation such as your driver's license, birth certificate, social security card, passport, and much more.

Marcus can be contacted at (415) [redacted] or marcus_arana@ci.sf.ca.us. Chris can be reached at (415) 392-6257 ext. 308 or daley@nclrights.org.

Sheryl ended her two-year term with The Legal Aid Society. We wish her the best in her future endeavors, and feel fortunate that we were able to have her at the seminar before she departed.

TG Community Focus Group

Planning/Organizational Meeting

The TG Community Focus Group will be holding a planning/organizational meeting on Tuesday, **September 3rd** at 6:30 in the San Francisco LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street. This will be a follow up meeting to the TG Community Reception held on August 27th. This organizational meeting will discuss topics and information gathered at the initial reception. Anyone is welcome to attend, but this is a planning meeting for the next TG Community Reception/Meeting held on September 17th.

TG Community Reception/Meeting

The TG Community Focus Group will be holding a reception and informational meeting on Tuesday, **September 17th** from 6-9 pm in the San Francisco LGBT Center, 1800 Market Street. This will be an opportunity to network and discuss transgender community needs. All self-identified members of the transgender community and their allies are welcome to attend.

For further information contact Rachael at 408 [redacted] (email [redacted]@hotmail.com) or Kara at 650 [redacted] (email [redacted]@aol.com).

Special Events!

Coming in October!

Lavender Law Conference

Registration is now underway for Lavender Law® 2002, the annual conference presented by the National Lesbian and Gay Law Association (NLGLA) and the National Lesbian and Gay Law Foundation (NLGLF). This year's conference will be in Philadelphia, at the Loews Philadelphia Hotel, from October 10-13.

To request a conference brochure and registration form, visit our Internet Web site at www.lavenderlaw.org or send an email with your name and address to LavLaw2002@aol.com.

This year's conference features dozens of panels, symposia, courses and full plenary sessions on cutting-edge legal issues affecting LGBT individuals and the community. The Lavender Law® Programming Committee has invited the country's leading lawyers to head discussions and strategy sessions on practical litigation skills, same-sex custody challenges, will drafting and estate planning, employment discrimination, workplace diversity, domestic violence, transgender issues, career development, LGBT in academia, civil rights, HIV and AIDS, immigration law, the military, legislation updates, family law, LGBT youth and much more!

Confirmed Panelists include Evan Wolfson of the Freedom to Marry Project; U.S. District Judge Anita B. Brody of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania; Yale Law Professor William Eskridge; Shannon Minter of the National Center for Lesbian Rights; Matt Coles of the ACLU; Ruth Harlow and David Buckel of Lambda Legal; Sharra Greer of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network; along with dozens of other practicing lawyers.

Numerous opportunities for Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits are available at Lavender Law®. Most sessions are CLE-eligible, and accreditation will be requested from all states which require continuing legal education.

And for the first time, Lavender Law® will be hosting a Career Fair, an exciting opportunity to network and obtain jobs as attorneys and summer associates/interns with employers from Boston, Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Washington D.C., and the surrounding areas.

Registration begins at noon on Thursday, Oct. 10, with a full roster of breakout panels scheduled for that afternoon. Political satirist Kate Clinton will offer a keynote speech at the opening night reception Thursday evening.

And although the conference officially ends on Saturday, you might want to stay through Sunday to attend Philadelphia's annual OUTFest block party. We'll be holding a Farewell Brunch on Sunday at the Hard Rock Cafe across the street from the conference hotel for those who stay.

Kirstin Gulling
Scurti and Gulling, PA
200 East Lexington Street, Suite 1511
Baltimore, Maryland 21202
(410) [redacted]

Hey!

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

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

Coming Saturday / October 19 / 6:00pm

Wine, Cheese and Tranny History

Learn about the proud history of transgendered people! We'll be getting together for wine, cheese and historicism at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California, 973 Market Street, Suite 400, San Francisco.

Susan Stryker, executive director of the Society and a widely published scholar on gender-variant culture, will present a slide show. Susan will also guide us through some of the Society's extensive archives. She is a fount of knowledge! A suggested donation of $3 for TGSF members and $5 for non-members will be accepted.

The GLBT Historical Society is located on the south side of Market near Fifth Street, a half block from the Powell Muni/BART station. Parking is limited. There is a garage at the intersection of Fifth and Mission. Call Allison Grillo (415) [redacted] for more information.

Southern Comfort Conference 2002

Online registration is now open for this year's event: September 17th - 22nd, 2002 in Atlanta.

Register Online right now at http://www.sccatl.org. Once there, just click on Registration in the frame on the left side of the page to take you to directly to our secure online registration. Our conference registration service is family and you can be sure that your personal information, and credit card data, will never be revealed to anyone, anywhere, anytime. If you prefer to register by U.S. Mail, respond to this e-mail and we'll send you a Registration Form you can print out and mail in. (Or download a PDF from the Registration page.)

Make your Hotel Reservations Now! SCC will once again be at the wonderful Sheraton Colony Square Hotel in Midtown Atlanta. Rooms are available at the bargain rate of $99 single or double. For reservations, call 404-892-6000 during business hours Monday-Friday. If you have any trouble getting a reservation, visit our hotel reservations page for detailed instructions. Rooms are going fast and our reservation block will expire Aug. 28, so call soon.

We're expecting a banner year in 2002, with all of the wonderful events and services you have come to expect at SCC along with a few new features, like a free barbecue in the Park mid-day Wednesday for early arrivals and a swanky dance party Saturday night after the Banquet in the glamorous Crown Room high atop the hotel.

As always, there will be three days packed full of seminars (with something for everyone in the transgender community) and the return of popular features like Wednesday dinner theater, sightseeing and shopping trips, a busy Vendors Marketplace, the ever-popular Friday Talent Show, free late night transportation to nightclubs (Thursday and Friday), special programs for FtMs (including the Men's Health Clinic), provocative and enlightening speakers, and much more.

Announcements!

Coming in November in Portland, OR!

National Gay & Lesbian Task Force Creating Change Conference

Now in its fifteenth year, the Creating Change Conference comes to the Pacific Northwest and Portland for the first time. Join us for the country's most unique and stimulating gathering of the political movement for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender justice, freedom and equality.

Portland is an excellent setting to launch the first-ever Creating Change Conference theme: Building An Anti-Racist Movement. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is firmly committed to addressing the impact of racism in this country, in our movement and in our organization. To this end, we dedicate the 2002 Creating Change Conference to the goal of bringing anti-racism front and center in the conference program and in our movement.

By addressing racism:

- We can help to bridge the historical separation of activists of color and white activists;
- Our movement can build better relationships with its natural allies;
- Our movement's political priorities may expand beyond a civil rights and legislative reform agenda.

Be inspired by thinkers and organizers who have grappled with race dynamics within our movement and our organizations. Learn from the community builders and leaders who will model analysis and action.

