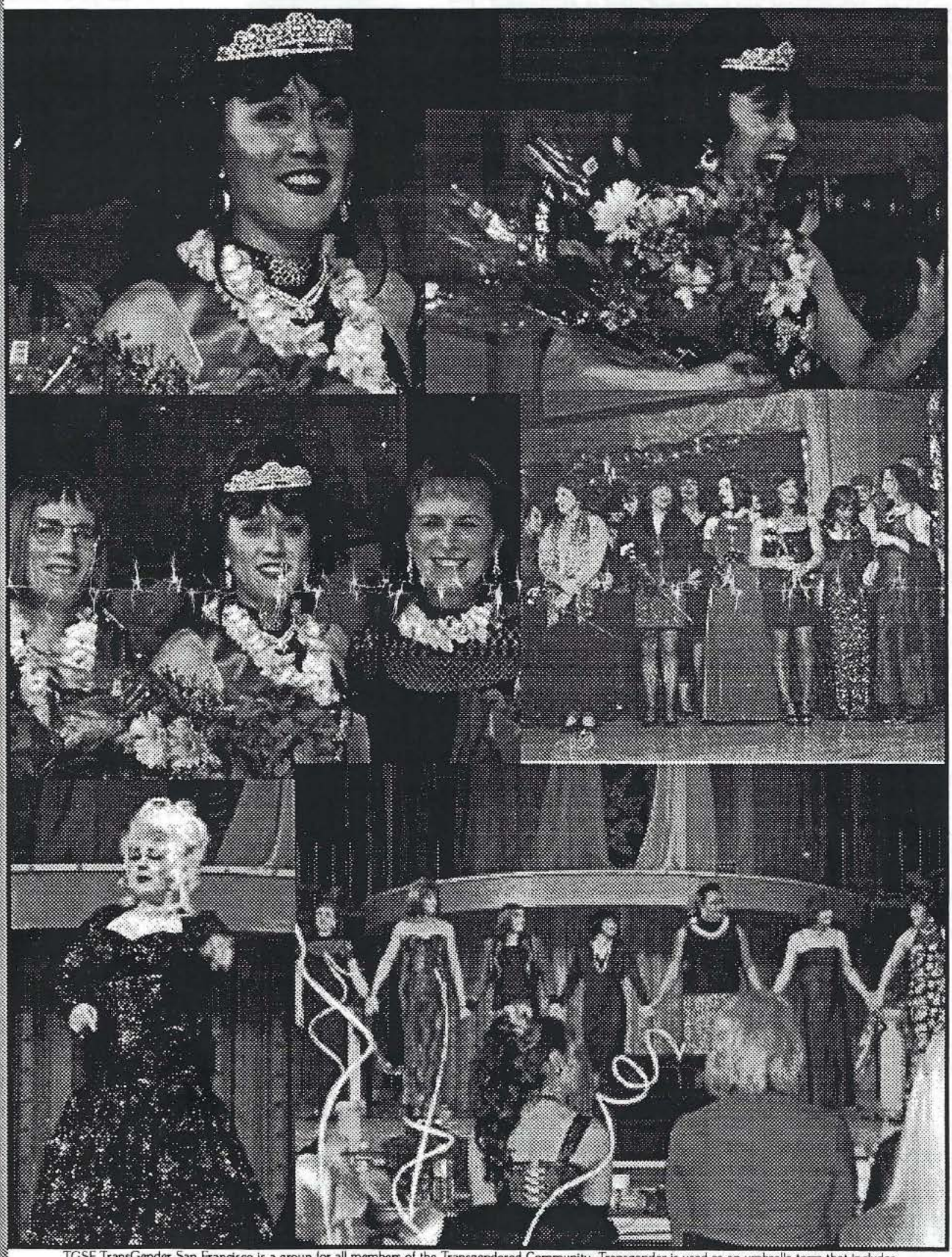
The Channel
TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

February 2002 Volume 21, Issue 2

Cotillion 2002 - Wow!



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 2001 - 2002 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Aiyana Eveningstar
Vice President ..... Rachael Janelle
Secretary ..... OPEN
Treasurer ..... Stephanie Ann Blythe
Education ..... Ally Grillo
Outreach ..... Kalani Makanani
Social ..... Tianna Marie DeVil

Membership Report

Current 2001-2002 Membership as of:

January 15, 2002 211

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
Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... A yme Kantz

Ad Rates

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

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

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Survivor IV: Fish or Cut Bait...

TGSF has got its work cut out for it, now that the Cotillion is over. And you, as a Member, have some decisions to make. Elections for the TGSF Executive Committee for the 2002-03 year are right around the corner. And you can bet your bottom dollar that the current ExCom is breathing a huge sigh of relief, now that their main objective for the fiscal year has been met. Whether or not the 2002 Cotillion bankrupts the club remains to be seen, but for the life of me I don't know where the money is going to come from.

Granted, President **Aiyana Eveningstar** and Crew suffered a major blow (as did we all) when the Secretary, Janis Ryan, passed away last year. But for all intents and purposes, I'd say they're all suffering from major burnout. I don't expect half of them (what's left of them, anyway) to run for office again. And I can't blame them - club apathy is at an all-time high (or should that be low?). There's just too much to do among too few willing to do it.

And as Editor, sometimes it was like pulling teeth to get a promised column or any Calendar information. I've already ranted about the education seminars, and **Ally Grillo** - God bless her - has been a real trooper getting some of them organized. But shit happens, people, and for some reason I was not provided with any TGSF Calendar items for the month of February. Nor was the interim-Secretary provided with the tape of January's ExCom meeting, so there are no Meeting Minutes either. Aside from a very nice letter from **Nicole Mössinger** on Page 6, all you get is filler.

And for that, I can only apologize to you on behalf of our beleaguered leadership. I mean, for what other reason do you get this rag other than to find out what's going on? Our readers want to know what events to look forward to! They wanna know what their elected leaders have been up to on their behalf! Certainly not to read my drivel...

Well, ya didn't get your money's worth this month as far as I'm concerned. And if I were you, I'd get off my pantied fanny and do something about it. TGSF is on the brink, people! Our leaders are fried, the coffers are empty and too few of you give a damn. And after four years of cranking the House Organ month after month, I gotta say I'm becoming a bit weary myself.

And may I say right now a hearty thank you to **Telzey Adams**, who with her trusty 35mm, faithfully attended as many TGSF events as she could (and has done so for years!), so that we could have photos in this newsletter. Sadly, she's giving up that task for other pursuits, and I, for one (in my capacity as Editor at least), will miss her terribly and am left wondering who's going to fill the void?

Continued on Page 3

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.

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

Losing my source for photos is a severe setback for the quality of this newsletter! And I am certainly no photographer, as evidenced by what's on the cover. It comes down to this: I admit taking pride in the job I do as Editor, and I enjoy doing a job well. But aside from my own column, this is YOUR paper - and if nobody is going to bother providing input, then there'll be no newsletter to edit. And with no newsletter, what's the point of paying a membership fee to join TGSF? You see what I'm driving at here?

So if anyone reading this is interested in taking photos for *The Channel* (and getting copies to me in a timely manner, either by snail mail or email), then please step forward! Losing Telzey is only going to make my job harder, and I'll be the first to tell you it was a difficult year anyway. Did someone just mention burnout a couple paragraphs ago?

We Need A Transfusion!

