The Channel
TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)
July 1999
Volume 18, Issue 7

Leather & Lace!

TGSF's May Social featured a Leather and Lace competition.

Story on Page 11.

The Channel

TGSF, Inc., a 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 1999 - 2000 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Leslie Bailey
Vice President ..... Lulu Blau
Secretary ..... Roxanne
Treasurer ..... Janis Ryan
Education ..... Nancy Cupps / Tianna Marie
Outreach ..... Theresa Sparks / Telzey Adams
Social ..... Nicole and Debbie Cook

Membership Report

As of June 30, 1999

Fiscal Year		Number	% of 1998
1998-1999	Total members	288	100.00
1999-2000	Renewals	138	47.92
1999-2000	New members	13	4.51
1999-2000	Non-renewing	150	52.08
1999-2000	Total members	151	52.43

TGSF is a 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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Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz
Advertising ..... Janis Ryan
Contributing Photographers This Issue ..... Telzey Adams

Ad Rates

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

Personal ads from TGSF members: $10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

From The Editor...

On The Road Again

Well we made it; left SF early on Wednesday, June 2 - although it took forever for us to get out of California (top speed limit for towed trailers: 55mph), what with adjusting the tarps a couple of times and one amusing incident on I-5 - we had just made a pit-stop, gotten something to drink, tightened the ropes a bit more, cranked up a tape on the stereo and were toodling along nicely when all of a sudden the engine conked out. We were already concerned about the truck's capacity to tow the extremely heavy load we had packed (almost burned out the clutch on the hills of SF), so when we were forced to the side of the highway in the middle of nowhere all sorts of terrors formulated in our minds. Micheal immediately popped the hood and began poking around (as the expert mechanic he is) when all of a sudden some lightbulb went on in his head and he called to me, "what does the trip odometer read?" I replied with a figure around 300 miles and with that he closed the hood, wiped his hands and said, "I know what the problem is." "Serious?" I queried. "We're out of gas," came the answer.

Seems he neglected to tell me that the fuel gauge was broken (perpetually fixed at 3/4's full) and that he refills the tank based on the miles traveled since the last fillup. With all that was on our minds he'd forgotten to check the odometer at that last stop, so in penance he started walking down the interstate and I settled in with my novel when a passing trucker with a cellphone let him call 911 and the CHP dispatched a towtruck for us. One hour later, $65 for the service call, $10 for five gallons of fuel and a $5 tip, we were headed for the first gas station we could find - talk about the price of gasoline! Sheesh! Needless to say, I haven't been letting him off the hook on that one!

But we got a giggle out of it and made it as far as Kingman, AZ (thirteen hours after we left SF) before we decided enough was enough and crashed for the night. The next morning we resumed our eastward journey and drove straight through all the way to Oklahoma City (once out of CA, the speed limits went up to 70mph, towed trailers notwithstanding), covering all of Arizona, New Mexico and the Texas panhandle, arriving in OKC around 2:30am (local) on that following Friday. Needless to say, we were exhausted but joyous at arriving safely and in record time.

First Impressions

So I've been here about two weeks now. My first impressions of Oklahoma City? Pink Cadillacs on historic Route 66 (passin' through about a mile from our house), strip mall mania, cowboy hats, way too much religious programming on cable, pawn shops on every corner, pickup trucks rule (gun racks and hound dogs optional), fireworks stands, and there are no friggin' sidewalks anywhere! I have to drive wherever I want to go (even if it's just a few blocks away). Pedestrian traffic is an oddity and is cause for overt stares from passersby. Public transportation? Hah! The locals speak with real pride in their voices that their buses run "every hour on the hour." (*groan*) Having grown accustomed to hoofin' it around SF via MUNI and my own two feet, it is noticeably depressing. You people out there have no idea how good you have it. The roads themselves here leave much to be desired, and a lot

Continued on Page 3

WWW.TGSF.ORG
New Site! Get Online!

June 1999

President's Message

by Leslie Bailey

Several years ago I was back in Manhattan for a few days visiting a friend and walking all over the lower half of the island. Saturday night we happened by Stonewall which is where the LGBT movement really came out of the closet and I remember thinking that it looked like a quiet, fun and very "normal" looking place. There was nothing to draw undo attention to itself. The significance of course is that just thirty years ago this month the police once again raided the place and the patrons decided that enough was enough and fought back.

This month Pride celebrations will take place all across the country and many people will march to affirm their commitment to be themselves. Actually I think it is better to say that they will affirm that they do not have any real viable alternative other than to be themselves and that they are happy to be what God and life have created in them. Also many people (in S.F. it is estimated between 300,000 and 500,000) will line the streets to watch and affirm their support for human rights for all people and to shout their friendship and support for the LGBT community.

To be sure some will stand back and disapprove and some will read their Monday newspaper and muse about what the hell is going on. Some will want to blame the Y2K problem on us or ponder what form God's judgment will take (as if they are closely connected).

Then I will think of the good people at the PFLAG meetings that I have been privileged to attend and our talented friends in the gay and lesbian communities and I will smile. I will think of all the interested and supportive people in the community at large and the participants at many of our outreach presentations and I will smile. We are making inroads. I will think of my neighbors who converse with Leslie as well as Steve. I will think of Dick Giles who successfully taught her final year as Diane. Mostly I will think of all of you and the huge role that you have played in the emergence of a confident Leslie.

By the time that you read this we will have already marched in the parade. Let me thank now all those who participate and all those who will have worked hard to make it happen.

I'm glad that this event is called a "Pride Celebration" and not just an LGBT parade.

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!

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From The Editor...

Continued from Page 2

of the freeway interchanges seem to have been designed by pretzel logic with a mobius strip thrown in for good measure.

But we only pay $425 for our 2-bedroom house (our yards are huge! I actually got out and mowed the lawn the other day - first time I've done that in over twenty years!), unleaded gas is only 93¢ a gallon and I can buy my favorite vice for 75% less than it cost me out there. And the best part of it all is that I get to curl up next to my baby every night and my heart sighs with contentment, knowing that everything's going to be alright.

Still looking for meaningful work. Yes I've done all my shopping at Wal-Mart. Found a very good nail salon and a decent little independent lingerie boutique. The weather here is marvelous - hot, sunny and muggy one day, dramatic dark gushing thunderstorms and lightning the next. Even when it rains (at least this time of year) it's still 78° and the wind is warm. Compared to SF, with its biting cold wind off the bay, I find it infinitely more endurable.

TG Life In The Mid-West

More first impressions: the TG community here is much smaller of course, loosely organized around a group called C.O.T.A. (Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance), and a monthly newsletter called *The Southern Belle*. COTA is comprised of three S.I.G.s (Sister Interest Groups), each with a particular focus - *Sigma Beta*, a support group primarily for hetero crossdressers, their partners and families; *Sooner Diversity*, an open support group for all TG persons, orientation and gender, and is also a Renaissance affiliate; and finally *OK New Men & Women*, a support group focusing on the needs of M2F and F2M transsexuals, and is an AEGIS affiliate. I intend to sign up and dive in, see what assistance I may provide and generally make myself useful if not supportive.

The surprisingly thriving GLBT community here is gearing up for their pride celebration. Tulsa upstate is having their first one ever, which might be interesting to attend - a little in-your-face activism would be invigorating if not downright necessary as the conservatives up that way intend to counter-demonstrate. Rep. Barney Frank hisself is one of the headliners in Tulsa, and I'm tempted to go just to get in HIS face!

There's a small area of OKC that acts much like SF's Castro district and all the flags are flying this week, large and proud. Warms the cockles of my little heart. Micheal and I will be marching in the parade, not with the TG group however, but with PEP-OK (People Exchanging Power Oklahoma) as our mutual interests lay more with the leather crowd. I find it reassuring that there is a sizable number of interesting and friendly perverts here and Micheal and I are fitting in quite nicely <insert very evil grin here>. I'm probably the only TS (that I'm aware of at this early stage) who's a member of PEP-OK, so I'm also going to carry a sign that states "Transgendered And Loving It!" (gee I wonder where that came from?). While ya'll are traipsing down Market Street in the biggest bestest pride celebration in the whole country, I'll be doing my small part in this sleepy little burg.

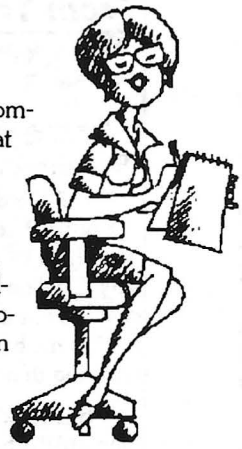
I miss my friends. I miss the beach. I miss the fascinating architecture. I miss MUNI. I'll miss the Folsom and Castro Street Fairs...*sigh* Further adventures of my Green Acres saga ("goodbye city life!") will be continued in the August issue.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

June 1999

ExCom Meeting Minutes



The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Sebastopol on June 6, 1999, at 3:00 p.m. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Camino, Treasurer Ryan, Outreach Co-Chair Adams, Social Co-Chairs Cook and Cook. Also present were guests Deborah, Susan, and Rachael. Not attending because of illness was Outreach Co-Chair Sparks. Education Co-Chair Cupps was returning from a Conference in Cleveland and Education Co-Chair Marie was attending to personal business. The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m.

Communications and Announcements: President Bailey announced that the Aids Walk is Sunday, July 18, 1999 and asked who would be in charge of it for the organization. Janis reported that the Esprit Conference in Port Angeles, Wash. was very good and that she attended with Karen Andrews. Leslie mentioned that KQED Pledge night for TGSF was set for June 20, the Closet Ball is June 12 and that the date for Cotillion 2000 is now January 29. Because of remodel work at the Design Center, the date was moved back from February 5, 2000. It was also noted that "past due dues renewal notices" were sent by mistake to all TGSF members and that it has generated a lot of mail of concern.