Creating Change is for you if you are:

- An activist and organizer in your community, campus or workplace;
- A board member, staff member or leader in a GLBT organization, community center or foundation;
- An elected or appointed official;
- An advocate on the issues important to our communities;
- A change agent for justice, freedom and equality for all.

Pre-Conference Institute Selections

The Creating Change conference begins with two days of pre-conference institutes on **Wednesday, November 6 and Thursday, November 7.** The institutes are all-day sessions devoted to one topic. Wednesday features two sessions, while Thursday will host nine. Most are open to all participants, but please visit www.creatingchange.org for full descriptions and attendance requirements.

The conference hotel is the Doubletree Jantzen Beach Hotel, located on the south bank of the Columbia River, 10 minutes outside of downtown Portland and 15 minutes from the airport via complimentary shuttle. Room rates are $116 for single/double or $126 for triple/quad. Call the Doubletree at 503-283-4466 and be sure to mention "NGLTF Creating Change" to receive this rate. Reservations must be made by October 2, 2002 to receive the guaranteed conference rate. A limited quantity of local community housing is available through the Portland Host Committee. Download a form at www.creatingchange.org or call 503-282-1542.

Creating Change in Portland. Get together with friends and colleagues to change ourselves and to change the world.

Contact:
Julie Childs, Conference and Training Organizer
creatingchange@ngltf.org; 202-332-6483 x3301
http://www.creatingchange.org
1700 Kalorama Road NW, Washington, DC 20009

NTAC Press Release

Portland Gender Reassignment Surgeon Plans To Move

On February 28, 2002, Symphony Healthcare, a for-profit hospital company in Nashville, Tennessee, bought its first hospitals — in Portland, Oregon. Symphony, founded in November 2001, purchased Woodland Park Hospital and Eastmoreland Hospital from another Tennessee hospital company, HealthMont, for an undisclosed amount.

In July 2002, Dr. Toby Meltzer, whose gender reassignment and other plastic surgery procedures account for more than 50 percent of the surgical workload at Eastmoreland, received a certified letter from the new owners. The letter advised Dr. Meltzer that he would not be allowed to perform gender reassignment surgery (GRS) or related procedures after July 31, 2002. Although that deadline has been extended to December 31, 2002, the hospital's popular VIP program, wherein patients could remain in a reduced care, reduced rate status while convalescing from surgery, has been cancelled. Patients undergoing male-to-female gender reassignment surgery, for example, must leave the hospital after three days and spend another week elsewhere before being allowed to travel home. Dr. Meltzer has made other arrangements for his patients, according to Linda Takata, Meltzer's Office Manager.

According to the Symphony Healthcare letter sent to Dr. Meltzer, the move to end the association of his thriving practice of gender reassignment and related procedures with Eastmoreland Hospital is due to Symphony's desire to change the focus of the hospital and the desire to diversify it's surgical offerings.

In an earlier letter sent to Modern Healthcare's Daily Dose newsletter, Symphony founder and CEO Kenneth Perry announced plans to buy and develop acute-care hospitals and surgery centers across the country in which physicians take an ownership stake. Physicians also are among the original equity partners in Symphony.

Ms. Takata stated that no surgeries have been cancelled or rescheduled as a result of Symphony's decision. Although surgery and immediate post-surgical care currently remain at Eastmoreland, patients can then be moved by members of Dr. Meltzer's staff to the Temporary Living Center at the nearby Meridian Park Hospital in Tualatin, Oregon, a Portland suburb. Patient assistance representatives as well as Dr. Meltzer and his nursing staff make daily rounds at the TLC. The cost of TLC convalescent care is comparable to that of the defunct Eastmoreland VIP convalescent program.

Local officials have written Symphony letters of strong support for Dr. Meltzer and his work. Takata was not at liberty to divulge details of the letters or their authors. She did remark that Portland (Multnomah County) anti-discrimination laws include gender-identity.

If there is no agreement with Symphony regarding his gender reassignment surgery practice, Dr. Meltzer's last surgical day at Eastmoreland will be December 31. However, negotiations are underway with six or more hospitals interested in associating with Meltzer's program. Takata expects to receive proposals from these hospitals by October 1. She was most emphatic in her assessment that the probable shift from Eastmoreland to a different hospital will have no impact on surgery schedules little impact on patients during the transition period.

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Balance Sheet

(July 27, 2002 through August 16, 2002)

Assets	
Cash	$5,355.63
Event Equipment	
Decorations	$1,000.00
Food Service	$200.00
Office Supplies	$50.00
Total Assets	$6,605.63
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	$0.00
Educational Fund	$0.00
Taxes	$0.00
Insurance	$0.00
Utilities	$0.00
Operations	$0.00
Total Liabilities	$0.00
Equity	$6,605.63
Total Liabilities & Equity	$6,605.63

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue	
Membership	$130.00
Advertising	$0.00
Cotillion	$0.00
Donations Received	$0.00
Social	$0.00
Education	$79.00
Outreach	$0.00
	$209.00
Expenses	
Cotillion	$0.00
Halloween Party	$0.00
Big Shew	$0.00
Pride Parade	$0.00
Social	$0.00
Education	$0.00
Outreach	$0.00
Newsletter	$321.48
Operations	$308.42
Donations Paid	$0.00
	$629.90
Net Income (Loss)	**($420.90)**

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give
as of August 31, 2002

There were no donations for the period.

Won't You Consider
A Tax-Deductible Donation?

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Requests for information concerning TGSF *and upcoming events*

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

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

TG's In The News!

Says He Was Beaten, Taunted

Transgender Man Sues S.F. Police

Christopher Heredia, Chronicle Staff Writer
Friday, August 9, 2002

San Francisco — A 37-year-old transgender man has sued San Francisco and several law enforcement officers, claiming he was beaten and later taunted about his gender identity when arrested last year. In addition to $25 million in damages, Jeremy Burke of San Francisco — who is making the transition from female to male with hormones and surgery — says he hopes the lawsuit will lead to improved sensitivity training for veteran police officers.

The suit stems from Burke's Aug. 13 arrest and his assertions of improper conduct by two San Francisco police officers, a sheriff's deputy and a Housing Authority security guard. Besides being assaulted, Burke said, he was strip-searched by a female jailer instead of a male, subjected to derogatory comments and thrown a dress in his jail cell. He claims he required medical treatment and suffered from nightmares as a result.

"I hope by filing this lawsuit that we can make some changes to the way the police and sheriff's departments operate so that this never happens to anyone again," Burke said Thursday.

A spokesman for the city attorney's office said the office hadn't received a copy of the complaint and declined comment. The city's watchdog Office of Citizen Complaints, however, reviewed the matter earlier and determined that Burke's claims couldn't be substantiated.

In his suit, Burke said the incident had happened as he was delivering medications to his ill partner, a 67-year-old woman who lives at a Housing Authority complex at 350 Ellis St. He said he had shown identification but had initially been denied entry to the building by a female security guard, who he said later had shoved him in an elevator. The guard summoned police, who arrested Burke in the apartment of his partner on suspicion of battery, resisting arrest and trespassing.