OK, we got Elections - and as of this writing, I don't even know if the current ExCom is preparing for them - and the group desperately needs some dedicated bodies to get down to cases and set this ship to rights. Think you can do the job? Think you got what it takes? Care to put your best foot forward and step up to the plate? Now is not the time to be shy - let's see some of that flamboyance you're supposed to be known for! Make yourselves known! Give us a campaign statement to publish, tell us why you deserve our votes, get your picture in the paper and go baby, go!

And if an ExCom slot just isn't in the cards for you, then volunteer for one of several Committees and lend a hand. There are lots of smaller jobs that need doing, and in fact it is these that grease the wheels and keep the club moving forward. Maybe they're not as glamorous as producing a Cotillion (kudos by the way to **Rachael Janelle**, who did an incredible job!), but the little stuff is just as vitally important, if not more so.

Seriously, it's my opinion that the coming year for TGSF is going to be a Make or Break one. This time next year I'll either be doing something else one weekend a month, or I'll be scratching my head after another Cotillion wondering "how the hell did they do that!" I'd even go so far as to predict that there won't even BE a Cotillion next year!

It's not just fresh blood on the ExCom we're needing, although that's the critical place to start. We also need to revisit how TGSF used to earn its daily bread. A lot of sound fiscal practices - based mainly on organized fundraising and a visible presence collecting donations/fees - have fallen by the wayside, and the group's income has sunk accordingly (can someone say, "like a stone?"). And may the Goddess shine all blessings on the **Anonymous Donor** who kicked 500 big ones into the kitty - right on, Sister!

But I think what we need most (besides your participation!) is continuity. Limiting terms on the Board to one year isn't cutting the mustard, and I think it safe to say that the idea is a dismal failure. So why is the turnover rate for our elected officers so high? Something tells me I don't have to answer that question for you. But I will anyway: it's because the election process has become a farce - no one wants the jobs! And once "elected," our Officers get dumped on (ok, so they get a manual), and absolutely no help whatsoever from those who cast the votes! Alright, maybe that's exaggerating it a bit. But if we get volunteers, whether coerced, corralled, or otherwise coddled into giving us some time, then let's get their names in the paper fer Chrissakes! *[Note to 2002 ExCom, whoever you may be - keep a roster of your committees and volunteers and send them to your Editor.]*

Want seminars? Sure! There's one this month - and you knew about it when I published the announcement in January ahead of time *[Editor's Note to Self: Isn't it infuriating when you have to use an old Calendar item as filler?!]*. But the thing is, are you going to show up and support it? Are you going to help organize the next one?

Do you want to have a social once a month? Sure! Great idea! But the thing is, are you going to organize where and when and how much? And are you going to show up and support it?

You want a monthly newsletter for your paltry thirty dollars per annum? Sure! Tell you what, why don't we raise the annual membership fee to $100 so I can go out and hire photographers and writers and event planners. But it's a *volunteer* organization m'dears! We need your talent, your drive, and your dedication. Because, despite the TGSF-bashing that seems to be going on in this issue (and I caution you now to read between the lines of **Shirley Faire's** latest column), this club has been around a hell of a long time. And it has been of invaluable help to countless numbers of non-TG and transgendered souls alike - even Shirley's!

TGSF (and the then ETVC) has educated thousands about what is means to be transgendered. We've taught our own about the wide variety of issues that are important to us. We've shared our experiences, and have been a voice for changing public opinion and governmental policy. We've reached out to other demographics because the T-community is all about inclusiveness. We've gathered together to express the joy of living our dreams. TGSF has meant so much to so many over the years, and we've been fortunate to have had some terrific and talented people lead the way.

It'd be a damn crying shame to see it all collapse. But that's what I see happening unless you do something about it. I dunno, maybe TGSF has outlived its usefulness. Most of you can get what you want on the Internet these days, and you probably get more bang for your buck there too. TGSF isn't the only game in town any more, as evidenced by our tapering membership rate and the proliferation of other support/social groups in the Bay Area.

Guess we've all got a choice: either jump ship, or start bailing. Hand me that bucket, will you?

PAULA-JO HUSACK, MA, LMFT, CGP
LIC. #MFC27864

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Are You A Veteran?

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

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

TGSF Events in February

[Editor's Note: I'm taking a stab at what will pass for our Calendar of Events this month. For Event information, I strongly recommend you call the hotline or contact an ExCom member for any information.]

Tuesday / February 7 / 7:00pm

TGSF ExCom Meeting

Continuing on with the Tuesday meeting schedule, the next TGSF ExCom meeting will be held at the office of President Aiyana, [redacted] in San Francisco. All TGSF members are welcome to attend.

Wednesday / February 13 / 8:00pm

TGSF Mid-Month Event

Your guess is as good as mine. But it's both Mardi Gras and Valentine's Day time, and I'm sure something nice will be in the works. Date and time are estimates only! Please contact Social Chair, Tianna or the President, Aiyana for any and all information.

Saturday / February 23 / 2:00pm

TGSF Education Seminar

Denae Doyle - a huge supporter of the T-community - will be presenting a forum on how to express our feminine selves through dance. Free the woman within by graceful expression! See the announcement on Page 7 for more details, and be there!

Thursday / February 28 / 8:00pm

TGSF End Of Month Event

Again, I'm only guessing this is the right date and time. This event could very well happen the previous Thursday, the 21st. As before, please contact Social Chair, Tianna or the President, Aiyana for any and all information.

New Members Since January Issue!

Michele Patrick
Kathryn Ryder
Siobhan Ellis
Akiko Ellis
Jill O'Brien
Mark Howe
Janessa Headers
Rikki Cohen
Constance Stardragon

Welcome to TGSF!

February's Birthdays

2/1	***Suzan Reed***
2/1	***Thea Horner***
2/5	***Karen Clark***
2/5	***Carol Anderson***
2/17	***Carla Blair***
2/20	***Debra Darling***

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Cosmetics Lingerie Fem Fashions Wigs Nails Shoes Cosmetics

Nails Wigs Lingerie

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

The Current Location of the TGSF Library!!

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics

Calendar of Events – February 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.sga-tg.org; email: sga@transgender.org

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

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

FTM
A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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? _____

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond

Seminar Review

Plastic Surgery with Dr. Brink

Dear Editor:

I attended the seminar "Face-Time with Dr. Brink" on January 12, and was delighted to learn about Dr. Brink's sensible and realistic approach to plastic surgery. It is a type of approach to consider not only for plastic surgery, but also for gender transition in general.

Dr. Brink gave us a lot of food for thought: how facial features relate to a person's frame size, the "gender overlap" in facial features, and that even supermodels' features rarely conform to all perceived standards of femininity. Dr. Brink does not "sell" a standard full-face surgery package that few of us can afford. Instead, he utilizes computer imaging to tailor an individual surgical plan to each patient's needs and expectations. He also indicated that the cost of his procedures is significantly lower than some of the amounts we are used to hearing in the community. If I were shopping for a plastic surgeon again, Dr. Brink would certainly be on my "must see" list.

When I had my facial surgery done 18 Months ago, I asked Dr. Meltzer for an approach similar to what Dr. Brink favors. I wanted some enhancements, but not a new face. I'm glad I did it that way. The features I had been self-conscious about have been smoothened out, but it is still "me" I see in the mirror. To put this in perspective, the surgery did allow me to pass as a female without even thinking about it. But it did not change the love I felt for myself (or the lack thereof). Learning to love myself was a whole different process. It evolved as I learned to accept and appreciate my femininity, and gradually allowed it into my life.