Old Business: Janis asked about a bill still outstanding from the Cotillion. The books need to be closed. Leslie will look into the matter.

Minutes: With no corrections from the ExCom, Debbie moved for May's Minutes to be approved, Lulu seconded the motion and they were unanimously approved

President: Noting that what was to be reported was all work of the Vice President, Leslie gave over the President's report time to Vice President Blau.

Vice President: Lulu is trying to hold a Cotillion meeting in June but it is a busy month with the Pride Parade and Big Shew included. The first rehearsal for the Big Shew was held Saturday. The next rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, June 16. Nicole asked what is needed to plan the Big Shew and what goes on at the rehearsal. Lulu stated the Big Shew is arranged into a show with a theme and "flow" and that all participants and acts must work with a show performance in mind besides individual acts. They will perform as a group also. Janis asked about fees charged by Kimo's for the Big Shew. Debbie said there is a bar guarantee and no room fee. Janis asked about other costs. Leslie said there are some minor reimbursements for decorations, equipment rental and sound person: P. Kelley. Janis asked if Big Shew costs could be invoiced. Lulu said the show is usually on cash paid basis, once the show is over. Janis said these things should usually be done on an account basis. Telzey mentioned that the Big Shew should be advertised soon in local gender and lifestyle magazines. Leslie completed and Lulu issued the press release for the Big Shew to the ExCom. Lulu said there is also a rehearsal June 19, at 2:00 p.m. Lulu mentioned there has been less time to advertise and plan the show because of its closeness to the Pride Parade. Deborah asked about a raffle at the Big Shew, mentioned in the ExCom Manual. Lulu said that is the responsibility of the Social Chair or Co-Chairs as is the whole show. However, Lulu is producer because of her expertise from doing show many times before.

Lulu mentioned there is a parade meeting next Saturday at 2:00 p.m. A rough float design now exists and a title: The New TG Face." The theme will be makeup oriented. Leslie said she needs $100.00 for a rental of a float assembly place. Lulu mentioned that candy had been given out at past parades. This year it will be makeup samples and she is asking for donations of more. Lulu said she needs about twelve volunteers as monitors – a requirement of parade participants. Leslie asked about signs and the banner. Nicole said she is revising them.

Secretary: Secretary Camino mentioned that there were items requested to be new business by Janis, Roxanne, Nicole and Debbie, the major items being the newsletter, the move of the Editor and need for contingent plans. Leslie made the issue of the newsletter an action item that should be discussed at this time in the ExCom meeting and the discussion was brought up. In regards to the newsletter mailing – pick-up, folding, stamping, labels, Debbie offered to handle this process. Leslie said for Debbie to go ahead but she will trade off with her and also look for other volunteers. In regards to newsletter processing, the ExCom reviewed the current status of processing. Deborah said that Ayme needs to have material sent to her, electronically or by any means to meet deadline. Ayme will post and assemble newsletter and send it to the publisher at the usual time. Janis said she will work with Ayme on the advertising accounts and that she will also have help with this. Leslie wants to see the trend of newsletter output, content and income to continue. Because of limitations on the Secretary due to workload and the need for a contingency editor, it was agreed that an Associate Editor is needed to handle loose ends and local issues or problems, which may develop. Leslie said she would think of and look for persons that could be an Associate Editor.

In returning to the Secretary's report, Roxanne mentioned she had participated in an outreach activity with Sandra, at the College of Notre Dame. Roxanne mentioned the numerous difficulties she is having with the tgforum E-Mail and cannot use it for posting minutes. She had contacted the administrators of tgforum for help. Janis will try to help with the situation.

Treasurer: Treasurer Ryan has posted the current figures. As of the May 27 Social Meeting, there were 151 current members. 150 members from the previous year had not yet renewed, and there was one new member. Janis has signed the organization up for on-line banking. Janis also mentioned that committees such as education and outreach are breaking even on expenses. Janis is also developing a policy on memberships with returned checks.

Education: In the absence of the Education Co-Chairs, there was no report. The Education Seminar was not scheduled because of difficulties Tianna was having getting possible speakers or participants to return her phone calls and not by lack of effort by the Education Co-Chairs.

Outreach: Outreach Co Chair Adams noted that Sandra had sent in honorarium and a final list of outreach sessions done under tenure. Telzey asked about food at the Pride Parade for group participants. Is it provided and by who? Leslie said the parades in the past had food but not the last year. Telzey said she would bring some food for the TGSF volunteers. Telzey knows of three people who will take pictures at the parade and that digital photos will go to Ayme. Telzey would like more volunteers for the TGSF booth and is looking for a booth banner. Telzey mentioned that Theresa is redoing all the TGSF outreach brochures. The KQED Pledge Night for TGSF participation is Sunday, June 20, 1999. The full Pledge Night runs 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and it is John Denver Concert night. Lulu asked if Telzey and Theresa would continue Speakers Bureau. Telzey said Theresa would continue to handle it.

Social: Social Co-Chair Debbie Cook handed out to the ExCom instructions on how to import items to the TGSF Calendar on the website. Social Co-Chair Nicole Cook said with the proper URL, the Treasurers report will be linked to the TGSF website.

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Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Debbie said other ExCom Committees would soon have their own link. The June End-Of-Month Social is at Kimo's on the 24th and it is the "Really Big Shew." The June Mid-Month Social is at Cafe Mars on the 9th. The Mid-Month Social for July may be a return to Josie's. Janis will look into the Pyramid Brewery in Berkeley as a possible social location. Roxanne mentioned service at the Blue Muse for the May EOM Social greatly improved. Debbie mentioned that because of the large number of people attending the social for election purposes, the Blue Muse staff was having a hard time keeping up with all the orders. Everything should go back to normal now that elections are over. The ExCom moved to the Cook's computer room to view and vote on a membership card design. By unanimous vote, a design featuring the Golden Gate Bridge was selected. It is the same as pictured on the website home page. As an option, a member photograph can be included. ExCom members also viewed updates to the TGSF website.

New Business: Because of the length of the ExCom meeting, items of new business were brought up, but to be acted upon, after research, at the next or future meetings.

1. Publications: Janis requested that all methods of publications of TGSF, be consistent and up to date and that everyone involved in publications from the group knows what the other is doing.
2. Confidentiality: Janis expressed concern of confidentiality of members in print, photo and electronic means. A policy must be in place and concerns addressed. Janis and Roxanne both mentioned recent instances of member names published that should not have, including newsletter, website and birthday references. Janis said there should be a clear policy of what will go into the website and that all policies concerning confidentiality are in place and followed. Leslie said that pictures of unrecognizable or non-regular members should have a permission release. Janis also mentioned a policy of picture use should be in place. Janis will come up with a photo release form.
3. Website Links: Janis stated that some advertisers and some fellow transgender groups have outdated links to TGSF and they should update them. Debbie mentioned that she had contacted Carla's webmistress and asked them to update the outdated information, but because the webmistress' computer has been down, the updates have not been put into effect yet. Janis said the ExCom officers should each have a tgforum address.
4. Corporate Identity: Janis mentioned that the group needs to update non-profit corporation papers to TGSF and not ETVC doing business as TGSF. Leslie will look into the issue with Sandra.
5. Nicole brought up the discussion of all TGSF communications and publications methods being put into a committee, but that each communication method should have its own controlling person who has responsibility.

Next ExCom Meeting: July 11, 1999, in Albany, Calif., at 3:00 p.m.

At approximately 6:28 p.m., Nicole moved to adjourn the meeting; Janis seconded and the motion was unanimously passed.

SPECIAL NOTE: To those who have contacted me about your membership status because of the notice included with your newsletter, I appreciate your concern. Because of the amount of mail that was generated, I cannot respond to each of you individually.

The "late dues" notices were only to go to those members who have not renewed. The newsletter party, being a hard-working group, saw the notice as a flyer, realized there was not enough for every newsletter, copied more and included them to everyone. The ExCom is sorry for the confusion this may have caused.

MISTRESS MOMMY AND THE CURTSEY CLUB

On Saturday afternoon, July 31, MISTRESS MOMMY and the Curtsey Club are holding a Pretty Pinafore Tea Party in a private home in San Francisco. This is a kinky age-play party for "elegant disciplinarians" and well-behaved, sweetly dressed adult "children." Sissy angels are especially welcome. Space is limited to 30 people, and the party may already be full. For information, e-mail: [redacted]@earthlink.net or write P.J., PO Box 425991, San Francisco, CA 94142.

Hopefully, this will be the first in a regular series of parties for trans-generational cross-dressers.

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TGSF Events in July

FRIDAY / JULY 9TH 8:00PM

TGSF Library / Poker Night

Call Nancy Anne at (415)[redacted] for information and directions. Peruse our extensive archives or join in the game! Please call Nancy Anne to confirm.

SUNDAY / JULY 11TH 3:00PM

ExCom Meeting

Do you have some extra time ? Looking for a meaningful project to participate in ? Or would you just like to help TGSF? We have a number of programs we would like to implement this year to better serve the club. You can participate in a project that only lasts a month or so (no long term commitment). One way to do this would be to show up at the ExCom meeting and say "I want to do something". The July ExCom will be at our Presidents house. If you want to go, email [redacted]@tgforum.com) or call me (707 [redacted] and let me know. I will arrange for you to get the directions to Leslie's house.