During the arrest, Burke said, officers grabbed his arms and dragged him out of a chair, punching him in the face, chest and eye and causing internal bleeding that required hospital treatment. To make matters worse, Burke said, an unnamed female sheriff's deputy strip- searched him in jail, and another jail worker made offensive remarks about his genitals.

A police report on the incident quote officers as saying they grabbed Burke after he raised a fist at one of the officers. Once in jail, the report says, he tried to bite another officer on the arm. Burke said he had tried to bite the officer to defend himself. He said the officer had been bending his fingers back.

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All charges were eventually dropped except the trespassing count, which will be expunged when Burke completes a diversion program, police sources said. Officers are trained in handling transgender men and women when they are arrested, said Police Department spokesman Jim Deignan. "I believe (the training) is as adequate as is possible at this time." Deignan said. "We're always open to learning more."

Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Eileen Hirst said jail protocol called for transgender men to be examined by male staff members, and women to be strip- searched by female workers. Hirst said jail deputies were trained not to make offensive remarks, and if someone did, it would violate department policy.

The suit also names San Francisco police officers Anton Collins and Steve Lee, Deputy Sheriff Edson Veloro and Housing Authority security guard Dorothy Lipkins. Burke's attorney, Waukeen McCoy, said the lawsuit had been delivered Thursday to city officials.

Transgender rights advocates and city officials said they weren't aware of a similar lawsuit against the Police Department. However, in 1999, a transgender woman, Victoria Schneider, won $750,000 in damages from the San Francisco Sheriff's Department after a federal jury determined that deputies in 1997 had strip-searched her without justification. Schneider's attorney argued that she had been searched naked while other jail staffers looked on, laughing and making jokes.

Since 1995, all Police Department recruits have had to go through transgender sensitivity training, said Marcus Arana, a member of the Police Commission task force charged with coming up with recommendations for transgender sensitivity training for advanced officers. Training delves into use of proper pronouns, myths and stereotypes and procedures for booking and detention of transgender men and women. According to a spokeswoman for the Sheriff's Department, deputies — veterans and rookies alike — have to go through sensitivity training. Arana said the task force, assembled in January, was expected to issue recommendations this fall on transgender training for advanced officers.

Transsexual Sues For Rest Room Access

Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network
Thursday, August 15, 2002 / 05:36 PM

A transgender woman in Chandler, Ariz., has filed a lawsuit against a college for barring her from using women's rest rooms on campus.

Rebecca E. Kastl, a former computer technology instructor and student at Maricopa County Community College in Avondale, is suing on the grounds that her condition as a transsexual is a congenital disorder and the college is violating the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). According to the Arizona Republic, Kastl has tried unsuccessfully in the past to bring her discrimination complaint to the Arizona attorney general, the ACLU and the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission.

Randi Barnabee, Kastl's lawyer, acknowledged that the ADA specifically excludes transsexuality as a disability. However, she said, "Advances in medical and scientific research in the 12 years since ADA passed show transsexualism is no choice but a physiological condition."

Drag performer and playwright finds mainstream success with 'Allergist's Wife'

THE MANY FACES OF CHARLES BUSCH

Octavio Roca, Chronicle Dance Critic
Tuesday, August 20, 2002

Charles Busch is too much.

The author of the hit play "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife," now at the Curran Theater, has been an East Village maverick and a Broadway surprise, the transgressive bad boy of the avant-garde and a shameless crowd-pleaser in the Neil Simon mode. His first novel, "Whores of Lost Atlantis," left fans waiting for the next and gave the world this bon mot: "I realize that a good man is hard to find, but you can usually find a reasonable facsimile before the bar closes at 4."

Busch in person is a nice, cute Jewish boy who can look amazing in an Oscar de la Renta gown. He is a sweet, unassuming guy who can turn on a dime and instantly channel the seductive spirit of Bette Davis, Lana Turner or Susan Hayward. In the more than 20 roles he has written for himself, from the 2,000-year- old bitch in "Vampire Lesbians of Sodom" to the schizophrenic teenage Chicklet in "Psycho Beach Party" and the glamorous Hollywood housewife in "Red Scare on Sunset," Busch is without question the finest gender illusionist this side of Charles Ludlam.

He can be both heartbreaking and a hoot. And, though he modestly claims that "what I do is really good bad acting," Busch's range as an actor may have just begun to blossom: He has played a male killer in HBO's "Oz" and an average gay man in his Jewish comedy "You Should Be So Lucky." He tanked in Genet's "The Maids": "I tried to play Solange like Lucille Ball doing Genet. It was a complete failure, the wound that never heals." But he also scored hits as Hedda Gabler, as Mary in "The Women" and as Auntie Mame. His next stage role will be in London's West End, in his 1999 play "Shanghai Moon."

"I play Lady Sylvia Allington," said Busch, "the beautiful American-born wife of a British diplomat. She's sort of a cheap thing from Chicago originally, a Barbara Stanwyck type. No, not the later Stanwyck, the Stanwyck of 'The Bitter Tea of General Yen,' that type. Of course, it's also so hard to find a Nils Asther type today. But I digress."

"The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" is Busch's first Broadway play, an honest-to-goodness, theater-parties-from-the-'burbs comedy that might surprise fans of his earlier work. In truth, everything Busch has written, very much including the cult "Vampire Lesbians" as well as "The Lady in Question" or even "Psycho Beach Party," has been about peeling back layers of social convention to find someone's real self.

Busch personally is concerned with the question "What is it I do, really?" onstage, but in his work it is often simply "Who is it I really am?" And that question is universal. "If I had put myself in 'Allergist's Wife,' there would have been the presumption for many people that the play is about gender roles," said Busch, "and it's not." The temptation is great to imagine which role Busch might have played in "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife," but he did not write it with himself in mind. "That was very liberating."

The idea for the play did originate in a short monologue Busch refined over time, "about this Upper West Side Jewish housewife" who eventually became Marjorie Taub, the very conflicted Upper West Side Jewish housewife Valerie Harper is portraying at the Curran. Was the play calculated to be a mainstream hit? "I know people meant well," said Busch, "but I began to feel terrible about how everybody, strangers on the street, my own sister even, kept telling me how thrilling it was that I was now mainstream. I didn't know I was so on the fringe.

"It is a lot like what happened with 'Vampire Lesbians,' which was also a big surprise," he said about the play that ran five years and became off- Broadway's longest-running nonmusical. He does not consider it his best work. "People kept telling me later, 'Your work has grown so much since Vampire Lesbians.' Well, I was better before 'Vampire Lesbians.' That play was just a skit I wrote to do in a bar, for people standing around holding a Rolling Rock. I mean, Chekhov's 'Three Sisters' wouldn't go over well at the Limbo Lounge."

