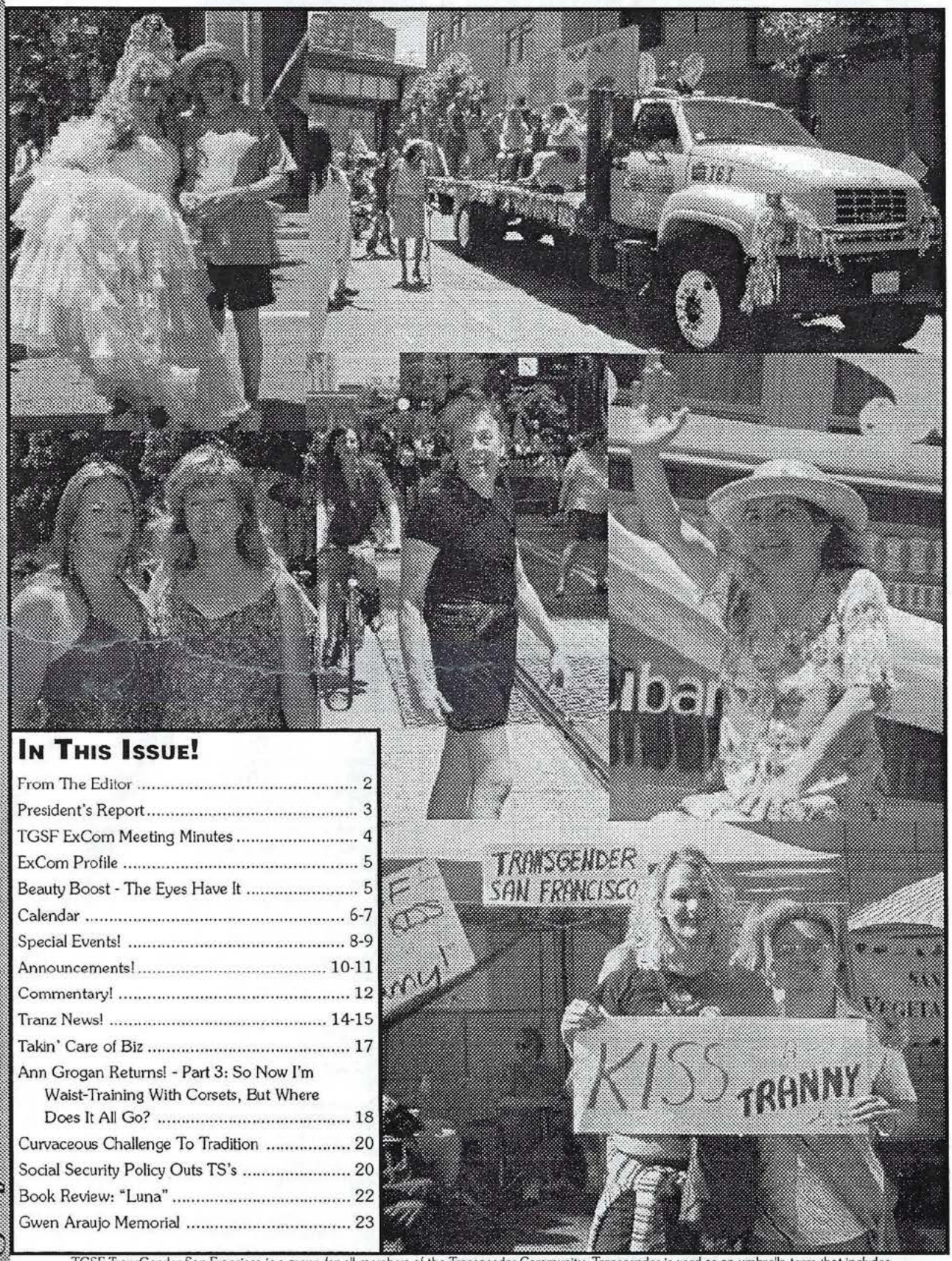
August 2004 — Dedicated to the Memory of Gwen Araujo — Volume 23, Issue 8

TGSF Marches With Pride!



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

The Channel

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

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(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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Newsletter Staff

Editor ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz
Advertising ..... Dawnne Woodie
Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Lisa Larson, Jo An Torres and Roxy Carmichael-Hart

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FROM THE EDITOR...

In the story of William Shakespeare's *Henry the Sixth, Parts 2 and 3* (which Sappho and I saw performed outstandingly in Ashland last month), the young hunchback Richard (destined to be King Richard III after the bloody civil War of the Roses) realizes that his misshapen body prevents him from turning his lustful eye upon a woman. "Since this earth affords no joy to me...I'll make my heaven to dream upon the crown..." he muses, reconciling himself to a life without sex or even love. Conversely, he is painfully aware that neither is it likely a woman would feel lust - never mind anything decent, honest or truthful towards him in return. He knows instinctively to his core that he's a freak, to be despised and feared forever in his lifetime.

In a surprisingly powerful and moving soliloquy, literally with blood on his hands, Richard sneeringly disdains any notion of "love," revealing his darkly forged thoughts - devoid of any hope and quite fatalistic, as he recounts the story of his own horrifying birth that resulted in his deformities, justifying his evil deeds and greed for power (this just after he finishes stabbing King Henry to death): "...[and] since the heavens have shaped my body so, let hell make crook'd my mind to answer it. I have no brother. I am like no brother; and this word *love*, which greybeards call divine, be resident in men like one another, and not in me..."

As an out transgender person, I can relate to how he feels. One of the cruel facts of an out tranny's life is that few people, if any, will get close enough to you to establish anything like love. Even a passing friendship is hard to come by. We've all run across what we euphemistically call the "tranny chaser." They're the ones only interested in you as a curiosity and frequently a quick means to fulfill forbidden fantasies. And co-workers will treat you with professional courtesy in the workplace, but no one is associating themselves with you after hours, except perhaps when driven by guilty mandate or within a safe group function where contact is minimized.

If you're lucky, 98% of the general populace you encounter on the street during your travels are totally clueless about your gender identity issues and how you choose to outwardly present them. You and they can remain blissfully unaware, minding one's own business. It's those other 2%, though, that really stick in your craw.

Those are the ones who openly stare at you with hard beady little eyes, nose turned up in a sneer, mouth shaped in a grimace, as if by realizing you're not all that you appear to be is equivalent to sitting in someone else's puke or stepping in dog shit. I've had people in my building where I work who exhibit such open disdain, that they avoid getting on the same elevator with me and will wait for another car.

Yes sometimes, like Shakespeare's Richard Crookback, I do feel like a freak. I know I'm not, but still - when you encounter such vicious cruelty because of the way you were born, it begins to wear at your psyche a bit. Can't be helped I'm afraid. An out tranny's life is one of facing the daily fear that perhaps today is the day I am confronted with violence. An out tranny's life is one of false hopes, heartbreak and even abuse. Is it foolish to think that most anyone out there will take a freak seriously? Are freaks entitled to feel love, and be loved in return? If society is going to beat you down every day because you're a freak, is retaining even a shred of hope that you'll find somebody to love too much to ask?

Or does one have little recourse but to harden one's heart, put on a false front and bide one's time as Richard did? He nourished his craving to trample his foes and win the throne of England, yet all the while pretending to gentleness - "...why, I can smile - and murder whiles I smile." What a cold heartless world poor Richard created for himself, even after he became King of England.

And what a pit of despair so easily fallen into. That's one tough hole to climb out of, believe me. So much easier to make the Faustian bargain, to stay in the closet, remain in "stealth" mode, play it safe in order to ease through life at the expense of the truth. And how much more difficult it is then, for an out tranny to maintain a sense of dignity and honor, and harbor even the tiniest spark of love within your heart, when all around you misleading societal messages bombard you to buy this, sell that, drive this, wear that, look and behave this way or else suffer the consequences!

I've come to believe that we're put on this earth to learn how to love each other better. And love is the only force more powerful than its sinister opposite. Well I shan't become another Richard, and I refuse to succumb to what society preaches as my inevitable and doomed lot in life. Life is just too damned short to live it cowering in fear. I succeed exactly because the out road is more difficult, my achievements all the greater for the obstacles I have overcome. Unlike Richard, I have chosen to continue seeking the good in people, and will continue to tap into the positive forces that govern my world.

President's Report

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Buried...with Boxes

I am in the process of moving from my apartment of the last seven years (two whole blocks). I am surrounded by boxes and by the time I move at the end of August I will be buried with boxes.

Can you believe it is August already? Pretty soon we will be into the holiday season. The year has flown by. Of course, with the holidays come all of the great TGSF events and activities.

First, let me apologize for the lateness of your Channels. Sometimes getting this publication to you is a logistical nightmare. Ayme drops off the Channel at the printer in SF, someone needs to pick it up, get it to me and I mail it. When the Channel is printed before the End of Month, we can usually handle it. But when it happens after, then that's where the problems begin. Again, I am sorry for the delay.