WEDNESDAY / JULY 14TH 8:00PM

Mid-Month Social

A request has been made to return to the Lilo Lounge for a Mid-Month and so we decided to go there in July. The Lilo Lounge is at 1469 18th street (@ Connecticut). For those of you that have not been there before the restaurant adjacent to the Lilo Lounge serves very good oriental food.

SATURDAY / JULY 17TH 1:00PM

Education Seminar: You don't have to be in the closet.

Education Co-chairs Nancy Cupps and Tianna Marie want to reach out to the many TGSF members who have never attended a TGSF event. If you are one of the 100+ members who would like to come out of your closet but need some advice, we'd like to help you. There is no need for you to "dress up" for this seminar; please come in drab if it's easier for you. We've purposely arranged this meeting on a Saturday to make it possible for more people to attend. We'll invite a number of transgendered people we know to share their stories about their first few ventures out in public. Everyone we know regrets not getting out of the closet years earlier. They'll tell you how much fun they are having since they have been getting out. You don't have to be isolated. As the saying goes: "been there, done that!" Why not benefit from our collective experience?

Bring your concerns about barriers that keep you from going out en-femme. We can't guarantee to provide a solution for every situation, but we'll certainly try! It's not as difficult as you might think. Once you try it a few times, we're sure you'll agree. Life is too short; why not make the most of it while you can?

At a follow-up seminar in mid-August we'd like to hear from some of you who ventured out for the first time. Tell us about your experience and get answers to new questions you might have. Guest speakers from CUAV (Community United Against Violence) in San Francisco will join us at the August seminar to address concerns about hate crimes against gay, lesbian, and transgendered people. We'll also have discussions on coming to terms with your transgendered feelings and how to deal with concerns about how other people perceive you.

Upstairs at Kimo's, Polk & Pine Streets, SF. Donations Appreciated.

THURSDAY / JULY 29TH 8:00PM

End of Month Social

Our July End of Month will again be at the ever-so-cozy Blue Muse. Remember if you want to dine at the Blue Muse it is a good idea to arrive early. We were trying to come up with a different theme, and I thought since it was July we could do a Red, White and Blue theme. If we have a lot of participants, we will do a best in theme award. The Blue Muse is located at 409 Gough Street (a few blocks North of Market). Parking is easy, there are lots on both sides of the restaurant as well as street parking.

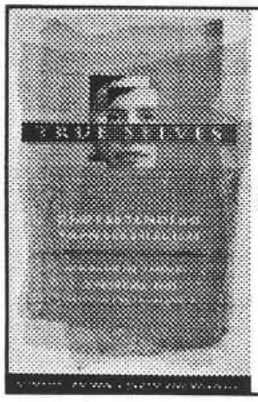
Now Available!

1999 Resource Guide

The 1998-99 TGSF Resource Guide is now available at cost to all TGSF members. You can bring $3.00 to the next social or we can mail it to you for $3.00 + $1.50 postage. If you are a service listed in the guide you can get copies for $5.00 each plus postage. The Resource Guide will be available to everyone else for $10.00 each.

The 1999 TGSF Resource Guide is your one source for virtually all the Transgender Resources in the Greater Bay Area (From San Jose to Sacramento to Santa Rosa to San Francisco). The Guide covers where to go to have a good time on the town, where to shop, where to get services like Make-up, Electrolysis and Beauty Salons, as well as where to stay in the San Francisco area (and Russian River Resort Area). You can also locate professional services such as Doctors, Psychologists, Lawyers, Voice Therapists and others. The Guide also contains information on other Gender Information and Education Groups. If you are going to visit the San Francisco area - This is the guide to have!

If you would like a guide by mail you can send a check for $4.50 (per copy) to: TGSF, Resource Guide, P.O. Box 426486, San Francisco, CA. 94142-6486. Please be sure to indicate on the check that it is for the Resource Guide.



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Calendar of Events – July 1999

Other Groups

Pacific Center for Human Growth
A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-841-6224

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. Write to RGA, 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 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo 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, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 925-937-8432.

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

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

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	2 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	3
4	5 8:00 PM DVG	6	7	8	9 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap **8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night**	10 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
11 **3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom**	12	13	14 7:00 PM TransBay **8:00 PM TGSF: MidMo @ Lilo Lounge**	15 7:00 PM DVG (RCC)	16 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	17 **1:00 PM TGSF: Educ Seminar**
18 SF AIDS WALK	19 8:00 PM DVG	20	21	22	23 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	24 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
25	26	27	28	29 8:00 PM TGSF: EOM	30 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	31

TGSF Membership Application

Full Year Membership May 1 – April 30

Please Print / Check all that apply:

❑ New Member ❑ Renewal ❑ Member #_____ with ❑ Family Member

Member Birth Date _____ / _____ Family Member Birth Date _____ / _____

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you hear about TGSF? _____

Your Email address: _____

I am enclosing a Check or Money order for:

❑ **$30.00 Full Year Membership** (Renewals)

❑ **$40.00 Full Year Family Membership** (Renewals; Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

❑ **Pro Rate $** _____ beginning Month: _____

New Members only; See Chart at right)

Send Check or Money Order to
TGSF
PO Box 426486
San Francisco, CA
94142-6486

IF PAID IN	THEN SINGLE PAY	THEN FAMILY PAY
MAY	30	40
JUN	27.5	37
JUL	25	33
AUG	22.5	30
SEP	20	27
OCT	17.5	23
NOV	15	20
DEC	12.5	17
JAN	10	13
FEB	7.5	10
MAR	5	7
APR	2.5	3

Our Readers Respond...

Dear TGSF:

I would like to go on the record as concurring with Leslie Bailey's vision of TGSF with an impressive web site to augment the conventional presence of the group. It was a series of links, starting with AOL's Lifestyle button that led me to TGSF a couple years ago. I'm glad I made the connection, if only for the newsletter.

I also remember somebody else made a suggestion about a sort of Big Sister program for our group. This seems to be to be a great idea! Who knows, it might be the very thing to get some more members to show up at functions & events. Actually, if you think about it, without going to one of the socials you don't know what to expect. Where to park and what to look for when we get through the door may seem like small matters but, speaking for myself, nothing about going out en femme is a small matter. A companion would be helpful.

For that matter, why not a New Member Kit of the sort that would describe that functions, identify the officers, and so on. Something that conveys a welcome.

Perhaps a means of implementing a Big Sister connection, and certainly a part of any New Member Kit, would be a membership directory. What do you think? We could each make a short personal statement & offer a phone number or locale with a means of getting in touch. The member profile at TG Forum presents a good model.

Thanks to all of you for your efforts in making TGSF a great organization!

All my best,
Chris Silver

Dear TGSF:

You are invited to join the new Bay Area Boyz mailing list!

Baboyz serves the Bay Area FTM community i.e. those born female-bodied who now identify as male or masculine in some way (including transmen, FTM, F2M, boydykes, etc.) and their partners, friends, and allies. The Bay Area Boyz mailing list serves the FTM community of the San Francisco Bay Area, providing as an announcement board for local events, as well as a discussion forum for local community issues. Anybody can participate on the Baboyz, regardless of their location, but the list discussion will focus on the "greater San Francisco bay area," which we very loosely define as the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Solano, and Sonoma.

To subscribe you can go to the following web site address: http://www.onelist.com/subscribe/baboyz

Or you can send email to: baboyz-subscribe@onelist.com. The message itself can be blank.

If you have any questions about the list, please send email to: baboyz-owner@onelist.com

Dawn Atkins

TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give

as of June, 1999

Cindy McKay	$70.00	Billie Jean Hall	$10.00
Leslie Ann Bailey	$50.00	Chris Silver	$45.00
Vicki Reiman	$10.00	Sabrina Evans	$20.00
		Cami Lynn	$40.50

Bless you for caring and thank you!

En Drag

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New Members since June Issue:

M. Lytton
Keiko

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Marga Myers, RE, MPS
510 278-1809
18345 Crest Ave. Castro Valley

TGSF Financial Reports

May 1 through May 31, 1999

TGSF Balance Sheet

As of 5/31/99

ASSETS	
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	16,655.79
Other Assets	
Computers	0.00
Event Equipment	1,200.00
Office Supplies	50.00
TOTAL Other Assets	1,250.00
TOTAL ASSETS	**17,905.79**
LIABILITIES	
Other Liabilities	
Insurance	1,512.00
Taxes	109.69
Utilities	138.23
TOTAL Other Liabilities	1,759.92
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**1,759.92**
OVERALL TOTAL	**16,145.87**

TGSF Cash Flow Report 5/1/99 Through 5/31/99

INFLOWS	
Advertising Income	725.00
Donations	357.00
Memberships	1,120.00
Other Inc, Bus:	0.00
Resource Guides	21.00
TOTAL Other Inc, Bus	21.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	**2,223.00**
OUTFLOWS	
Entry Fees	280.00
Miscellaneous, Bus	0.00
Office	72.00
Printing and Reproduction	191.76
Rent Paid	50.00
Utilities, Bus:	0.00
Telephone, Bus	120.58
TOTAL Utilities, Bus	120.58
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	**714.34**
OVERALL TOTAL	**1,508.66**

TGSF Net Income and Expense by Function 5/1/99 Through 5/31/99

Educational	6.00
Membership	1,310.00
Newsletter	600.00
Operations	(192.58)
Parade	(280.00)
Social	65.24
OVERALL TOTAL	**1,508.66**

Notes to Financial Statements

Membership Revenue on statements for periods prior to May 1, 1999 includes all income which was otherwise uncategorized. Beginning with May 1, 1999 it includes only revenue received as membership payments.