I have never been known as someone to do radical things quickly. When my gender therapist pressured me to set target dates, I insisted on doing things at my own pace—each new step when I felt comfortable with the previous one. It took seven years to be where I am now. I started with testosterone blockers to stop from masculinizing further, and focused on electrolysis (a never-ending process, it seems). I developed feminine behavior, voice, looks, etc long before I started living full-time. While this made some people speculate, if I had 'become' gay, it gave me time to prepare for the worst-case scenario (losing my job) without risking to lose everything I have.

As it became increasingly difficult to pass as a male, I knew I was ready for the big step. When I announced it, many people were not so surprised. They had observed the changes over a longer period of time, and realized that I appeared happier. A happy person—someone who smiles, listens and interacts—is usually not considered a threat, and has a much better chance of being accepted.

The issues I experience today are rather typical for genetic females. One of them is not being taken seriously by males, especially when it comes to technical issues. I have learned to lean back, listen, and when the BS becomes too much, I rock the boat by asking the right questions (providing I know the answers). I never knew how much power could be in a question...

Am I perfectly feminine in all aspects? No, I wouldn't say that. And it was never my goal. I am myself—a mixture of male and female. I changed what needed to be changed and left the rest alone. It has worked for me. And I am glad there are providers who support this type of approach. They deserve more business from our community.

Nicole Mossinger

Phyllabuster

About "First Monday"

Phyllis Randolph Frye

If you are not aware, a new show began on network television last night with regular broadcasting to be on Fridays. It is called "First Monday" and is an hour long drama about the inside dealings of the US Supreme Court. In its opening show, the first case before the Court dealt with a cross-dresser immigrant Petitioner seeking political asylum. I've been asked a dozen times already what my first impressions of this show were, and they are as follows.

I saw it too and was very surprised that we got such good coverage on the first show. Sure it had problems, but the words cross-dresser, transgender, transsexual and transvestite were all used and distinctions were drawn. I wonder how much of it had to do with Alyson and me coming so very close to getting the Littleton case heard last year by the US Supremes (see the Littleton Petitions for Writ of Certiorari at www.transgenderlegal.com).

In the story line, the cross-dresser Petitioner was pretty well trashed by the actors representing Justices of the Court. While I did not enjoy hearing that language, it was very sobering because it certainly is the way that our enemies talk about us, it is most likely the way we will be treated when our cases come before this Court, and it serves as a warning to us that we need to be better prepared than was the lawyer in the show.

The later, salsa dance scene was instructive to the viewers also. If you did not see it, a male clerk who was very sexist and very insensitive to the plight of the cross-dresser Petitioner, needless to say was heterosexually turned on to the lawyer. After she deliberately got him completely, sexually stimulated on the dance floor, she informed him that she was a three-year, post-operative transsexual. He crashed, and I was glad.

My guess is that the first TG lawyer to try a case at that level will either be Alyson Meiselman, Jen Levy, Beth Plottner, Shannon Minter or Spencer Bergstedt, or we will certainly have one or more of them on the team. My guess is that from the TG lawyers I know, and the supportive teamwork that was displayed to Alyson and me when we worked on the Littleton case, our community will have a good legal team.

But, NOT IF WE DO NOT SUPPORT THEM. The community support that Alyson and I received on the Littleton case was approximately $3 per hour. It will take a better base than that next time around. (I suggest that you support the TGFund at www.tgfund.com.)

Special Events This Month!

February 27th Seminar at Billy DeFrank Center!

Dear TGSF:

I am the Adult Services Coordinator at the DeFrank Center here in San Jose and so am in charge of creating workshops that support the LGBT Community.

I am delighted to tell you we have **Sheryl Harris** speaking on "Gender on the Job: Legal Protections for Transgender Employees." This will be at our Center on February 27, 2002 from 7-9PM.

This workshop will explore the laws prohibiting gender identity discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and disability. Employee rights and gender identity as protected political activity will also be discussed. The procedures for filing complaints will be reviewed.

For info please call **Marianne Gallagher** at 408-293-3040 x116. Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose, CA 95126.

Hope to see you there!

Coming to Cal on February 22, 23, and 24, 2002

UC Berkeley Presents: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex Association's 13th Annual Conference -

Queer All Directions

Hundreds of students, faculty, staff throughout California attending Three days of workshops, speakers, lecturettes, entertainment Workshops include performances, art exhibits, cutting edge research, and interactive sessions

In the spotlight:

- Susan Stryker, director LGBT Historical Archive
- Amnesty International/Outfront Panel
- Patrick Califia, author, activist, therapist
- Jameson Green, founder FTM Int'l, activist, pioneer

Tracks are:

- On-campus Student Leadership
- Community Development
- Health: Wellness, Sexuality
- Arts & Literature
- Academic Issues
- Politics and Activism
- Roundtables

The arrow shifts over time pointing towards higher admission / Act now before prices go up! From now until January 18, 2002: Students of any school with ID—$25 Faculty/Staff of any school with ID—$45 Regular—$50

Go to http://queer.berkeley.edu/conference to register online. For more information contact conference@queer.berkeley.edu or call 510.643.5728

February 23rd!

A TGSF Educational Forum on Dance

Express the Woman Within with Dance!

If expressing your femininity means more to you than just wearing the right outfits, this seminar is for you. Denae Doyle, an image consultant based in Santa Cruz, will be teaching us to express our feminine selves through dancing. Her presentation will not be about learning dance steps, but about something deeper and perhaps more fun: moving in a way that reflects our inner selves. For more information, check out Denae's web site, www.femimage.com. Denae, by the way, will be a judge at the TGSF Cotillion in January. She is a genetic woman skillful at teaching TG girls the subtleties of a new lifestyle.

2:00pm - The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, San Francisco (Mission neighborhood). The Women's Building is located only a few blocks from the 16th Street BART station.

Saturday, February 2nd!

(XL)ent Jewelry Show

Dear Friends...

Back by popular demand, the traveling (XL)ent Jewelry road show will exhibit at **Carla's Salon and Boutique** Saturday, February 2nd, from Noon to 4:00pm.

(XL)ent Jewelry features quality women's fashion jewelry in hard to find sizes at an affordable price. Tranny owned and operated, we understand the importance of sizing accessories to create a personal vogue and fashion statement.

This show will feature ladies rings sizes 10 to 13 for less than $39....Dozens of styles of watches in extended sizes for less than $35....And, hi-quality custom made bracelets and necklaces for any size.

All custom made electroplated (XL)ent Jewelry is guaranteed for workmanship and durability. Also please remember to bring any items needing repair. We will also gladly evaluate and repair any jewelry you may have.

Please forward an e-mail if you are unable to attend this event, but would like to schedule a private showing. (XL)ent Jewelry will also be exhibiting at the following TG conventions later this year... IFGE Annual Convention, Colorado Gold Rush, Esprit 2, Southern Comfort. We are also pleased to announce that our new WWW site will be operational as of March 1, 2002.

Carla's is located at 128 Race St. in San Jose, 408-298-6900; www.carlas.com

Looking forward to seeing you at the Cotillion...And, as always, may all of the positive feminine energy in the universe shine gently upon your beings.

All the best,
Marcia Chapdelaine

Special Announcements!

Your Special Invitation!