I was looking at some old Channels this past week and I saw one of the first Channels I ever fully read, where Rachael Janelle had noted Pride Weekend was "awesome". I can't say it any better myself. What a tremendous effort on behalf of everyone! Our magnificent float which rode down Market Street was a sight to behold and was the product of teamwork. I was not at the float build because I was working the information booth but I was struck by the awesome beauty of our float. Much much thanks goes to Anne Louise, Laura, Pam, Dawnne, Siobhan and all of the others that helped. Our float showed the wide diversity within our organization. All of our Miss TGSF contestants, including our lovely Miss TGSF and handsome Mr. TGSF rode on the float. So did Silia's friends Gabby and Louis. Janice, a visitor from Pennsylvania drove the truck. Dawnne and Siobhan picked up the truck and drove it back.

Unlike last year, we had more than enough contingent monitors. Thanks to all of those who helped us out. Special thanks go to Lisa Dummer, who, despite a foot injury, gamely tried to walk along, until we realized that this poor lady needed to ride. Also thanks to Dawnne and Nancy Cupps for volunteering, as well as Tommi Watson, Terry Terman, Tekla (Kat) West and a couple of ladies who I do not know but who helped out as monitors anyway. It was great to see Terri Lee and Roberta Klitagaard who joined us from Sacramento and San Diego, respectively. Christine from Los Angeles rode along on her bicycle. Terry, a transman whom we just met the day before, helped carry the TGSF banner. As always, Didi Mau led the contingent. Several of us also volunteered to help out and volunteer with the parade. Dawnne (again!) helped with registration. Laura, Pamela and I were gap monitors (and got to see the first part of the parade and got to hug Lenny Broberg. I also got to meet Alan Cumming.) Anyway, I had been kind of worried that we would be ignored since we were contingent 135, but we hit Market Street and drove along at a rapid clip and were done at 1:30. If it weren't for KRON stopping every contingent for an interview the parade would have been over much faster. (However, they completed their coverage before we reached Market Street.)

Special thanks go to Alli for all of her work at the Outreach Booth. She had the foresight to supply the booth with cold water and sodas and requested donations. Kara had redone all of the fliers and countless people stopped by and requested information. Alli was an unending supply of energy and enthusiasm. She was in her glory on Sunday. From their experience at San Jose Pride, she and Kara had realized that we needed to draw people into the booth. So the two of them came up with the "Kiss a Tranny" promotion. She hawked the kisses like a carnival barker (or maybe the guy that stands outside of the strip club) and drew a lot of interest. Several ladies volunteered including Kara, Siobhan, Gabrielle (from Sacramento) and Bobby. I even gave some girl her $5 worth. Anyway, all of these efforts netted us about $400 in donations that weekend, enough to pay many of our expenses. Alli, I never got to give you a kiss and tell you what a wonderful job you did. I was impressed with you the moment I met you and you've exceeded even my lofty expectations for you.

I also want to thank our photographer, Lisa Larson who took some great photos. Last year, her photos were included in Transgender Community News, including a great picture of Rachel Hill and Tyler Fong on the cover. She submitted some photos again and hopefully you will see some of them in this *Channel*. She also took one of me that will never see the light of day.

I want to also give some thanks to a young man named Darrin. Earlier in the week, he had offered to provide support and housing to TG's and unfortunately made the mistake of announcing this on yahoo groups (I have a long diatribe about this which you'll read in another article.). He was the victim of some rather malicious and vile postings. After having talked with him at Pride, having seen the altar he had prepared in memory of Gwen and other victims of violence, having seen his promotion of TGSF, having seen the wad of cash he had raised for TGSF, I can say that I believe his interest in our community to be genuine and sincere. I hope that he can come to TGSF and discuss more of his ideas.

I am sorry I missed the Tranny March. Some of you asked where I was. Quite frankly, having been out late every night during the week I was exhausted and I needed one evening for myself. By the weekend I was pretty much running on fumes. We were ably represented by Kara, Alli, and Bobby so there was nothing I could have said that would have added to their remarks.

Now, on to some Cotillion news. As you read last month, first we announced we had chosen the Ramada Plaza and then rejected the contract because of the cost. Several of us embarked on a massive search for a venue and we came up with a winner – the Cowell Theatre and Fort Mason. You will love this venue. It is a professional theatre with professional lighting and sound, professional technicians, plush seating, ticketing, 5 fully equipped dressing rooms, a green room, a pre-function lobby and all of this overlooking the Golden Gate Bridge and Alcatraz. And most importantly, the price is right. We can have a professional looking show without breaking the bank. We plan to start promotion about September 1 and next time, we will announce all of the deadlines. We have also decided that this Cotillion is going to be so big; we will need two host hotels. So, we have chosen the Cow Hollow Motor Inn and Suites on Lombard Street and the Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf as our host hotels. This will provide our attendees with a choice relative to price. More details will be forthcoming so keep reading your Channel. Anyway, mark your calendars for January 15, 2005 for Cotillion 2005: "Back to the 80's". Note that we are a week earlier than last year so we are really going to need to kick everything into high gear very fast. As I said, check next month's Channel for all of the specifics.

Get ready for our doubleheader on August 21. In the afternoon, we are going to have our biannual (or is it biennial) MAC Makeover at Bloomingdale's. The MAC folks are always very nice and accommodating and have been big supporters of ours. Thanks as always to Siobhan for arranging this. And after the event, there is actually some place to go – our Bridal Faire at Carla's. We are still working on details but keep checking the website and our calendar for more information.

On July 10, I had the opportunity to attend the GAPA Runway 16. I enjoyed the event last year and I want to thank Rachael Janelle for inviting me along again. Their Runway is a raucous affair and not for the feint of heart. But, all of the contestants take this pageant very seriously. I want to congratulate new Mr. and Miss GAPA 2004, Christian the Altar Boy and Trixie the maid with her laundry basket full of brightly colored toys. I am so jealous. I was also extremely pleased to see the recognition given TGSF and the introductions of Bobby and Anne Louise (and me – that was a surprise!).

A word about Miss GAPA, 2003, Pussy Catwalk. I am kind of teased her over this year but we have developed a friendship and correspond by phone and by e-mail fairly regularly. She was one of the first to call me after my surgery. But beneath the top hat and the gown is a proud gay Asian man who believes very strongly in the community. She represented GAPA very well over this last year with much dignity and class. I saw her at several events – remarkable since she lives in Los Angeles. Her final walk was very touching and poignant. She appeared, back to the audience, removed the top hat, the tiara, the sash and gown, then turned to the audience as Joey, then threw her hat to the crowd (I ALMOST caught it! But then again, I never caught a foul ball and it took me 20 weddings before I caught a garter.) Then she walked off. No words – simple and sweet. I know that many, as I was, were moved to tears. However, I know that even though her reign has ended, she will be very involved in the API community. Pussy, or Joey, you will always be my friend and I thank you for the kind words in the program. We at TGSF have been proud to have you and GAPA involved in our community. And thank you for honoring us by being a judge at our Cotillion. Perhaps I can convince Ayme to run our last picture together.

Ok, I have rambled on long enough but one more word about the Red White and Blonde BBQ. What a great turnout considering we did not promote it as much as we would have liked. Part of the credit goes to Carla. Her reputation draws many people and she is really our best form of advertising.

TGSF was featured in the Tranny Guide!!! There are pictures of me, Rachael Janelle, Tyler Fong, Siobhan Ellis, Jamie Fenton and Gina something. It is nice to get international notoriety.

A couple of passing thoughts –

TGSF is far from dead. I know that some people like to whine that we ain't what we used to be. Good. We're better.

I volunteered at the AIDS Walk on July 18. With the generosity of my colleagues at work and my community, I was able to raise over $1,000, exceeding my goal. Thank you all so much for your support.

As noted, I am moving at the end of August so I will be out of touch for a few days around August 20. I could always use some wonderful people with hand trucks and pick-ups to help out. The drinks and pizza will be on me. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Good Night Weezie...

July 10, 2004

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes

Present: Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Siobhán Ellis, Pamela Gray, Allison Laureano, Dawnne Woodie, Tommi Watson, Anne-Louise Mortensen, Damon Helton. Guest: Kelly Ann Marsh. *Absent:* Kara Flynn – out of town. Meeting Minutes of June 6 and June 19 were approved as submitted.

Presidents Report

Roxy is to participate in the AIDS walk in Golden Gate Park on the 18th July. At the time of meeting she raised $750. She asked if TGSF would donate money to the cause. ExCom approved a $100 donation to the charity.

Cotillion

Roxy, Dawnne and Allison discussed the location for Cotillion 2005. They briefed the ExCom on the site visit, and how impressed they were by the venue. Discussed the cost, and what was included in the cost. Personnel, Equipment, and that it is a professional theatre. It is Accessible by public transport. A draft budget was shown showing that TGSF will be ale to provide tickets at varying prices for seating, although there is not really a bad seat in the house. However, it enables TGSF to meet a goal of making the Cotillion affordable for many. Motion was approved to sign up for the Cowell Theatre in San Francisco.

Allison & Laura are to look at providing hors d'ouvres. Dawnne discussed options for a bar, one suggestion was to use a professional bar staffing company, who would also provide the drinks for a flat fee. Staff would work on tips. Dawnne was asked to investigate further. August ExCom will see a preliminary budget to set final ticket prices. Siobhán mentioned that Kimberly Newsome had expressed interest in being a judge in the past, and that we should consider her for Cotillion 2005.