The Asset values for Decorations, Food Service, and Office Supplies have been carried forward from the April 30, 1999 Balance Sheet. There is no documentation supporting these values, and no procedure to depreciate or otherwise adjust them.

The Liability values for Taxes, Insurance, and Utilities have been carried forward from the April 30, 1999 Balance Sheet. There is no documentation supporting these values, and no record of them being paid.

EduCom Seeks Your Feedback and Ideas

by Nancy Cupps

The Education Committee would like to give you a preview of the types of seminars we are planning for the coming year. Details are yet to be finalized. We'd like to know your thoughts regarding these topics, preferred or recommended speakers, plus any topics you'd like to see presented at future seminars.

1. SRS and other Feminization procedures, possibly two back-to-back seminars on the same day. Dr. Sheila Kirk of TSMC (Transgender Surgical & Medical Center) in Pittsburgh, PA told me they'd be willing to supply a couple of speakers for the seminars. I met with her at the Be All convention in Cleveland on June 3rd-5th; 2. Hormone Therapy; 3. TG/TS Medical Issues; 4. Electrolysis; 5. Feminine Voice; 6. Feminine Walk; 7. Family Issues and Dating.

Are there specific speakers you'd like to have present these seminars? What other types of topics would be of interest to you? Do you know of a speaker who could present a topic of interest to our organization?

Please send your thoughts by email to Nancy Cupps ([redacted]@ix.netcom.com) and Tianna Marie ([redacted]@hotmail.com), or by regular mail to: TGSF Education Committee, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486.

Lavender Law 1999

Lavender Law 1999 will be in Seattle, 22-24 October. SAVE THE DATE! For information, contact Spencer Bergstedt at LavLaw99@jmslaw.com.

KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC

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Email TGSF:

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Vice President, Lulu Blau ..... [redacted]@aol.com
Secretary, Roxanne ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com
Treasurer, Janis Ryan ..... [redacted]@hisnhers.com
Education, Nancy Cupps ..... [redacted]@ix.netcom.com
Education, Tianna Marie ..... [redacted]@hotmail.com
Outreach, Theresa Sparks ..... [redacted]@aol.com
Social, Nicole Cook ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com
Social, Debbie Cook ..... [redacted]@yahoo.com
Editor, Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]@aol.com

Membership, Mailing and Miscues

By Janis Ryan, Treasurer

Mailing Miscues

First of all, let me apologize to those of you who had already renewed your membership but received the yellow insert with the June Newsletter stating:

Member Renewal Notice
This is your LAST issue
Renew now to ensure delivery of The Channel

Since at the time of mailing the newsletter, over half of the members during the 1998-1999 year hadn't renewed their memberships, the new ExCom decided to send newsletters to both those who had renewed, and to include the notice only in the envelopes sent to those members who hadn't yet renewed.

To facilitate this, I printed mailing labels in the following format:

Janis Ryan 2040 99
P. O. Box 426486
San Francisco, CA 94142-6466

Here, 2040 is my membership number, and the 99 meant that I had renewed my membership for the 1999-2000 membership year. So, the pesky yellow notices were supposed to go only to those with a "98" on the label.

Unfortunately, that instruction wasn't made clear to the person who actually stuffed the envelopes, and she stuffed them into everyone's newsletters! I was surprised when I got one myself! And, as expected, I and other ExCom members received a lot of communications, some understanding, some angry, from other people who like me had already renewed their memberships. I spent some time that evening replying to email messages and verifying that our records showed that we had received their renewals, and to others telling them that, though things were delayed since I had been out of town at Esprit, I had finally received their checks and deposited them.

What's in a Name?

Another word about names, birth dates, and the other information that is requested on the membership renewal forms. First of all, in accordance with our bylaws (which you can view in full on the Internet at: http://members.tgforum.com/janisr/tgsf/bylaws.htm):

X. CONFIDENTIALITY.

The Membership and Mailing lists are confidential. Access is limited to official ETVC use; no member may make a copy of any portion of the list; members may request special mailing instructions to insure confidentiality; and the membership and mailing lists shall not be sold or transferred to any organization for any purpose whatever.

The "Preferred Name" that you enter on the membership form will be used in all references to you by the organization, such as in the "New Members" and "Birthdays" section of this newsletter. I'm "Janis Ryan" there. The "Mailing Name" and address that you specify will be used for sending newsletters and other mailings from the group, unless you request some other method of delivery. There, I use the name and address that my letter carrier has become familiar with over the years!

Also, we only request the month and day of your birth, and only use it to include your Preferred Name in the monthly Birthday list in the newsletter. Finally, if you provide us with an Email address, it also will be used only for individual messages from me or another member of the ExCom. I don't believe in spamming!

One of our members created a TGSF Email list which you may wish to join, by following the instructions at: http://www.egroups.com/group/tgsf/. Once you are registered, you will get all of the messages sent by yourself and others to tgsf@egroups.com. I have used it in the past, such as when I started getting personal Email messages about the renewal notice, and I and other ExCom members will use it to pass on late-breaking information on our events. We will also post them in the Calendar section of our web site at: www.tgsf.org. Note that this list is unmoderated, and is not an official publication of our group.

TGSF? ETVC? What's Happening?

Last year our membership voted to change our group's name from ETVC, or Educational TV Channel, to TGSF, or TransGender San Francisco. What has happened so far is that we have filed a "Fictitious Name Statement" with the City and County of San Francisco, and that we are now legally "Educational TV Channel" doing business as "TGSF." Within the next months, I will be working with the ExCom to formally change our Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to reflect our new name.

Financial Report Online

For now, I have posted our group's financial report, which is also printed in this newsletter, on my web space at TG Forum. The URL is: http://members.tgforum.com/janisr/tgsf/Fin0599.htm.

If you have any questions for me about the organization, feel free to Email me at: [redacted]@hisnhers.com Please include "TGSF" in the Subject line.

I hope to meet with each of you personally at a TGSF function. We have a great group of people on the ExCom, and I'm excited by what we will be able to accomplish in the coming year!

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May - June Socials in Review

By Nicole and Debbie

Well we are still not getting around like we were last year. In fact if any of you are going to DVG, SGA, RGA, TransBay or any other TG events that we are missing, I would love to get a short review of the event so we can add it in this write-up. There is no commitment to provide the input on a regular basis.

The end-of-month at the Blue Muse was less crowded than the April end-of-month, but there were still quite a few people that showed up for the Leather and Lace event. Since we had pretty much taken over both rooms of the restaurant each contestant in the Leather and Lace contest got the opportunity to demonstrate their wears in both rooms. About 12 people participated in the event with outfits ranging from Sexy and Tasteful to the outfit Lulu was wearing. I think even Didi was out exposed by Lulu's costume for the evening. The winner for the evening was Tianna Marie, whose marriage of Leather and Lace was both tasteful and elegant. But this is not to say there were not other honorable mentions. Darcy's outfit with the $300 White leather boots was very nice, I know that if Darcy ever gets tired of those boots I would be happy to take them to the needy Nicole's of the world. Ayme's biker babe look was a nice touch covering all the essentials from head wear to foot wear. Veronica also had a nice outfit, and that covered the 3 way tie for second place (Darcy, Ayme and Veronica). Stefanie Ann, Susan Flowers, Serena, Jamie Faye, Jennifer, Nancy, Telzy, Aiyana, and Didi all participated in this event.

If you missed this event we captured it on film so it will be showing up on the web site in the near future.

We were not able to attend the June mid-month at Cafe Mars on June 9th, however, thanks to the reporting work of one of our new Educational Chair members (Tianna) we know it was attended by about 7 or 8 people, including Tianna, Rachel (in boy mode), Jane Bolig, Lulu, Kalani and a few others. At one point I heard they were getting free drinks. I also heard that Cafe Mars was packed that night with a straighter than usual crowd, which resulted in some rather interesting outreach opportunities with the other women present.

Nicole & Debbie's Somewhat Bogus Adventure

by Nicole

Well not everything can turn out great and that seemed to be the case on the night of May 29th when we joined Rachel, Tianna, Serena, Darcy, Bree and a friend of Darcy's at Asia SF for dinner. Prior to arriving we had been asked by the restaurant staff to stay a minimum of 90 minutes (2 shows worth), and they mentioned something about a per person minimum. Both requests seemed reasonable so we set up the reservation.

Several of us arrived on time but we ended up waiting downstairs for a table for about an hour, this gave plenty of time for the entire party to arrive. When we did get a table things started out pretty good. The waitresses were engaging us in some friendly conversation. Tianna and Rachel were also making conversation with several of the customers.

As we ordered I noticed that there was only 3 items on the menu that I was not allergic to, so it was not difficult to figure out what to order. The somewhat pricy but good food came out and we began to eat while one of the shows was underway. Not long after I started eating, I realized that there were actually only 2 items on the menu that I was not allergic to. Debbie quickly ran down to the car to get me a antihistamine. The show whet fine and not long after the waitresses brought us over some birthday desserts for the birthday girls. We had just started the desserts and then something really strange happened. The staff began to clear our table, at first I just thought they were going to get the dirty dishes out of the way but they were taking everything (including most of the birthday desserts with them). A few of us were in a daze at this activity and then a waiter arrived with a new table top for the 2 tables we were at, we were practically being thrown out of our seats. We had been asked to stay for 2 shows, we had been there for only 1 show (about 30 min.) and now we were being asked to take our stuff and go downstairs.