He has written even edgier work than "Vampires," including the outrageous "Kiss the Blood Off My Castanets" and the early "Before Our Mother's Eyes." Better-formed plays, dramaturgically not far from "Allergist's Wife," also mark Busch as a lover of 19th century theater and its conventions. For a man who first fell under the spell of stage magic by seeing Joan Sutherland in "La Sonnambula" at the Met, this makes sense. "You don't see 19th century theater anymore, except in opera."

Busch's love of show business and everything about it is no casual infatuation. He defends Joan Crawford, "Mommie Dearest" parenting horrors and all: "I got to know Elaine Steinbeck," said Busch on one of many digressions, "John Steinbeck's widow, who was first married to Zachary Scott and was at Joan Crawford's house all the time. Elaine's a real Southern gal." "Honey," said Busch in a delicious, mint-julep-soaked impression of the widow Steinbeck's Southern drawl, "we used to tell Joan that girl's the bad seed! Send her back!"

Busch was recently featured as a Crawford historian in a TV documentary on the star. Before that, he appeared as an expert in an Arts & Entertainment Judy Garland documentary. "It was so embarrassing. I must be the gayest person on earth," he said. He admires the way icons such as Liza Minnelli "can exploit personal tragedies for effect: I mean, that kind of vulgar, fabulous, showbiz emotionalism is so cool. When Whitney Houston makes her comeback at 50, it just won't be the same."

Close to pushing 50 himself — "Lies!" he quips in his best offended Anne Baxter baritone, "they'll say anything on the Internet" — Busch at 47 looks a lot younger and is not about to exploit any tragedies himself. True, he had "a brush with death" last year when a previously undetected congenital heart defect ("No heart," he jokes) led to open-heart surgery.

He is fine now. His private life seems close to settled bliss. "My lover's an interesting fellow," Busch said of Eric Myers, the author of the critically acclaimed "Uncle Mame: The Life of Patrick Dennis." Busch is writing a foreword to a forthcoming edition of Dennis' cult classic "Little Me." And when he recently got to play the role of Auntie Mame in New York, "it was one of the greatest nights of my life."

"It resonated so much in my own life," said Busch. "I was raised by a wacky aunt in Manhattan. I always wanted to play Auntie Mame, and it seems so many people wanted to see me play Auntie Mame. Peggy Cass played Gooch! Even my real nephew played my nephew."

Is he an actor? "Not anymore."

7GS7

Halloween on the Bay!

Saturday, October 26th 2002

7:30pm to 10:30pm

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E-mail [redacted]@hotmail.com

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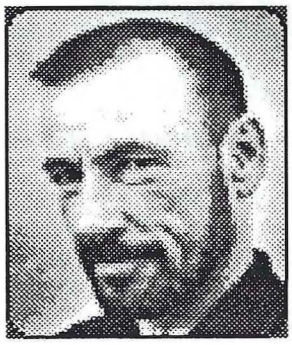
Sex Changed, But Turf Wars Continue



For all those gay and lesbian people who are still wondering why trans stuff is being foisted upon them, Indiana University history professor Joanne Meyerowitz may have the answer. Her new book "How Sex Changed" is due out this October from Harvard University Press, and it is a detailed history of transsexuality in the United States that demonstrates how and why, from a historical and cultural perspective, homosexuality and transsexuality, transvestism and the concept of intersex are apparently inextricably linked in the public mind.

I've just finished reading an advance copy of the book, and I believe that anyone who wants to speculate about the position of transpeople in contemporary culture ought to study it thoroughly. It fills in many blanks in our collective understanding about the power of sex change and the historical powerlessness of the LGBT community.

When you get right down to it, it's all about language. All along, doctors, therapists, theologists, politicians, transpeople, straight people and gay and lesbian people have all been trying to describe what they think sex, gender, sexual orientation, sex roles, gender roles, sexual behavior, intersexed conditions and even the soul really are. And it seems we continually struggle over who gets to define and ascribe value to whose experience.

Professor Meyerowitz focuses primarily on the decades of the '50s, '60s, and '70s, with appropriate attention paid to underlying forces and theoretical and practical precursors as far back as the mid-1800s. (She also gives a nod to the conservative 1980s and the rapid evolution of the trans rights movement of the '90s.)

Meyerowitz delineates the turf and class wars that provided the foundation for the most recent debates over the scope and direction of the queer rights agenda. She also highlights how the medicalization of sexuality worked to objectify all of us in the LGBTIQQ world.

Contextualizing transsexuality — which hit the popular consciousness in December 1952, when the press seized upon Christine Jorgensen — and society's reaction to the idea of changing sex, Professor Meyerowitz illuminates the lives and professional struggles of sex researchers like Drs. Harry Benjamin, Robert Stoller, John Money and Richard Green, who have greatly influenced the field of gender identity studies.

She illuminates early transsexual people who predated Jorgensen, people like Louise Lawrence, who "devoted herself to teaching medical authorities and scientists about transvestites and transsexuals" in the 1940s in San Francisco, and Stephen Wagner in Chicago, who "had searched for male-to-female surgery since the 1930s."

She also documents the influence of the Erickson Educational Foundation, masterminded by a wealthy and eccentric FTM, and the dynamic political efforts that a broad spectrum of transpeople engaged in throughout the 1960s, driving many of the events that precipitated the modern gay rights movement.

The turf wars and identity politics battles we are so familiar with (and some of us are weary of) these days are not new among marginalized populations. "The American homophile movement had emerged with the founding of the Mattachine Society in 1950. ... From 1953 into the 1970s, the various publications of the homophile movement sporadically addressed the emergence of transsexuality." Professor Meyerowitz goes on to document the kind of debates that took place in those early days, which are strikingly similar to the kind of distancing and territorializing that took place in the early 1990s, before T was added to LGB, and that still occurs in periodic outbursts of discomfort with others today.

Class wars, legal debates, medical theories, the effect of the sexual revolution of the 1960s, the second wave of feminism in the 1970s, national politics, the influence of the media — all are twirled in a kaleidoscopic melange that guides our attention from one plane of existence to another, and as we read we can begin to understand how all these seemingly disparate forces affect us all, trans or not, LGB or straight.

While many people believe the contemporary transgender movement is the first articulation of radical new ideas, "How Sex Changed" proves this false. Virtually every aspect of the transgender movement has its precursor in the mid-20th century, if not earlier. The success of the present movement is built upon the achievements of trans ancestors and allies whose names and accomplishments are completely unknown to most contemporary transpeople, let alone the nontranspeople who are so shocked that we exist.

Sex has changed dramatically since World War II, and we are all a part of that change. But the struggle for self-discovery and the search for civil rights and social safety for marginalized people has not changed substantially in its form or process. Joanne Meyerowitz's book, with all its honesty about misguided attempts to control others, sexualized bodies, desexualized bodies, motives noble and perverse among professionals and transpeople alike, and the confusion/conflation of sex, sexual orientation and gender identity, is ultimately a testament to the strength and determination of transgendered people. She gives us a much-needed perspective from which everyone may expand their awareness of humanity.