Esprit 2002 - An Event Not to be Missed!

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite all of you who have been associated with Cal Dreamin' to take part in Esprit 2002, the Pacific Northwest's premier Transgender Conference!

Esprit 2002 promises to be the best Esprit conference yet! For the past 14 years, Esprit has been jointly planned and hosted by The Emerald City of Seattle, Northwest Gender Alliance of Portland, and The Cornbury Group of Vancouver BC. If you come to Esprit and really participate, we promise you a full week of fun, learning, growing, and meeting new friends. That's right, you get to spend a full week "en femme"! Esprit 2002 starts on Sunday May 12, 2002, and finishes up one week later on Sunday May 19th! It is held at the Red Lion Inn in Port Angeles, Washington, about a three-hour drive from Seattle. Port Angeles is beautifully situated on the Straits of Juan de Fuca separating the US and Canada, and at the base of the Olympic Mountains.

We have a full slate of seventy classes planned along four separate themes, including the Basics of Crossdressing, The World of Transgender, Transitioning, and an extensive Couples program for those in a relationship with a Significant Other. We bring in nationally known speakers such as Sandra Cole, Peggy Rudd, and Anne Lawrence along with thirty-five local Northwest experts to lead each class.

And girl, do we have fun too! Each day features social activities such as a Prom Dance, Cabaret Talent Show and our special Graduation event for first time attendees. We also have a fashion show, lots of dancing, and an afternoon set aside for fun activities in the local community.

Did I mention our fabulous vendors yet? They are ready, willing and able to help you with makeup, wig selection and care, voice, image, breast forms, nails, jewelry.. Just about everything a girl could want! Plus we also feature a carefully selected list of vendors and businesses that welcome us in the local community.

And if you think this is just a regional conference, think again! Last year we had attendees from 18 different states and provinces, plus several girls that came all the way from New Zealand. So hop on a plane or get in your car and get to Port Angeles WA for a week you'll never forget! Visit www.espritgala.com for more information on our unique event.

Thanks! And we hope to see you at Esprit 2002!

Kelly Hansen
Education and Schedule Coordinator

Barbara J. Anderson

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

Certified Sex Therapist

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An Announcement From Bugcomix!

TG Comic Book

Miss Fiona Mallratte will appear at the Alternative Press Exposition at Fort Mason Center **February 9th** to introduce her comic book, The $99.00 Drag Makeover. "It's for all those girls out there who want to get dolled up on the cheap, even if it's just in the privacy of their own Motel 6 suite", says Miss Mallratte.

The $99.00 Drag Makeover keeps things on the lighter side while providing tips on inexpensive shoes, dresses, make-up and more. It also features a vignette about the Liquid Liner, a crossdressing superhero.

The comic book, published by Bugcomix of Oakland, features a limited edition silkscreen cover, signed and numbered by Miss Mallratte. Drag Makeover retails for $5.00. "I know, it's a lot for a comic book, but I guarantee ecstasy when you see how much you'll save", says Miss Mallratte.

The Alternative Press Exposition is at Fort Mason Center in the Herbst Pavilion Feb. 9th and 10th. Ms. Mallratte will appear at the Permanent Swim Press booth at 3:00 p.m. on Feb. 9th to sign copies of The $99.00 Drag Makeover.

For further information, contact Steve Lafler at 510 [redacted] or at [redacted]@neteze.com.

On-Line Form Now Available!

Nominate Pride Parade Grand Marshals!

Time is of the essence and the nomination process for Pride Parade Grand Marshal is simple. It can be done on-line!

The Parade Committee confirmed it is perfectly acceptable to nominate as many people as one wishes for the honor of Grand Marshal. Those individuals with the greatest # of submissions will make the semi-final list. The community then votes for 5 individuals from this semi-final list.

The process to nominate on-line is SIMPLE. Just enter the web address (**http://www.sfpride.org/gm.htm**) below and the easy-to- complete form will appear. You must complete a separate form for each person you nominate! The form asks for the name, address and some basic bio info about the person.

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Balance Sheet

(December 16, 2001 through January 18, 2002)

Assets	
Cash	$2,097.49
Event Equipment	
Decorations	$1,000.00
Food Service	$200.00
Office Supplies	$50.00
Total Assets	$3,347.49
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	$0.00
Educational Fund	$1,600.00
Taxes	$0.00
Insurance	$0.00
Utilities	$0.00
Operations	$0.00
Total Liabilities	$1,600.00
Equity	$1,747.49
Total Liabilities & Equity	$3,347.49

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue	
Membership	$198.54
Advertising	$50.00
Cotillion	$3,900.00
Donations Received	$580.00
Social	$50.00
Education	$40.00
Outreach	$0.00
	$4,818.54
Expenses	
Cotillion	$3,240.96
Halloween Party	$0.00
Big Shew	$0.00
Pride Parade	$0.00
Social	$0.00
Education	$0.00
Outreach	$0.00
Newsletter	$330.13
Operations	$64.20
Donations Paid	$0.00
	$3,635.29
Net Income	**$1,183.25**

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give
as of January 18, 2002

Anonymous..... $500.00

Bless You and Thank You!

Contact TGSF!

ExCom Members

President
Aiyana Eveningstar ..... [redacted]@earthlink.net

Vice President
Rachael Janelle ..... [redacted]@hotmail.com

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OPEN

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Comments and suggestions concerning the TGSF *web site* www.tgsf.org

Information ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com

Requests for information concerning TGSF *and upcoming events*

Calendar ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com

Submissions of descriptions of upcoming events of TGSF *and other groups for publication in* The Channel, *the calendar on the* TGSF *web site, the* TGSF *Telephone Hotline, the* TGSF *email list, and sharing with other groups.*

Movie Review

Prostitute Seeks Sex Change in Moving 'Princesa'

Friday, January 4, 2002 (SF Chronicle)
Mick LaSalle, Chronicle Movie Critic

"Princesa" is a sympathetic look at what it's like to be a Brazilian transsexual prostitute working in Milan. The picture tells the story of Fernanda, a 19-year-old who lives in a zone in between male and female. The equipment is male; the presentation is female. Fernanda (Ingrid de Souza) has augmented breasts and long hair and looks a little like former MTV video jockey "Downtown" Julie Brown. All Fernanda wants is a mundane middle-class existence, a husband, a house, and a conventional domestic life. But in order to achieve that, Fernanda must raise money for a sex change, and to raise money, she immerses herself in the squalid existence of a prostitute. The first 15 minutes, which depict two lewd sex acts, can make an audience wonder if "Princesa" is going to be nothing more than a depressing and exploitive wallow.

It's not. Director Henrique Goldman, who also co-wrote the screenplay, does not aim to shock, titillate or gross out his audience. Rather, Godman wants to create a faithful character study. Inspired to make the film by the autobiography of a transsexual prostitute, Goldman depicts Fernanda's half- world with humanity and specificity.

Apparently, there are a lot of Brazilian transsexuals and a lot of willing clients in Italy. Who knew? Fernanda makes her way to Milan and comes under the wing of Karin, an Italian madam who might just as well be called mister. Most of the movie concerns Fernanda's relationship with Gianni (Cesare Bocci), who picks her up one night thinking she's a woman, and the next thing he knows, he's got his hands full.