Still in a state of disbelief, I joined the rest of our party downstairs where we tried to pull the money together to pay the bill. It was difficult reading the bill down there in the dark and it was clear from the contributions that we were most likely charged for more than what we ordered. They had also included a 20% tip for themselves (and after being thrown out of a table before my food had even made it to my stomach, I would not have been leaving 20%). We made up the difference and headed on out of the restaurant.

We had parked just down the street and when we got to our cars we noticed that someone had broken into Rachel's car. They had busted the drivers side window and had stolen her change of clothes, make-up, her CD player and a number of cassette tapes. We had parked right in front of Rachel but our car had not been broken into even though there was a leather Jacket hanging in the car window.

Despite what was now looking like a night of bad luck we were determined to have some fun so we headed over to Cafe Mars for an hour or so. Cafe Mars was packed and the people there were friendly. We met Rachel's S.O. and one other gal there. Rachel and Tianna were also talking to a group of girls who had been in ASIA SF earlier. I believe they were having a bachelorette party. In any event, Tianna was getting her picture taken with them.

The night ended up at The G-Spot. The G-Spot was pretty active by the time we got there. I had planned to dance for a few hours, but the Antihistamine I took at Asia SF was draining my power. Debbie and I ended up spending most of our time sitting down. We did get to dance a few times and we had lots of fun at the G-spot, almost enough to make up for the bad experiences earlier in the evening. But not enough to keep me from writing this article and sending a copy of the newsletter that it is published in to the restaurant.

Amelia James
Registered Electrologist

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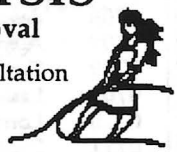

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TGSF Outreach

By Theresa Sparks

Outreach is an interesting function as it relates to TGSF and the transgender community at large. It encompasses many different activities and involves a great number of very special individuals...far too many to mention in this article. Besides, even if I tried to list the names of the many people who have contributed to the Outreach efforts of TGSF and the transgender community, I would never be able to do so.

One of the primary functions of Outreach has been, and continues to be, the Speakers Bureau. It is comprised of people who volunteer to speak on behalf of TGSF and give of their time and of themselves to educate society on the transgender phenomenon and to help demystify the terms crossdresser, transvestite, transsexual, FTM, MTF, drag queen and all the other labels placed upon all of us. They bravely go out, in many cases alone, to show others we are not strange or weird or perverted or sick but that we are everyday human beings with a name, a face and a life. They personify the values of the organization and bravely demonstrate that we are, in fact, a cross-section of American society. We are the rich, the poor and everything in between. We represent the homeless and the landlord, the educated and the experienced, not to mention the young and the old. Our Community is a diverse one, made up of people from all walks of life, racial groups, ethnic minorities, sexual orientations and socio-economic categories. The world needs to know this, that we are not merely what is represented on Jerry Springer or the plethora of other television talk shows (although many of these people are part of our Community) but that we are actually a reflection of society in general. That's what the Outreach speakers do and they are to be commended for this very worthwhile service they are performing. As I have mentioned previously, I will be updating our Speakers Bureau list of people who would like to participate in the next few weeks. In the August Newsletter, I will be enclosing a speakers information form for those of you who have an interest in being involved. We need people from all areas of the region as we have requests from all over to speak. In the meantime, if you would like to get your name on the list sooner, drop me an e-mail and I will send you a form to complete. We want to be ready and able to cover the fall speaking semester by the end of the summer with a new crop of speakers, to compliment our more experienced ones, to get out there and spread the word.

It is also interesting to note that in many, if not most, cases the same speakers are invited back to talk to previous engagements year after year due to the relationships they have developed with the groups to whom they have spoken. Because of this, the Outreach speaking function is somewhat self perpetuating, continuing to happen without much effort from those of us responsible for its success. It is thriving on its own momentum and has taken on a life of its own. Just so everyone is aware of the activity level, without any advertising or promotional efforts, more than a dozen different participants appeared at fourteen separate engagements in the months of April and May.....and the numbers aren't in yet for June. They did it on their own volition, without asking for anything in return. They did it for the good of the organization but, more importantly, they did it for the survival of the Community. These people deserve our thanks and our admiration.

Moving on...June is another big month for TGSF. I just left Kimo's about an hour ago where "LuLu's Really Big Blue Shew" was still raging on. It looked as if everyone was having a grand time and the turnout was terrific. This next weekend is the culmination of Pride Week in San Francisco with the world famous San Francisco Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and *Transgender Pride Parade and celebration on Sunday. TGSF will host a booth all day Sunday and (of course) be proudly marching in the parade with another of it's eye-catching floats. By the time you receive this newsletter a grand time will have been had by all. This year we attempted to coalesce the Transgender Community in San Francisco by trying to get all of the gender-related organizations to march together in one block of marchers. Our (my) feeble attempt was just too little, too late and it didn't materialize. Next year we are starting early and going to try to convince as many groups as possible we can to march together to show everyone.....gays, lesbians and straights.....the diversity, strength and sheer numbers of the Transgender Community in San Francisco.

In July, TGSF will participate in the 13th Annual AIDS Walk San Francisco being held on July 18, 1999 in Golden Gate Park. It is a 10 kilometer (6.2 mile) fundraising walkathon benefiting the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and dozens of other Bay area AIDS organizations. Celebrities, community leaders and elected officials will be at the AIDS Walk to cheer on the crowd, serve refreshments and walk alongside the thousands of men, women and children expected to participate. Last year, more than 26,000 people raised over $3.6 million. Funds for AIDS Walk San Francisco are raised by individual walkers who seek sponsorship from family members, friends, co-workers and neighbors for each kilometer they will be walking. But to qualify for a station in the Team Meeting Area, there must have at least 25 registered walkers representing TGSF prior to July 9, 1999. We need volunteers!!!!! If you contact me, or any of the other officers of TGSF, by e-mail, we will forward to you a registration form to fill out to walk in the event. Again, we need at least 25 walkers to qualify for a booth and station...just think of it as another walk in the Park, but for an extremely worthy cause. Volunteers?????

The last topic I will touch upon is that of our upcoming political season in San Francisco. This fall, the voters of this "fair" City will elect a new Mayor...or re-elect an "old" one. I will not try to convince anyone in this newsletter who to vote for or express my personal opinions on candidates. To many, they are already well known. I will though try to convince everyone to participate in the process. Get behind the candidate of your choice and get involved. The Transgender Community here is finally getting some recognition through the noble efforts of some very open transgender activists. Again, as with the list of speakers, I won't even attempt to name them all. This year, these people have represented the Community and participated in the Transgender Candlelight Vigil, the Gaither Vigil, the AIDS Vigil, the TransAction Press Conference Against Police Brutality, the ant-protest against the Rev. Fred Phelps and many other such events. Through these efforts we are getting recognition and are gaining a substantial amount of legitimacy.

Continued on Page 13

July's Birthdays...

0704	Gail Owens	0716	Lauren White
0708	LeChara Johnson	0717	Miss Bob
0708	Jessica Ames	0717	Juliette Holiday
0709	Ayme Kantz	0717	Joanne Wilson
0709	Teri Pack	0718	Carmen Gomez
0709	Leslie Ann Bailey	0719	Michelle Cole
0710	Lorraine Hall	0721	Jennifer Hope
0711	Danielle Murphy	0723	Marianne Tai
0712	Becky Benton	0724	Kelli Wellington
0713	Nepenthe Kepner	0724	Nicole Harris
0715	Chamelle Metzger	0725	Michelle Hofmann
		0725	Dan Venolia

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Esprit 1999: A Personal View

by Janis Ryan

About 150 people converged on the city of Port Angeles, Washington for the Esprit 1999 Tenth Anniversary Gala, which began on Wednesday, May 19, 1999. This four-day event was sponsored by three of our sister organizations in the Pacific Northwest: NWGA (NorthWest Gender Alliance) of Portland, Oregon, Emerald City of Seattle, Washington, and The Cornbury Society of Vancouver, British Columbia.

Attendees came from all up and down the Pacific Coast: Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, and northern and southern California. There were also attendees from Alberta, Canada, Idaho, Colorado, Arizona, and New Mexico. People also came from as far away as Minnesota, Texas, Kentucky, New Hampshire, Hawaii, and even Hong Kong and Spain! Karen Andrews and I from TGSF made the trip from the Bay Area to attend.

Esprit was originally conceived in 1988 by a group of transgendered people in the Seattle area who saw the need for an opportunity for TG and TS folks in the Pacific Northwest to meet, share information, learn from each other and support each other in a safe, open convention-type setting. It is structured similar to California Dreamin', which alternates each year between Southern California and San Francisco, and will again have our group as a CO-sponsor here in 2000.

The presenters included many well-known names in the transgender community. Niela Miller, MS Ed, LCSW, LMHC, is Director of PeopleSystems Potential in Acton, Ma. and has been doing coaching, counseling, consulting and training for thirty years. Mariette Pathy Allen, is a well-known photographer of members of the transgendered community, graduated from Vassar College and holds an M.F.A. from the University of Pennsylvania. Sandra S. Cole, Ph.D., is Professor and Director of the University of Michigan Health System Comprehensive Gender Services Program. Karen Brown, is owner of Fifth Avenue Collection Jewelry. Andrea Gittens has a background is in theater and dance.

Judy Osborne is from Seattle, and has attended Esprit for many years and shared her insights and experiences with hundreds of Esprit participants. I attended her workshop titled Blue Monday, the feelings that we share when we return home from such a moving event as Esprit.

Anna Haas, the Chairperson of Esprit '99 and President of Emerald City, has long been active in the Seattle transgender community. In addition to presiding over the conference, she gave a presentation titled The Art of Not Passing, which I attended. It dealt with the issues of having pride in being gender-gifted, how to best cope with yourself and others, and how to make oneself a much happier and expanded person.