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Shirley Faire

Swallowed by the Earth

All over America, people are asking themselves what has gone wrong with the very ground we stand on. It was just a week ago that representatives of superstar heart throb Ben Affleck and recording sensation Jennifer ("J Lo") Lopez revealed exclusively to this publication that the romantically linked pair had been swallowed by the earth.

"Their disappearance was so sudden and unexpected," said a source who asked not to be named, "that we were all shocked, just shocked. This was not, I might add, a stunt to escape photographers." Incredibly, no photographer was present to capture the event.

According to witnesses, the couple, strolling arm in arm from Starbucks to Ms. Lopez's 2002 Bentley convertible, each balancing a caramel double iced latte and stopping periodically to demonstrate their mutual affection, were both heard to exclaim "Whoa!" just before the earth under their feet parted and they were consumed.

Police immediately cordoned off the area, despite difficulty in determining exactly where the earth had opened to receive its glamorous victims.

Shocking enough by itself, the bizarre tragedy was followed by earth swallowings around the country. Nonagenarian health advocate Jack LaLane, about to plunge into the waters off Cocoa Beach, Florida, for a record-breaking swim to Nassau, was swallowed by the beach. "Not even his head was left sticking out. Just...poof, gone," lamented an aide, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "Just a few more yards and he would've been safely in the water; nobody, believe me, nobody could float like Jack. He was the most buoyant man I ever met. Like a cork."

Gracious living tycoon Martha Stewart, about to serve a barbecue soufflé to her lawyers, was "ingeniously sort of folded into the earth. It's kind of hard to explain without her here to show exactly how," said her chief counsel. "Ms. Stewart's passing was made all the sadder when one considers that she was unable to join us for the superb meal she had just made."

In the only earth swallowing recorded by television cameras so far, viewers of Reverend Jerry Falwell's program "Listen America" were stunned to see the famed conservative minister swallowed by the earth as he was about to interview fellow entrepreneur-evangelist Pat Robertson on the theme "Take 'em, God, take 'em all!"

In Redmond, Washington, Microsoft officials issued a terse statement denying that founder and CEO Bill Gates had been swallowed by the earth. "Mr. Gates is with his family during this crisis continuing to lead development teams that will take computing software far beyond anything we have ever seen before," said a Microsoft media interface liaison reading from a prepared statement on a personal computer. Asked by a reporter why a denial had been issued before any report had been issued of Mr. Gates being swallowed by the earth, the spokesperson shot back that he had made a clear statement of fact and challenged the questioner's objectivity.

Two days later President George W. Bush at a hastily called press conference aboard Air Force One avowed that his administration was "doing all in its power to arrest the evildoers and bring them to justice," noting that so far only Americans were being swallowed by the earth, which he termed "suspicious." He continued, "When young American entertainment stars are taken; when the oldest healthy man in America is taken; when possibly the wealthiest man in the world is possibly taken, or possibly not; when the man who is the nearest thing this country will ever have to a pope is taken, not to mention a very lovely if ethically questionable woman, something is rotten in Denmark, and I can promise the American people that we will prevail even if we have to subdue the entire earth and every creature upon it." Questioned whether his statement could be construed as an attack upon the Bill of Rights, Mr. Bush leaned forward on his lectern and said, "I know what I meant, and the American people know what I meant. There are a lot of fine, decent hard working American people out there who pay their taxes and raise their kids, and don't like to be lectured to by the likes of you, or anybody. And you know what I mean. Now, I am a patient man, but you are beginning to piss me off. Maybe it's just time for you to get outta' Dodge, fella'."

The most recent and puzzling incident involved Mr. Jerry Springer, host of the Jerry Springer show, on the campus of the University of Chicago where he was doing research for an upcoming show, "Nobel Laureates and the Transvestite Hookers They Cheat On." Witnesses report that the earth beneath Mr. Springer briefly seemed to form itself into a pair of lips, which opened and into which Mr. Springer disappeared. Shortly after, the lips reappeared and Mr. Springer was ejected with an audible "ptooey" heard several miles away. He was later treated for superficial cuts and bruises.

Has the earth been satisfied? Or does Mr. Springer contain an antibody as it were that renders him impossible to swallow? As scientists search frantically for answers ordinary citizens wonder if and when more celebrities will disappear, and who they might be. The wait, they watch, they wager. The question nagging everyone seems to be, why wasn't Jerry Lewis the very first to go? Which leads not a few to suspect that it is all somehow a plot by the French.

New FTM Group!

South Bay Transmen

Come and hang out with other FTM/questioning guys at our social and support group. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30-9:00pm at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 938 the Alameda, in San Jose.

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NTAC Press Release

Rash Of Transgender Murders In August Shock The Community

Only twelve days into August, 2002, and it is becoming one of the deadliest months on record for Transgender murders. According to the First Coast News station in Jacksonville, FL, on the morning of August 8, a man walking his dog along Spring Grove Road at the Northside found 28-year-old Deasha (Gerald) Andrews slumped over in her car. She had been shot more than once and apparently died on the spot.

According to Rusty Mead, the GLBT Community Lieason for the Jacksonville Sheriffs Office, this is not being investigated as a hate crime. Based on information that Mead has been given by the JSO, some of which she could not reveal, there is nothing that suggests a hate crime had been committed. Part of the reason that leads police to believe this is that Andrews had been found in a very violent part of town, an area that has had several murders in the past. Andrews has been known to frequent this area regularly.

The Jacksonville Sheriffs Office have also ruled that the Andrews murder is not related the murder of Terrianne Summers, a Transgender activist who was shot in Jacksonville on December 12, 2001. The only similarities are that both victims were Transgender, and both were shot. Mead informed us that the lead detective for the Andrews murder is the partner of the lead detective for the Summers murder. Both detectives had made a conscientious effort to show respect to the victims by ensuring that they refer to them with proper pronouns.

On August 12, 2002, violence struck again when two Transgender youths, Ukea (Deon) Davis, 18, and Stephanie (Wilbur) Thomas, 19, were found in the front seat of Thomas's Toyota Camry about 3:25 a.m. at 50th and C streets SE. According to the DC Police, both victims died at the scene from multiple gunshot wounds.

According to Earline Budd, a Transgender activist in the DC Area, witnesses say a car drove up beside the two youths, and a gunman fired shots from an automatic weapon. The gunfire killed Davis and critically wounded Thomas.

Another car drove up after the shooting, and an unidentified man got out and walked up to the driver's side of Thomas' car. The man pushed Thomas' shoulder to see if she was still alive. Thomas moaned in pain, but the man fled upon hearing the first car return. The gunman then got out of the first car and fired additional shots into Thomas' car, killing her.

According to Budd, firefighters from Engine Company 30, the infamous "Dirty Thirty" involved in the Tyra Hunter tragedy, responded to the scene - which ironically, was just one block from the intersection where Tyra Hunter was critically injured seven years ago. Adding insult to injury, the dead women were dragged out of Thomas' bullet-riddled car, and Thomas' body was dropped face first on the ground. Later a firefighter pushed Thomas' body over with his foot, as blood poured from her head and neck wounds, according to an eyewitness.