Goldman has enough on his plate explaining Fernanda's inner workings, but Gianni is equally enigmatic. Here is a married man, supposedly straight, who has no interest in men. Yet the next day he's taking Fernanda out to dinner and apologizing for his rude reaction to her surprise gender. And within a month he is telling her that he has lost his "old certainties" and knows he loves her.

"Princesa" works best in its unsentimental and respectful attention to Fernanda's predicament. Is she a woman stuck in a man's body and ready for a sex change? Or is she, in fact, someone who should stay in that in-between zone? The scenes of Fernanda meeting with a counselor to discuss the pros and cons of sex-change surgery are no-nonsense. The viewer comes away feeling the seriousness of this choice.

Goldman uses real-life transsexuals rather than actors, and the casting itself adds enormously to the depth and atmosphere of the film. It's possible that a nontranssexual could have played Fernanda, but it's hard to imagine any actor (or actress) whose look and essence would be more right than that of de Souza, who sometimes looks female and sometimes looks . . . who can say? — and whose face has the gentle and haunted look of a born outsider.

Dining With Friends?

Attractive private crossdresser and beautiful wife looking to make friends with similar couple (35-45) for dinners at home in San Francisco. Bring your wit, sense of humor, and favorite dress, and let's have some enjoyable evenings. [redacted]@hotmail.com.

Paid Advertisement

ACLU Informs Appeals Court

Public School Rightly Gave Separate Restroom Access To Anti-Transgender Teacher

ST. LOUIS — A public school in Minneapolis met its legal obligation by giving alternate restroom options to a teacher who did not want to use the same facilities as a male-to-female transgendered employee, the American Civil Liberties Union said in papers filed in federal appeals court today.

Southwest High School teacher Carla Cruzan complained that allowing transgendered library employee Debra Davis to use the women's bathroom violated Cruzan's religious freedom and created a hostile workplace based on sex. As a result, the school provided Cruzan with ready access to several other bathrooms, including single-person facilities and other women's restrooms.

"Carla Cruzan is the person who thinks there is a problem here, so the school was right to find some other alternative for her," said Tamara Lange, an ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project staff attorney.

Unsatisfied with the school's accommodation for her, Cruzan asked a federal court to block Davis from using the women's restrooms at the school. She lost and is appealing to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit, in St. Louis. A three-judge panel will hear the case later this year.

In a friend-of-the-court brief filed today, the ACLU said that Cruzan, not the school, was unreasonable when she demanded that the school allow her own personal beliefs to dictate Davis' use of school restrooms. The ACLU, filing on behalf of groups including the Minnesota chapter of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, also noted that students, teachers, staff and parents at Southwest High School roundly supported Davis and the school's handling of the situation.

"The Minneapolis Public Schools have shown a willingness to learn about and support the needs and concerns of LGBT students, parents and staff. From students who plastered the walls with signs supporting Debra to the Out4Good office in the Minneapolis district itself - this community is a model for every school in the country," said J.J. Kahle, Co-Chair of GLSEN-Minnesota. "Debra was supported so she could continue doing her good work in the library. While it's too bad that Carla Cruzan is intolerant, her concerns were addressed by finding other restrooms she can use."

Minnesota is one of just two states that explicitly prohibits discrimination based on gender identity - but that civil rights law is not at issue because this case is about whether Cruzan was discriminated against by the school's accommodation of a transgendered employee. The ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights Project is currently litigating a New York City case claiming that a landlord violated existing sex discrimination laws by evicting a social services agency because its transgendered clients used restrooms consistent with their gender identities. More on that case is online at: http://www.aclu.org/news/2001/n062601a.html.

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Shirley Faire

I Love the Cotillion

I love the Cotillion. The lights, the costumes, the music, the whole show. I don't think I've seen men in dresses look better. Not ever. Sometimes it's hard to believe they're really men. Not until they speak, of course, in those low voices, or up in high squeaky ones, and dominate a conversation jabbing at the air and bellowing like they're a hundred feet away.

Oh, but they do look good. I'll bet they spend a lot of money to look that good. Where do they get the money for all that stuff? Those dresses, some of them look like they're hand beaded, don't they? I don't own a dress like that. Not just that I couldn't afford it. I'd feel kind of silly, really, in some of the things they wear. But some of them can pull it off.

A lot don't, of course, and they're so funny to watch, with their wigs and all — oh, my God, you should see them. They look like Dolly Parton, except for the five o'clock shadow. And the way they show off their legs. And those knobby knees. They even SHAVE them! And their boobs. I swear, some of them even look like they've got real cleavage. Are those boobs real, do you think, or do they just kind of stuff and squeeze? Some of them look so real. I've heard about men getting boob jobs. What would they do at work, I wonder? I saw one of them — you wonder if they're trying to be hookers. Maybe some of them are, do you suppose?

If they lived like that all the time — and I've heard that some of them do — what else could they do but be hookers? You wouldn't want one of them working in your office, now, would you? It would be so disruptive. Nobody would get any work done with a great big man like that mincing around in sequins and high heels. And I wouldn't want to have to share a bathroom with one of them. I don't care what anybody says, I'd refuse.

Somebody told me once that a lot of them were married and had kids. Honestly! I know it's hard to believe. What self-respecting woman would be married to somebody like that? I mean, don't get me wrong, it's fine if they want to do it, but not if it involves children. You've got to draw a line somewhere. The very idea of some child having to watch his father prance around the house like a drag queen!

Some of them, I heard, actually get their uh-oh's cut off. Yes, it's true. Some of them wind up looking just like real women. Isn't it sad? I think it's just tragic. Well, it just goes to show you, there are all kinds. Which is fine, don't get me wrong, and I think if they want to get all dolled up in make-up and dresses and wigs and sashay around for an evening, I have no objection. But they really ought to keep it to themselves, don't you think?

I do love the Cotillion. If nothing else, it's an education.

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.

MAN TOOL

BY LOREN CAMERON

New eBook explores female-to-male surgery

Loren Cameron Gives Us His "Man Tool"

Photographer **Loren Cameron**, author of the best-selling *Body Alchemy: Transsexual Portraits*, has now released his second book, which takes advantage of the World Wide Web to deliver a new look at female-to-male surgery.

His new book, "MAN TOOL: The Nuts and Bolts of Female-to-Male Surgery" addresses urgent and intimate questions about plastic surgery options for the female-to-male transsexual. Through anecdotal text and over forty, close-up photographs of body modifications, it explores personal issues about sex and gender relative to transsexual men.

Cameron's new book is only available as a World Wide Web-accessible eBook, which will allow a greater distribution than many transgender-themed books are able to attain. It can be reached by anyone with a modern web browser and computer access at http://www.lorencameron.com/mantool.

The site for "MAN TOOL" was designed by noted transgendered web developer **Gwendolyn Ann Smith**.

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Call For Investigation

Friends Remember Florida Activist

[NTAC - Dec. 24, 2001] A Florida transgendered activist murdered recently was laid to rest this week. Terrianne Summers, 51, was found shot to death outside her Jacksonville, Florida home on the evening of Wednesday, December 13, 2001. To date, police have no leads on the perpetrator or the motive.

In a memorial service that packed The Norm, a neighborhood haunt frequented by Terrianne, family and friends from around the state and the nation gathered to remember her life and her work.

"Terrianne unified this community," said Cindy Watson, executive director of the Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network (JASMYN). "I've never seen anyone with her energy or her drive. In fact, I'd never even met anyone who was trangendered before ... after meeting Terrianne, I knew all about transgenders."