Elaine Lerner is a zoologist specializing in animal behavior who teaches biology at the college level and is the author of a biology textbook. She is President of the Northwest Gender Alliance in Portland, and told me that she is also a member of TGSF, and has attended some of our events in San Francisco. She gave a very interesting and informative presentation titled X and Why?: The Biology of Sex and Gender, which I attended.

Kathy Vicken, has been in the "wig business" for over 25 years, and Rita Jacobson is a consultant with Beauticontrol Cosmetics, Inc. I attended their presentations on wig care and makeup.

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Outreach...

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We need to keep up the pressure. By doing so, I am hopeful that in the next City administration we can make some meaningful headway in the continuing struggle for our basic human rights as transgendered individuals. Things such as more openly transgendered City/County Commissioners, a full-time transgender staff liaison in the Mayors office, mandated sensitivity and diversity training for all City agencies and departments or exploratory funding for the creation of a permanent transgender-specific shelter, job training, risk reduction and counseling facility here in San Francisco are all possible. To accomplish any of these objectives though merely voting isn't enough, we must get engaged in the process and make our presence known. Fortunately, the last part is relatively simple.....at least for many of us. A fundamental reality of politics is that to get something from a politician one must give something...first. If we demonstrate our strength and our commitment to a candidate during the election process, we can then, and only then, extract our due reward after that candidate is elected.

So that's about all there is from the Outreach front....or at least all of it that is appropriate to put into print. If anyone has any questions about the Speakers Bureau, the AIDS Walk, the upcoming election or anything else I can help with, feel free to drop me an e-mail. I'll do my best to get back to you in a "reasonable" period of time.

Warm regards...and have a pleasant summer.

Are You A Veteran?

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

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TRUE Editorial

Why Phelps Targeted Transgenders

by Rosalyne S. Montgomery
Founder and Executive Director
TRansgenders United for Equality, San Francisco

Recently it was reported that Rev. Fred Phelps, the vitriolic leader of the Westboro Baptist Church of Wichita, KS has planned to protest transgender medical providers starting in Trinidad, CO. Trinidad has become well known within the transgender community as one of the main places in the US that perform sex reassignment surgery or SRS. Also targeted is Dr. Stanley Biber, a surgeon who has performed many SRS operations.

Rev. Phelps has become infamous in recent months for his loud, noisy protests at gay funerals and Pride parades by sporting large signs decrying homosexuality. He is also operating a controversial website which has drawn outrage worldwide from the TGLB (Trans-Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual) community. Until now, Phelps' had been protesting the larger gay-lesbian "mainstream."

Why the sudden change of targets? Back in March, San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown conducted a mass same-sex commitment ceremony in San Francisco's newly renovated City Hall. Phelps and his protesters were greeted by about three dozen or so very energetic and vocal counter-demonstrators. Several notable personalities including religious leaders from various churches and Supervisor Mark Leno also addressed his support the counterdemonstrators.

The most vocal and visible component of these counterdemonstrators was the transgender community led by TRUE, CAPE (California Alliance for Pride and Equality) and TG-RAGE, a direct-action organization based in San Francisco. While Rev. Phelps' followers preached their brand of hate-filled gospel and waved their signs saying "God Hates Fags," the counterdemonstrators responded with a colorful rainbow of signs calling for love, inclusion, and expressing a desire for peace and harmony.

Some transgenders say that we should not call attention to ourselves. They have said we should leave well enough alone. This is exactly why we are being killed. Secrecy and silence allowed the KKK to flourish in the Deep South and kill African-Americans with virtual impunity. We have suffered in silence for fear of calling attention to ourselves. Also, there is the fact that eventually we would have attracted their attention anyway. The TG community has been becoming more vocal and organized, primarily via the Internet.

TRUE and TG-RAGE have been quite vocal in the fight to publicize the terrible wave of violence that has plagued the transgender community. The wave of violence in recent months has seen the death of at least one transgender per month, and those are only the ones that are publicized. Many TG murders are misreported as a gay-bashing. Most are simply ignored.

The kind of violence that is perpetrated against us is up-close and personal. We don't get killed by snipers, we get raped, stabbed, bludgeoned, burned and smashed into a pulp. In other words, not just killed, but annihilated. A TG is at least 10 times more likely to be murdered than any other group, including young adult male African Americans. Perpetrators rarely serve real time. The courts reward them with light sentences. After all, it's just one less fag.

What frightens us here at TRUE is the ominous spectre of harassment and intimidation of both transgenders and providers by violent fanatics who subscribe to the brand of hate peddled by Rev. Phelps and other religious extremists. Remember Operation Rescue? Are TG clinics and SRS surgeons going to be targeted as abortion providers are? Are our providers going to have to live in a climate of fear from potential terrorism? Are we going to have to run a gantlet of intolerants screaming "pervert" or worse just to get a refill scrip for our hormones? I shudder to think.

Silence only aids those who seek to destroy us. It is time to end the silence and stop the violence!

WBC To Protest Biber

Written and provided by Gwendolyn Ann Smith
([redacted]@gender.org)

Westboro Baptist Church, a group known, somewhat, for its opportunistic use of gay deaths as venues for anti-gay protests, including Matthew Shepard's funeral, has found a new target — transgendered individuals and their care providers.

A press release, taken from the Westboro Baptist Church web site, www.godhatesfags.com, is the first time that this group has opted to attack transpeople, rather than more mainstream gay and lesbian events.

"For lucre, (each pervert customer fetches some $25,000 plus to Dr. Biber and crew, and thousands more to the general economy of Trinidad), this evil man and his Trinidadian neighbors-for-profit blaspheme God and desecrate the apex of His creation. 'Have ye not read,' says Christ Jesus, 'that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they twain shall be one flesh?' Mat. 19:4,5. To satisfy animal lust and raw greed - nothing more - this Biber-Trinidad synergism of evil will veto God's work: make male female, and female male."

As one can tell from the release, a mixture of obscure scripture passages are provided, which only serves to confuse the issue at hand. It also shows that the Westboro Baptist Church is having difficulties figuring out how to protest against transgendered individuals.

"While having an argument with one of the 'Phelpsians' in San Francisco, I was questioned with 'Are you a man or a woman?'" said Gwen Smith, a bay area transactivist, "When I replied with 'neither' he had no formulated response, and no scripture to quote at me... his only response was to call us 'perverts.'"

Some are calling for a trans presence in Trinidad, to counter the Westboro protesters.

"Personally, I can't think of a better reason to go to southeastern Colorado on July 4 than to confront Phelps." said Katrina C. Rose, a Houston-based transgender activist who has been critical of Phelps for a number of years.

"Apparently, Phelps either doesn't know or, more than likely judging from his writings, doesn't care that if not for Dr. Biber's transgender clinic, Trinidad's only hospital would have closed its doors long ago. I'm not Christian, but someone should ask Phelps if his planned protest is, in fact, what Jesus would do."

The complete Westboro Baptist Church press release can be found at http://www.godhatesfags.com/trinidad.html

New Online SO List!

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

NGLTF Will Not Support ENDA

A GenderPAC Media Release [QUILL]
by Clare Howell, [redacted]@gpac.org

[Washington, DC: 29 May 99] The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) announced on Tuesday (25 May) in an address to attendees at National Gender Lobby Day that NGLTF would not support the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) unless it includes protection for gender expression. Currently the bill, sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), contains language that protects employees only for sexual orientation.

Betsy Gressler, NGLTF's Deputy Political Director, told transactivists, "You will be lobbying a number of important issues including the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and ENDA. The hate crimes act is an important step in ending violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people and we support it fully.

"NGLTF will not endorse ENDA without the inclusion of transgendered people. [ENDA] needs to be amended and that is part of the important work you have to do while you are here. We need to educate members of Congress about the importance of transinclusion AND the importance of this legislation."

This statement marks the first time a national gay organization has publicly avowed to withhold support from ENDA over the issue of gender.

Transactivists call attention to a survey by NGLTF, the Center for Lesbian Rights, and GenderPAC that showed 28% of GLB respondents reporting job discrimination based in part on the way they expressed gender. GenderPAC has argued that gender expression must be in ENDA, not only to protect trans-workers, but also gays, lesbians, and bisexuals who are gender-different.

HRC, while expressing support for gender rights, remains steadfast against transinclusion. It pledges that ENDA's wording will remain unchanged.

QUILL Editorial Note

This issue came up recently in Ohio, when language for a bill currently in preparation was originally not inclusive of transgendered people, as it offered no protections on the basis of gender presentation. As a transgendered person myself, in the position of Chair of the Equality Begins at Home - Ohio Lobby Committee, I didn't feel at liberty to take a position as to whether we could support the bill as written. That would have been a conflict of interest. This conflict was resolved very quickly when the other Lobby Committee members (none of whom were transgendered) expressed that they would not support the bill without gender presentation language. One member was quite outspoken when she told the legislator not to throw us bones with no meat!

I was initially surprised at my committee's stance on this issue. It was certainly based on part on the strong solidarity we have developed here in Ohio between "all" of the sexual minorities, but it was also based on commonality of interest. Indeed, about 1/3 of all GLB people have experienced employment discrimination based on their not-so-straight manner of presentation, irrespective of their sexual orientation. These people would remain vulnerable without the same language that is needed to protect transgendered people.