Roxy had investigated various hotels as the host hotel and discussed the pro's and con's of each. Roxy's recommendation was the Cow Hollow. Dawnne raised potential issues around general location, and was tasked to look at the hotels and report back to the ExCom by the weekend. (Subsequent to the meeting, Dawnne recommended both the Cow Hollow and the Holiday Inn Fisherman's Warf be host hotels, the ExCom agreed)

Advertising needs to be developed around the theme. Siobhán's graphic design contact, will provide. Hopefully it'll be ready by the next ExCom.

Event for Mr & Miss TGSF to attend this month is GAPA Runway 16.

Fundraising was discussed. The next day was the Red, White & Blonde BBQ at Carla's. There was also a suggestion that we run a garage sale 1st Saturday in September with donated goods from TGSF. We would need a location on a well-travelled road.

Vice Presidents Report

The TGSF Booth at SF Pride took over $400, with more money to come from Pride as TGSF were designated Partners in Pride. The amount we are to receive is not yet known. There was a lot of interest in membership, over 80 forms were taken. 10 to 12 people were involved in the float building, which went until 11pm on the Saturday. Even people from out of the state were there to help.

Treasurer's Report

Pam is unable to on-line checking. She will be contacting the bank about her issues with this. She estimates that we have $4000 in the account. Pam wrote out cheques for expenses that people had incurred with regard to Unity and Pride. $1000 had been received from Elizabeth Jeffords for a full-page ad for 1 year. Dawnne is to re-approach vendors who had expressed an interest in advertising in the Channel. Pam had looked at the tax return, and is to seek help with it.

Secretary's Report

Membership database is up to date, however expressed frustration in the delay in receiving mail. Dawnne is now to collect mail from the PO Box, and send on to Siobhán. Siobhán will then distribute onwards.

Siobhán discussed the new website she is building. For the 3rd time asked for profiles from the ExCom, noting that various members of the ExCom still have not provided their profiles. She also mentioned that the resource guide is to be made entirely public, rather than the split between members only and public that it has now. She also mentioned that this resource guide is woefully out of date. Siobhán also suggested that we make it optional to pay for membership on-line via paypal.

Education

Willy Wilkinson and Chris Daley, from the TG Law Centre, have approached us to talk to us about TG Health law at the Oct EOM,, however this is Halloween. It was felt that this would be too distracting from their message, so Dawnne is to look at holding it at the LGBT Centre or at a MCC Church.

E-mails have been sent to previous attendees at the MAC events to give them 1st choice for the August 21 event. After one week, blanket e-mails will go out to TGSF membership, and then be posted in the TGSF and TGSV yahoo groups.

Damon proposed some ideas on talks, for which he has been lining people up. Topics were TG Violence, and ho to complain about abuse. A documentary on F2M's, healthcare. Allison suggested making a day of it all.

Outreach

Equality California (www.eqca.org), a coalition of groups that fight for equality, are now starting TG equality. It was recommended that TGSF be involved.

At SF pride, out reach booth was a success. Drinks were popular and raised cash. There were about 200 people who had serious questions.

Daren X was discussed. This is a guy who wishes to set up safe havens for the TG Community. Both Allison and Dawnne have met him and consider him to be a sincere host person. Roxy suggested he should write into the Channel about his ideas.

TGSF has been invited to Hayward and Santa Cruz Pride events.

Roxy discussed mid-peninsula, where 8 people attended.

Kelly has two events for Transcentral station. One for Transvision and the Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund on the 14th August at the Rainbow Room, Hayward. They'll also be appearing at Hayward pride with Lipstick Conspiracy.

Kelly has also been talking to KQED who have been looking for information. She got some from Tiffany Woods. They are putting together a documentary on Hate Crimes. They would like to talk to TGSF more. However, they are out of state for the next month.

Social

The organisation for the BBQ was discussed. Damon volunteered to BBQ. Anne-Louise discussed the Wedding Party on 21st August at Carlas. Dawnne volunteered to act as an unofficial minister. Siobhán was asked to be MC. There'll be a costume contest in various categories: Wild Bride (Sexy), Goody two-shoes Bride (sweet), Bride of Frankenstein, Mr. Right, Mr. Wrong, and Frankenstein. Entertainment will be provided. This event will be linked with the MAC event.

The next End of Month is July 29. Joe Caruso from the mayor's office will attend. Nordstrom's is a possibility for August and Luana Rogers is a possibility for September. Evan from Oui Three Queens is interested in holding a mid-month.

Roxy noted she had approached Jamie Fenton about organising the mid-month but had received no response.

Old Business

Anne Louise noted there was an outstanding bill of $25 from the LGBT Center for Unity. It was agreed that the bill should be paid.

New Business

Kelly said that Trans Central Station had offered to do an acoustic number at an End of Month. It was agreed that this is a good idea and Kelly will check dates.

Kelly added that e-mail updates would help remind people of upcoming events.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held Sunday August 1, 2004 at 2 PM, immediately following the Cotillion Planning Meeting at 1:00 PM at the San Mateo Marriott.

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ExCom Profile

The Amazingly Almost True Story of Roxy Carmichael-Hart

First off, I was christened Lucretia. I'll get to that in a minute. I was born in a wagon in a traveling show. My mama used to dance for the money they stole. My parents were gypsies. Mother was named Lorpoeza Woodsosovichski. But when she came to this country from Hungary, the immigration officer couldn't read her first name so he just named her "L". He couldn't pronounce her last name so he shortened it to "Woods". Hence, my mother's name was L. Woods. My father's name was Julio Downbydeschoolya. His very very close friend was singer turned Senator from Illinois, Paul Simon. His friendship with Paul inspired him to write the classic song "Me and Julio Downbydeschoolya". However, it was always mistakenly called "Me and Julio Down By the Schoolyard", to prevent any insinuation that Mr. Simon was gay. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

When I was a child, my parents dropped me off on the doorstep of a middle class family in Quahog, Rhode Island, never to be seen or heard from again. My new family was, in a word, rather cartoonish. My stepfather Peter was a large, happy, kind of oafish man who had a habit of quoting old TV shows. My stepmom Lois was, to put it bluntly, hot. Except she always seemed to wear the same green blouse. My stepbrother Chris was also rather round, doltish and an underachiever. I could never figure if he was really that stupid or if it was an act. My stepsister Megan always wore the same red hat and was always upset about something. She had an incredible inferiority complex. My best conversations were with Brian and Stewie. Brian was a bit of a lush, but loved opera and the arts. We would talk for hours about all kinds of things and not once did I think it was strange that he was a dog. I also spent hours talking with my one-year-old stepbrother Stewie, mostly about his quest for world domination. Although my family was strange, they truly loved me and raised me as their own. I had a habit if being rather loud and outspoken and prone to say the wrong thing at the wrong time, so I was edited out of all of the FOX broadcasts of the show, appearing only once as the voice of "Girl in Park".

Seeking to further my education, I soon left my family and headed to Harvard where I majored in pre-law. I developed a taste for music and soon become a devoted fan of Roxy Music, from whom I took my name. I became president of my sorority, Phi Slamma Jamma. I developed a rivalry with a loud-mouthed bitch named Hilary who was always complaining that I was trying to steal her boyfriend. Since she was rather homely, I told her that she'd never get a boyfriend and if she did, he would never amount to anything. I was doing really great in college until my dirty old man of a professor, Professor Kingsfield, put his hand on my knee. When I screamed sexual harassment, Harvard not only released me from school, but made sure that I never appeared in any episodes of "The Paper Chase". I did have one cameo as "Girl in Park."

Out of college with no job prospects, I soon took up music. I did not know much about it when I started but my teacher, Mr. Schneevly, taught me all of the classics – AC/DC, Deep Purple, Black Sabbath and all the others. But, I became enthralled with punk and new wave, formed a band, dyed my hair pink, and changed my name to Doubt. We got lots of gigs and wound up with a pretty good following. But because I was rather loud and obnoxious and opinionated, I was soon kicked out of the band that I had founded and loved. I was replaced by some bitch blonde singer named Gwen, who, in a mocking sort of way, changed the name of the band to "No Doubt". They did let me appear once, in a video as "Girl in Park".

I worked a series of odd jobs, as a waitress in Mel's Diner, a go-fer for WJM TV in Minneapolis, receptionist at a doctor's office in Chicago, stuff like that. I even lowered myself to selling shoes with a rather loud and oafish man named Al. He reminded me of my stepdad Peter so we got along really well. And it went on. No real career and not much of a life. I began to drink non-diet sodas and do drugs – the really heavy stuff – super sweetened chocolate.

My big break came one day when I was walking down the street and I was attacked by a couple of thugs. Well, having watched virtually every Jackie Chan movie ever made, I had learned the art of self-defense. I disarmed those two punks with a couple of swift kicks. A producer saw me and soon, I was cast in the new "Charlie's Angels" TV show. I taped 44 episodes. None of which saw the light of day. To this day, they sit on a shelf at FOX. I did get to appear in the movie as, you guessed it, "Girl in Park".

Being as attractive as I was, I did manage to attract my share of men. I had a series of husbands and lovers over the years. However, only my first husband, Amos Hart, really loved me. The poor schlep was so in love with me, he didn't care that I cheated on him right and left. One day, Amos caught me with one of my lovers so I did what I had to do. I shot them both. It was self-defense. After all, they both reached for the gun.