The firefighters were apparently afraid to touch the victims.

In honor of the slain teens' memory, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition has begun a fund to be given to the Transgender Health Empowerment Center (THE) in Washington DC. Both victims participated in THE, and the money collected will help the organization provide a memorial service so that friends of the teens can grieve their loss

Yoseñio Lewis, outgoing Board Chair of NTAC, had previously met one of the victims of the DC shooting. "It is vitally important that we never forget that we are the village, these were OUR children," said an emotional Lewis after the NTAC board meeting. "We have a responsibility to them in death just as significant and meaningful as we did in life."

The statistics are staggering. Whether as hate crimes or other violence, murders of Transgender people are on the rise. This year alone, fifteen murders have been reported, approaching two per month. The Remember Our Dead list is now up to 242 names, with 199 of them being domestic cases and 43 being international.

With the two new victims bring the Washington, DC, total to seven, placing it in a tie with San Diego as the fourth deadliest city in the country.

When the District of Columbia is placed in the context with the various states in the US, it ranks seventh, tied with Illinois and Massachusetts. With the new murder in Jacksonville, Florida's total has risen to ten, and it is no longer sharing fifth place with Tennessee. The national Transgender Day of Remembrance is scheduled to take place on November 20, 2002.

For more information on Day of Remembrance Activities near you or for information on organizing your own event, contact www.gender.org/remember or Gwendolyn Smith at [redacted]@gender.org

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How Ryan Became Rebecca

Rebecca Marie Nay

This is my story of how Ryan became Rebecca. I was born in Richfield, Utah in 1975. As a kid I was definitely different from others but could not figure out why. I was often called names and made fun of by other boys. In elementary school, most of my friends were girls. The only exceptions were my cousin and a neighbor boy. I just did not feel comfortable around other boys (that didn't last forever *blush*). I also recall at times wishing that I were a girl instead of a boy. This feeling would occasionally lead me to secretly do things like put on my mom's makeup, jewelry or fingernail polish. However, I was never bothered by the feeling as I realized I was a boy, and that was just the way things were. For the majority of my pre-adolescent childhood, I learned that some things were just best left alone.

In junior high I went through the normal adolescent identity crisis and tried different looks. I even became involved in some sports and tried to fit in as much as possible. I didn't really start puberty until high school, as I was a "late bloomer." It was then I discovered that my physical attractions were directed to males. I also fantasized about being "their girlfriend." Given my lack of education on gay issues, I thought that maybe I was a homosexual.

My parents at that time were not strict Mormons. It was basically the conservative environment around me that caused a belief that something was wrong with me. There was no strong religious influence in my life until I decided to become "active" in the Mormon Church on my own, so I could be "cured" of what I thought was my "sickness."

My options after high school were few because of my family's financial circumstances. Because of my "problem" I did not feel worthy to serve a Mormon mission. So after much thought and prayer, I joined the U.S. Army at the age of 18. The main purpose of this decision was to finance my college education. I also figured it would give me time to fix my "problem" so I could serve a mission after my enlistment. The US Army would also "make a man out of me." My biggest concern during my enlistment was that my "struggle" would be known. My worry was that I would get a dishonorable discharge and lose all my college money. My personal life being a Mormon was a living hell as I struggled to fight my hidden feelings. In the final 6 months of my military service, I was on the verge of suicide. I was then forced to reconcile my religious beliefs with my sexuality. At that time, I still could not discern the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity (the ex-gay ministry that I had been involved with didn't help a bit).

After my honorable military discharge, I moved to Salt Lake City and "came out" to my family and friends as a gay man. It took me about a year to realize that I was different from most gay men. I eventually determined that I was not gay because I learned that gay men are attracted to the same gender but most have no desire to change theirs. It was then that I realized the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation.

That realization eventually would drive me into a new "closet". I figured I would not have the courage to undertake a gender transition in Utah. There is a small "transgender community" in Salt Lake, but I did not feel comfortable about this issue. I figured that I would be in this "new closet" for the rest of my life. On occasion I would live a night in my "fantasy gender" by unruly attempts to be a drag queen.

In May of 2001, I moved to Portland, Oregon on a job transfer. It did not take me long to realize the difference between Portland and Salt Lake City. I also noticed that my Oregon employer was much more tolerant than my Utah employer was. I immediately decided that I was not going to live the rest of my life behind the curtain of a "gay male" who liked to do "drag." Leaving Utah started a process that has brought me from Ryan to my recently legalized name of Rebecca Nay.

The past year has been one of the most rewarding and challenging years of my life. My family is struggling with this issue and I may lose contact with some as a result. My experiences in the past year include finding a therapist which is a prerequisite for finding a doctor to prescribe female hormones, starting electrolysis and laser hair removal, and most importantly; establishing a strong local network of support (that includes many co-workers). These experiences prepared me to start living my full time life as a woman.

This girl is currently single and loving it. I truly believe that a person must learn to be happy with who they are before they can be happy with a loving partner. My self-respect grows every day as I obtain the courage and ability to connect with myself through being the person I have always wanted to be. As changes occur in my life it brings on new challenges and insecurities. The challenges make me stronger and the insecurities keep me humble. Life can be a wonderful experience with the right attitude.

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

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A New Husband's Story

By Nicholas Sauer

If someone had asked me to define the word transsexual before October 30th, 1999 I wouldn't have been able to. Actually, I could have made an educated guess as I was aware of sex reassignment surgery although I had not, as far as I knew, met someone who had undergone the procedure. What I also did not know at the time was how profound an impact learning about this would have on my life.

Before I go any further let me introduce myself a little bit. I am a 39-year-old research scientist. When I'm not in the lab, I like to play board games, read old pulp literature (especially the heroes like Doc Savage and The Shadow) and, watch bad movies (with or without the Mystery Science Theatre crowd). I also never managed to outgrow my childhood fascination with Godzilla. It would be appropriate to point and yell "Geek" right about now.

When my parents raised me they very strongly instilled in me the concept that all people are equal. Things like their race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation, while ultimately a part of who the person was, where not grounds for making assumptions about the person's character. As a result of this, I have always approached people from a more neutral perspective, learning about who they really are first. Of course, this always made dating a little awkward for me as I became accustom to putting my feelings of physical attraction toward women on hold until I got to know them. Between this, and my younger insecurity with myself, I ended up married to the wrong person a little over ten years ago. The only positive thing from the marriage is my wonderful daughter whom I wouldn't trade for anything in the world.

My former wife ultimately decided that she needed to find religion so, she decided to do this by initiating an extramarital relationship with a gentleman who was in the process of becoming a minister himself. This pretty much solidified my previous view of religion. So, after becoming single again, I found myself having to relearn (or learn) how to go about dating. Like I stated earlier, dating was always kind of hard for me because I would tend to view a woman as a person first as opposed to a romantic partner. Being only human (although there are some people who would argue otherwise) there were a few times where I would have an overwhelming physical reaction to a woman.

