

TGSF @ La Cage & Ms. Vera!

The Channel



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2003 - 2004 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Roxy Carmichael-Hart
 Vice President Susan Laird
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 Treasurer Brooke Jansen
 Education Kara Flynn & Kelly Anne Marsh
 Outreach Kalani Makanani & Marla Selby
 Social Aiyana Eveningstar & Roxxanne Taylor
 Miss TGSF 2003-04 Rachel Hill
 Mr. TGSF 2003-04 Tyler Fong

Fine Print

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.

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Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Inquiries to TGSF Excom
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Roxy Carmichael-Hart

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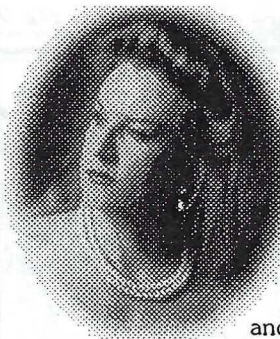
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Full Page	\$100	\$500	\$1000

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FROM THE EDITOR...



You and I, dear reader, are spoiled rotten. We just don't know how good we have it. And it's entirely true that you don't know whatcha got until you lose it. In our ignorance, it's all too easy to become complacent, jaded, yawning 'I've seen it all before.' Our attention wavers, our dedication falters, we put off until tomorrow what we could do today.

But when I read our new President's words and listen to her speak, and having some tenure from which to know this, I can reflect on TGSF's leadership the last few years and realize the passion that has driven our Board seems to be contagious. At least at the top.

Roxy has taken the reins from Rachael Janelle handily, with confidence and determination. The two of them have given all of us shining examples about extending our embrace and widening our horizons. They are the epitome of volunteerism, with seemingly boundless reserves of energy and a positive attitude. The change at the helm has been practically seamless, which is why if you blinked, you missed it. Yet they continue on without thanks, and without recognition.

So what drives a person to volunteer for a cause? Roxy would tell you one night spent answering the TGSF Hotline was enough to convince her that there are people we can help - out there right now - not knowing where to turn, or whom to talk to. Some of these people feel desperate, alone, trapped in a podunk town or bass-ackwards state, not known for accepting GLBT people with open arms. They live with deep-rooted fear, anxiety coursing through their minds: what if I'm outed? I can't go on living this way, what should I do? Where can I go to find - if not acceptance, a little tolerance and compassion? I wish I could talk to someone about my feelings, but who would understand? And how do I reach them?

In glancing through the ExCom Meeting Minutes (in it's usual spot on Page 4), one little transaction took place that, again, if you blink you're gonna miss it. Under the Outreach Committee Report - such as it is - you'll notice that Roxy rather wryly suggests that she could use some help answering our Hotline. Ummm...last time I looked, we had not one but (count 'em), two newly (re)elected Chairpeople in that office. Why is our President doing Outreach's job? Well, she enjoys it for one thing. And she's damn good at it too. She's already given hope and encouragement to dozens of gender-questioning callers. She's told the story (Heart To Heart, May 2003 issue - just last month) of a frightened, lonely and unhappy post-op woman in Kentucky, who finally had a reason to live and continue going on after they both finished their call. To answer the question, it's because she WANTS TO.

"You've Got To Give Them Hope," the man said (Harvey Milk for you clueless), and every single one of us - as TGSF members - need to tap into that powderkeg of optimism. So what do YOU WANT to do? Is a few hours of your time each week that much to ask? Sure you send a check - if you do, thank you! But what else are you doing? Donning your best dress and attending a social? You think nothing of dropping a tidy sixty bucks or more at the Blue Muse on dinner, but are you dropping anything in the donation bucket? How 'bout taking on answering that Hotline for us? There's training available, resources for you to use, and you can make a difference to somebody out there.

Scattered throughout this issue you'll see several notices imploring YOU to help us with our Parade contingent as a Safety Monitor. I've done this before and it's not hard people. Crank your browser to the SF Pride website and register for one of several classes, in easy to get to locations, and at convenient times. It only takes an hour, basic parade/marching safety issues, piece 'o cake. And then all you have to do is show up, wear a nifty badge, and walk where you're designated along with the rest of us. Only if we don't get enough registered monitors for the size of our contingent, we don't march - period! And all the hard work that's going into our float will go down the tubes.

So, to sum up, by YOU not volunteering a little of your time, you just might spoil it for everyone. And if Roxy wasn't there to answer the phone when that woman from Kentucky called, we might be reading about another of our sisters lost to despair, hopelessness and possibly suicide.

Feelin' a little guilty now? Good.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ExCom Approves Action Plan!

My head is spinning. I just returned from our first ExCom meeting for 2003-2004 and it was tremendous. Ideas were flowing and there was positive give and take all around. We discussed, massaged, put forward, and approved a plan for TGSF to not only do the things it needs to do for our members but also to meet

our obligations. We approved a strategic plan and approved a giving plan which you can read about elsewhere in the Channel. I want to thank Sara Roberts for her hard work and well thought-out fundraising strategy. We will make raffles and auctions a regular part of our ongoing and monthly events. I also want to compliment Jamie, one of our guests, for her positive contributions. Two people who are not even part of the ExCom took the time to show up and to contribute their time and ideas. Everyone in the room offered her assistance on fundraising, education, the Cotillion and Halloween. This is what I have been saying about working together - this was teamwork at its finest. You can read the details elsewhere in the Channel. But I want everyone to know that we are going to have a wonderful float in the Pride parade, a fun Halloween party, a beautiful Cotillion 2004 and we will meet our ongoing obligations. I just ask you to be patient. The more we work together, the more we will accomplish and the faster our business will get done.

We have also approved a policy to give the ExCom sole authority over the use of the name "TGSF". Any event or person that wishes to use the TGSF name must get prior approval from the ExCom. This is being done for reasons of liability and policy.

A bit of unfinished business from the April 24 Annual meeting. First, I am deeply touched and humbled by your support and I thank you for your confidence in me. I also want to thank you for the support you showed our team. We will work very hard to give you the TGSF that you want and deserve to have. I was very happy to see such a large turnout as well as the attendance of so many newcomers and many who had not attended in a while. Please join us again. (Also note that because of Pride we will not have a June End of Month event.)

Several of you have commented about the Avon breast cancer pin I was wearing. That was a gift from my good friend Faye Marie, a lovely lady whom I usually see at RGA or at Carla's. She is typical of the many friends I have made over this last year. I plan to wear that pin through the end of June, which I believe is breast cancer awareness month.

I was pleased to be able to present a certificate of appreciation to my dear friend Wendy Schultz. I have been so blessed to have her as my friend. She has been so loving and supportive. Please take a moment to read her "Beauty Boost" column. It is not something that I asked her to do; it is something that she offered to do because she wanted to help. We are all very fortunate to have g-girls such as her, Carla, Jo-An, Steele, and Denae Doyle among others who treat us like sisters and girlfriends. We are all very grateful for your support.

At that meeting, I also received a beautiful butterfly pin from Rachael Janelle. I was deeply touched by this gesture (and, of course, cried). It was a coincidence that I presented her with a Beanie Baby butterfly to commemorate the first annual Rachael Janelle award. As they say, great minds think alike or, because, as Wendy noted at the meeting that I like to speak in lyric, "meet the new boss, same as the old boss".

I received a couple of notable comments after my April 24 speech. At Marlana's, one young lady remarked that my speech had reminded her of Martin Luther King. Wow. Very humbling. It is truly an honor to be mentioned in the same breath as Dr. King. And, what I am doing is not even remotely close to the struggles that Dr. King undertook on a daily basis. However, like Dr. King, whenever I see injustice, I will speak out against it. Whenever I see prejudice, I will work to stop it. Whenever I see fear, I will work to calm it. And, with great apologies to Dr. King, I do dream of the day when we can all join hands and walk into the light and exclaim "I am free at last!"

I was also called "militant", which amused me. I don't think of myself as militant, but as you know I am pretty passionate. I believe strongly in our organization and will do whatever I can to make it work for all of us. Many others have called or written to congratulate me and to thank me for saying what has been on their minds. Ladies, I don't pull any punches. I can be pretty blunt. I'll "tell it like it is". But, if being militant means standing up for the rights of my sisters, then I will proudly wear that label.

This month, we celebrate a big event! Pride is coming on June 29. And it is such a big event that I couldn't limit my remarks to only a few sentences, so I wrote an entire column about it. This year, we are very fortunate to have the very beautiful Rachel Hill, our Miss TGSF, and the very debonair Tyler Fong, our Mr. TGSF, as our standard bearers. I do want to emphasize that we need all the volunteers and safety monitors we can get, especially the latter. Please call me at 415-564-3246 and I will let you know the details as I learn them. I will also post information on various web locations. In addition, Pride day is likely to be very hot, as it was last year. So, please bring water. In fact, please bring two bottles - one for you and one for a friend. If everyone brings two bottles, there should be enough for all. And bring power bars and snacks and sunscreen. Teamwork is what it is all about.

Kelly Anne Marsh and I had the pleasure of meeting Veronica Vera, founder of Miss Vera's Finishing School for Boys Who Want to be Girls, in San Francisco on May 5. She also brought along her friend Annie Sprinkle. It was an interesting class and we learned a lot about the transformation process from many different perspectives. We invited Miss Vera and Annie to TGSF for a future educational event - we are hoping for a West Coast version of the finishing school. (We'll be charter members!) We did some outreach as well, to several individuals who were trying to get some information on how to get started finding their true selves. I am happy that we were able to provide them with the information on resources that we had - proof of the importance of the outreach component of our organization and why I have made it a priority during my term.

Although the details arrived too late for the May Channel, TGSF was invited to participate in the annual "Until There's a Cure Day" June 1 at Pacific Bell Park. The San Francisco Giants sponsor this event to commemorate AIDS awareness. We were asked to be a part of the human "red ribbon". I have attended this event in my previous life and was always moved by the formation of the ribbon, made up of volunteers who are doing all they can to fight this dreaded disease. The importance of the day never sank in until a few years ago when a cousin of mine died from AIDS. This is one reason why I always wear my silver AIDS awareness bracelet and the Until There's a Cure Foundation is one of the charities that I support.

Finally, on a personal note, you may have seen my new "do". That came about as a result of my leaving my hair that you have come to know, in my hotel room after the April 24 meeting. After 2 days of desperation and panic (and thanks to Rachael and Tiffany for their comforting words), I replaced it, thanks to assistance from Carla. I hope you like it as much as I do. (It got Denae's stamp of approval!) You can read more about the experience in my column in this Channel but it truly was the ultimate "bad hair day".

Love,
Roxy



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May 4, 2003

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

Present: President Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Vice President Susan Laird, Treasurer Brooke Jansen, Secretary Rys McCusker, Education Co-Chair Kelly Anne Marsh, Social Co-Chair Roxxanne Taylor. Guests: Sara Roberts, Jamie. Absent: Education Co-Chair Kara Flynn, Outreach Co-Chairs Kalani and Marla Selby, Social Co-Chair Aiyanna Eveningstar. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. at Susan Laird's house, [REDACTED] Santa Clara.



Introductions

Self-introductions were made. Roxy commended the ExCom members in attendance for their commitment.

Approval of April 6, 2003 minutes

Roxy noted that the minutes needed to be corrected to note that she and Rys had attended. By unanimous vote, the minutes were approved with the corrections noted.

President's Report

Roxy discussed how she would be conducting meetings. Susan noted she would ask Terry about the videotape of the 2003 Cotillion. Roxy discussed the need for all events and anyone or anything using the TGSF name to get prior approval from the ExCom. By unanimous vote, the ExCom approved the above policy relating to the use of the TGSF name.

Roxy presented the Strategic Plan and requested that it be approved in concept, with the recognition that it would be revised as conditions warranted. The Strategic Plan is the ExCom's blueprint for the year, identifying organization activities and funding priorities. By unanimous vote, the ExCom approved the Strategic Plan in concept.

Roxy brought up TGSF's existing debts. She noted that the outstanding Design Center debt was about \$1500 after a \$500 payment had been made. Brooke reported on the current balance in the TGSF treasury. Susan noted that the outstanding debts to members should be included in the repayment plan. There was some discussion as to how these debts were incurred. Susan added that all expenditures on TGSF's behalf needed to be tracked.

By unanimous vote, the ExCom approved the following debt repayment plan: \$250/month to the Design Center, \$100/month to Rachel Hill, \$100/month to Susan Laird, and \$50/month to Kara Flynn, subject to the availability of sufficient funds.