Ms Summers, a 22-year Navy veteran, was the driving force behind the local Winn-Dixie protest at their corporate headquarters in Jacksonville. Her organizing the local community against the regional supermarket chain was perhaps the crucial element in making the ongoing suit against Winn-Dixie effective. "She really got JASMYN heavily involved in the Winn-Dixie protest," added Cindy Watson during the memorial.

The suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) against Winn-Dixie pits the corporate supermarket giant against crossdresser Peter Oiler. Oiler was fired January 5, 2000 after he told a supervisor that he crossdressed occasionally. As a result, the ACLU and TBLG activists from around the nation are organizing another campaign on January 4, 2002, at the company's Jacksonville headquarters.

Ms. Summers worked closely with the local ACLU, giving a thorough education on transgender issues. "A co-worker once told me to be kind to everyone you meet. We all have our personal battles to fight," said Ken Hurley, president of the Jacksonville ACLU. "Terrianne truly had her battles to fight. And Terrianne was unfailingly kind."

"Terrianne was an activist's activist," opined Vanessa Edwards Foster of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC). "She didn't get a lot of national notice. But the true measure of an activist is not how much press you get, it's how effective you are. Terrianne was effective."

"Terrianne truly saved my life," stated Summers' roommate Marie Gabriella. "She showed me I wasn't such a bad person for being a transsexual ... she taught me self-worth."

The most poignant words came from Terrianne's father and siblings, who traveled down for the memorial service. They related how they joked on the telephone about their getting the pronouns wrong, or calling her by her old name. Terrianne was very easy with it all; a fact that endeared her to her family. Joe Heiney, a World War II Navy veteran said "I'm very proud of my son – my daughter. Terrianne, Gary ... she was something special to bring all these people together."

"I flew down here from Wyoming, the state where Matthew Shepard was killed. Please don't judge the whole state for that!" remarked Terrianne's oldest brother, Joel Heiney.

In a more somber tone, Joel remembered "the trials for Matthew Shepard's killers, and the pain on the faces of Shepard's parents. I never thought that a couple years later, I'd be speaking before a roomful of people at [Terrianne's] memorial service; and looking across the room and seeing that same look of pain on my father's face."

The local community, as well as the state and national transgender community, is concerned now with the motive for the slaying. Initial police reports tagged it as a robbery attempt; however, nothing was taken or disturbed during the incident. Information from the authorities is also sketchy and slow in coming, frustrating many in the local community.

At the memorial service, Jessica Archer of Equality Florida, JASMYN's Ms. Watson, and Ms. Foster from NTAC all called for a thorough investigation of her death.

"If this incident would have happened to anyone else, Terrianne would have called for this to be fully and vigorously investigated," stated NTAC Vice Chair and Media Director, Vanessa Edwards Foster. NTAC, as well as Equality Florida, JASMYN and other activist organizations around the nation, are urging a "full and vigorous investigation into the circumstances surrounding Terrianne's murder."

"She would want justice to be served."

TG Man Fights For Custody

Dan Kerman, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

Testimony continued Wednesday in a Florida custody case that could have dramatic implications for transgendered people.

It raises a variety of questions, including: Does Florida law view a female-to-male transsexual as a man? If a female-to-male transsexual marries a woman, is that marriage legal; and if not, does the transsexual have any child custody rights?

Michael Kantaras was born Margo Kantaras in 1959 but completed sexual reassignment surgery in 1988. A year later Kantaras married Linda Forsythe in Lake Mary, Fla., and adopted her one-month-old son from a previous relationship. At the time of the marriage, Forsythe was aware that Kantaras was born a woman. The couple then decided they wanted a child of their own. Using sperm donated by Michael's brother, Linda gave birth to a daughter in January 1992.

In 1998, Michael Kantaras filed for divorce and sought custody of his two children. Linda Kantaras then filed a suit of her own. She claims Michael is not her husband because he was never legally declared a man. And since the state of Florida does not recognize same-sex marriage, she claims hey are not actually married and he is not entitled to custody of their children.

"It's typical of the type of problems transsexuals run into," said Denise LeClair with the International Foundation for Gender Education. "She was fully aware that the partner was transsexual. It didn't bother her then, but then she comes back and uses it as a weapon," she told the Gay.com/PlanetOut.com Network.

Michael Kantaras' attorneys are arguing that despite being born a woman, he is now a man and the father of the children and is entitled to all the rights normally associated with husbands and fathers. They also argue that ending his parental rights would be harmful to his children.

The trial began Tuesday with testimony from Walter Bockting, a clinical psychologist and transgender expert who discussed sexual identity from a physical and emotional standpoint. Wednesday, the court heard testimony from Dr. Ted Huang, the physician who performed the sexual reassignment surgery. Circuit Court Senior Judge Gerard O'Brien has played an active role in questioning witnesses throughout the testimony.

LeClair says it's time the government got out of both "the gender business and the marriage business. As long as the government is defining your sex for you and using it as the basis for who you can marry, we will continue to run into these problems," she says.

NTAC Press Release

Winn-Dixie Protest Draws Increased Support

As the stoplight changed to green, semis rumbled through the intersection; yanking hard on the airhorns as they passed. Interspersed between the cars and pickups, the big rigs of various large and small company signage — a couple with large letters spelling "Jesus Is Lord" under the company name — honked their support to those gathered on the sidewalk.

A long, rangy line of people stood along the length of the block in front of a low-slung, unremarkably modern office building in the crisp sunshine. Holding signs with slogans saying "Winn-Dixie Unfair to Transgenders" and "Winn-Dixie & the Taliban Try to Control the Clothes You Wear," the crowd waved and whooped their appreciation at every thumbs-up and enthusiastic honk from passers-by. On this day, supportive passing motorists overwhelmingly outnumbered the vocally negative ones.

Approximately three dozen hearty souls braved the near-freezing winds on Friday, January 4, 2002, to march in front of Winn-Dixie's corporate headquarters in Jacksonville, Florida. Nearly half of the protesters came from outside of the Jacksonville area. Equality Florida sent two from Tampa, and the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) drummed up another thirteen more from Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Iowa, Texas and Louisiana as well as eight individuals from Georgia.

The campaign against Winn-Dixie was held to refresh awareness in the ongoing civil rights case filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) against the Fortune 500 food retailer.

At issue is what the nation's transgender community calls a wrongful firing of Peter Oiler - an employee with over twenty years on the job. Winn-Dixie, however, claims they were justified in terminating him after Oiler told his supervisor he crossdressed occasionally on weekends.

Company executives say that an employee who cross-dresses while away from the workplace on his own free time is bad for the supermarket's "image." Critics challenge that argument, noting that the "image" was never a problem in all the prior years the truck driver worked for the company. Instead, they believe this creates precedent for Corporate America to set standards of how employees will live, dress and act on their own personal time.

This year's protest brought together both seasoned national activists and first-time activists, and all spectra of sexual orientations and gender expressions.

"It was very inspiring to me that I could actually be a part of something that made a difference," said Veronica Wilson, president of the local Jacksonville Area Gender Society (JAGS). "I saw people who never thought about activism pick up a sign and enjoy it."

"The [protest] was my first foray into activism," mentioned local transgender Mysty Joseph of Jacksonville. When asked her opinion on this type action, Ms. Joseph replied it "was constructive, and would not hesitate to be involved in the future."