The NGLTF is to be commended for its forward thinking. There are many ways in which GLBT people fail to fit into society's molds of "male" and "female," and sexual orientation is only one of them. Perhaps as HRC's constituency continues to broaden to include people with less mainstream manners of presentation, they too will see the need for language that is protective of gender presentation. Until then, I suspect HRC will continue to undermine the work we transgender activists are trying to do in our pursuit of civil rights.

Sarah Fox, Ph.D.
Chief Administrator, QUILL

Esprit Review...

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Two physicians who are well-known in the transgender community were there. Dr. Douglas Ousterhout, is a Professor at the University of California, San Francisco, and specializes in facial reconstructive surgery. Dr. Toby Meltzer, is an expert in Sexual Reassignment Surgery for female to male and male to female patients. Also Michelle Mordaunt, M.S./CCC-slp, who is on faculty at the University of Washington Speech and Hearing department, gave a presentation on voice therapy for feminization, which I attended.

In addition to the workshops, there were luncheons, dinners, and a lingerie fashion show. During them, we met some of the people who had started Esprit, and one who had attended all 10 of the conferences! These were great times to get to meet people. I even met a wife of a crossdresser who was attending, who was wearing a dress with the identical yellow gingham skirt!

By far the most important thing about attending Esprit was the people there. Many of them I had met during my trip to Washington last August. Many more I met for the first time in person. There was a total of 22 of us there who had first met in the TG Forum chat rooms, and one person from Kentucky had even made a special trip to meet those of us from the West Coast after first meeting many of us online!

Even nearly a month after the event, I haven't been able to find words to fully describe my experience there. I still get tears in my eyes whenever I meet in an Internet chat room one of my many dear friends who were there. The first such conference that I had attended was California Dreamin' when it was held in San Francisco in April, 1998. I had just joined ETVC the previous February, and gained a lot from the conference, both in practical things that I learned in the workshops, and in meeting many people in the community, some of whom have become dear friends.

But Esprit was special. Going there was much like a pilgrimage. Most of us were staying at the conference hotel, and really got to know each other both at the formal events and as we got together individually. The graduation ceremony was especially moving. Like our Cotillion, which I had participated in this year as a debutante, every person who was attending Esprit for the first time was recognized during the ceremony. Each of us was awarded a butterfly pin by a "Big Sister" who had attended before. We also were each given a lit candle in a glass holder. I will never forget that moving experience!

I sincerely hope that all of you who are reading this will have the opportunity to attend a conference such as this. Both California Dreamin' and Esprit have been important milestones in my calling as a transgendered individual. Also, sharing the drive to and from Port Angeles with Karen Andrews, during which we stayed with several dear friends in the transgendered community en route and for several days in the Seattle area, was very meaningful to me. I will be forever grateful to her and all of the other people who made this trip possible for me. All that I can possibly do to repay them is to continue trying to help others in the community personally, and to try to help TGSF remain an organization which is open and inviting to everyone in the transgender community, particularly those coming for the first time.

GenderPac Media Release [QUILL]

Frankly Transphobic

by Sarah Fox, Ph.D.
Chief Administrator, QUILL

[June 22, 1999] Last week, the American Transgender Community was once again incensed when it read the antitransgender positions of openly gay US Representative Barney Frank (D, Massachusetts) in Boston's Bay Windows, a large gay and lesbian newspaper. In the article, which focused on the NGLTF's withdrawal of support for Frank's Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), Frank reiterated his long-standing resistance to legislating for transgender employment rights.

Although ENDA was originally drafted with protections based both on sexual orientation and gender expression, HRC convinced Frank to remove gender-based language before the bill's introduction and has worked very hard since then to ensure the language is not amended back in. In stark contrast to HRC's five-year history of lobbying lawmakers not to heed the appeals of transgender activists, spokesperson David Smith stated that HRC would in fact support such an amendment. Smith added, "Our commitment is to continue to work with transgender groups, to do the education work in Congress which desperately needs to be done." Vanessa Foster, President of the Texas Association for Transsexual Support comments, "We've seen how they work with us. We would fare much better without their 'educational' efforts!" Ms. Foster's views are typical of transgender activists, most of whom have long regarded Barney Frank and HRC as adversaries. HRC has also fallen into disfavor with other national GLBT organizations, which have all advocated strongly for transgender rights.

While the hole in ENDA's language obviously leaves the entire transgender population unprotected, Frank and closely allied HRC have long been aware that many GLB people would remain subject to the same discrimination under ENDA. According to a recent GenderPAC/NGLTF survey, gender expression was identified as an important factor in 37% of employment discrimination cases among GLB people. Most typically, gay men would be targeted for appearing or acting too "prissy" or "gay" and lesbians for appearing or acting too "butch."

What has particularly angered the transgender community is that Frank, in his zealous opposition to transgender employment protections, has now invoked an argument used successfully by the Religious Right against the GLB population. Said Frank, citing some alleged "activists' handbook," "I've talked with transgender activists and what they want-and what we will be forced to defend-is for people with penises who identify as women to be able to shower with other women. There are no votes for that. And if that is the price for this bill, it is wrong." Says Jessica Xavier, National Director of It's Time, America!, "Frank seems to forget that the specter of gay soldiers showering with straight soldiers was enough to defeat the Campaign for Military Service (a.k.a. "Gays in the Military") back in 1992 and 1993."

Of course Frank's claim is ludicrous, considering that a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual is so self- conscious about her anatomical incongruities that group showering would never be considered an option. "To my knowledge, that has never happened, except in the case of one female-to-male police cadet who was required to shower with other men," said Cathy Platine, Director of the Midwest Transsexual Alliance. She added, "I don't want to shower with other women or peek under stalls in the restrooms. I just need to pay my rent and feed my cat. If that means I have to squat behind the dumpster, then so be it!"

Ridiculous though it may be, Frank's argument does great harm to the entire GLBT rights movement. Indeed, what people fear most in public toilets and communal showers is sexual imposition, which is something a straight man would more likely fear from a gay man or a straight woman from a lesbian woman than either would fear from a transgendered person. It is also far easier for the Religious Right to invoke visions of limp-wristed gay- boys showering with burly heterosexual men, waiting for the soap to drop — or lesbian athletic coaches admiring the slender, wet bodies of their nubile young students — than to concoct salient images of situations involving transgendered coworkers.

According to It's Time, America!'s Ideology Chief, Courtney Sharp, "Since Frank has now brought up the 'communal showers issue' it will be fair game for the Religious Right to use to try to defeat ENDA. After all, some companies hire teenagers for part-time work and these teenagers will be placed in the position of taking communal showers with gay men and women. When you start hearing all of this nonsense from the Religious Right, just remember the first salvo regarding communal showers was fired by the gay representative from Massachusetts who was defending his position for denying equal employment rights to transgendered people."

Phyllabuster

Five Years Of Fighting

by Phyllis Randolph Frye

July 28th, 1999, makes the 5th anniversary of fighting with the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) over including transgenders in the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

On that date in 1994, Phyllis Randolph Frye of Texas and Karen Ann Kerin of Vermont went to Washington, DC, representing the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP) to determine why transgenders had been intentionally omitted from the language of the ENDA Bill. We were told that the problem was the HRC. Nothing has changed.

For five years we have heard from HRC such nonsense as "the wording — inferring TG inclusive wording — is not the issue" while all the while they continue to fight for THEIR wording which includes SOME of them and leaves the rest of us out. Way to go HRC. Perhaps a legal name change to HRFnQQC or Human Rights For the non-queer Queers Campaign.

Can you believe that so many people have used up so much time and so much effort and so much money to keep gender variants and transgenders OUT of ENDA? Amazing!

Hang on folks, ENDA will be reintroduced again very soon and we transgenders and all gender variant lesbians, gays and bisexuals will be INTENTIONALLY OMITTED again!

So if you are LGB and you think that you will be included, look again. If you are gender variant, you are OUT as well.

Barney Frank plays the Bathroom Card to Keep TG's Out of ENDA

U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., one of ENDA's sponsors in the House, said NGLTF's decision will have "no impact" on the fate of the bill.

"I respect NGLTF and I'm glad to work with them, but no congressional votes will be lost" because of the group's decision not to support the bill, said Frank. He added that if ENDA was rewritten to include explicit protections for transgendered people, the bill would have "no chance whatsoever" at passage. In fact, the bill's chances now are not particularly good, Frank said.

"It's not as if this is a truck moving along at 60 miles-per-hour and they are asking us for a ride. This is an uphill climb. We can win, but it irks me that fighting for this bill has become less important than amending it," Frank said. "The votes are there. But the Republican leadership [in the House] won't let it come up for a vote. If [House

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Five Years of Fighting...

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Minority Leader Richard] Gephart becomes Speaker in 2000, the bill will pass ... [As long as the GOP controls the House] there is virtually no chance."

Unlike the House, the Senate can bring a bill to a vote without leadership approval. In 1996, the Senate fell one vote shy of passing ENDA. Frank and Christopher Shays, R-Conn., are ENDA's sponsors in the House; in the Senate, Sens. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., James Jeffords, R-Vermont, and Joseph Lieberman, R-Conn. are the sponsors.

Isaacs said NGLTF is considering sponsoring alternate bills that are more inclusive than the current ENDA. She said the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the gay political organization that spearheaded ENDA, was "aware from the beginning" that the NGLTF was committed to transgender inclusion, and so ENDA, in its current form, was unsatisfactory. "There were no mysteries," she said. NGLTF for the past several years has included the anagram "GLBT" (gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender) to all its releases and materials.

But HRC spokesman David Smith said HRC did not expect to lose NGLTF support. "It surprised and saddened us and obviously we are very disappointed," he said. "There was little discussion. We plan to continue to push for the bill in its current form. It's sad that the Task Force chose to do this."