Roxy presented the proposed 2003/2004 agenda which included the Pride Parade, the Cotillion, membership transition to web-based access for the Channel, Halloween, and fundraising.

Pride – Susan discussed the preparations for the Pride Parade float and the concepts she and Rachel Hill had been developing. Roxy reported on the meeting she and Rachel had attended concerning the parade rules and requirements. The need for volunteers, including safety monitors, was stressed. Roxy will be the point of contact for volunteers.

Memberships – Susan will send an e-mail to members asking if they wish to receive the Channel by website access only. Kelly suggested that we need to also prepare a questionnaire to get a good idea as to the demographic makeup of the membership. She volunteered to work with Susan on this effort.

Cotillion – The need to look at other venues was discussed. It was agreed that the Design Center is not financially viable. Roxy and Susan will look at options. Jamie volunteered to assist. Susan is in the process of lining up talent and personnel. The need to keep the date the same was discussed, in order to avoid conflicts with the court events. Susan is also looking at security.

Halloween – Roxy noted that Carla has offered her space for October 25. It was stressed that this would need to be a low key affair due to limited resources.

Promo Flyer – Roxy will develop a one-page flyer that can be distributed at events such as the Pride Parade and elsewhere.

Resource Guide – It was noted that this document is in need of updating. Jamie suggested excluding resources that have not been responsive to the needs of the TG community. It was suggested that Chris Daley from the Transgender Law Center might be able to provide information on the name change process that could be posted on the website. Kelly added that we need to share information with the community as it is learned.

Fundraising – Sara Roberts presented the draft giving plan she had prepared, including the projection of revenue that could be realized. There was considerable discussion regarding the need to find large donors and to

provide them with incentives to support TGSF, such as with Cotillion tickets. Minor suggestions were made. Sara will revise the plan and will submit for inclusion in the Channel. Sara also discussed some potential fundraising strategies including raffles and auctions. Jamie suggested having a raffle at every End of Month event so that attendees would be accustomed to the idea. Sara agreed to obtain the raffle tickets. Roxy will talk with the Blue Muse about donating a dinner and other ExCom members will talk to other vendors. Roxxanne noted that Eddie's Theatrical Supply had a great deal of merchandise it was trying to dispose of since they are going out of business. Roxxanne suggested a garage sale or auction at the May 25 barbecue. The ExCom commended Sara for her efforts in developing the fundraising plan.

Vice-President's Report

Susan noted that most of her information has already been reported.

Treasurer's Report

Brooke noted that the current balance is about \$3,000. Current-debt status and the recently approved repayment plan were discussed. Brooke noted the need to pursue delinquent advertisers. Those who had not paid would be dropped. Database problems were discussed. Roxxanne agreed to assist in this effort. The TGSF bank account has been changed to reflect Brooke and Roxy as the signatories but Brooke will handle the check writing and deposits.

Secretary's Report

Rys noted she would send Roxy the minutes prior to being submitted for the Channel. Rys agreed that she would be picking up the Channel when it was ready. The process of preparing the Channel was discussed. Roxy, Susan and Roxxanne will assist with mailing. Rys suggested that we look into the option of getting a postage meter. Roxy will research the postal regulations to see if TGSF qualifies for non-profit mailing rates. Roxy noted that she had filed the S-100 form with the Secretary of State and had paid the \$20 filing fee. It was noted that this is a yearly expense that should be tracked. Rys will pick up mail from the TGSF box and will find someone to help Susan with the website. As a follow up to an item from the April meeting, Susan suggested that we defer removal of the TGSF name from the Yahoo website until a similar group can be established within the TGSF website.

Education Co-Chair's Report

A list of potential activities was suggested. Kelly suggested a session dealing with police sensitivity towards transgendered people. Kelly will contact Chris Daley at the Transgender Law Center and Lenny Broberg of SFPD to see if they would like to participate. Kelly will work with Kara on this. Kelly also suggested that we look at film nights with movies of interest to the gender community.

Outreach

Roxy noted that she has been answering the hotline and suggested that this task be rotated.

Social Co-Chair's Report

Roxxanne noted that she would be hosting a barbecue at Rachael Janelle's house on May 25. It was agreed that the June End of Month Event would be cancelled due to Pride preparations. The ExCom reviewed the list of upcoming events in their agenda packets.

Old Business

None

New Business

Roxy noted that TGSF has been invited to participate in the "Until There's A Cure Day" sponsored by the San Francisco Giants on June 1. Since this event will conflict with the ExCom, it was suggested that the meeting be rescheduled to Saturday May 31 at Susan Laird's house. Roxy will poll the ExCom members to ensure that a quorum would be obtained. Rys indicated that she had a conflict with the date. Roxy stressed the importance of unity and teamwork in this upcoming year and thanked Sara and Jamie for their contributions to today's discussions. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [REDACTED]@hairzapper.com.

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

SUMMER'S COMING!

The days are getting longer, and there's more time to do things outdoors. It also means that it's time to stock up on a good sunscreen, and apply it every day.

How did I get so many freckles?

Sun damage can look very much like freckles. Freckles may be cute, but sun damage is serious. If you spent long hours baking in the sun as a teenager, using baby oil or inadequate SPF lotions, you probably have sun damage. Sun damage can occur anywhere on the face or body, and can lead to skin cancer. Freckles are caused by excess pigmentation in the skin that becomes darker after overexposure to the sun. The sun's damaging UVA and UVB rays actually bake skin cells. Moreover, skin cells produce more melanin in response to too much sun, and this is why we tan. Tans fade, but damage remains and skin cancer can result.

Sunscreen or Sun block?

Sunscreens are chemicals that are absorbed by the skin. Apply them 30 minutes prior to sun exposure, and reapply after swimming or sweating. Sun block is made up of non-absorbing reflective chemicals. Zinc oxide is a sun block often used by surfers and worn on the nose. Since most people don't feel comfortable walking around with white zinc oxide noses, finding an invisible alternative is desirable. Titanium dioxide is used in some foundation makeup and because it's opaque, it serves as sun protection. In addition, mineral makeup is a natural sun block. Always apply sunscreen even if the weather is cloudy or overcast. The sun is still out in full force, and can burn the skin regardless.

What is SPF?

SPF means Sun Protection Factor. Using a sunscreen with an SPF of 15 or higher is best. And, since the SPF in most sunscreens usually lasts a year, toss last year's bottle and start fresh. Using moisturizer with an SPF of 15 and makeup with an SPF of 15, does not add up to an SPF of 30. Other ingredients used in both products can dilute the SPF, so what you're really getting after applying both may be an SPF of 15 plus or minus a few points. However, using a moisturizer and makeup with sunscreen is still good sun protection.

Product Review

This month's product is Lubriderm's Daily UV Lotion Moisturizer with Sunscreen. It's a light, unscented, non-greasy lotion that can be used alone or under makeup. It has an SPF of 15, and is available in most drugstores.

Questions and feedback are always welcome. My email address is BeautyBoost@msn.com.

Although I'm a licensed Esthetician, I'm not a healthcare professional. As such, please consult with your doctor prior to beginning any new skin care regimen.

PRIDE PARADE NEEDS YOU!

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Call the Hotline at 415-564-3246 if you want to participate, help build our float, work as a Parade Monitor, or help staff our Outreach Booth!

Ya Gotta Give 'Em Hope!

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As I sit here and look at this blank screen, I think back over the years since 1987 when I first arrived, scared and shaking at my first ETVC meeting. I think about the people I have met and come to know. I wonder if I can ever rise to my own expectations of the things that they made look so simple. I also think about some friends I knew that never made it, the ones who lost out to despair. I think back on my own failures and successes. And still the screen is blank. So much to say and so much to ponder, as well.



Pride Float

I spent a day off going through a wrecking yard in Hayward and I was able to locate some motors and gear boxes from four Geo Metros. These I hope to use to animate some parts that are to be used on our float. Hopefully, I will be able to begin fabrication of the first unit this week, time permitting.

Cotillion

There has been a lot of soul-searching going on about the Cotillion. There have always been aspects about the Cotillion that I was ambivalent about and there were aspects that still make me smile when I think back on them...like the time KTVU Oakland needed audience for one shot and panned the camera across the audience. The result was a human wave of people diving under tables and covering their faces. We sure learned from that one.

But now the burden is on me to try and somehow bring together a show that can continue to show everyone that TGSF is still the big dog in the gender community. It is our centerpiece and producing it is a project not to be taken lightly. That job has become mine and it is just plain scary. I have begun doing some serious planning on this. I am hoping to be able to draw from the distant past and bring back elements of the Cotillion that have not been present for nearly 4 years. This year, I plan on bringing sponsors to the table who can assist us in lowering the overall cost of the project. I plan on seeking the advice of not only our own experienced staff, but outside consultants as well. Volunteers have already been stepping forward. I am also giving an immense amount of thought to venue and the cost to benefit ratio of where the event should be held. Well, more later as things develop.

Digital TGSF

Shortly, ExCom will be shipping out a questionnaire which we hope to use to streamline our operations and further lower costs. Kelly Marsh and I hope to be able to gather information on members opinions on The Channel Online as well as other demographic information that will allow us to make better decisions in the future of TGSF operations. Coming soon to an inbox near you. Look for TGSF in the message heading.

I would like to thank all of you for not shooting at me when I was announced as Vice President. In the meantime Ayme, the most trusted and reliable workhorse of TGSF will have yet another chore. She will have to PhotoShop the dickens out of me to keep me looking good in future issues of The Channel. Hey Ayme, maybe you could morph me a little over 50% toward Rachel Hill, our own Miss TGSF.

**Take care,
Susan Laird**

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Thursday / June 5 / 5:00pm - 7:00pm

**TRANSGENDER RECOVERY PROGRAM
AND PREVENTION SERVICES OPEN HOUSE**

Walden House, 815 Buena Vista West in SF. For more information contact Jeanna Eichman at 415 [REDACTED]

Thursday / June 5 / 6:30pm - 8:30pm

**CUAV BENEFIT HONORING
SYLVIA GUERRERO AND GLORIA ALLRED**

The Justice Files, CUAV's 2003 Annual Event!
See announcement on **Page 22** for more information and details!

Sunday / June 8 / 9:00am

SAN JOSE PRIDE

TGSF will have a contingent. Meet at the Victory Parking Lot at 9 AM sharp. Contact Susan at 408 [REDACTED] Park in the Market/St. John garage. Yes, we'll need monitors!!

Friday - Sunday / June 20-22

BAY AREA RODEO

San Jose Airport Hyatt & The Horse Park At Woodside. Rumor has it our own Miss TGSF will be participating in this wonderful event! www.bayarearodeo.com

Monday / June 23 / Time TBD

FIRST ANNUAL TRANSGENDER PRIDE AWARDS!

Hosted by the TG Steering Committee at the SF LGBT Community Center. See full page announcement elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Saturday - Sunday / June 28-29 / 10:00am

SAN FRANCISCO PRIDE 2003!

This year's theme: "You've Gotta Give Them Hope!" We will march on June 29! Lots of things we can do - Volunteers are needed NOW for safety monitors (the training is easy!) or we can't have a float. More details about where the float will be constructed and where we will be meeting the day of the Parade will be announced soon, or keep calling the hotline. Note the Parade begins earlier this year (at 10:00am) so please plan accordingly - plan to gather at 9:00am.

HEY!

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

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

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



TGSF Lovelies Wave Happily on their Float in 2002 Pride Parade!

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Calendar of Events - June 2003

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FIM International

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

TGIF

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

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

SCOUT (SCOUT)

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	3 7:00 PM SCT	4 7:30 PM MPTG	5 6:30 PM CUAV Honors Sylvia Guerrero 7:00 PM DVG RCC	6 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	7
8 9:00 AM San Jose PRIDE	9 5:00 PM CCHH	10	11	12	13 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	14 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
15	16 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	17 7:00 PM SCT	18	19 7:00 PM DVG RCC	20 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	21
22	23 5:00 PM CCHH 6:30 PM TG PRIDE Awards!	24 7:30 PM SCOUT	25	26	27 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	28 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
29 9:00 AM TGSF Marches in SF PRIDE!	30 5:00 PM CCHH					

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please Print/ Check all that apply:

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

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

*Email: _____ Website URL: _____

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

Send Check or Money Order to: TGSF, PO Box 426486,

San Francisco, CA 94142-6486, or hand to any Board

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

Member at a TGSF Social.