Directionless, manless and friendless, I was alone and lost. And then, one day, this incredible woman named Rachael Janelle entered my life. I love her more than anyone else than I have ever met. She gave me love, she gave me life, she gave me hope. And the rest, they say, is history.

And now you know, the truly amazing, incredible and almost true story of Roxy Carmichael-Woods-Griffin-Hart-Kennedy-Kerry-Sinatra-Onassis-Bono-Allman-Trump.

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

The Eyes Have It

Ask anyone what their favorite cosmetic is, and they'll usually have a definite answer. Some say that lipstick is their best friend; they can't leave home without it, even for a quick trip to the store. Others say they can't live without their powder, and usually carry it with them everywhere they go. For me, eye shadow is my weakness. I must have it, and it's the main focus of my daily makeup routine. It can set the theme or tone for the whole look, and sometimes, the whole day or event. Everything else I put on my face is just a precursor to the shadow. Who do I want to be today?

Form or Function?

Eye shadows come in many forms. What form you choose really depends not only on the time you have to spend on application, but also your skin type. In addition, choosing an eye shadow can also depend on whether to carry a smaller version tucked into a makeup bag, or a full kit with many colors. I usually opt for the smaller version, which means I can buy more of them!

Powder

This is usually the most common form of eye shadow and is the easiest to find. Most companies have a line of shadows in a pressed powder compact. They apply easily with the right tools. Powder is ideal for most skin types, but it's important to beware of powder that settles into fine lines on the eyelid or around the eyes. This can happen with very dry or crepey skin. Prepping the eyelid area with a base or a moisturizer prior to application can help this. For those with very oily skin or who live in humid climates, powder is a good choice.

Cream or Cream to Powder

This form of eye shadow is also ideal for many skin types, but those with very oily skin should be aware that some creams can melt or smear with excess oil on the face. This type of shadow can be applied with the fingertip or with a brush. It's a little more difficult to apply than powder, but can have an amazing staying power.

Loose Powder or Mineral-Based Loose Powder

This is ideal for those more experienced with makeup application. Loose powder becomes airborne easily, and wielding a brush into the stuff can be tricky. Also, unless the container is covered with a sifter, it may spill easily. Great care should be taken when using this product, but the results are definitely worth the extra effort.

Shadow Sticks

This type of eye color is great for those with limited time. A stick is easy to apply and easy to blend. It's concentrated color on-the-go, and can also be used in addition to a powder shadow.

Questions? Feedback? Need help finding products? Send me an email - BeautyBoost@hotmail.com.

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

ISO...

SWM heterosexual crossdresser, mid 50's, 5'9" 190lbs. Sensitive, kind. Seeks sensitive open-minded understanding woman to share crossdressing and feminine activities. PMB [redacted] 94109-8215.

Paid Advertisement

TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

TGSF Events in August

Sunday / August 1 / 2:00pm

TGSF ExCom Meeting

Note different day and time this month: The next meeting will be held at the San Mateo Marriott, California Grille Restaurant, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA., immediately following the Cotillion Planning Meeting at 1:00pm, also at the San Mateo Marriott. A busy agenda is planned and volunteers and extra hands are always needed! The regular lunch menu will be served. Please join your ExCom for lunch and help us out!

Wednesday / August 4 / 7:00pm

TGSF's Mid-Peninsula Support Group

All are welcome. For more information please contact please contact Roxy Carmichael-Hart at (510) [redacted] or email her at [redacted] Meets 7–9 p.m. in the Nob Hill Room at the San Mateo Marriott, 1770 South Amphlett Blvd. (at Hwys 101 and 92), San Mateo. (Financial support for this group provided in part by TGSF. A $1 donation will be requested, but no one will be turned away.)

Saturday / August 21

Two TGSF Events - Same Day!

MAC Event!

...at Bloomingdales - morning and afternoon seminars and individual makeovers. Free to TGSF Members! Followed by a...

Wedding Party!

This is a fantasy/fun party to be held in the evening of the 21st August. At Carla's, 124 Race Street in San Jose, CA 95126; 408-298-6900. See notice elsewhere in this issue for all the details!

Thursday / August 26 / 7:30pm

TGSF End Of Month Event

The meeting takes place at the Blue Muse, 409 Gough. We start gathering around 7:30 or so, and socialize for about an hour before the speechifying and announcements. Come join us for this fun, comfortable and welcoming event the last Thursday evening of every month. We'll look forward to seeing you there.

Mid-Month Social

Volunteers Needed!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials. TGSF used to hold these events but, due to a lack of staff, has not been able to continue these events. So, since all of our current ExCom members are overwhelmed with other projects, we are asking our members and our community for assistance.

The Mid-Month is a social that is held during the first two weeks of the month at a venue in San Francisco or Berkeley. Previous mid-months were held at the Thirsty Bear, San Francisco Brewing Company, and the Whitehorse Tavern. Unlike the monthly End of Month events, the Mid Months are much more social oriented.

All it takes to plan these events again is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people. If you would like to help with these events, please contact [redacted] and she will present it to the Executive Committee for discussion and action. Thank you in advance for your help.

August's Birthdays

8/01	Jennifer	8/14	Kran Kilpatrick
8/01	Kenette Faulkner	8/16	Gail Stern
8/01	Tracy Foiles	8/16	Casey Cole
8/02	Nicole Mossinger	8/16	Tina Benez
8/02	Elizabeth Jeffords	8/17	Beborah Anne B.
8/03	Cheryl Sheppard	8/19	Susan Taylor
8/03	Susan	8/19	Marilyn Koletzke
8/03	Angel Louise Grant	8/20	Jeannette Heulin
8/03	Maria	8/20	Roxanne C.
8/03	Kendra Blewitt	8/21	Esmarelda J. Alderete
8/03	Lisa Dummer	8/23	Joyce Jones
8/04	Lili Dubois	8/23	Yvonne Galileo
8/04	Anne Hart	8/26	Kay Mathews
8/05	Bill Jones	8/27	Louise Warren
8/07	Debra Bolle	8/27	Joesanne
8/09	Billie Jean Hall	8/27	Lulu Blau
8/11	Mary Elicker	8/27	Sabrina Evans
8/13	Sabel Samone	8/28	Evelyn Perry
8/13	Susan Seger	8/29	Erin Russell
8/13	Andrew Firebaugh	8/29	Lea Lee
8/13	Grace Kwan	8/31	Darcy Leopard
		8/31	Bardi Detro

Happy Birthday To All!

Cosmetics Lingerie Fem Fashions Wigs Nails Shoes Cosmetics

Nails Wigs Lingerie

CARLA'S
Salon & Boutique

124 Race Street
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 298-6900

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

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Cosmetics Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Lingerie Cosmetics

Calendar – August 2004

Other Bay Area Groups

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)
TGSF-sponsored support group for the TG community that meets at 7:00pm, First Wednesday of each month at the San Mateo Marriot Hotel, Nob Hill Room, in San Mateo. For more details please contact Roxy at (510) [redacted] **Debuts May 5th!**

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

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

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

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

I Love It Girl Socials
Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at 510 [redacted] for directions and more information.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **2:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting**	2 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	3 7:00 PM SCT	4 7:00 PM I Love It Social **7:30 PM MPTG**	5 7:00 PM DVG RCC	6 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	7 2:00 PM Youth Gender Project @ The Center
8	9 5:00 PM CCHH	10	11 7:00 PM I Love It Social	12	13 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	14 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
15	16 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	17 7:00 PM SCT	18 7:00 PM I Love It Social	19 7:00 PM DVG RCC TG Legal Clinic	20 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	21 **TGSF: MAC Event / Wedding Party!**
22	23 5:00 PM CCHH	24 7:30 PM SCOUT	25 7:00 PM I Love It Social	26 **7:30 PM TGSF: EOM @ Blue Muse**	27 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	28 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
29	30 5:00 PM CCHH	31				

TGSF Membership Application

Membership is billed annually upon enrollment: $40 Single / $45 Family

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

***Email:** _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Special Events!

TGSF/MAC Event plus Wedding Party August 21st!

MAC Event

On a semi-annual basis, TGSF & MAC (Makeup Art Cosmetics) in Bloomingdales, Stanford Mall, run a makeup event. This event will be run in 2 sessions, morning and afternoon. This event is always a success, for both members and MAC, and will be run in a private room. MAC now even contributes prizes to the silent auction at the Cotillion. The seminar will involve a lecture/demonstration from one of the senior MAC makeup artists, and then individual makeovers. Drinks and nibbles will be provided. The event will be held in a private room, and you can change in the store. Normally, it is expected that $40 of product purchased with a makeover, but that is waived for this event. The event is free to members of TGSF, and we ask for a donation from non-members.

THE TGSF Wedding Party!

Please come to our Fantasy Wedding. TGSF is inviting all those who dream about being wed to live their fantasy. At Carla's, 124 Race Street, San Jose, CA 95126. 7PM till Midnight. Prizes for who would be a Sweet and Lovely Bride, a Wild and Crazy Bride, Bride of Frankenstein, Mr. Quite Right, Mr. Very Wrong, Herr Frankenstein. There will be Dancing & Entertainment $15 includes drink & refreshments. See TGSF.org for information about the event and where to find inexpensive formal & wedding attire.