"Peaceful demonstration can be an effective tool, but should be a last resort, applied when communication has failed; as in the Winn-Dixie case."

Another first-time protester who drove down from Iowa City, Iowa was outraged; declaring Winn-Dixie's acts as 'Orwellian'. "The parallel between the book '1984' and [the Oiler case] is not a big leap," said NTAC member, Sandra Stevens. In an interview with National Public Radio reporters at the protest site, Stevens, who drove 1,300 miles for the protest, said "if this is not challenged now, the corporations will stop at nothing to control the very lives of the people who work for them."

Participation in this year's action was double the previous year's number. Many attribute this to the recent death of last year's local organizer, Terrianne Summers. The transgender activist, who lived merely a mile from the Winn-Dixie national headquarters, was murdered December 12, 2001. The as-yet-unsolved killing galvanized the Jacksonville community.

"Many members of the community participated to honor Terrianne," Ms. Wilson continued, "and now that they have arrived, I think many members are here to stay."

NTAC's Vice Chair, Vanessa Edwards Foster, traveled from Houston for both Summers' memorial service and for the Winn-Dixie campaign. She remembered her slain friend as "an activist's activist," and a protegee with an indomitable spirit. "Terrianne was the backbone of last year's protest; drawing a large contingent of participants from JASMYN (the Jacksonville Area Sexual Minority Youth Network)." JASMYN again sent a large number to participate in this year's action.

"The firing of Peter Oiler sent a message to the transgender community," added Ms. Foster, also Media Director for the national transgender civil rights organization. "Our increased participation this year is our clear response to that message: We're not going away."

The sidewalk protest "served to raise awareness about what it is to live a transgendered life; and that the type of corporate discrimination deployed by Winn-Dixie should stop," said President of Jacksonville's ACLU, Ken Hurley. Attending the protest with three others from the local ACLU, Hurley added that the suit seeks to "correct the injustice done to Mr. Oiler, and to establish case law that should help eliminate this type of sexual discrimination in the workplace."

One protester who stopped to pick up lunch at a fast food franchise a block away from Winn-Dixie recounted a telling slice of public opinion in Jacksonville. Melissa White of suburban Atlanta described how "women standing in line began talking of how awful it was what Winn-Dixie did to that man that crossdressed."

Continued on Page 15

Transgendered Britons To Get Right To Wed

Jon ben Asher, 365Gay.com

LONDON — Britain's transgendered may soon get the right to marry. The Blair government is said to be preparing legislation to bring into the Commons in this session.

Word of the decision was leaked a day after Britain's Law Lords decided to hear the case of a transgendered woman whose marriage was annulled when it was learned she had not been born a woman.

Thousands of people in Britain who have changed sex are unable to wed because they cannot have their new gender marked on their birth certificates.

Under the plans, said to be under consideration by Lord Chancellor Lord Irvine, are new birth certificates that state the holder's proper sex.

Only Britain, Ireland, Albania and Andorra fail to give transsexuals full legal rights in Europe. Advocates for the transgendered hailed the change, saying the legislation will end more than 50 years of discrimination.

NTAC Press Release

PFLAG Puts the T in GLBT

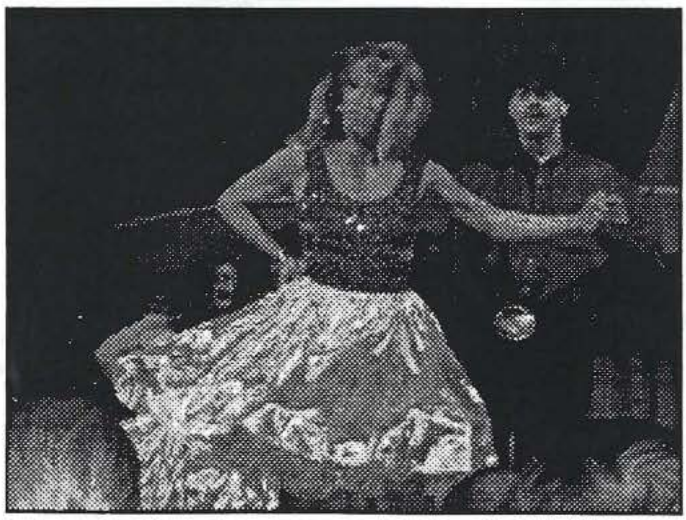
by Robyn Walters

In 1972, a young gay man was beaten during a gay rights protest in New York while police stood by and did not interfere. Following this act of violence, a mother, Jeanne Manford, stood up and protested what had been done to her son. She later marched with him in New York's Pride Parade. Cheered by gay and lesbian youth in the crowd, she realized that one of the saddest parts of being 'queer' was not having the support of family members and friends. Soon thereafter, a local organization, Parents and Friends of Gays, was born. About 20 people attended the first formal meeting in a local church.

Today, the organization called Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, has over 80,000 members with close to 500 affiliate groups in the United States. PFLAG is not an organization of gay people, although some are members. Rather, it is an organization whose mission is to promote the health and well-being not only of those who are labeled 'queer' but, also, of their families and friends.

Courtney Sharp is a transsexual. She is also an engineer who was terminated by her employer following her refusal to resign due to her transition. As a result, she became a transgender activist She has worked to promote understanding of transgender people and issues in New Orleans and the Gulf Region. She has gained national attention in such causes as seeking redress for the firing of a Winn-Dixie employee for crossdressing on his own time.

What do Courtney Sharp, transgendered activist, and PFLAG have in common? Ms. Sharp was appointed to the national board of directors of PFLAG in October 2001 following years of work in advocating the inclusion of transgendered people under the PFLAG umbrella. She is the first transgendered person to serve on this national body, although there are many others who serve in local and regional positions. Another member of the national board, Mary Boenke, is the mother of a transsexual. Ms. Boenke was also instrumental in raising the awareness of PFLAG to the need to provide transgendered people and their families and friends the same measure of support as for the gay community. Mary is Chairman of PFLAG's Transgender Network.



Gettin' Down with a Hoe-Down at Cotillion 2002!

Although PFLAG has not continued to add words to its name or letters to the acronym, its mission has been expanded in recent years to include parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons. PFLAG outreach and education efforts are inclusive and explain that the transgender experience exposes people to the same issues, concerns, risks, and dangers as those to which members of the gay community are exposed.

Courtney Sharp has suffered losses from being true to her own identity. She lost her job and much of her family when she began her transition to female. Many, if not most, transsexuals suffer similar losses when they choose between continuing to live a lie and becoming who they really are. Other members of the transgender community, such as the more prevalent crossdressers, also face discrimination and disgrace should their secret be revealed. Outside of the military and certain youth and religious organizations, the gay community has begun to overcome such discrimination, but on the individual level all need the support and understanding of family and friends.

Some members of the sometimes-fractious transgender community feel that the gay/lesbian/bisexual communities do not take transgender issues to heart, that certain organizations are willing to sacrifice the transgendered in order to further their own agendas. Not so with PFLAG. Although not all of the letters are spelled out in the name, PFLAG is truly an organization working to support the entire GLBT community. The PFLAG vision makes this clear:

We, the parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered persons, celebrate diversity and envision a society that embraces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Only with respect, dignity and equality for all will we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively.

Courtney Sharp's experience as a member, secretary, vice-chairman, and chairman of the New Orleans Mayor's Advisory Committee on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Issues will be valuable to PFLAG at the national level, as will her continuing experience as a member of the her local PFLAG chapter and the Gulf Gender Alliance and board member of the Louisiana Lesbian & Gay Political Action Caucus.