Special Events!

The TG Steering Committee is happy to announce

The 1st Annual Transgender Pride Awards,

to be held at

The San Francisco LGBT Center
on Monday, June 23rd, 2003 / 6:30pm

Let's come together to appreciate those who have committed themselves to improving the lives of transgender people! Spend some time with your community and enjoy a complimentary buffet during LGBT Pride Month! But first we need nominees!

There will be a total of **5** awards presented. The nomination criteria for the awards are:

- 1) We are seeking nominations in order to recognize three trans individuals who have provided leadership and/or demonstrated excellence in any three of the following areas:

- TG community consciousness raising
- Raising awareness of TG issues
- Educating others about TG community
- Advocacy and or activism on behalf of the community
- TG community empowerment
- Raising community visibility
- Promoting equality
- Liberation activities

- 2) We are also seeking nominations for one trans ally (non trans-identified) meeting the same criteria in any three areas:

- TG community consciousness raising
- Raising awareness of TG issues
- Educating others reg. TG community
- Advocacy and or activism on behalf of the community
- TG community empowerment
- Raising community visibility
- Promoting equality
- Liberation activities

- 3) And we are seeking nominations in order to recognize one organization which has demonstrated excellence in the following areas:

- Provision of direct services to the TG community
- Sensitivity and awareness of TG issues
- Respect for the TG community
- TG staff
- TG specific programs

How to nominate for an award:

Nominations must be in the form of a written submission no more than 350 words in length using the standards listed above.

Please send nominations to one of the following addresses ASAP!:

via email: tgawards@nolo.com, or snail mail: TG Awards c/o JoAnne Keatley, 1145 Bush Street, 2nd Floor, SF, CA 94109

If you have questions, please call JoAnne at 415- [REDACTED]

Special Announcement!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

GUARDIAN LEVEL: \$2500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Original Signed Photo of Ms / Mr TGSF
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

PATRON LEVEL: \$1000

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

ANGEL LEVEL: \$500

Recognition & Benefits:

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

CENTURY LEVEL: \$250


Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Framed Recognition Certificate

MERIT LEVEL: \$100

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

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Make your CONTRIBUTION FOR TGSF Today!

Your Sustaining Membership contribution will be used to support the educational and social activities for TGSF.
Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

Guardian - \$2500 Patron - \$1000 Angel - \$500 Century - \$250 Merit - \$100

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

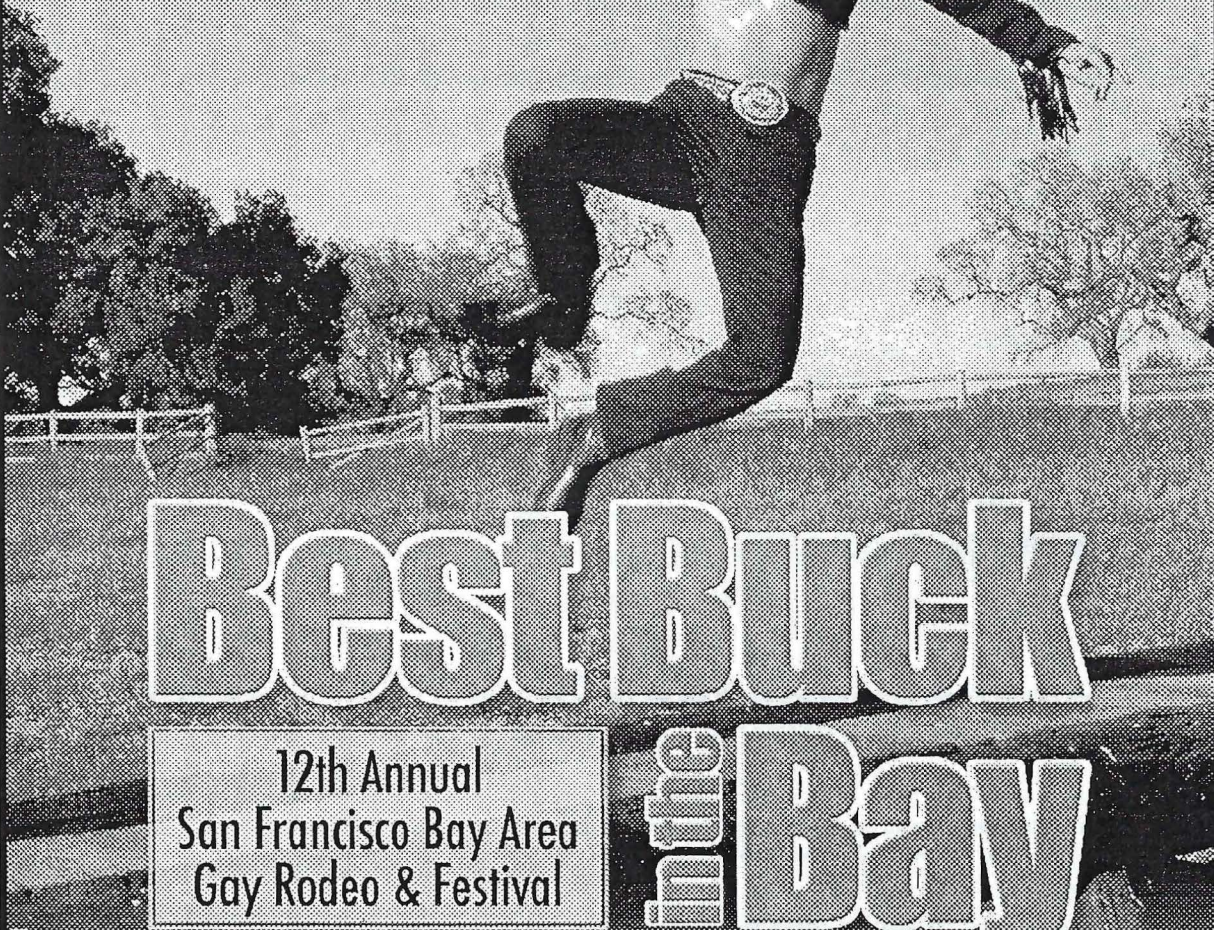
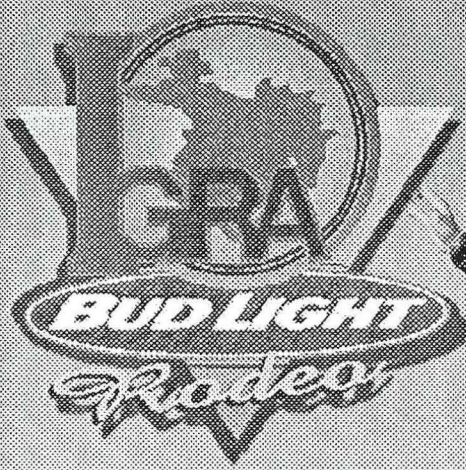
Check if you DO NOT want TGSF to acknowledge you as a Sustaining Member

Please mail this Tax Deductible Sustaining Membership Contribution Form along with your Check payable to TGSF to:

TGSF P.O. Box 426486 San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Thank you for your support of TGSF!

Golden State Gay Rodeo Association
Bay Area Chapter



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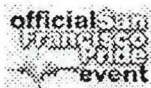
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FROM THE DESK OF MR. TGSF...

Several months have passed since the Cotillion. I have been to several court functions (SF Coronation, Investiture) and several fund raisers (Daddy's bar and Eagle Tavern in SF, San Francisco Zoo, Bare Chest Calendar auction, Positive Resource Center, Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, American Brotherhood weekend in D.C.) with the leather community. Some of it is old hat, but much of it is new. There is so much to learn from both passive and active participation. I was in awe as the ladies competed for Miss Trans-Globe 2003 (one of many in the audience) and encouraged by the competitors in the San Francisco Dyke Daddy and Dyke Diva contest (front door security).

The dynamics amongst women are very different from the gay male environments I have encountered. I feel a different energy, but note that it is strong in a proud sense. Similarities family inclusion, sharing of time and talents and support for individuals as well as the community at large.

Learning opportunities present themselves locally and not so close to home. Leather/Levi Weekend (LLW3) is a gathering of leather organizations, uniform clubs, motorcycle clubs and individuals. All age groups and levels of experience share information, skills and personal experiences with each other in an informal environment. Tomorrow's leaders will undoubtedly be forged from such experiences.

I've had the pleasure of attending LLW1 and LLW2 and would like to invite all who are interested to participate this year. Information can be found at: www.leatherlevi.org. You may contact me personally by e-mail: MrTGSF2003@aol.com with any questions or concerns regarding details of the weekend.

San Francisco Pride weekend is June 28 and 29. Come out on Saturday and enjoy a family atmosphere with others in the LGBT community and avoid the crowds as you visit the vendors' area. Sunday is the big parade day. It lasts a few hours so catch a bit and then check out the various stages/areas of entertainment. Take some time this weekend to explore a bit of SF, gather with friends/family and collect information about support groups, social organizations and mingle freely at the city's annual "gay" day. Look for me and Miss TGSF 2003 in the parade on Sunday!!

Tyler

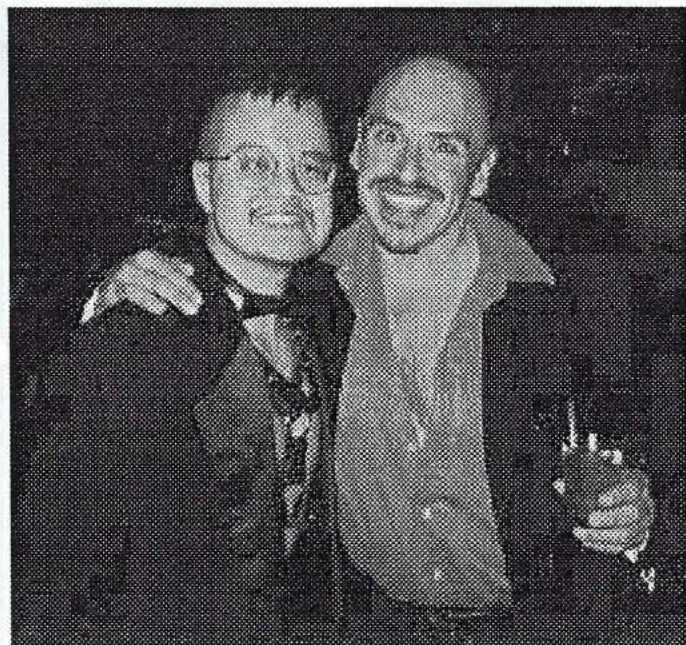


PRIDE PARADE MONITORS NEEDED!

We are in serious need of float safety monitors for the parade. This is a firm requirement of the SF Pride. Their position is - no monitors no float! We will need at least 10 monitors, but would like to train 20 to make sure we have everything covered.

All of the monitors will be required to attend a one-hour training session, which will be held at various locations. Information will be available on the website www.sfpide.org. It's really easy, and an hour of your time would help TGSF immensely.

If you would be interested in helping with the float please contact our Pride chair Susan Laird hairzapper.com. If you would like to be a safety monitor please contact the TGSF hotline at 415-564-3246 or leave Roxy an e-mail.



Announcements!

Pride Parade Monitors Needed!

Hi EVERYONE,

We are in serious need of float safety monitors for the parade. This is a firm requirement of the SF Pride. Their position is - no monitors no float. We will need at least 10 monitors but would like to train 20 to make sure we have everything covered.

All of the monitors will be required to attend a one-hour training session, which will be held at various locations. Information will be available on the website www.sfpride.org.

If you would be interested in helping with the float please contact our Pride chair Susan Laird [redacted]@hairzapper.com. If you would like to be a safety monitor please contact the TGSF hotline at 415-564- 3246 or leave me an e-mail.

Roxy

"Ya Gotta Give Them Hope!"

Single White Male Heterosexual Crossdresser SF, early 50's; Sensitive, Intelligent, Integrity, Sense of Humor, Seeks genetic woman any age, open-minded, understanding, intelligent, for relationship:

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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.

June's Birthdays

6/01	Diane Shepard	6/15	Lin Fraser
6/02	Nancy Cupps	6/16	Sherilyn Connelly
6/03	Constance Stardragon	6/17	Lynnea Stuart
6/05	Lisa Lynn Ferguson	6/18	Catherine Rose Lurton
6/05	Rachel Miller	6/19	June Martin
6/08	Vikki Freitas	6/20	Rose Cox
6/08	Jenny Marshall	6/21	Anne Mortenson
6/09	Jubilee Gee	6/22	Jaimee Adele Bodeen
6/11	Kaycee Cole	6/23	Hiromi Nakanishi
6/11	Karen Andrews	6/23	Joanne Handa
6/12	Ti Connelly	6/27	Melissa Robinson
6/13	Janessa Headers	6/28	Stephanie Ann Blythe
6/15	Roxy Carmichael-Hart	6/28	Teri Lee
		6/28	Rose Ann Cain

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Coming in July!