This brings us back to October 30th, 1999. I was at the Gamer's Realm (the best game store in New Jersey) 1999 Halloween party. I was setting up for an evening of board games when in walks an old gaming friend, actually more of a friendly acquaintance. He had his two sons with him and was dressed as a woman and wearing a way cool cat costume with a cat ear headband, leopard print top, leather skirt and boots and black stockings. Not being gay (I had examined that aspect of my sexuality when I was a teenager) I didn't have any reaction to my friend's costume other than to think it was pretty clever. So, I went up to him and addressed him by his old name and said "great costume". To which his response was "unfortunately, it's not a costume". My response to this was "well, it's not unfortunate from where I'm standing". Tragically, that is what I thought of much later than whatever lame thing I actually said (I have never been very good with fast comeback lines).

As soon as this exchange took place, she introduced herself to me as Diane. Obviously, I had a number of thoughts streaming through my head at this point. First, and foremost was that I had to sit down really fast because I was having a very rapid reaction to Diane's costume (it rocked but, she won't admit it). The next thing that went through my head is that she could be a great person to date because we had the similar board gaming interest and we had always hit it off well when we did game together. Of course, my reaction to the costume had nothing to do with my desire to date

her. I did do a little thinking about what my friend's and families reactions would be but, to be honest I new I was an adult by that point and I figured they would adapt and, a good number of them probably wouldn't be even remotely surprised. Of course, I also fell back on that old primordial male fear of what happens if she says "no". However, by this point, I had enough dating experience that this was a fear I could reign in pretty easily.

Unfortunately, I was dating another woman at the time who wanted to go exclusive and I made the mistake of agreeing to do so. One of things I promised myself when I started dating was that I would try to stop myself from finding someone who was a surrogate for my ex-wife. That is partially what I did with this woman and is ultimately why I ended the relationship. During this time I still gamed at the Realm regularly and still enjoyed talking with Diane when she was there. I would guess at this point that I subconsciously knew the relationship that I was currently in wasn't going to work out and I wanted to let Diane know that I was still interested in her. When the relationship finally ended, it had lasted about a year and I was seriously considering taking a break from dating for awhile just to recover a bit. As a part of this recovery plan, I went to the Realm for my normal night of board gaming. Diane didn't show up and I didn't mention the break-up to my other friends there because it had gotten pretty nasty and I really didn't want to think about it. This was my rock solid plan until Diane walked in two hours later that evening. At that point I decided to throw caution to the wind and mention, purely for Diane's benefit, that I had broken up with the other woman (again, my recollection of Diane in that Halloween costume had nothing to do with this decision). Before the evening was over, I learned that Diane held a weekly board gaming session at her place on Sunday nights. So, being the rude boor that I can be at times I managed to secure an invite from Diane for myself.

I immediately began exchanging email with her again as, I had always been interested in discussing her situation with her. One of the things my mom did in raising me was to treat me as a little boy with respect to most things and as a little girl with respect to some others in her attempt to raise a child that was more "balanced" with respect to gender issues. While I could write a whole other article on my opinions about how "good" an idea this was, it did give me a somewhat unique perspective throughout my life

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New Husband's Story...

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with respect to my peers. As a result, I was always interested in discussing gender issues with anyone who was willing to listen and, Diane seemed very receptive. It also made a convenient reason to ask her out on a date.

So, along comes Sunday game night at Diane's. Now, as I stated earlier, I had become quite accustomed to asking women out on dates. It had gotten to the point that I no longer got nervous about doing so. One of the reasons I knew that things were going to be different with Diane was because I had a Mothra sized case of the butterflies on the way over to her place that Sunday. It was so bad that I managed to screw up her otherwise clear directions on the way out. One quick phone call later got me to the apartment. Normally, I really enjoy board gaming. I find it very relaxing and really savor the enjoyment of a good game. That night I couldn't wait for the games to be over.

After the gaming was finished, I have since learned, that it was traditional for people to hang out and talk about work (since a number of the Sunday gamers are Diane's co-workers). That particular night everyone left immediately. Diane asked her friend Jim about this the next day and his response was that he got the impression that the two of us wanted to be alone (good call on his part, was my response when Diane later told me about this). In any case, I managed to fairly smoothly (at least from my perspective) ask her out to diner the coming Friday. She said yes and completely made my evening.

Our first date went great and things moved fairly quickly after that. We went on two more dates on the following week. We went exclusive, at my request, almost immediately. I told her I loved her pretty early in our dating. I remember the first time she told me she loved me very clearly. She said it as I left her apartment after one of our frequent dates. The drive to my house from her apartment took about an hour but, that night I really didn't notice because I was so overwhelmed with warmth and happiness the entire way home and until I went to sleep that night. I also knew right away that Diane was the woman that I wanted to spend the rest of my life with. There were so many common interests, very similar senses of humor and so many situations where we found ourselves thinking the exact same things. As a result, I ended up proposing to her on our six-month anniversary.

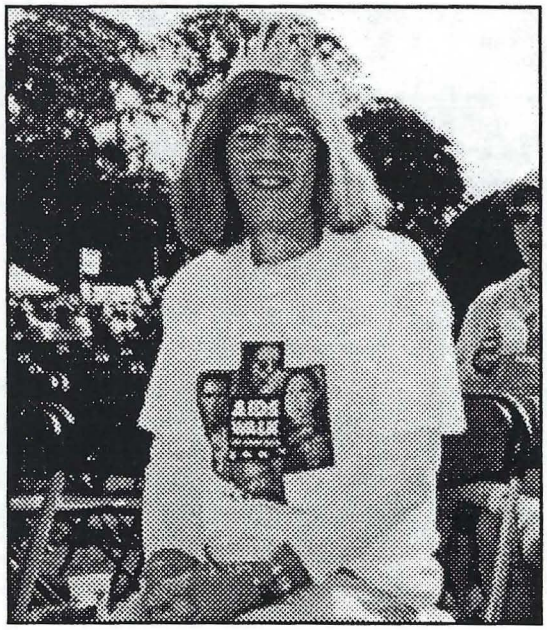
During this time I met her friends and was warmly welcomed by them into the TG community. I suppose some people may have found it disorienting but, to me it was just a new and somewhat different social group (I guess after hanging around gamers for as many years as I have, everyone else seems pretty functional in comparison). Diane has always been Diane to me. She is the same person that I knew from all of those years ago prior to her transition. I have never had any different feelings about her gender than I have ever had about any other woman. Actually, that is not completely true. I love Diane more than I have ever loved any woman before because she clearly loves and cares very deeply for me as well. She has always supported me as much as I have supported her. There were some surprising reactions from some of my relatives but, that is really too much to cover here. The important thing is that I have found someone who truly and deeply loves me as much as I love her and I have never been happier in my life.