If you haven't been to Carla's, I think you will love it there. The Hall is actually the Good Fellow's Hall and it's big with plenty of room for our grand ceremony. We actually have a minister who's already at work preparing for the great event. Our minister is prepared to marry all regardless of gender orientation or sexual orientation till either party doesn't want to be married anymore. We also reserve the opportunity to marry hexterosexual "straight" couples if they so choose.

I put a great deal of thought into clothes. (It seems almost like an addiction). But please no one stay away because they can't afford something snazzy (Am I dating myself?). That's why we have these great categories for prizes. You can get as crazy and funky as you want. What we want is for everyone to have fun. If you do want something nice, I've been looking into it. I made a field trip to Jessica Mc Clintock's in South San Francisco and came up with a beautiful wedding dress for about $40. There's great stuff there. We're looking for other locations. Of course there's Carla's and Jo-An's.

And we need the guys of course. I know a Wedding, it's kind of a thing for us, sweet and lovely girls but hey you wild and crazy guys, come in leather or whatever. I do like leather and I just adore you cute FtMs. Show us how to party. Show us your strut. The same for all the wild and crazy girls out there, show us the wild side or the dark side of paradise.

We're going to try to put up tidbits of info on our site. So go to TGSF to keep posted. Come and party!

Anne Louise, Social Co Chair, Miss TGSF 2004

August 19-30, 2004

High Sierra Femme Fling XIX!

A GREAT way to meet other girlz and take a mini vacation at the same time EN FEM! RGA, Rainbow Girls Assoc. is doing their annual Femme Fling - A truly grand gender blending vacation in the High Sierra mountains surrounding majestic Lake Tahoe.

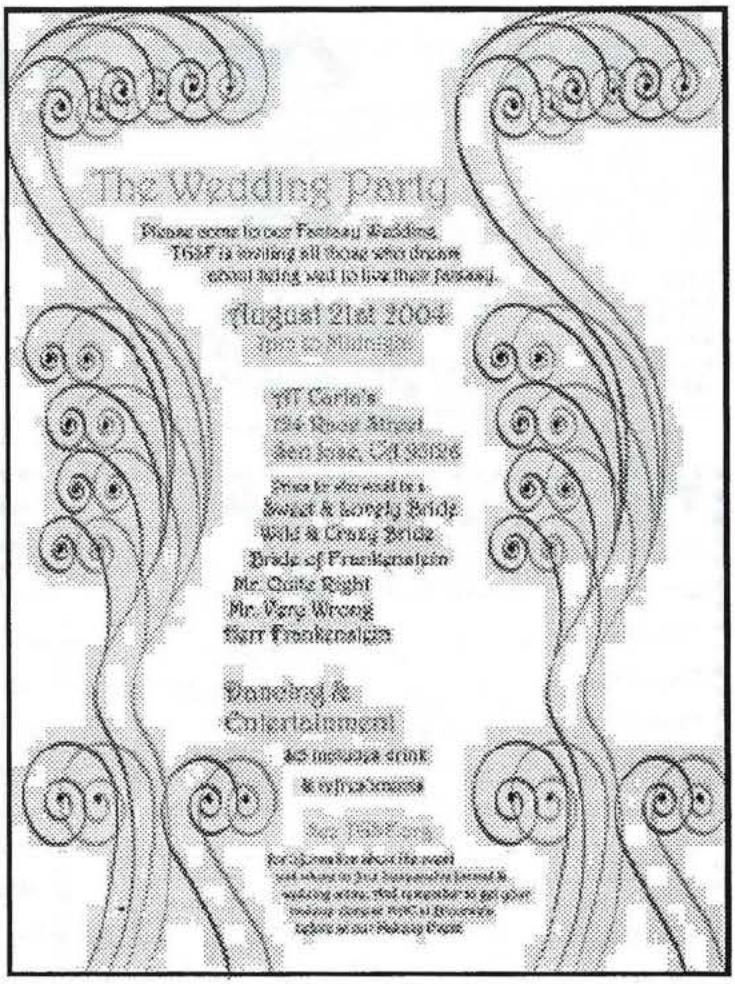
Treat yourself to a few days of fun en femme. Enjoy fabulous homemade food, music and games. Engage in conversations while sipping ice cream sodas. Lounge on the deck in the presence of amazing sunsets. Wonder at the reflection of the moon shimmering on the lake.

Shopping, sightseeing and gambling at Carson City, Reno, Virginia City and Lake Tahoe Villages. Hiking, biking, and ice skating at Squaw Valley. Rafting on the Truckee River. Swim the icy waters of Lake Tahoe at our own beach! Take in the Shakespeare Festival at the amphitheater along the lake.

Bedroom $75.00 per person per day double occupancy; $100.00 per day special rate for married couples. FEMME DEN: $50.00 per person per day (dormitory style); Day Guests: $30.00 per person per day. Extended visit discount: Five or more consecutive days and get 10% off.

All accommodations include meals, snacks and beverages. All accommodations share three ample bathroom facilities. Meal preparation and clean up by cooperative participation. For more information please **contact BECKY VIA E-MAIL at**[redacted]

Upon acceptance of your application you will be sent lodge location and map.



More Special Events!

August 14th!

Tiffany Woods Producing Transgender Event In Hayward

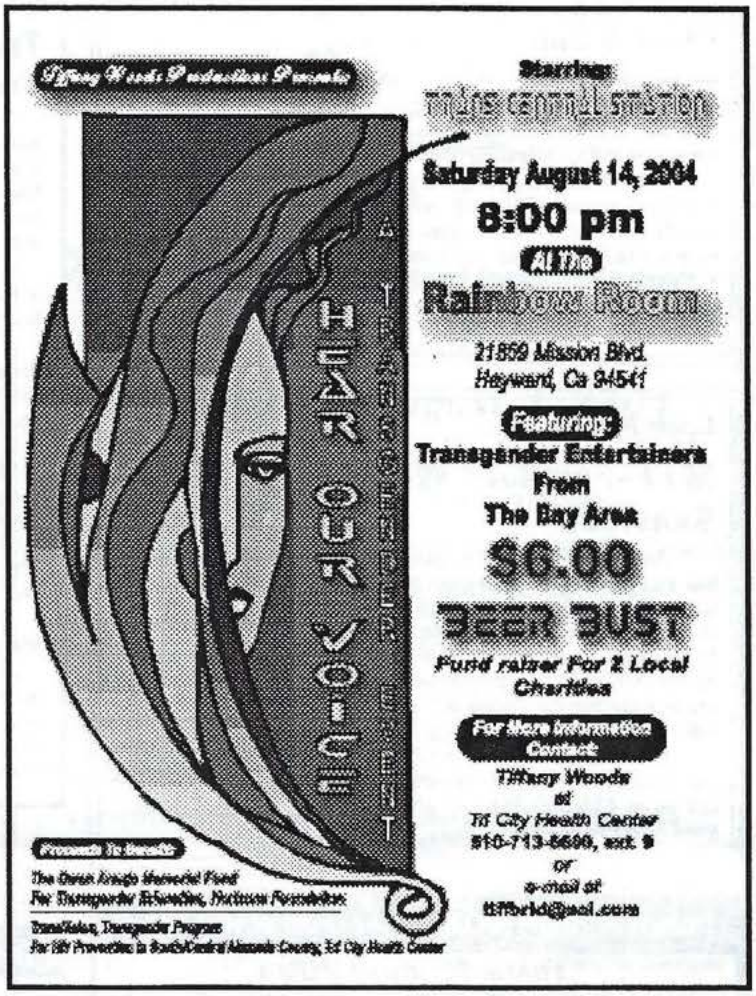
"Hear Our Voice"

This is an invitation to the Transgender community to come out to Hayward to support the first ever Transgender event in Hayward. This event has several goals to achieve; to increase visibility for transgender women who live in the East Bay and surrounding areas, raise a little money for two incredibly important programs, The Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund for Transgender Education, (Horizons Foundation), and Transvision, Transgender Program for HIV Prevention in South/Central Alameda County (Tri City Health Center).

This will be a Showcase for the talent and creativity of Transgender people, and we'll rock out with Trans Central Station, making their East Bay debut. This is also an amazing opportunity to provide some healing and education in the East bay, in the same city that Gwen's trial was held.

I will also be MC for the evening and that is always good for a few surprises. This is a very safe space with lots of parking in front. If you live in Alameda or Contra Costa County, it is really important that you come out and support this show so we can prove that a lot of Trans people live outside of SF, and that Gwen was not the only Trans person living in the County. I hope to see many of you there.

Tffany Woods
TransVision, Tri City Health Center; 510-713-6690 ext 9
Tiffany Woods Productions / [redacted]



In Bed With Fairy Butch

The 1st Annual Amateur Strip Contest!

For Women, Transfolks & Their Pals!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4TH!

12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. at 22nd St., Doors: 9PM, Show: 10PM

I am delighted to tell you that at long last, IN BED WITH FAIRY BUTCH IS BACK and we're having a blast! If you were at the club Pride Friday, you know it was one of our most fabulous barnburners, with show-stopping performances and nearly 700 folks broadcasting their pride all over the place! Now, we still don't have a permanent club, but we are planning TWO AMAZING EVENTS at the site of our old stomping grounds: 12 GALAXIES. The old club was good, but the new version is truly fabulous! The place has been remodeled, the sound system is stellar and the DRINK PRICES ARE FINALLY REASONABLE. That's right, $4 well drinks and $5 call, as well as well-priced beer and non-alcoholic beverages.