PFLAG Chosen as 2004 Beneficiary

MISS DIVA INTERNATIONAL 2004 FINALS

International Female Impersonator Competition

Los Angeles, Ca - Rising Stars Productions, producers of the 2004 "Miss DIVA International Pageant" have announced PFLAG will be the beneficiary of this year's show. A portion of ticket sales of this year's Awards Show will go directly to PFLAG and its local chapters.

The lavish spectacular will be staged in the most glamorous resort town in the world, Palm Springs. The pageant is scheduled for July 3-7, 2003. Professional Female Impersonators are expected from the United States, Mexico, Canada, Europe and Japan. The show will be taped for a future television special. Contestants are still welcome to register.

"Miss DIVA International Pageant" is unique in the world of female impersonator competitions. It is the only pageant who's rules state that all performers must be physically males and cannot have had hormone therapy, implants or any physical alterations to enhance a female physical illusion. It is also the only competition that includes an exotic lingerie contest in its judging.

Contestants will compete in various competitions including show-stopping Talent, fierce evening gowns and of course, our special highlight, the exotic lingerie competition. There is also a division for Plus Size competitors. "Miss DIVA International" 2004 winners will share in a prize package valued at over \$5,000, including wardrobe, make-up and cold hard cash. A panel of experts and celebrity judges will be on hand to crown the world's greatest DIVA. New contestants will be accepted until June 1, 2003.

If you are interested in competing in the 2004 competition as a "contestant-at-large" or purchasing tickets to our show, please contact www.MissDIVAInternational.com, the DIVA International hotline at (818) 464-DIVA for an application or by email at RSTARPROD@AOL.com.

ANNEMARIE ST. JOHN

Annemarie St. John is pleased and proud to announce the opening of **St. John Studios** in Belmont. Annemarie is offering personal, private, and secure photographic services to the transgender and related communities. Her services include portraits, candids, and boudoir, in the studio, on location, or in your home. Annemarie is working closely with Denae and Carla, so you can get a makeover or go on a shopping spree and have your beautiful self beautifully photographed.

For services, pricing, location and contact information, go to www.stjohnstudios.com/genderphotos.



Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

(April 22, 2003 through May 15, 2003)

Assets

Cash	\$3,581.64
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
 Total Assets	 \$4,831.64

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$4,836.50
Equity	(\$4.86)
 Total Liabilities and Equity	 \$4,831.64

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Memberships	\$600.00
Advertising	\$104.17
Donations	\$200.00
 Total	 \$904.17

Expenses

Cotillion	\$500.00
Newsletter	\$317.80
 Total	 \$817.80

Net Income \$587.17

TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give
as of May 15, 2003

Roxy Carmichael-Hart \$ 46.00
Jillian Ellerbe \$120.00
Janet Bowman \$ 60.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

2003-04 Executive Committee

President

Roxy Carmichael-Hart @aol.com

Vice President

Susan Laird @141.com

Secretary

Rys McCusker @treedragon.com

Treasurer

Brooke Jansen @yahoo.com

Education

KaraFlynn @aol.com

Kelly Anne Marsh tbd

Outreach

Kalani Makanani @tgforum.com

Marla Selby @aol.com

Social

Aiyana Eveningstar tbd

Roxanne Taylor @aol.com

Other Email Addresses

Editor, The Channel

Ayme Kantz @aol.com

Miss TGSF 2003

Rachel Hill MissTGSF2003@aol.com

Mr. TGSF 2003

Tyler Fong MrTGSF2003@aol.com

Webmistress

Susan Laird @141.com

Calendar www.tgsf.org

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

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Safe ongoing group
All gender queers welcome
Transitioning NOT required
Monday eves * East Bay near BART
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Heart To Hart with Roxy

ALIAS

By day, male mild mannered government employee. By night, passionate female advocate for the rights of the transgendered.

No, my name isn't Sydney Bristow, although I think that my life is no less taxing than hers, without all of the glamour. And, I don't mean to make light of the situation, which is neither funny, nor fun.

Living a double life is physically and emotionally draining. I have always wished that I could be two people. Well, now I am, but I still have only the one body and only 24 hours in the day with which to work.

I have found that once you get comfortable with the female mode, it is awfully hard to keep switching back and forth. I remember my first case of withdrawal – my first night out. I had just returned to my hotel room from an exhilarating evening at the (now, lamentably closed) Queen Mary Show Lounge in Studio City, feeling wonderful and free. I called a friend of mine and talked to her for two hours, meticulously reciting every detail of my first day. Part the length of the phone call stemmed from my enthusiasm; the rest was, admittedly, not wanting the evening to end. When the clock finally struck 2 AM and it was time to wash off my makeup and change out of my outfit, I did so with much reluctance and anxiety. I recall looking forlornly at the washcloth, with my makeup on it, and crying. I felt that I had just found Roxy and now she was gone. (I have since learned that neither makeup nor clothes make the woman.) It was a hard night's sleep, then a sobering five-hour drive to the Bay Area in guy mode, all the while thinking, "When am I going to go out again?" I even contemplated moving to LA just so I could dress and go to the Queen Mary every night, which, in retrospect, was not a real logical plan, for obvious reasons. (I would discover TGSF, Carla's, RGA and DVG all within the next week.) A door closes, others open.

My worst times are on long weekends. I can mainly handle the two-day weekends when I can get home on Friday from work, change, and spend most, if not all of the weekend as a female. Sometimes I will have an RGA meeting on that Friday night which is always a godsend at the end of the week. Although Monday mornings are hard, I have gotten used to throwing the boy clothes back on and going to work. But, on weekends such as the Thanksgiving weekend which was almost five full days of being female, I could not bear opening the closet and putting the guy stuff on. It didn't seem right. I felt a pain in my stomach and began to hyperventilate, and yes, cry (by now, you have realized that your president is a real crybaby). Somehow, I summoned my strength to dress and go to work.

My double life hits the extreme on the days of our End of Month social. I pack my wig and clothes in one bag, toiletries and makeup in another, walk one block to BART and go to work. When it comes time to leave for SF, I gather my belongings, get back on BART, get off at the Embarcadero, catch the 21 Hayes bus to Hayes and Gough, walk to my hotel, change and go to the Blue Muse. The next morning, I do it all in reverse. So far my bosses haven't asked where I go on the last Thursday of every month, and they either suspect something is up, or they don't care. When I carried my lace hat in a hatbox for our Leather and Lace event, I was asked to show what was in the hatbox. I politely declined. Like Sydney Bristow, one of the things I hate about the double life is lying to people I am close to.

Why do I go through this? For one, I hate driving in San Francisco and will avoid it unless absolutely necessary. For another, I love our End of Month events and would not even think of missing one. I am so committed to attending that, in August, when I have to be in Seattle for a conference, I am going to leave early and drive the 833 miles to the Bay Area so I can be at the Blue Muse that Thursday. (Yes, I also hate to fly.)

This double life recently led to unexpected and near disaster. On the morning after our glorious annual meeting, in haste of packing, I left my hair on the bed in my hotel room. It was in a linen carrier that looked like a pillowcase. I did not discover this until I arrived home and, in near panic and tears called the hotel and they did not lift a finger to help me (they had the same attitude about fixing my toilet the night before). I rather tersely told them off – you will find that when I am upset the "F" word will freely flow from my lips. And then I sulked. I was devastated; I had lost my identity. The look on which I had worked so hard to cultivate was gone forever.

On my way (looking like total crap) to Tiffany's event at the Lighthouse, I called Rachael who was reassuring and told me I needed a new look anyway (and she made me laugh). I also called Carla's and Carrie answered. She told me that they had a similar wig and I mentioned I would be at Carla's there the next day. When I arrived, Carla took me aside and said Carrie had called her. We found a wig that was close to the one I had in style and color and I love it. Bless you Carrie and bless you Carla for being there for me and saving the day. (On a side note, I was "outed" at Tiffany's event by a local citizen with whom I deal on a professional basis. I decided though that I don't give a shit anymore about who knows. I am getting tired of hiding.)

The double life has been difficult. But I know, when I get to be feeling too overwhelmed, I can call Rachael Janelle, or Linda, or Wendy or my other friends and they will cheer me up and comfort me. I also am spurred on by the fact that I know my day is coming very soon.

I know that many of you face the same dilemma that I do with the double life. Isn't it nice to know that you have friends to turn to for support? That, among many things, is the beauty of TGSF and this community. And, like Sydney Bristow, although it is hard, I know I am doing the right thing and I can't wait for the day that I can put the deceit to an end.

A TIME TO BE (EXTRA) PROUD

Pride! The very sound of that word can send shivers up your spine. It results in a glow of perhaps the magnitude you may never have experienced. And it is coming.

This year's Pride parade will be held on June 29, 2003. At this year's parade, we will honor Miss TGSF Rachel Hill, and Mr. TGSF, Tyler Fong, who have represented us with such dignity and class since the Cotillion. I want to thank Rachel, Tyler, Susan Laird (our Vice-President and Pride Chair), Roshelle Cunning (for her generous donation of the truck) all at those who are helping to make our float something truly special.

Pride needs you. Pride needs you to help with the float, march in the parade and much more importantly, to be a float safety monitor. We must have at least ten certified monitors in order for our contingent to take our place. No monitors, no float. Those are the rules of San Francisco Pride. Please volunteer to attend a one-hour training session – such sessions will be held all over the Bay Area. I would like to get at least 20 monitors certified. Please call the hotline at (415) 564-3246 or e-mail me at [redacted]@yahoo.com for more information.

If it is anything like it was last year, Pride day is likely to be quite hot. So, please bring water. In fact, please bring two bottles – one for you and one for a friend. If everyone brings two bottles, we will have enough for all. And, please bring power bars, snacks, sunscreen and a camera. We will need to get the pictures to Ayrne as quickly as possible in order to make the next Channel. Teamwork is the key to a successful event.

Pride marks a special moment for me. At last year's parade, I had been Roxy (in public) for exactly 15 days. I had surfed the web and noted that TGSF, of which I had recently been made aware, was going to march and that anyone was welcome to join them. So, for my first day out in the Bay Area, I slapped on my makeup, my wig (which I don't wear anymore), and my long black dress with the flowers (I had no idea of the Hawaiian theme), hopped on BART and went to the area where the float was to be. I was greeted by two ladies who now serve on the ExCom with me – Aiyana and Marla. I looked around at all of the lovely ladies and stood around waiting to march. And then, my eyes caught this beautiful blonde who seemed to be in charge. She smiled at me and said "hey baby." Little did I know the influence that Rachael Janelle would have on my life. Soon it was time to board the float. I watched the ladies get on and then I heard Rachael tell me "Come on baby" and she motioned for me to step aboard the float. I looked over my shoulder to see if perhaps she was talking to someone else. But no! She wanted me. So she helped me aboard, making sure I didn't step all over my dress and got on. And there I sat, with Kalani and Stephanie Ann and Karen Andrews among others (one being Linda Edwards who was on another part of the float and who would soon become one of my best girlfriends.) I, in my woefully out of place black dress, sweating from the heat and nervousness and excitement, was on the Pride parade float. I was definitely not "the long cool woman in a black dress".

After what seemed like eons, the float began to move and then it hit me. Millions of people, it seemed, were waving and applauding and throwing kisses at me. I waved back, and blew kisses of my own. Everyone was smiling at and cheering us, the TGSF girls, as we rode on. As I looked at the crowd, that incredible feeling going through my body, a thought went through my mind – "so this is why they call it pride."

From that day forward, I knew I belonged, not only as a part of TGSF but as a part of the transgender community. Pride 2002 was one of the defining moments of my life. You too, can learn why it's called Pride. Please join us as we all march with Pride down Market Street.

Readers Respond

TG MUNCH IN SAN FRANCISCO?

By Jamie Faye Fenton

A munch is an informal get-together, at a restaurant or cafe, of people interested in some aspect of the BDSM scene. The concept originated in Palo Alto and has spread worldwide.