Courtney considers that there is much work yet to be done within PFLAG. "The transgender work is not separate from the other work PFLAG is doing," she says. "Providing resources and support to chapters is important. Ensuring that the needs of gender-variant and transgender students are addressed in the Safe Schools Programs is extremely important. Outreach into diverse communities, and providing support for GLBT families in these communities is important. Reaching out to Communities of Faith is important."

As this energetic leader and activist works to build understanding within the greater GLBT community, she looks forward to a time when, "no gay and lesbian political organization will misuse its power to oppress any other minority under the guise that its actions are somehow unobjectionable or justified. When they fall into this trap, they too impose their own moral code upon others. If we only allow others to live their lives in ways which all others find unobjectionable, there would be no such thing as liberty, much less justice, for all."

PFLAG has not fallen into that trap and is to be congratulated for its efforts to make the world a better place for all who do not meet the expectations of narrow minded elements of our society.

Winn-Dixie: Cross-Dressing Got Man Fired

365Gay.com
Thursday, January 24, 2002 / 04:12 PM

NEW ORLEANS — Southern grocery giant Winn-Dixie has conceded that its sole reason for firing an employee of two decades was that off-duty he sometimes cross-dressed as a woman.

The American Civil Liberties Union asked a federal judge Wednesday for ruling without a trial in its sex discrimination lawsuit against the company.

"We don't need a trial, because there's no disagreement over what happened. The only disagreement is whether it's legal to fire someone for this," said Ken Choe, the ACLU Lesbian & Gay Rights staff attorney handling the case.

Peter Oiler was fired on Jan. 5, 2000, after his supervisors and company executives learned that he occasionally cross-dresses as a woman away from work.

Oiler and his wife, Shirley, who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Feb. 4, lost their health insurance and nearly lost their home.

In October 2000, the ACLU filed a federal lawsuit on Oiler's behalf, claiming that Winn-Dixie engaged in sex stereotyping in violation of state and federal laws that bar sex discrimination.

Choe said that over the last few months the ACLU has deposed the men who fired Oiler and has determined that there is no dispute that would require a trial. "They are very clear that he wasn't fired for job performance — in fact he received numerous raises and promotions," Choe said.

Wednesday's "Motion for Summary Judgment" cites Winn-Dixie Louisiana President Michael Istre's sworn deposition saying that he made the decision to fire Oiler and that the sole reason was that Oiler didn't conform to the company's stereotyped notions of how a man should look, dress and act.

In a deposition, taken Dec. 11, Istre said: "I was concerned about my business and what kind of impact and effect that this — this type of behavior would have on my business and my customer base that if my customers saw him — and that's pretty much it. Why? The reason why was because of my business, what kind of effect it would have on my customer base."

The ACLU cited a sworn deposition from Oiler's supervisor, Gregory Miles, who said Oiler was fired because members of the public who saw Oiler cross-dressed away from work would somehow "put two and two together" and associate him with Winn-Dixie. This, he speculated, could cause people to think Winn-Dixie approved of Oiler's personal life and might lead people to buy groceries elsewhere.

Winn-Dixie will have until Feb. 22 to reply to today's motion. A hearing is set for April 10 in U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

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Winn-Dixie Protest...

Continued from Page 13

When an older gentleman became curious about their conversation, Ms. White added that "the first women started explaining the case to the older man, and others who began listening in offered their opinions," all shocked and dismayed at Winn-Dixie's behavior.

It appears public opinion may be aligning behind the Oilers' case. "They recognize that a corporation that would limit an employee's freedom to express his identity also [would] not respect the other basic rights," said Courtney Sharp, a transgender activist who traveled to the protest from New Orleans.

A member of NTAC, Ms. Sharp is the impetus behind the Winn-Dixie campaign as well as one of the creators of the ShameOnWinnDixie website. Recently, attorneys for Winn-Dixie sent a letter demanding the web site be shut down. "The attempts to shut down the web site," Sharp continued, "were indications of a systemic erosion of personal freedoms within Winn-Dixie."

Although the Oilers suffered a tough period immediately following the firing, Peter Oiler has since secured new employment with a more desirable company. Oiler has no intentions of returning to Winn-Dixie regardless of the outcome of the case.

ACLU's Ken Hurley summed it up thusly: "Civil Rights emanate from civil wrongs. Winn-Dixie is wrong."

More information on this case and other media links can be found at www.shameonwinndixie.com.

NTAC, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, is a 501(c)4 political advocacy coalition working to establish and maintain the right of all transgendered, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

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The highly-esteemed and all-around nice person, Theresa Sparks, waves from the Judge's Table at Cotillion 2002

"No Promo Homo" Bill Defeated in Assembly

Boyce Hinman
Lambda Letters
LambdaLP@aol.com

Good news! The Assembly Education Committee has just defeated AB 1326 the bill which would "prohibit the promotion of homosexuality in public schools."

AB 1326 seems innocuous. However, this law might well have been used to stop schools from teaching kids tolerance, and teaching them not to beat up their lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered (LGBT) fellow students.

Homophobes probably would have used the bill to prohibit school counseling programs designed to help GLBT youth cope with the violence that they commonly face in our public schools. The Gay Straight Alliances in our public schools might also be banned.

The bill received just 3 aye votes in committee. The bill is on call, which means the author can spend the afternoon truing to get enough committee members to switch their votes so as to get the bill approved by the committee. It is unlikely he will succeed.

The members and friends of the Lambda Letters Project delivered over 2,400 E-mails to the committee expressing opposition to the bill. That probably was a major factor in its defeat.

To those of you who helped in this effort, please accept my hear felt thanks.

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Passable crossdresser, soon to relocate to San Francisco, looking for passable CD/TS for roommate. Will share with expenses. Will need help on where to go and shop, being new to the area. Write: Gail, PO Box 4463, Columbus, GA 31904. Photo would be nice.

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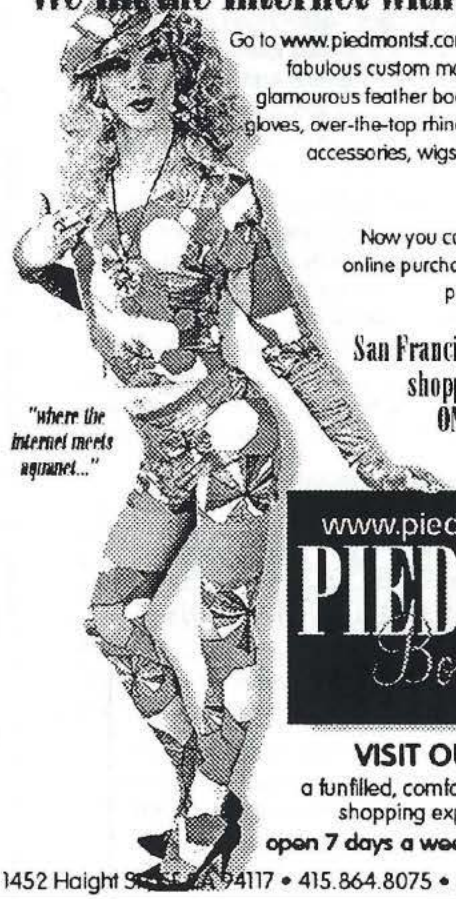

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