FIRST ANNUAL AMATEUR STRIP CONTEST on SATURDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 4TH! Always wanted to shake your groove thing on the Fairy Butch stage, but refrained because of your amateur status? Well, here's your chance to get out there and win some fab prizes while you're at it! Email fb@fairybutch.com or call the infoline at 415.FEZ-8000 to register or to receive more information. This should be one entertaining night—tons of different sorts of amateur strippers taking over the In Bed with Fairy Butch stage for fame and valuable prizes. This is Labor Day weekend, so plan for a rousing crowd of sexy folks!

Now this event is going to be OVER THE TOP, so get your fine selves down to the HUGE, REMODELED 12 GALAXIES, be counted and have a blast! It's an enormous, beautiful house and if you haven't been since it's been remodeled, I think you'll be delighted with the view, the sound system and the ambience this gorgeous, two-story wonder provides.

Karlyn Lotney aka Fairy Butch
ffb@fairybutch.co / www.fairybutch.com
FB Info Line: 415-FEZ-8000

Coming in October!

IRLM Announces the Crown Ball

The Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy, Inc, a 501c3 non-profit company announces the Crown Ball weekend. The 1st & 2nd October 2004. Friday night, **1st October**, from 8pm is **Rhinestones under the Stars Cocktail Party**.

Join the IRLM at a Hollywood style home in the Cupertino Hills overlooking Silicon Valley with fabulous views. Give those rhinestones a dusting off, and give them a dry run. Entry will be free, and drinks will be low cost. RSVP is requested, and details will be given out.

Saturday night, **2nd October**, is the **Crown Ball** at the Bankers Club in San Jose (http://www.bceventcenter.com/). This fabulous location set in an old bank in downtown San Jose is just right for a Crown Ball. Bring your crowns and tiaras, and if you don't have one, one will be provided.

Entertainment, Dancing and Food included in the price of only $15. Drinks, alcoholic, soda and water can be purchased. Entry can be gained at the door, but you can also purchase tickets in advance to make sure you can get in.

Siobhán Ellis
Crown Princess to the XXXIVth Reign of the IRLM
http://www.irlm.org

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!

Announcements!

Check It Out!

T.R.A.N.S.

We offer weekly ongoing workshops & support groups designed for MtFs, FtMs & Gender Queers, and Mulitgender (Co-ed).

T.R.A.N.S. provides a safe space, a welcoming enviornment, a living room with TV/VCR, support groups, referrals to trans-specific services, therapy, workshops, special panel presentations, case management, and other special events to bring an end to isolation for people in the Bay Area. Located at 1145 Bush St. SF, CA 94109. Contact: **Damon Helton**; 415-[redacted] or 415-[redacted]

Lyon Martin

MTF-Friendly Women's Health Services

Are you uninsured? Low income? Transgender individuals with low incomes and without insurance can receive excellent sliding scale primary health care at Lyon Martin Women's Health Services. Whether you are interested in a regular check-up, treatment for an acute issue, or STD testing, we offer medical care that understands how to treat people with respect. We can also help you manage chronic conditions like high blood pressure, diabetes, and asthma.

Lyon Martin is located at 1748 Market Street between Gough and Octavia. For more information on our clinic services, please call us at 415-565-7667 or check out our website at http://www.lyon-martin.org

TransNewOrleans & O.W.L. - the Order of Wild Ladies

"Trans-Mission 2004"

New Orleans Pride Fest, Armstrong Park

October 9 & 10, 2004

This year the first fundraiser for the TransNewOrleans "Trans-Mission" shall be the start of establishing a Trans-friendly shelter/transitional/healing housing for New Orleans and the Central Gulf Coast. We are asking for donations to help our fledgling/pending non-profit to purchase a booth at Pride Fest, 2004 in New Orleans.

This booth will sell food to raise money for "Trans-Mission's" filing and start-up fees, provide a space for outreach/donations for the Transgender American Veterans Association, HRCWatch.org, Gulf Coast Trans organizations, and others. We will provide literature on TG/TS/IS/DES issues for the public, and e shall also have folks from the Trans community to answer any questions by those people who take an interest in what "Trans" is, and what it is not. Volunteers and literature donations are also appreciated.

This form of shelter/transitional/healing housing is very much needed for the members of the Trans community, not just here on the Gulf Coast, but throughout North America. Many of our people die due to violence and desperation. Providing a safe, warm, helpful living space to help our people out during crisis times will make a difference in their lives and safety.

Please help support this effort to make a real difference! Be Blessed!

Morwen Madrigal,
TransNewOrleans; O.W.L.; "Trans-Mission"
Trans-Mission@bellsouth.net
TG/TS/IS/DES Advocacy/Education/Outreach/Support
919 Rue Spain, New Orleans. LA 70117
(504) 943-7037

Transgender Day Of Remembrance Announced

6th Annual Event will be held November 20, 2004

SAN FRANCISCO, June 16, 2004 - The 6th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance has been set for November 20th, 2004, with over 100 separate observances expected world-wide. "Since last year's event, nine more people have died due to anti-transgender violence," said Ethan St. Pierre of the Remembering Our Dead project. "So yet again, we will be making it known that such killings are unacceptable.

The most recent reported case of anti-transgender violence leading to death is that of Cedric Thomas of Baton Rogue, Louisiana, who was shot multiple times on May 18th. Thomas died from those wounds on June 5th.

The Day of Remembrance began in 1999 as a way to draw attention to the issue of anti-transgender violence in the wake of unsolved murders such as that of Rita Hester. Hester was killed November 28th, 1995. Her death remains unsolved.

Unlike the murder of Rita Hester, many recent cases — including the rash of Washington, D.C. attacks that left two dead last August — show an increased vigilance on the part of law enforcement and the media to treat these crimes equally. "That we're seeing more stories about these cases, more arrests, and more convictions says that our actions are being taken seriously," said Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwen Smith. "yet there is still so much more to do."

Last year's event was honored in over one-hundred locations in eight countries.

The Remembering Our Dead project <www.rememberingourdead.org> exists to honor individuals murdered as a result of anti-transgender hatred and prejudice, and draw attention to the issue of anti-transgendered violence. Remembering Our Dead is a project of Gender Education and Advocacy, Inc.

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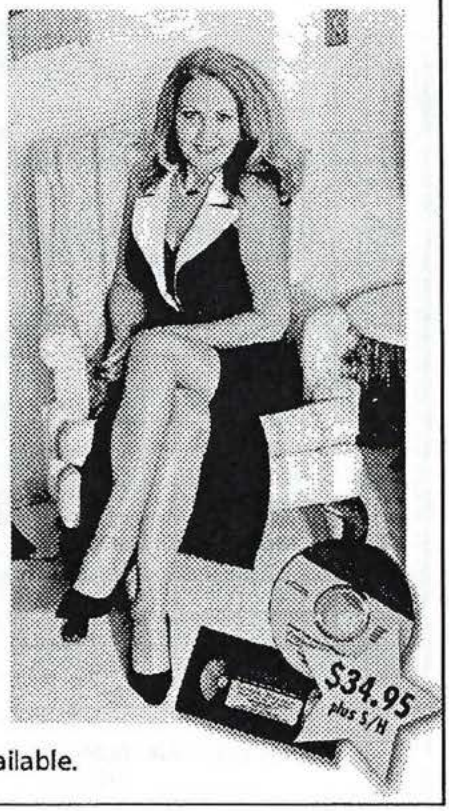
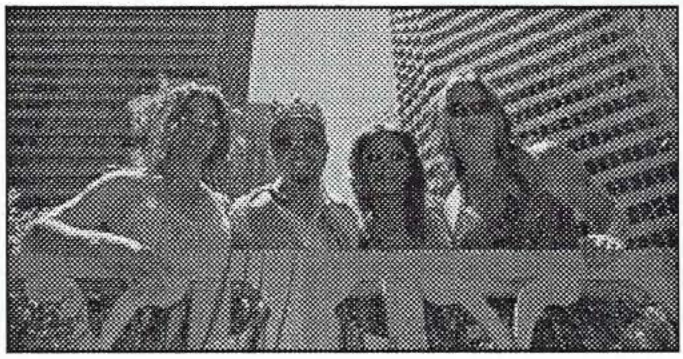


Private Consultations Available.

Announcements!

Congratulations To TGSF!

Through the efforts of Vice-President Laura Marlowe, TGSF was designated as a Partner in Pride. As a result of the volunteer work on Pride Sunday from Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Pamela Gray, Dawnne Woodie and Tommi Watson, TGSF was awarded **$608** at the **Pride Awards** on July 19, 2004. Well done and next year, we are going to double it!



Kara, Bobbie, Anne Louise and Siobhán on the Pride Parade Float!

Cotillion Hotels Now Available!