People do not "play" at munches, rather they are for both newcomers and regulars to socialize with each other and to learn more. They are generally held at a restaurant or cafe that can handle a variable-sized group at the date and time announced. Some munches include brief programs and announcements, so the group generally works with the venue management to avoid freaking out normals.

Several of my friends have reported some uneasiness about meeting people in bars and dance clubs. It is hard to hear and interactions with people are difficult to sustain. Perhaps a TG munch is the answer.

The TGSF get-together on the last Thursday of each month does take place at a restaurant, the Blue Muse, on Gough St. It is more formal than a munch, and there is pressure to dress well. For many years, there was a group in the South Bay called "The Thursday Irregulars" that met at noon at Harry's Hofbrau, usually in "drab". Gwen Smith runs a munch-like event each month called the Transbay Gathering at "Quetzal," a coffeehouse at 1234 Polk.

One idea is to have a munch somewhere in the South of Market Area (SoMA) in San Francisco, on Tuesday nights before Trannyshack. An ideal setup would be: inexpensive food, easy parking, supportive management, and a place to change into your club wear if you are up for Trannyshack later.

Let me know what you think about this plan, and possible alternatives, by contacting me at: [redacted]@tgforum.com.

TG Parents Panel

DEAR TGSF:

I'm writing to you today to let you know that I am planning to hold an event in the not too distant future. I want to bring together a panel of 6-8 parents of transgendered women and men to talk about their experiences and feelings in dealing with their children's gender identity. Yesterday I attended, along with my roommate Mia, a similar panel of parents of gays and lesbians. One parent's child was transgendered. I was deeply moved by the experience and decided that we need a similar panel for transgendered people.

Do you know of anyone whose parents would be willing to be on such a panel? Can you help with video camera, sound system, or publicity? Although I don't have a timetable yet, I'd like to target the panel for sometime from the end of June to perhaps early August.

I have a B.A. degree in Clinical Psychology and a Ph.D. in Mythological Studies and Depth Psychology. I have conducted several workshops in personal growth and spirituality, and participated a number of times in the church service where I attend.

I'll be working on the panel with my roommate, Mia. She is also transgendered, and she is working on her Ph.D. in Sexology from the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco.

Any help, advice, references, will be greatly appreciated. Please reply to [redacted]@unlockthelock.com.

**Thank you so much,
Annemarie St. John, Ph.D.
Mia Nakamura, Ph.D. (C)**

Any Volunteers?

POSSIBLE INTERVIEWS FOR TERM PROJECT

Dear TGSF,

I am a 24 year old Communications major at San Francisco State University. I am currently in a Gender and Communication course (also my area of concentration), and I have decided to do my term project on transgender individuals. I am looking to find transgendered people who would be willing to let me interview them and possibly photograph as well.

I have some interviews already set up this week, but after doing some research online, your services look to be a great resource. I have a car and my schedule is for the most part free for afternoons. If you could ask any possible volunteers, I would greatly appreciate it.

Thalia Sparkuhl

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JAPAN ELECTS FIRST TG OFFICIAL

by Peter Hacker
365Gay.com Newscenter,
Asia Bureau Chief

(Tokyo) The first transgendered woman to seek election in Japan has won a municipal seat in Tokyo. That Aya Kamikawa even was allowed to run as a woman was seen as a major victory for the country's transgendered. When she submitted her candidacy forms with a blank space for sex, election officials referred it to the federal government.



Under Japanese law birth documents cannot be altered and Kamikawa had been listed as male. The transgendered in Japan are referred to as people "suffering gender identity disorder."

The government finally relented and allowed her to run as a female. Kamikawa ran as an independent without any party support as one of the 72 candidates battling for 52 seats in the assembly.

Kamikawa placed sixth among all candidates in the election, assuring her a seat.

"I will proudly attend the assembly as a woman," Kamikawa said at her campaign office after the election results were announced. But, even though she will sit as a woman, she will be listed as male in official election records, according to the Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications Ministry.

The 35-year-old writer says she will work to improve minority rights.

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS PRESSED TO SIGN GENDER PLEDGE

by Doreen Brandt
365Gay.com Newscenter, Washington Bureau

(Washington, D. C.) Members of Congress are being asked to sign pledges they will not discriminate in employment practices based on sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.

For the past several years, the largest gay rights group in the US, Human Rights Campaign, has asked members of Congress to sign statements prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation, but this is the first time that gender identity and expression have been included in a single statement.

HRC is working with the Gender Public Advocacy Coalition to secure the signatures.

"This statement is an important step forward for HRC as we work for equality for our entire community," said HRC Political Director Winnie Stachelberg. "It is also an opportunity for members of Congress to follow the lead of some of the top Fortune 500 corporations in America, including Eastman Kodak Co., IBM, Intel Corp., Nike Inc. and Xerox Corp., who have already implemented policies prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and expression in their workplaces."

HRC has already secured signatures from 304 current members of Congress, including 93 Republicans, on a statement affirming that they do not discriminate based on sexual orientation in employment practices for their personal congressional offices.

NEW COURSE CATERS TO WOULD-BE DRAG QUEEN MAKEUP ARTISTS

By Jamie Tarabay
Associated Press Writer

Melbourne, Australia (AP) — Drag queens wondering how to mask pesky five o'clock shadow or fix that wig firmly into place, can now brush up on their makeup techniques at a university course.

Michael Shifferle, a 34-year-old makeup artist, is offering a two-day course starting next month specifically aimed at drag queen performers in this southern city and judging by number of people trying to enroll he's going to be busy. "I'm just blown away by the interest," Shifferle told the AP in a recent interview.

The course at Swinburne University covers all elements of styling drag queens, including theatrical lighting and heavy-duty base makeup. Wigs are also tackled. Cross dressers who shun the limelight can pick up pointers, too.

"Everything that's needed for the total look," Shifferle said. Once the two-day course is completed, students will be issued with certificates announcing: "You can do drag make up," he added.

Shifferle grew up in a rural town north of Melbourne in the state of Victoria. Throughout his upbringing in the gritty Outback, he said he always knew he wanted to be surrounded by the bright lights of showbiz. "When all the kids in school were saying they wanted to be firemen or butchers I said I wanted to do hair and make up," he said. "They all laughed."

Australia is well known for celebrating the work of flamboyant cross dressers. The 1994 movie "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," about two transvestites and a transsexual taking a bus trip into the Outback, was made here. A float at the closing ceremony of the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney celebrated the film and showcased its outrageous Oscar-winning costumes to a global television audience of billions.

Shifferle worked on several film productions and helped preen leading Australian drag queen Dolce de Jour, before moving into teaching. In November the university asked him to come up with a new idea for a course and he proposed the drag queen makeup idea. The first course begins in June and is already fully booked.

Shifferle said there had even been inquires from tour operators in Austria and Germany asking about the course, its cost and duration, for visitors who wanted to try and squeeze it in during their trips to Australia.

NEW GUIDE FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH GENDER VARIANCE

Finally, something good has come out of Washington, DC!

The Children's National Medical Center's Outreach Program for Children with Gender-Variant Behaviors and their Families has published a great new booklet, "If You Are Concerned About Your Child's Gender Behaviors: A Guide for Parents."

The booklet provides great advice for parents on supporting and loving their gender-nonconforming children (many of whom grow up to be LGBT adults).

The text of the booklet can be read online on the Outreach Program's website: <http://www.dcchildrens.com/gendervariance> (scroll down to "Parent's Guide")

The actual booklet is nicely laid-out, with illustrations and photos geared to concerned parents of gender-variant children. I recommend ordering hard copies of the booklet (email addresses to order are on the website), especially those of you who work in pediatric or mental health settings where you might come in contact with gender-variant kids and their parents. The guide is also available in Spanish.

Dan Karasic, MD
Associate Clinical Professor
Dept. of Psychiatry, UCSF/SFGH

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MAINE PROFESSOR WRITES BOOK ABOUT SEX CHANGE

Queery.com

WATERVILLE, Maine (AP) _ A Colby College professor who had a sex change last year will have a book she wrote about her experience published this summer. Jennifer Finney Boylan, who is co-chair of Colby's English Department, wrote "She's Not There," which is being published by Doubleday and has a release date of July 27.

The book has been chosen as an alternate selection of the Book of the Month Club, contains an afterword by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Russo, who lives in Maine, and a forward by author Anna Quindlen, also a Pulitzer Prize winner.

When Boylan was James Finney Boylan, he taught creative writing students to believe in their dreams and have the courage to be themselves. Last year Boylan heeded those words and took the drastic step that would change his life forever: He became a woman.

"I feel totally at peace," said Boylan, 44. "I feel like somebody who has gotten out of jail after 40 years for something she didn't do - that I've been pardoned by the governor."

Earlier this week, Boylan appeared on "Oprah," where she told a national TV audience about her life. Boylan married a woman named Grace in 1988 and moved to Maine that year. They have two children, now 7 and 9. Boylan said she and Grace still live together, but as friends, not husband and wife. Her children call her "Maddy" rather than "Daddy."

Boylan teaches American literature, creative writing and fiction writing at Colby, and has written seven novels and a collection of short stories. Colby spokesman Stephen Collins said Boylan is a respected member of the faculty, who is well-liked by students and colleagues. Three years ago, Boylan won the college's Charles Basset Senior Class Award.

"It's the senior class recognizing their favorite professor, and Jenny got it, which is an indication of how she is valued in the classroom," Collins said.

Students said Boylan's sex change has been a source of interest, but not controversy.

Colby senior Hi'ilei Dye, 21, said after Boylan's sex change, she found herself looking at Boylan _ at her build, how she dressed but that curiosity ultimately disappeared, and she rarely thought about it. Dye is taking an advanced fiction workshop with Boylan and previously took screenwriting with her.

Boylan's reputation as an excellent teacher is what people know her best for, Dye said. "She's hysterical and intelligent and critical," Dye said. "She's just so personable. Having her as a teacher in class made my writing so much better because I felt so comfortable with her."

Boylan, who is scheduled to go on a book tour this summer, said people she has talked to have not passed judgment on her. "I've been very moved by the goodness of the people of central Maine and I've seen that the people of Maine are every bit as sophisticated, intelligent and loving as people anywhere else on the planet," she said.

Department of Sex Research

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According to Dr. Anthony Atala of Boston's Children's Hospital, researchers have taken the crucial step of growing penis replacements with live nerve cells. They're still at the "lump of cells" stage — not full tubular wonders — but Atala told the American Urological Association he thinks they'll be at the replacement stage within 10 years. Read the full Reuters story:

<http://www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993672>

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Stephen L. Braveman, M.A., L.M.F.T., D.S.T.
www.bravemantherapy.com

TRANSGENDERED INMATE RECEIVING HORMONE THERAPY

Queery.com

DANBURY, Conn. (AP) _ A transgendered inmate who said federal prison officials were withholding the hormone therapy he needed to transition into a man is receiving his injections, supporters said.

Jesse Carr, 21, whose given name is Jessica, is a college student from Ohio serving a three-month sentence for trespassing. He was one of 84 arrested during a protest at a U.S. Army training school in Fort Benning, GA, last November.

He had been receiving a testosterone injection every two weeks since November. Stopping the treatments abruptly can cause medical problems. The U.S. Bureau of Prisons policy states that inmates undergoing the treatment should be permitted to maintain it.

Carr's supporters said Friday he began receiving the shots, and that prison officials assured him that his treatments would not be interrupted.

TRANSSEXUAL JOINS U.S. SENATOR'S STAFF

Queery.com

ST. PAUL (AP) - Susan Kimberly, former deputy mayor under Norm Coleman and a former City Council president, is joining the U.S. senator's staff as his state legislative director.

Starting Monday, Kimberly will work with Coleman's Washington staff on shaping the senator's legislative agenda from St. Paul. She is leaving her job with the city's Planning and Economic Development Department for the new post.

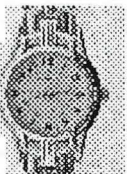
"She will be a part of my team of people 'outside the beltway' who will offer insight and perspective that will be critical to my legislative success in Washington," Coleman said Monday.

Kimberly, 60, served as both deputy mayor and chief of staff while Coleman was mayor. They met as neighbors in the late 1980s. Once a liberal DFLer, Kimberly has shifted more to the right on political issues in recent years. She also is known for another notable change - a highly publicized sex change operation in 1983. Kimberly was born Robert Sylvester and served on the City Council from 1974 to 1978.