Epilogue

Since this article was first published before our wedding, I thought a few follow-up paragraphs to bring things up to date might be in order. As I am writing we have just celebrated our one-month wedding anniversary. It was a wonderful experience planning the wedding with Diane. What was especially nice is that since we are both extremely organized people and we were financing it ourselves, the event came out exactly how we wanted it (i.e. parental interference was kept to a minimum). The ceremony went perfectly thanks to some cooperation from the weather.

The issues with one of my sets of relatives have somewhat resolved themselves. Things aren't perfect but, they are getting better. What really helped with this was a couple of the rules I use to run my life. The first is a fairly recent one that I developed after my divorce when I came to the realization that other people's issues weren't my problem. For friends, where I can have a constructive discussion about their concerns I'm willing to do that. However, if an acquaintance or someone I don't know from Adam starts getting in my face about some element of my lifestyle that they are clearly uncomfortable with, then they are on their own. In this particular instance this rule got used in conjunction with a second even older rule I have. The second rule basically is that just because someone is related to me (genetically or otherwise) I don't have to tolerate stupid behavior on their part. Since their issue with my future wife fell into what I would label "stupid behavior" I chose to ignore it and, I'm happy to say that it worked very well. They are in the process of working out their issues and, if they want to constructively speak to be me about it at some point in the future, that works too.

For our honeymoon, we chose to go to a city that we are both very fond of, San Francisco. While there we got to do some antiquing and visited some bookstores that carry old pulp magazines. I actually also dragged my new wife to a store that carried Godzilla figures under the assumption that being 3,000 miles closer to Japan would mean the prices would be lower. I was wrong. Finally, and most importantly, we met with Diane's friends from TGSF. We went to a doll-collecting seminar since Diane collects the old Dawn doll series (which she had always wanted but was never allowed to play with as a child). As a result of the seminar, Diane is now collecting the Gene series as well. We went to the GAPA pageant, which was great, and got to hang out and talk with her TGSF friends afterwards and the next day. The warm welcome and hospitality (and the teddy bears!) provided by the TGSF people was wonderful. It was a great honeymoon and I am very much looking forward to spending the rest of my life with my beautiful wife.



Stephanie raised $1,000 by herself at AIDS Walk 2002!

Vigil Honors Slain Transgender Teens

Tom Musbach, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network
Wednesday, August 14, 2002 / 04:49 PM

Community leaders and activists joined in a memorial vigil Tuesday night with friends and relatives of two transgender teens who were killed in southeastern Washington, D.C., a day earlier. Among the attendees were Washington Mayor Anthony A. Williams and Elizabeth Birch, head of the nation's largest gay and lesbian political group, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

Deon Davis, 18, who also went by the name Ukea, and Stephanie Thomas, 19, were shot repeatedly and killed while sitting in a car, less than a block from Thomas' apartment. Both victims, who were friends, were shot at least 10 times in the head and chest. The brutality of the killings has led many to speculate that the incident is a hate crime. A police spokesman, however, said there is little evidence of motive so far, and officials "are still exploring all the possibilities."

"Whether this turns out to be a hate crime or not, it has had the effect of a hate crime," Birch said in a statement read at the vigil. "Hate crimes are unique in that they affect more than just the immediate victims. These crimes are meant to send a message of fear to entire communities and terrorize everyone within those communities. Until the murders are caught, no member of the GLBT community will feel completely safe in the District of Columbia."

Birch also called on Congress to pass a comprehensive hate crimes bill. But according to the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), the version currently on deck in Congress does not go far enough to protect transgender people and should contain the words "gender identity" or "gender nonconformity."

"These most recent murders notwithstanding, this is turning out to be one of the deadlier years for hate crimes targeting the transgendered," NTAC's Vanessa Edwards Foster told the Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network.

On its Web site, NTAC has recorded 13 deaths from anti-transgender violence this year through July. That number is one more than 2001's total, and it takes into account only reported cases. Since many cases are unreported, especially among prostitutes, Foster said the actual number is likely several times higher.

Tuesday's vigil took place at the crime scene, in a neighborhood marked by broken windows, empty buildings and other signs of urban decay. Mourners left candles, flowers, ribbons and stuffed animals at the scene.

TG-friendly Landlady Seeking Tenant(s)

We're renting the top level of a house built in 1942. It has 2 bedrooms and 1 bath. It also has a room that has a bit of a view of the bay bridge that could be used as a dining room or a study. The house is light, bright and sunny; it has skylights in the kitchen and in the bathroom, and is located in a sunny part of the City. We have just painted the entire interior and will be painting the exterior as well. We have new wall-to-wall carpeting in the house and new linoleum for the kitchen too. There is a fireplace in the living room that has a mantle with an art deco kind of decor. There are a washer and dryer in the basement.

We are hoping to find someone who is employed, who likes this house as much as we do and would take really good care of it! It is located near the junction of 101 and 280 (easy freeway access!) on one of San Francisco's many hills in an area called Silver Terrace. It is on a little street that is only 3 blocks long called Maddux. I lived in this house as a single woman and I liked the neighborhood a lot. I liked the quiet and the neighbors were the kind of people who talked to each other and actually helped each other from time to time! If you want more information or are interested in seeing it, please call us at 925-[redacted]

Advertisement

Vigil Marks Loss of 2 Transgender Teens

Hatred, Violence Decried in D.C. As Families Mourn

By Ylan Q. Mui
Washington Post Staff Writer
Wednesday, August 14, 2002; Page B05

The two transgender teenagers who were killed in Southeast Washington were mourned there last night at a vigil attended by friends, relatives, members of the transgender community and D.C. Mayor Anthony A. Williams. The teenagers, who were male but lived and dressed as women, were Deon Davis, 18, who also went by Ukea, and Wilbur Thomas, 19, who was known as Stephanie. Some at the rally and activists in the gay and lesbian community suggested that the victims' sexual orientation might have led to their deaths.

The two were found at 50th and C streets SE early Monday, in the front seat of Thomas's vehicle. Each had at least 10 bullet wounds. "You don't do that unless you hate someone," Washington's mother said. "My child was scared to walk in the neighborhood." T-Jai Farmer, 21, of Hyattsville, who said she was a close friend of Davis's, said the teenager was often called names and otherwise harassed. "To me, I consider this a hate crime," she said.

A spokeswoman for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force said in a statement released earlier in the day that people's right to free expression of gender should not put them at risk of assault, or "as may well be the case here — murder." Police said they had not determined a motive in the killings. Sgt. Brett Parson, head of the D.C. police gay and lesbian liaison unit, said investigators have no suspects and "are still exploring all the possibilities."

In interviews and statements at the vigil, many people decried violence in the city and called for redevelopment of the bleak neighborhood where the teenagers were shot. When he stood at the intersection, Williams (D) told the crowd, "I see how much more we have to do." He called for rebuilding the community in memory of the teenagers.

Ribbons, fresh flowers and posters were taped to a wooden pole on the corner, and teddy bears and tea candles were strewed along the sidewalk, in colorful touches that contrasted with the boarded-up or empty windows of nearby buildings.

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