TGSF is pleased to announce that this year, we are offering a choice of venues for our host hotels, designed to fit those with varying budgets. Rooms are available for both January 14 and 15, 2005. Our host hotels are:

Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf, 1300 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA

Room rate is $105/night, parking discounted at $28/day. Must mention "Transgender San Francisco" to get the group rate (lower rate not available on line). For Reservations call 800-942-7348. Rooms must be reserved by Friday December 24, 2004 to guarantee the group rate

Cow Hollow Motor Suites and Inn, 2190 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA

Room rate is $86/night; parking is free (one car per room). Must mention "Group 1696, TGSF 2005 Cotillion" to get the group rate (lower rate not available online). For Reservations: www.cowhollowmotorinn.com, or call 415-921-5800. Rooms must be reserved by December 14, 2004 to guarantee the group rate

It's not too early to start making reservations! This is Martin Luther King weekend so rooms will fill up fast!

Transcending Transgender

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

trans gender san francisco

tgsf

Mid-Peninsula Support Group

is back! Next Meeting is on
WEDNESDAY, August 4, 2004

and continuing on the
first Wednesday of each month

San Mateo Marriott, 1770 South Amphlett Boulevard
(Highways 101 and 92), San Mateo, CA

7:00 - 9:00 P.M.

Nob Hill Room

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For more details please contact Roxy at (510) [redacted]
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Please note: This is a support group. The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF.
You are encouraged to speak to your personal physician and/or therapist regarding your specific treatment and care.

Financial assistance provided, in part by Transgender San Francisco

T.R.A.N.S. Study - Please Help!

Seeking the FTM, Gender Queer, Gender Fuckers, Bois, Gender Enders, and Gender Variant Community: Do you identify with anything other than your biological sex given at birth? We are conducting a study to assess the needs and behaviors of the FTM and emerging gender communities.

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Please note: there is very little information about the FTM and gender variant community, we would like to change that and conduct a large-scale study to inform ourselves and the community of our faces and places, or challenges and victories, etc. EVERY PERSON COUNTS!

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Commentary

Confessions Of A Dangerous Mind

by Roxy Carmichael-Hart

The comments expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of any other ExCom member, TGSF, or TGSF members.

Kill Butterfly Vol. 1

Elsewhere in this *Channel*, you will read an open letter from Siobhan relative to the deconstruction of TGSF as we know it and making it a different organization. I have a great deal of respect for Siobhan and her desire to contribute to this community. I believe her letter deserves your careful review and thought and feedback because it is you, the members, who will ultimately decide whether this direction is the right one. First off, let me state flat out that I support all of TGSF's efforts to reach out to other groups and to invite them to our activities. However, whether the needs and interests of those other groups should be the focus of TGSF is another matter entirely.

Let's look at a typical politician. We'll call him Edward Kelly, Senator from the Northeast and a candidate for president. When Edward talks to his fellow Catholic bluebloods, he proudly tells them he is pro-life. When he speaks to NOW, he proudly proclaims his support for a woman's right to choose. In San Francisco, Senator Kelly talks about his support for gay rights. In the south, he opposes same sex marriage. When he talks to business groups, he is anti-tax. When he talks to the government officials, he supports higher taxes. You see the point? The Senator is trying to be all things to all people, so much that his credibility is in question. In trying to be all things to all people, he is, in the words of a respected TG leader, "nothing to anybody". As the song goes, "you've got to stand for something or you'll fall for anything".

TGSF faces the same dilemma. In trying to be all things to all people it is in danger of being nothing to anybody. How, pray tell, can one balance the needs of Jane Smith, a middle-aged crossdresser (who some members of this organization are trying to make a scapegoat for all of our ills) with the needs of John Jones, an FTM from San Francisco? If Jane, who rarely gets out and is looking for safe places to go, comes to TGSF and sees a group of people with which she is not comfortable, is she coming back? Not likely. Have we lost her? Perhaps.

As much as I disagree with the old timers of ETVC, they are correct in one aspect. ETVC had a mission and stuck to it. Perhaps that is why their membership was over 400 and 80 or so regulars came to the Chez Molet every month. You knew what they were about and what to expect. People felt safe and comfortable. Now, with the internet and places like Carla's and I Love It, maybe a formal organization like TGSF is not needed. Maybe there is lots to do elsewhere that you don't have to pony up $40 a year for. After all, the same people usually show up at the Blue Muse or at one of our functions. Younger people don't want to hang around at a stuffy meeting; they want to party or hang on the internet. One thing TGSF has never addressed is its failure to even reach out to the mainstream male to female crossdresser (the ones we were formed to help) and the under 30 ones at that.

One of our most respected members has said that 85% of our population does not come out because they are afraid. I do not know how true this number is but it is true that there are lots more than 150 TG's (our current membership) in the Bay Area. Why are not more TG's members? What is TGSF doing to reach them? Nothing. Why do many who participate in our activities fail to join TGSF? What are they not getting from TGSF? What is TGSF doing to reach them? Nothing. Why did roughly 25% of our members fail to renew their memberships? What are they not getting from TGSF? What is TGSF doing to reach them? Why did 2,000 march in the Tranny march but only 25 in the Pride Parade? What is TGSF doing to reach them? Nothing.

Before TGSF attempts to broaden its base, it needs to take care of its core. It needs to find out what its mission is and stick with it. If TGSF has had such a problem reaching its base, how in God's name can it expect to have any success with these other groups? There is always the risk that the more inclusive you try to be, the more exclusive you become. And as I stated earlier, there is lots of competition for our money and time. It's not as if we can afford to alienate half of our membership. If you are not true to your core, they will go elsewhere. Like Senator Kelly's core of fairly moderate working families will go elsewhere if they feel they are not being heard.

Continued on Page 16

Dear TGSF Members:

The following is the view of Siobhan Ellis, a private individual, not as secretary of TGSF. It has not been sanction by the Executive Committee, but nor is it in defiance of that committee. This is an attempt to open public debate about the future of TGSF, not to inflame or insult anyone.

TGSF stands at a crossroads.

If you look on the front of The Channel, and at our Cotillion, we claim membership for all who are transgendered, gender queer, or intersex. Yet our organization is dominated by Male to Female transgendered people, with a few female to males. We are viewed as a feminine organization by those outside. If you look at our demographics, we are of a older generation. We are failing to appeal to the younger generation, and our membership is down. We must change with the times, or go the way of the dinosaurs.

Why is it that we fail to attract younger members? Is it that we have nothing relevant to say? No, it isn't. Indeed, we have a wealth of experience. I believe it is because society is changing. Society is now more accepting of transgendered people. It certainly isn't perfect, but has come a long way. Also, much information is out there on the Internet. At the moment, the perceived value of TGSF is The Channel ad the month end socials. Young people can glean much of what is in the Channel from the Internet, and area creating their own networks, and thus socials. The Channel needs to continue as a hardcopy form, but also needs to be the free content of the TGSF web site. The end of month social needs to continue, but we also need to reach out to our younger brothers, sisters, and intersex individuals. TGSF MUST provide new value to those people to survive, but maintain and support our traditional membership.

As for whom we appeal to, we need to appeal to more of the F2M community. We need to de-feminize, or change our charter. I would argue that changing the charter also leads to ruin, as we then splinter into groups. TGSF should live up to its current charter and consciously embrace other similar communities. We need to make them feel comfortable being with us, ad to become a part of our family. Sure, there are differences in our experiences, but our goals are the same, and our needs are very similar. We wish to be able to live free in a society that is not biased against us because of our gender identity, expression, or non-conformance. We are all human, and we expect equal human rights. It is my belief that as a single, unified, major organization, we would have more voice than we currently do. We would be heard, for all transgendered and interesex people.

It is my belief that we need to do the following:

- Remove the Butterfly from the TGSF logo. It is regarded by many F2M's as a feminine symbol. We may know, and understand, what it represents, but they do not relate to it. Transition is different for an F2M than it is for an M2F, and Intersex people do not transition at all.
- Create posts within the ExCom for intersex education and outreach. The education chair would educate the rest of us as much as the intersex community itself
- Run events, such as Unity, that are gender neutral and make sure we invite other organizations such as FTMI and PISSR
- Have a higher participation on ExCom from the F2M community.

I hope you will send in your comments. Please send them to The Channel for general publication, or to me if you feel you don't wish to be public.

Regards
Siobhán Ellis

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ANGEL LEVEL: $500

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Tranz News!

NTAC Media Press Release

Transgender Delegation Readies for Democratic National Convention

In a historic first, the Democratic National Convention will see transgender participation like never before. For the first time ever, there will be more than a solitary transgender delegate in national political process. No less than five delegates, and two committee members will be attending the Convention on July 26-29, 2004 in Boston - four of whom are current or former board members of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC).

Over 4,353 delegates and alternates from every state and territory to nominate the next President of the United States. While five delegates works out to only 0.11% of the total delegation, the transgender community sees this as a momentous accomplishment, and an exciting milestone.

The first publicized transgender delegate to attend a national convention was Jane Fee, a Minnesota delegate who attended the 2000 Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles. Karen Keren was the very first transgender delegate, attending the 1992 Republican National Convention in Houston. Curiously, the press avoided reporting on this.

Keisling and Helms were not available to comment, but the other delegation members offered their thoughts on the upcoming event:

This year will see five delegates from four states: Kathy Padilla from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Barbra 'Babs' Casbar from suburban northern New Jersey, and Monica Helms from Atlanta, Georgia will join the two transgender delegates from Texas, Christina Ocasio from Austin and Vanessa Edwards Foster from Houston.