Among her other work in the public sector, Kimberly was an assistant to former Mayor George Latimer from 1986 to 1989 and, most recently, was program administrator in the Planning and Economic Development Department, where she worked in such areas as housing, planning and work force and economic development.

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Agency steps in with temporary solution after activists raise concerns about shelters

UNITED WAY OFFERS VOUCHERS FOR TRANS HOMELESS

By Jennifer J. Smith
Southern Voice Article

The United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta announced Wednesday that it will make available hotel and motel vouchers for transgendered people who are homeless and denied a bed at one of the city's several shelters, agency officials said.

The announcement comes on the heels of a 120-page report from Mayor Shirley Franklin's Commission on Homelessness that includes no mention of the transgendered homeless, despite pleas from activists that the 16-member panel address what they say is a growing problem.

In December, Franklin asked United Way to assemble the commission, which includes civic and business leaders, but no homeless service providers. The panel released its report March 26.

Chris Allers, a member of the commission and vice president for United Way of Metro Atlanta, confirmed that the report does not address transgender issues, but said future projects would be "inclusive."

"Within each project recommendation, we'll be looking at criterias, and one of those is inclusivity," Allers said. "We're talking about family shelters, and a 24-hour shelter, and I would expect all of them to be inclusive."

Further details of the vouchers, which will be available through the agency's 211 help line, were not available at press time.

Transgender Activists Applauded The United Way Move.

"This is definitely a start in the right direction," said Monica Helms, executive director of Trans=Action, a transgender advocacy group.

Helms told the commission during a Jan. 28 meeting that local shelters will only accept transgendered people if they dress as their birth sex. A survey of homeless shelters by Southern Voice in early February showed that none of the facilities would accept transgender clients without restrictions.

Also at the hearing, Helms told the commission of the suicide of Alice Johnston, a transgendered person who fatally shot herself on the banks of the Chattahoochee River. In a note written prior to her death, Johnston discussed being denied a place in area homeless shelters.

Helms said during the January hearing that if local shelters accepted transgendered clients, Johnston might not have committed suicide.

On April 16, several area homeless service providers met with transgender activists. Agencies involved included representatives from the Atlanta Union Mission, the city's largest and oldest homeless shelter, Metro Atlanta Task Force for the Homeless, Crossroads Ministries, Southern Poverty Law Center, Samaritan House, Homeward Incorporated and Trinity Community Ministries.

Atlanta Gender Exploration and the United Way also attended. An official from the Franklin administration was scheduled to attend but cancelled due to an illness, a spokesperson said.

Trans=Action proposed a pilot program during the meeting that would allow transgendered women to seek temporary emergency housing in one women's shelter. "It's been successfully done in other cities; there's no reason it can't be done here," Helms said.

Changing admittance policies could take months if it happens at all, according to shelter officials. David Jones, Atlanta Union Mission's public relations director, called the meeting "only a beginning dialogue. Just about everybody [at the meeting] is in agreement that everyone needs shelter," Jones said. "But it's how to meet those needs that's in question."

Vince Smith, chaplain and program director at Atlanta Union Mission, said participants are developing their response to concerns from transgender activists. "What we're working on right now is a multi-pronged strategy to best meet the needs of the transgender community that will address emergency housing as well as the educational component," Smith said.

Anita Beatty, director of Task Force for the homeless — the city's second-largest homeless service provider — met with Trans=Action officials in March. She called the exclusion of transgendered people in local shelters an "urgent" matter.

"I specifically deal with 20 to 30 homeless individuals who fall under the umbrella of the descriptions offered by Trans=Action — transsexual, transgender, etc. — who are left without shelter each night, and we need solutions now," Beatty said.

NTAC URGES ENACTMENT OF CA GENDER IDENTITY PROTECTION

The California Assembly has once again passed a bill to protect the right of its transgendered citizens to employment and housing. As with the previous bill, opponents of the bill have turned up the rhetoric. Meanwhile, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) urges the California Senate to introduce and pass this important legislation.

Introduced by Assemblyman Mark Leno, D-San Francisco, AB 196 would expand the state's Fair Employment and Housing Act to include the transgender community. The bill's definition of "gender" includes "identity, appearance, or behavior, whether or not that identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the victim's sex at birth."

On April 21, the bill passed the California Assembly 42-34 with all Republican members in opposition. The senate has yet to take up the bill, and Governor Gray Davis has not yet given any indication of his position on this year's bill. NTAC endorsed AB 196 when it was introduced to the Assembly.

After the victory, Assemblyman Leno stated, "I cannot imagine anything more fundamental to liberty and freedom than being allowed to peacefully go about one's day, to get up in the morning, get dressed, go to work and come home to one's family without harassment, without discrimination and without intimidation."

"California has long been a leader in LGBT civil rights issues," said Roslyn Manley, long-time California activist and former vice chair of NTAC, "No other single piece of legislation can be so important as the right to career protection and the ability to seek new employment on an equal basis with other applicants."

Prior to debate, Leno reminded his colleagues that the issue was about discrimination, not about morality or the Bible. He noted that the only "holy" tracts referenced in debate should be the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights.

Despite Leno's admonition, Republican legislators who spoke against the measure relied on emotionally charged examples designed to inspire fear.

"You are messing with people's perception of their souls and their afterlife," said Ray Haynes (R-Temecula), bringing the issue of certain religion groups to the fore. "You are telling people who believe in a faith that they cannot exercise that faith without being forced into bankruptcy," Haynes finished. "You are imposing your belief on what you think their faith ought to say."

"If I have a Christian bookstore, how could I possibly follow this law?" asked Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy (R-Monrovia), a perennial critic of transgender rights. "How could I possibly have an employee that's here today in a dress, tomorrow may come in a suit, and then stay in a dress? How can I possibly employ this employee," continued Mountjoy, "and live by my faith?"

"This is a textbook example of using conjecture and adding a "spirituality under attack" reference, in order to incite phobia," fumed NTAC chair, Vanessa Edwards Foster, herself a former San Diego resident.

Continued on Page 19

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HARDBALL INTERVIEW WITH MARK LENO

If you didn't catch the MSNBC "newsprogram" Hardball on April 30th, here is a transcript of the show between Mike Barnicle, Mark Leno and Peter Sprigg. Those of you who didn't see this interview, bear in mind that while the were interviewing Mark Leno, the had video clips of drag queens and a Pride Parade (where - face it - everyone looks a little silly) featuring drag queens and a few transsexuals and crossdressers. This lent to HARDBALL's irreverent view on the reasons why the Leno bill should never pass the California Legislative system.

MIKE BARNICLE, HOST: I'm Mike Barnicle, sitting in for Chris Matthews. Let's play HARDBALL. The California State assembly has passed a bill to provide civil protections for transsexuals, but is cross-dressing a legally protected civil right or another example of political correctness run amok? The HARDBALL debate tonight: should employers and landlords be allowed to turn away transgender people applying for jobs or housing or is this a violation of civil rights?

That's the question facing California. The state assembly recently approved legislation that would provide civil protections for transsexuals and other transgenders applying for jobs or housing.

Advocates of the bill say it's merely an extension of civil rights, but opponents attacked it as a job killer that would drown employers in discrimination suits and drive California businesses out of state.

The measure now awaits approval by the state senate. California assemblyman Mark Leno wrote the bill. And Peter Sprigg is the senior director of culture studies at the Family Research Council.

Representative Leno, you live in a state where there are more than a million people unemployed. A state where there's a \$35 billion budget deficit, cutbacks in education, aid to seniors, aid to the elderly. You represent a city where there's an estimated 15,000 homeless people. Why is this a priority?

STATE REP. MARK LENO (D), CALIFORNIA: Mike, fighting for civil rights is always a priority at every time and every place. This country has a huge half trillion dollar deficit. But we went to war just recently to fight for freedoms and there's no more basic American freedom than to have the right to get up, go to your job, and come home without fear of discrimination, harassment, or intimidation.

And I just want to point out, this is not a job killer. The state of Minnesota has had this on the books for over 10 years. New Mexico just passed it. Rhode island has it on the books. Our coalition partner...

BARNICLE: Mark, Mark.

LENO: One second. Let me finish. Great Britain and Germany provide this protection to all of their citizens throughout their country. So I think these claims are a little hyperbolic.

BARNICLE: But why? Why would I consider - or you would consider it my civil right if I wanted to dress up like Kate Smith or Madonna on a Friday night. Is that a civil right or it just a matter of taste, something I want to do?

LENO: I love your fascination with Kate Smith.

Actually, we're talking about being transgender, which is a medical condition with which one is born. It's medically diagnosed. It is known as gender dysphoria. And these individuals should be protected from discrimination in housing, employment, just like anyone else.

BARNICLE: Peter Sprigg, medical condition, the bill. Just go.

PETER SPRIGG, FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL: Well, it's a condition but it's a psychiatric condition that I think should be treated by psychotherapy, rather than by anti-discrimination laws.

Let's spell out exactly what we're talking about here. This bill would mean that a 6'3", 250-pound man with a 5 o'clock shadow who wears a dress could be hired to teach your child's elementary school class. I mean, I can understand why some people might have a little bit of a problem with that concept.

BARNICLE: Mark.

LENO: Again, please address the fact that this has been on the books in the state of Minnesota for over 10 years and you've heard no abuse of it.

And everyone's fascination with a 6'3" man in a dress, that's not the case. You know, women cross-dress every day of the year. And it's accepted because it's fashionable.

It is understandable that some people are uncomfortable with the fact that some people are transgender. But again, that's not a reason to discriminate. Just as it's not a right to be able to discriminate if you don't want an African American in your place of business or a Jew. We used to not have those protections. Today...

Continued on Page 21

NTAC Urges Enactment...

Continued from Page 18

"All one has to do is change a few words of the statements made by Assemblymen Mountjoy and Haynes, and instantly we are transported back to the 1950s and 1960s," stated Yoseñio V. Lewis, immediate past chair of NTAC. "The same specious arguments were made to deny the constitutional rights of people who look like me," continued Lewis a dark skinned Latino activist who has been a resident of California for 25 years. "The arguments had no substance then; they have no substance now."

NTAC has received no reported incidences of transgendered people bringing frivolous lawsuits against religious organizations in jurisdictions that protect their civil rights.

Gwen Smith, founder of Day of Remembrance said "In spite of clear and acceptable clauses in AB 196 that prevent it from going against anyone's religious freedoms, members of the conservative right still wish to frame this with lurid strawman arguments about drag queen persecuting boy scouts."

NTAC's Manley noted that a similar bill in 2001 died in the Senate while facing business opposition and non-support from the Governor in advance of his election. "The conservative right is mounting a strong and organized opposition to AB 196," she said, "and it is incumbent upon the transgender community and its allies to professionally lobby our Senators."

Democratic lawmakers argued that the bill merely adds gender identity to a law that already outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation, race, religion, creed and other protected classes. People's feelings about their particular religious beliefs should not be allowed as a reason to discriminate against anyone, they said.

Assemblywoman Judy Chu, D-Monterey Park, stated, "In fact, these kinds of things can lead to hate crimes. This bill sends an important message about tolerance."

"In a nation in which church and state are constitutionally separated," said Robyn Walters, a member of the NTAC Board of Directors and practicing Christian, "the narrow fire and brimstone views of certain religious groups have no place in the legislation or the judicial proceedings at any government level."

NTAC calls on the California Senate to introduce and pass a senate version of AB 196. "We urge the California legislature to look beyond emotional rhetoric," added Foster of NTAC, "and rely on fact, not hysteria, when considering this measure."

Founded in 1999, NTAC - the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition - is a §501(c)(4) civil rights organization 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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A TRANSGENDER AGENDA

By Merav Sarig
Haaretz.com

As the representative of the most rejected minority group of all - transgenders - Nora Greenberg is busy lobbying the Israeli Interior Ministry to permit 'sex changes' on identity cards.

Nora Greenberg, a transsexual who underwent a sex-change operation two years ago, stops the car at the hitchhiking stop by the North Tel Aviv train station, to pick up Lior Mencher, the director-general of the Association of Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgendered in Israel (known as the "Agudah"), and Shaul Ganon, the Agudah's coordinator of minority affairs. The group is heading to Jerusalem for a first meeting with Guy Ben-Gal, the new interior minister's deputy in the population registry department.

On the agenda: the problem of Palestinian gays who flee the Palestinian Authority seeking refuge in Israel because their lives are in danger. Seemingly unrelated to transgenders, but Greenberg says the struggle is the same: Transgenders (people whose identity includes a component of the other gender, that is, whose internal gender identity differs from their physiological gender, but who do not want to change their sex).