He said HRC has "known for a long time" that several groups had concerns about ENDA's limitations.

"Our commitment is to continue to work with transgender groups, to do the education work in Congress which desperately needs to be done," Smith said. "If an amendment was added to include transgender [discrimination], we'd support it."

Smith agreed that the current Congress is not ready to accept a transgender-inclusive ENDA. "This bill is where Congress is. We've heard criticism that the [current] bill doesn't stand a chance; well, the bill in its current form continues to defy conventional wisdom. We believe the votes are there and we will press for a vote in this Congress."

Frank said he disagrees strongly with the "notion that you don't accept a partial measure" when trying to legislate against discrimination. "The Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), for one, protects gay men with AIDS but not lesbians and gay men without AIDS. Should I not vote for it? ... In 1976, [former state Rep.] Elaine Noble and I purposely did not push to have gays and lesbians included in the equal rights amendment to the [Massachusetts] Constitution because we knew it would lose. It's the only way to do it. The notion that you don't support [a bill with] some protections because it doesn't include all just isn't clear thinking."

Frank said including transgender protections in ENDA is far more complicated than, say, inclusion of transgender persons in the federal hate crimes act, which Frank supports. The current ENDA would protect transgender individuals if they are discriminated against because they are gay or lesbian or perceived as being gay or lesbian, he said. But there are workplace situations—communal showers, for example—when the demands of the transgender community fly in the face of conventional norms and therefore would not pass in any Congress.

"I've talked with transgender activists and what they want—and what we will be forced to defend—is for people with penises who identify as women to be able to shower with other women," said Frank, citing the activists' handbook which states that a person's declared gender is the one by which he or she should be recognized. "There are no votes for that. And if that is the price for this bill, it is wrong."

(Note: Well played, Barney. Why protest when the Conservatives label you using some article that is also completely out of the mainstream, when you do the same thing! What a hypocrite!)

TS/Women's Movement

Written by Zanny Begg, from Green Left
Provided by Michelle Steiner

In Djadi-Dugarang, the newsletter of the Indigenous Social Justice Association, Ray Jackson tells the story of Belinda (not her real name), a male to female transgender. In late 1997, Belinda was arrested for drug possession and sent to the Metropolitan Reception and Remand Centre at Silverwater in Sydney's west.

Despite living as a woman, and having all the physical appearances of a woman, Belinda was placed in a men's prison because she was born a male. Since she was regarded as "vulnerable", Belinda was placed in the maximum protection pod home also to rapists, paedophiles and other inmates in need of special "protection". The only concession the jail authorities made to Belinda's situation was allowing her to stay in a single cell. Within three days of being jailed Belinda had been raped twice. She hung herself on December 27 that year.

Belinda's story highlights the oppression female transsexuals suffer. By living as women, transgender women are subjected to the violence, sexual harassment and sexist assumptions that all women in this society are. Transgender women who want to organize against this oppression should, therefore, be considered part of the women's liberation movement.

Unfortunately, some feminists oppose this view. In the 1998 women's edition of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology student newspaper, Catylist, Jess Whyte argued, "There are several reasons why women may feel uncomfortable with the notion of transsexuals using women's-only space.

"The strongest of these is a belief that a person who has lived their whole life as a man could not possibly be free from patriarchal conditioning. It is this conditioning which teaches men that they are superior to women and causes men to exploit and oppress women that women's-only space seeks to protect women from."

Germaine Greer argues along similar lines in her latest book The Whole Woman. The 1999 National Organization of Women Students Australia (NOWSA) conference organizing collective voted to exclude transgender women from the collective and last year, the Perth Reclaim the Night Collective also decision to exclude transgender women.

The argument that female transsexuals have benefited from "male privilege" is, however, debatable. Belinda clearly was not a benefactor of "male privilege" when she was jailed in a male, maximum security prison and raped. Nor would she have thanked her birth gender as she grew up struggling to reconcile what it meant to be a "man" with her deeply held conviction that she was a woman.

Although they are born as males, female transsexuals have little access to the privileges of being male. When they start to live openly as women they are harassed, intimidated, rejected and isolated for doing so. Because female transsexuals also suffer from sexism, their experiences become intertwined with those of all women in a sexist society. This is an objective basis for their participation as equals in the feminist movement.

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TS/Women's Movement...

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Sex inequality arises from women being locked into the institution of the family as unpaid laborers in the home and those responsible for child-care and aged care. Upon this economic base rises sexist ideology which seeks to legitimize the family as the only "normal" form of social organization and stereotypes women sexually, physically and intellectually so as to justify maintaining their economic and social dependence on men and/or the state.

Female transsexuals are no less the victims of this sexist ideology and discrimination than other women. They are judged by their appearance, subjected to sexual and other forms of violence and denied equality with men in the work force.

This does this mean that transgender women suffer exactly the same oppression as other women. Their oppression comes from the same source (sexist society), but is not experienced in exactly the same way.

Transsexual women are also oppressed on the basis of their perceived sexuality: regardless of whether they have sex with men or with women, they are considered sexually "deviant" because transsexual sexuality (regardless of sexual orientation) undermines the sexist ideology that sex (for women) must be tied to reproduction.

Transsexuals also raise demands for democratic rights which are specific and additional to those raised by the women's liberation movement: the right to change their gender in legal documents, access to gender-reassignment medical care, against discrimination in work and so forth.

Beneath the debate about whether or not transsexuals are benefactors of "patriarchy" lies the question of what defines a women. Some of those who want to exclude transsexual women from women-only space have argued that they are not "real women" (it is asserted that women-only space is for "women who bleed").

But as Simone de Beauvoir explained, "One is not born but made a woman". That is, gender roles are socially constructed. From a young age we are punished for behaving in ways inconsistent with what sexist society deems appropriate for our gender. Girls who "play like boys" are tom-boys and boys who "play like girls" are sissies. These taunts are used to pull young people into line and teach them what behaviors are deemed appropriate for their gender.

Reducing what defines a woman to biological characteristics alone, by ignoring the social construction of "womanhood", is scientifically invalid. Defining feminist consciousness as something only those people with female sex organs can have is equally invalid. Transsexual women whose treatment as women in a sexist society leads them to fight against women's oppression are, and should be considered, part of the women's liberation movement.

Some feminists also argue that transsexual women actually reinforce gender roles by adopting behavior and attire that is stereotypically feminine. For example, Whyte writes, "For a man to change his sex in order to fit into stereotypical feminine gender roles is to legitimize society's construction of such gender roles".

This perspective lays the blame on the wrong shoulders. Social institutions, not individual transsexuals, create gender roles for men and women. In that light, it is not surprising that transsexuals, when they adopt the opposite gender, adapt to some of the most obvious social expectations of that gender. Rather than legitimizing rigid gender roles, transsexuals simply reflect the mass acceptance of these roles, revealing that to overcome them will require collective struggle.

Feminists need to oppose those who attempt to exclude female transsexuals from women-only space. While women like Belinda are dying behind bars, no woman is free. Only by fighting together can we overcome the sexism in society that creates such rigid gender roles which oppress all women.

Phyllabuster

When the Bathroom Playing Card Effects the FTM's

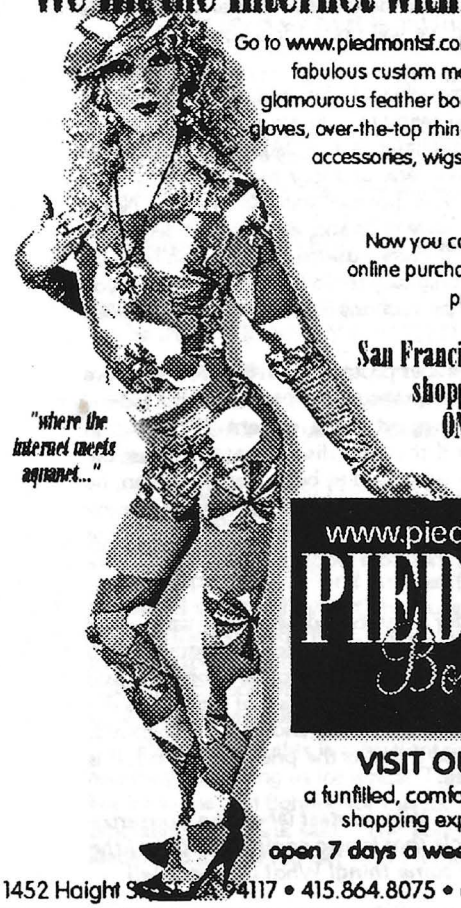
written by Ben Singer
provided by Phyllis Randolph Frye

(Phyllis Note: As usual, Ben is correct about the effects of bathroom issues and the FTM's. I know when I consult FTM's about transitioning at work, many do not want to use the mens because the men's restroom is usually dirtier, the stall doors do not exist or lock or they may be assaulted. Read on and send kudos to Ben for his timely note.)

So far, this discussion has revolved around MTF and non-transwomen in the shower/bathroom. I think it would behoove anyone doing this kind of research to find out what kinds of biases there are against FTMs as well. And that issue is *much* more tricky, in some ways, because of the FTMs safety in relation to non-trans men. For example, as a transman who has not had genital surgery, it is very dangerous for me to shower w/ non trans men. Same with being housed in male prisons, in with the general population. So, please make sure that your recommendations are both MTF and FTM specific, instead of lumping us into a one-size-fits-all policy recommendation.

If you would like help, and also references of other transmale activists to consult on this, I'd be more than happy to aid you.

We Hit the Internet with a GLAM SLAM!



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