"Transgenders are people who do not feel good with the gender identity with which they were born. Some undergo a process of transition or change, and then all they want to do is disappear and live their life quietly," Greenberg explains.

Wearing two hats - as representative of transgenders on the Agudah's national board, and as coordinator of the political lobby representing all of the organizations affiliated with her community - she makes sure that the other parties present at the meeting give her at least 15 minutes to speak of the unique problems faced by her own small population. When the other speakers exceed the amount of time allotted to them, at her expense, she lets them know that it is her turn.

Greenberg begins her remarks at the meeting with a complaint that the Interior Ministry is not providing access to information on the number of persons who have had sex-change operations in Israel, thereby making it impossible to assess the scope of the phenomenon. She then moves on to more acute problems.

"The biggest problem of transsexuals [who want to change their gender and to live permanently in the new gender role] in Israel is their personal status," she says. "Most transsexuals who live in the identity of the gender with which they identify do not undergo sex-change operations. About 80 percent of transsexuals from man to woman, and over 95 percent from woman to man, do not undergo sex-change operations. Nevertheless, the Interior Ministry only permits individuals to alter the sex listed on their identity card after presentation of a certificate that confirms that they have had the operation. Fundamental rights of people who have not had the operation are violated day after day, hour after hour. Every time they have to present an official document, their secret is bared."

After she presented the problem, she offered a solution: "In order to change his or her sex on the identity card, a person would have to declare in court that he permanently lives in the identity of his or her preferred gender, associates with this gender identification, and is known in his or her surroundings as such."

The deputy to the interior minister promised that the matter would be looked into, whereupon Greenberg hastened to raise another issue, a derivative of the previous one: recording names on the identity card. The Interior Ministry refuses to change the name of a transsexual who has not undergone an operation, claiming this would constitute deception of the public.

"There are quite a few transsexuals," says Greenberg, "whose requests to have their names changed have been rebuffed by the Interior Ministry. They have asked us to help in this matter, and after recurrent requests, we managed to help them. But what happens to those that do not ask?"

The minister's aide agreed that the regulations should indeed be updated, shook hands and ended the meeting. Greenberg was satisfied: "First of all, this person did his homework. He quickly grasped what I was saying, and I saw that he had real intentions to help."

Transgenders As 'Whores'

Ever since changing her sex three years ago, at age 50 - at which time she was married, the parent of two children, and employed at a good job at a large high-tech firm - Greenberg has waged a public political struggle for the transgender rights in Israel. Knowing that there was no other way - "It's either live under awful repression or fight against it" she says - she began her struggle at home, within the gay-lesbian community. She was appointed to the Agudah's national board as a representative of transgenders, and began efforts to have them recognized as an inseparable part of the community.

The connection was far from obvious. "Transgenders are the exceptions to the exceptions," says Mencher. "Gays and lesbians thought of them

as whores, and felt threatened by them, so they made things hard for Nora, and were suspicious of her motives: Who is this strange bird? But since Nora is such a nudnik, for good or for bad, she succeeded in educating the community and linking the gay-lesbian struggle to the transgender struggle.

"Through her extreme obstinacy, taking pains at every opportunity to say the full name of the Agudah, she made it so that when the word 'community' is said, the intention is to transgenders as well, and anyone who says otherwise is being political incorrect. Now, if anyone dares to say only 'the Agudah of Gays and Lesbians,' Nora's face will immediately appear in his mind's eye, adding the words 'Bisexuals and Transgenders.' But no one would dare to give an interview now without saying the full name of the association, and we even have an inside joke, and when anyone forgets to say it, heaven forbid, people quip: 'We are reporting you to Nora.'"

"The upheaval that Nora generated within the community is related to changes in the discourse," adds Ganon. "She arranged an open academic event about gender identity, in which transgenders first got up on stage and spoke about their lives in a dignified manner. Therein is the revolution: The discourse about transgenders was transformed from focusing on whores, poor wretches and drag queens to talking about people who belong to the population."

Michal Eden, a member of the Tel Aviv city council, says that Greenberg, "has raised the transsexual agenda not only within the community, but also within professional and political forums, such as the Knesset."

Along with dealing with domestic problems, Greenberg has found the time to help with individual problems and the political troubles of the entire transgender community. Her phone line is open 24 hours a day. She aims to offer responses to personal problems; meets with parents of young transgenders; and, along with Dr. Ilana Berger, a social worker who specializes in sexuality and gender identity, and Alon Shafir, a therapist, facilitates support groups for transgenders. Greenberg also belongs to numerous transgender and transsexual organizations around the world, and publishes articles in various transgender forums on the Internet. She is currently setting up a local Website that provides information on transsexuality, gender theories and transgender culture. What's more, and this is an important part of her activity, she has attracted media exposure, and lectures to a variety of population groups - schoolchildren, hospital staffs and lawyers - in an effort to alter attitudes and approaches to the issue.

One lecture she will not soon forget took place last October, in front of a group with which she is especially angry - psychiatrists. She stood alone on the stage as dozens of people in the hall waited for her to speak. "They expected it would be an ordinary encounter with a transsexual: She would stand on the stage and speak about herself, and they would put her under a microscope and scrutinize her like some object," she recalls. Instead, they got an opinionated, educated woman without any feelings of guilt or inferiority, who is not ashamed to say what she thinks about their profession. "You have caused us a great deal of suffering and damage," she hurled at her listeners.

"Most psychologists and psychiatrists are completely ignorant about transsexuality," she said, explaining the source of her anger. "The average psychologist receives no training on the subject. Psychiatry is generally unaware of the cultural and social forces acting on transsexuality, but this doesn't stop it from considering itself a field of knowledge that has an elevated status, bearing an eternal and everlasting truth. Its conversion of transsexuality into a psychiatric-medical problem is one means society uses to protect conservative gender molds, and the psychiatric establishment is the phalanx of this social supervision - which is directed against people like me, even though I personally have never been in therapy and never seen a psychiatrist. But I am the exception."

Continued on Page 23

Gender/Sexuality/Sexual Pleasure Counseling



Clinical Sexologist
Mia K. Nakamura
Ph.D.(c), MPH, MA, ACS

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(415) 609-2661
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www.lovefrommia.com

BARNICLE: Come on, Mark, please, don't you think, to put it in marketing terms, you're demeaning the brand by confusing anti-Semitism, gay bashing with someone who wants to dress up like, let's forget Kate Smith.

LENO: I speak to you today as a Jew and a former rabbinical student. There's nothing that is inaccurate in that analogy.

BARNICLE: All right. What about me? I own a company. I employ 15 people. It's a sporting goods company. I indicated to a lot of Little League Babe Ruth teams, I don't want someone who's, I don't care, 6'3", 5'10" with lipstick on working for me.

And yet, you can sue me if I turn you down for the job?

LENO: It's likely that if you're so antagonistic, that person doesn't want to work for you. But if you also said you didn't want an African American in there because you just - let me finish.

BARNICLE: You're confusing the issue now.

LENO: No, I'm not. You're born African American. You're born transgender. There's no difference here. No difference whatsoever. And that's what you refuse to accept.

You want to just dream up this person who wants to cause you as an employer problems by dressing one day as a man and dressing the next as a woman. That's not the situation.

SPRIGG: Mike, you're not born transgender. You're born either male or female. And in our culture, there are ways that males and females present themselves.

You know, this bill really confuses the meaning of the whole concept of rights and it confuses the meaning of the word discriminate.

First of all, these are not rights that are just abstract, like, that don't infringe on other people's rights. The right of employers is at stake here. And it ought to be a strong presumption that employers know best what qualifications are relevant to a particular job position.

LENO: Mike, those are the same arguments that were used when the Civil Rights Bill was passed in 1964 and when we passed the Fair Employment and Housing Act here in California. People didn't want to be told that they had to let people of different races in as employees or different religions.

SPRIGG: Right, but let me finish that thought. There should be a strong presumption in favor of employers' rights and the only exception is when there is a form of discrimination.

Now let's make it clear. All employers discriminate. The only way you could have non-discriminatory employment practices is to have every job selected by lottery. All employers discriminate.

LENO: No, in fact we protect those from discrimination in employment.

We do already.

SPRIGG: The only forms of discrimination which are so egregious that the government would step in and overrule the normal rights of employers are those which, there's first of all, a strong social consensus in our country that that's, that discrimination is wrong.

And normally that applies to characteristics that are inborn, involuntary, immutable, innocuous, and in the Constitution. All of those apply to race. None of those apply to cross-dressing or self-mutilating sex change surgery.

LENO: Yes, they do. You are born transgender. It is a medically diagnosed condition and you just won't admit that fact.

BARNICLE: Mark, Mark.

SPRIGG: I won't.

BARNICLE: Why do I get impression that when an objection is raised to this rather peripheral piece of legislation that you've sponsored, and off of your own words here this evening, you're either anti-Semitic, you're anti-civil rights.

LENO: I'm just using the analogy.

BARNICLE: The inference that at least I could not help but drawing from your defense of the bill is that if you oppose it, you're anti-Semitic, you're anti-black, or you're anti-gay. I mean, when you're talking, basically, aren't we - clear this up for me. You used, you know...

LENO: I would be happy to.

BARNICLE: You're born black you said. But isn't behavior different from pigmentation?

LENO: You again refuse to recognize. This is not such a radical idea that the nations of European countries.

BARNICLE: I don't live in Europe.

LENO: Let me finish. Let me finish. These are Democratic societies which provide rights for all of their citizens. The United States is behind the ball here. We need to catch up to the nations that we partner with, to fight for democracy in other parts of the world.

BARNICLE: All right. Mark, do you mean to tell me that unless we enact legislation like this on a nationwide basis, that we're less civilized than Denmark?

LENO: We are less civilized than Great Britain, we're less civilized than Germany, we're less civilized than many of these western industrial societies. We are behind the ball here. Yes.

SPRIGG: Mike, you hit the nail on the head when you talked about behavior, this being about behavior. This really is a bill about how a person voluntarily presents his or her appearance.

And ironically, the bill itself recognizes that appearance matters for job qualifications, because it says it allows employers to set standards for dress and grooming.

If they are allowed to set standards on that basis, in order to avoid of-fending co-workers or to make a good impression on clients and so forth, then I don't see what's so wrong about setting standards for gender appropriate dress and grooming, as well.

LENO: Mike, that would be like saying, we will have a dress code that allows individuals to conform to a particular uniform or style of dress because it's a sporting goods store. Or maybe it's a legal office. But we don't want certain kinds of people to be working for us. And our laws protect others.

For example, a woman can presently be fired from her job, denied a promotion because she is not, quote, "feminine enough." My bill changes that.

BARNICLE: Mark, Mark...

LENO: My bill changes that. It's not her behavior. But it's who she is as a human being. She should not be discriminated against.

BARNICLE: Mark, I read, you know, several news stories about the bill that you proposed that's been passed in the assembly. And you point out, I think it was seven out of 10 transgender people, you claim, are unemployed.

LENO: The Human Rights Commission and the county of San Francisco did a study of the nearly 15,000 transgender people in San Francisco.

BARNICLE: OK.

LENO: And found that about 70 percent of them were unemployed. Their conclusion...

BARNICLE: How do they know?

LENO: Their conclusion...

BARNICLE: Mark, Mark. Wait.

LENO: Was that there's serious discrimination against transgender people.

BARNICLE: OK. We're not going to quibble on that point, Mark. But let me ask you.

LENO: What's your point, sir?

BARNICLE: Seventy - My point is, Mark, how do we tell of the seven out of 10, the seven who are unemployed, are they unemployed because they're dressed up like Lash Larue or because they're incompetent?

LENO: I'll tell you. Because I've got experience in this and you have not. I have talked with hundreds of these.

BARNICLE: Incompetence? I'm an expert on incompetence.

LENO: I wouldn't argue there. I have talked with most of these individuals who have been surveyed by the Human Rights Commission, and I know individuals quite well who, before they made their transition, were heads of company, CEO's, traveled the world in private jets, accomplished individuals who once they transitioned couldn't get a job doing anything.

And it's clear that it's because of discrimination and it's proper that the state provide a protection for these individuals.

No one is out to cause you or your sports shop problems because they just want to be anti-social. This is a real problem in society. And as I said, that's why many countries protect their citizens. It's about time we do, too.

BARNICLE: Quick...

SPRIGG: This has the potential to be a real problem in the workplace, too. I mean, there's a lot of women who would not take kindly to having a biological male sharing a ladies' room with them. And a lot of employers who don't want to have to set up a separate restroom for transgender people or to pay a \$150,000 fine because they don't like it.

LENO: Our bill doesn't have any mandate of any sorts in that area.

BARNICLE: OK. Got to go. Mark Leno, thanks very much.

LENO: My pleasure. Thanks for the interview.

BARNICLE: Thanks very much.

Remember Gwen Araujo!



PLEASE HELP SYLVIA!

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

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PlanetOut Open Letter Trans Community Needs Respect

MUST WE DIE TO GET NOTICED?

by Krls E.



Why does it take death or public humiliation to gain respect or notice for the transgender community?

As much as I know that giving Gwen Araujo the 2002 PlanetOut Person of the Year Award was meant to be a compliment, I find it sad that a transgender had to die in order to get noticed. This is completely par for the course as to how transgenders are still viewed within gay, lesbian and straight society.

I actually teared up today when I read the results of the PlanetOut poll on Jay Leno's joke about a transgender winning an award. Leno's comment was in bad taste — and it is also in bad taste that a very large percentage of the gay and lesbian community do not see a problem with such remarks. Had the joke been aimed in any way toward a gay man or lesbian woman, the entire community would be up in arms, completely disgusted at any defamation of a member of the gay and lesbian community.

I do not tell the majority of my friends that I am a male-to-female transsexual because I have experienced complete disrespect in the past — from members of the gay and lesbian community, as well as from straight people. I am lucky enough to pass without question as a woman. I am part of the lesbian community in progressive Los Angeles, and choose only to share my past with intimate partners. I choose to be treated as a person, not judged or demoralized as a subhuman.

After everything I have had to go through as a transgender (which I would never wish upon anyone), I have chosen to hide in the closet about being a transgender to receive the respect I know I deserve - yet I am an out and proud lesbian. As far as the LGBT community has progressed over the years, we have a long way to go on tolerance and support within our community.

Will we ever see a day when transgendered people are not the butt of a joke or given respect only after being brutally murdered?

**Sadly,
Kris**

Thursday, June 5th 6:30 to 8:30PM

**CUAV BENEFIT HONORING
SYLVIA GUERRERO AND GLORIA ALLRED**

**THE JUSTICE FILES,
CUAV's 2003 ANNUAL EVENT**

Honorary Co-chairs Jewelle Gomez and Mark Leno, and Community United Against Violence (CUAV), the oldest LGBTQQ anti-violence organization in the nation, are proud to honor Sylvia Guerrero, Gwen Araujo's mother, and Gloria Allred on Thursday, June 5th, at The Blue Room Gallery in San Francisco from 6:30 to 8:30PM with an awards reception, music, food, drink, and silent auction. Entertainment will be provided by The Dixieland Dykes.

Tickets: \$75 per person and sponsorships are available at the \$250 to \$10,000 levels. All proceeds will aid CUAV in its vital efforts to end violence against and within our diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning communities.

To purchase tickets, email [REDACTED]@hotmail.com or call 415.395.9543.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird:

[REDACTED]@141.com

The Unseen Public

Essentially, Greenberg could have continued living her life quietly, in the anonymity that characterized her prior to the sex change. At work, they accepted the change she underwent "in the most beautiful way you could ever expect," her former wife held her hand during the operation, and her children, who still call her "Father," accepted her exactly as she had hoped. She claims she does not suffer from gender identity-related discrimination of any sort, and is not herself in need of any of the struggles she is waging. In that respect, her life is a success story.

"But there is a fire burning inside of me," she says. "Although it is terribly frustrating to do what I do - at times it is truly a Sisyphean labor - it is important for me to do it, because I view my work as part of the struggle for human rights."

"No matter how you look at it, the transgender issue is political. Transgenders are one of the most repressed publics of all, and once this fact is accepted, the decision to take action is a personal one, although I consider it unavoidable. Especially if you have the tools. Regretfully, many transgenders still live in situations that do not permit them to take action and alter the state of affairs. This is part of the repression with which they live, and not only because many of them are living in the closet.

"One of the foul evils from which transgenders suffer is their lack of visibility," she says. "You don't see transgenders. It is therefore difficult to counter all sorts of stereotypes and prejudices, which in turn permits the medical community to control us. This way, they can claim that transsexuality is a matter for the doctors, even if they don't understand a thing about it. That's why I say that it is the obligation of every transgender, not only those who are university graduates, to try to influence things."

Ten years behind the U.S. and Europe, and about 20 years after the gay-lesbian revolution in Israel, the transgender revolution has broken out here, as well.

"It's hard to speak of a revolution; it's still marginal," says Greenberg. "The term transgender was coined in the 1980s, and picked up momentum in the '90s in the wake of radical shifts in Western culture, such as the sexual revolution and changes in the employment structure; all of that arrived here later. Israel is a unique country because of its unique social structure, so I can say that there is an awakening and even a certain responsiveness to the transgender culture. But it still isn't at a satisfactory level."

Greenberg confesses that leading the transgender community in Israel is pretty frustrating, especially due to the "great difficulty of drawing in this public behind you": "Their [personal] distress is so great that it is hard for it to be transformed into a communal, public power. Transgenders experience a lot of loneliness, and the community is supposed to provide a response to these things, but I see it being built differently, with a more political, more cultural aspect. I'm not good at arranging parties."

Pretext For Dismissal

As part of her public activities, Greenberg is leading several large-scale public struggles. One is against discrimination based on gender identity.

"Employers may not discriminate against a person for sexual reasons," explains Greenberg, "but they can refuse to give a job to a person who has changed his or her sex, or a person who announces a sex change or seems too feminine, and we've already had such a case: a transsexual - from man to woman - who completed her high-school matriculation exams and with her parents' support began hormonal treatment. She applied for a job at a fast-food chain. After passing the tests and filling out the relevant forms, they set a date for beginning work. Three days before she was supposed to begin work, the shift manager discovered that she was in the process of changing her sex, and that same day informed her that there was no need for her to show up for work."

The community is weighing the most appropriate solution to the issue. On the face of it, the best path is through effecting changes in legislation, although it is not certain lawmakers will be willing to extend the law to include them. Appealing to the judicial branch is another option, on the assumption that if such cases reached the courts, judges would broaden the interpretation of the prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation to include gender identity as well.

"The problem is that in a trial, it is very hard to prove discrimination on the basis of gender identity," says Greenberg.

Another subject important to her is health: "Transgenders have health problems that are unique to them," she explains. "On the one hand, transgenderism is considered an emotional disturbance, a disease; on the other hand, its treatment is not part of the health basket. A person who wants to receive hormones can only get them with the authorization of a psychologist or a psychiatrist, who doesn't always understand the need for it. So a lot of transsexuals take hormones without prescriptions or medical supervision, which can negatively affect their health and in the end, costs the state much more. There is need for supervision of treatment, and not on the person's decision to take the hormones."

Greenberg is convinced that the state must share in paying for the cosmetic treatments that transsexuals undergo. "It isn't a luxury," she insists. "It's part of an individual's emotional needs, a means of survival. When a transgender does an operation for flattening the chest (in the sex-change process from woman to man), he isn't doing it for aesthetic reasons. It's an existential need, not a question of health."

Why did it have to take so many years for a Nora Greenberg to show up? "Because Nora Greenberg is filled with fears, through and through, from a very young age," she says of herself. "When I was growing up in the 1950s, transsexuality was a very frightening and much disdained issue that was out of bounds for legitimate society, and this lack of legitimacy was constantly broadcast to me between the lines. People ask why transsexual girls end up as prostitutes. It's because of this exact reason. It's the only area left to them. So shaking off this way of thinking is extremely difficult. But in the end, my agony was so great, I couldn't help but do something about it."

Asked how long will it take until many more transsexuals will be willing to be exposed, she answers: "It's hard to say, because this community is so firmly in the closet. The threat to society of non-normative gender identity is much greater than the threat of non-normative sexuality, and people are simply unable to cope with society's reactions to this threat."

National Gay And Lesbian Task Force Media Release More Than One Third of Gay College Students Experienced Harassment in Past Year

HALF CONCEAL SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO AVOID INTIMIDATION, 43% CALL THEIR CAMPUS HOMOPHOBIC

May 6, 2003, New York, NY - With students and professors finishing up final exams and incoming college freshman finalizing their college plans, today the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) Policy Institute released the largest-ever study of the climate on U.S. college campuses toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) students, faculty and staff.

"Campus Climate for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender People: A National Perspective," authored by Dr. Susan R. Rankin, found that more than one in three GLBT undergraduate students have experienced anti-gay harassment within the past year. Almost 1700 students, faculty, administrators and staff in 14 colleges and universities throughout the country were surveyed for the report.

"It is extremely alarming that, in 2003, people on college campuses continue to experience anti-GLBT harassment," said National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Executive Director Lorri L. Jean. "Higher learning institutions should be at the forefront of educating people about the damage of homophobic and transphobic acts.

Because most of the fourteen universities surveyed provide visible support through pro-GLBT policies and resources, we can only imagine the extent of homophobia on college campuses across the country."

"Campus Climate" reveals that almost a fifth of respondents had feared for their physical safety in the last year because of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and 43 percent considered the climate of their campus to be homophobic.

Continued on Page 24

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.

Continued from Page 23

Other findings include:

- 41 percent of the respondents stated that their college/university was not addressing issues related to sexual orientation or gender identity;
- 51 percent of the respondents concealed their sexual orientation or gender identity to avoid intimidation; and,
- 71 percent felt that transgender people were likely to suffer harassment,
- and 61 percent felt that gay men and lesbians were likely to be harassed.

"While there have been significant improvements over the past decade, clearly harassment and bias are still major concerns for GLBT students, faculty and staff," said Dr. Sean Cahill, NGLTF Policy Institute Director. "Almost all of the universities that agreed to participate in the survey have sexual orientation nondiscrimination policies and/or GLBT campus centers. However, most of the United States' more than 5,500 colleges and universities don't have such policies or programs in effect."

While most universities and colleges publicly commit to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment, their actions and policies often do not support these goals. In March 2003, Virginia Tech's governing board voted to eliminate its affirmative action policy and to remove sexual orientation from its nondiscrimination policy. When Virginia Tech students and staff protested, the university reinstated both policies.

An April 24, 2003 story in the California "San Diego Union-Tribune"

reported that frustrated by a resurgence of racially and sexually motivated incidents, dozens of University of San Diego students and faculty walked out of classes and urged the administration to address anti-gay, racist and anti-Semitic sentiments on campus. Recent incidents cited by the paper included anti-gay graffiti scratched on a student's apartment door. The University of Southern California's Pridefest has been marred by anti-gay vandalism in recent years. And activists at universities across the country complain that signs for GLBT student activities are regularly ripped down and covered with anti-GLBT graffiti.

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

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

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"Many GLBT campus members find that they must hide significant parts of their identity, thereby isolating themselves socially or emotionally," said Dr. Susan R. Rankin, "Campus Climate" author and lead researcher. "Those who do not hide their sexual orientation or gender identity have a range of experiences including discrimination, verbal or physical harassment, and subtle or outright silencing. While higher education provides a variety of opportunities for students and others, these are greatly limited for those who fear for their safety, feel they must censor themselves, or are denied opportunities because of their sexual orientation or gender identity," said Rankin, a Senior Diversity Planning Analyst at the Pennsylvania State University. "We hope this report will assist educators, activists, student leaders and elected officials in making universities safer and more accepting of GLBT people."

"Campus Climate" makes policy recommendations to universities and colleges that are seeking to create a truly inclusive environment that supports and values all, including:

- Extending employee spousal benefits to domestic partners;
- Including sexual orientation and gender identity or expression in the institution's nondiscrimination clause;
- Integrating GLBT concerns into university documents/publications;
- Providing a clear, safe, visible means of reporting acts of intolerance and responding expeditiously to such acts; and,
- Including sexual orientation and gender identity issues in orientation programs and employee trainings.

The "Campus Climate Assessment Survey," which serves as the basis for this report, was a collaborative project involving NGLTF, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, and the National Consortium of Directors of LGBT Resources in Higher Education.

IMPORTANT WEBSITE UPDATE!

If you want an ID/Password to access the new **Member's area** on the TGSF website, send an email request to Susan Laird: [redacted]@141.com

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.

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