Joining the delegation will be two national committee members: Melissa Sklarz from New York City, who will sit on the Rules Committee, and Mara Keisling, Exec. Dir. of the National Center for Transgender Equality, who will serve on the LGBT Steering Committee.

"This is a watershed event, openly transgender people being accepted as leaders in the largest and oldest political party in the country," said Kathy Padilla, a former charter board member of NTAC. "It's an affirmation of the value of a very disadvantaged people and will effect inclusion in proposed federal civil rights legislation."

Christina Ocasio, a board officer of the Travis County Stonewall Democrats in Austin, and a self-described "young transwoman, commented, "it is important that we start to show our faces in politics and activism." She added "transgender people can be professionals with stable jobs, mortgage payments, car notes, paying taxes and children. In other words normal in most aspects of life." One of the key issues that Ocasio hopes to ensure is "the ability to keep working and being a productive member of our great society.

DNC Rules Committee member, Melissa Sklarz, said that the transgender community "ponder[s] our place in an uncaring cultural environment that know us only from tabloid news and television and wonder how many more deaths we will suffer until our needs are taken seriously. [In] spite of insurmountable obstacles put in our [way], our numbers only grow larger, and we will not go away."

Babs Casbar, an NTAC board member, noted the "honor" of being selected a delegate to the convention, and the "singular significance that I am part of the first transgender caucus of the Democratic Convention, ever!" She added, "our first goal is to be recognized as our own community by the Democratic National Committee. We must be our own advocates!" Casbar also commented that in this election season, "being recognized as an American Veteran is an additional honor and responsibility that I also carry with Pride."

"We are not simply a rare anomaly this year, we're taking a more proportionately representative part of the political process," said NTAC Chair, Vanessa Edwards Foster. "This is the beginning of a political coming-of-age for the transgender community - and one that was long overdue. We're finally doing what other segments of American society have done before us." Foster, a co-founder of NTAC, noted that "there is still a quite a way to go before we can say we're considered equals. But we've taken the next step, a very important step, in affecting our community's destiny for the better."

Founded in 1999, NTAC - the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition - is a §501(c)(4) civil rights organization working to establish and maintain the right of all transgender, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

NTAC Media Press Release

Marriage Protection Act Passes, Transgenders Disgusted By House Vote

By a vote of 233 to 194, the United States House of Representatives, passed the Marriage Protection Act (HR 3313). If passed by the Senate and signed into law, the Marriage Protection Act would strip federal courts of jurisdiction over legal challenges to the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The bill blocks lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender peoples' access to the federal courts for remedy of marriage discrimination, and may present constitutionality problems.

The bill now awaits consideration by the U.S. Senate, but is not yet on their docket. "This passage by the House is not only disgusting, it also sets an alarming precedent by stripping away citizens' ability for legal recourse," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair of the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) about the House vote. "What's ironic is that this law was supported and push through by Republicans. Historically, that political party has stood firmly against government curtailment of individuals' rights."

While the Constitution gives authority to Congress to establish lower federal courts and their jurisdictions (e.g., the Circuit Courts of Appeal, Bankruptcy Courts, etc.), Congress has never passed a law depriving the federal courts of jurisdiction to hear cases involving constitutional matters. All sides agree that the challenges to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) will be based on Constitutional issues, including its Full Faith and Credit and Equal Protection clauses.

There have been "court stripping" bills introduced in the past for attempting to take away federal court jurisdiction over cases involving abortion and flag burning. Those measures have died in committee because members have recognized their unconstitutionality.

"The so-called Marriage Protection Act is potentially more dangerous to transsexuals than even the FMA," said attorney Katrina Rose, "because the federal courts would have to ultimately interpret an anti-gay-marriage constitutional amendment regarding any application to heterosexual marriages involving transsexuals." Rose, a transgender activist and former board member of NTAC also noted that analysis of "the abundance of legislative history of transgender law and anti-same-sex marriage law would conclusively show that such heterosexual marriages were not intended as targets.

"At some point a state law action is going to get into federal court via diversity in which the validity of a marriage involving a transsexual or an intersexed person will be challenged under DOMA."

By eliminating federal court jurisdiction over questions of interpretation of the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), the MPA would shield DOMA from federal judiciary review, thereby shutting out a distinct group of people from the federal courts. This runs counter to the basic Constitutional principle of Equal Protection. By removing access to the federal courts, the MPA would deprive individuals of their Fifth Amendment right to Due Process.

The MPA would also disrupt the "checks and balances" laid out in the United States system of government. In order for individuals to be protected from overreaching by the legislative and executive branches, an independent judiciary is necessary to maintain the principle of separation of powers.

"It's sad and distressing that with all of the issues facing the government, this particular Congress and this Administration have focused their priorities on marriage issues," added Foster of NTAC. We're a country at war, we've got escalating record deficits, inflation is creeping upward, real wages outside of the upper ten percentile are falling, and everyone below that is being squeezed under the crush. Considering all these other issues, one would think that GLBT rights would not be the most urgent threat to this nation. But noting the way this government operates, it clearly must be to them."

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More Tranz News!

Trans Cop Receives Bravery Award From Town

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(London) A transgender police officer is being hailed for her "outstanding acts of courage and dedication to duty." PC Louise Worsfold was given the commendation at a ceremony by Mayor of Croydon Brenda Kirby at a ceremony in front of the town hall.

The incident which earned Worsfold the public tribute occurred in June 2003, after a 999 call from a terrified woman who said two thugs had threatened her with a knife. Worsfold and her partner PC Robert Hill were the first on the scene. Two teenage suspects were spotted hiding in a nearby car and were blocked off by the officers' vehicle as they tried to speed away.

While PC Hill chased one boy, PC Worsfold was kicked and punched to the ground during a struggle with the second. Despite suffering injuries and losing her police radio, she gave chase and snared the teen as he fled through nearby yards. His weapon turned out to be a screwdriver that had been specially sharpened. Both teenagers were later linked to 19 other violent crimes. They are now serving six years each in a young offenders' prison.

Worsfold is still transitioning and is planning on reassignment surgery next year. She said that after she announced she would begin living in her correct sex she had the support of the Chief and her colleagues.

Online SO List!

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

Bay Area American Indian Two-Spirits

Community Potlucks

Tentative Dates For 2004: **August 27**, September 24, October 29 and December 3. Held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia. Check board upon entering for room number.

Please bring something to share — food, non?alcoholic drinks, song, poem, raffle item. Traditional food is especially welcome. Contact us to confirm each event.

BAAITS potlucks are clean and sober. Those under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave.

BAAITS has an office at 1800 Market Street #411 in San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-865-5616 / www.baaits.org. BAAITS is a community based volunteer organization creating forums for spiritual, cultural and artistic expression of Two-Spirit people.

Trans Golfer Forced To Play In Men's Qualifier

by The Associated Press

(Fort Wayne, Indiana) A golfer who was born a hermaphrodite was banned from a woman's tournament because her birth certificate lists her gender as male. Instead, 40-year-old Danielle Swope will play in Saturday's qualifier for the Fort Wayne Men's City Tournament. "I have respect for the men for at least giving me the opportunity to play. The women I don't have any respect for," Swope told The Journal Gazette for a story Sunday.

Swope, who was born in Meridian, Miss., said she was born with both male and female reproductive organs and underwent gender-reassignment surgeries to become completely female. But her Mississippi birth certificate states that she was born male.

The Fort Wayne Women's Golf Association said that was why Swope could not play in the Women's City Golf Tournament, which begins Saturday. Swope, who took up golf about two years ago, also was barred from last year's tournament. "I feel sorry for her all around," said Linda Franze, president of the Fort Wayne Women's Golf Association. I can't imagine what she's going through. But there are rules and they apply to all of us."

The LPGA Tour, U.S. Golf Association and the Ladies European Tour have policies that players must be female at birth. The Indiana PGA and the Indiana Women's Golf Association adopted similar rules last fall after Swope entered the Indiana Women's Open. "Up until Danielle entered one of our events last year, we hadn't considered how to handle that situation," said Mike David, executive director of the Indiana PGA.

Swope, who said she was outclassed, withdrew from the Women's Open without finishing the first round. "This policy wasn't put in place because participants were concerned Danielle might go out and win," David said. "We wanted to make sure everything was fair as we moved forward with the playing fields."

The USGA put the "female at birth" clause in its entry forms in 1989, while the LPGA Tour added the restriction in 1991. The reason for that restriction was Charlotte Wood, a transsexual who was 50 when she finished third in the 1987 U.S. Senior Women's Amateur, and reached the semifinals of the U.S. Women's Mid-Amateur.

Unlike Wood or Australia's Mianne Bagger - both of whom were born male - Swope was born with both ovaries and testicles, reported The Journal Gazette, which reviewed her medical records. Swope was raised as a boy and her mother had her undergo a hysterectomy at age 11, she said.

Swope moved to Indiana in 1992. From 1995-97, she said, she underwent a series of surgeries to make her completely female. She legally changed her name from Daniel Swope to Danielle Swope in 1996.

Swope, who is 5-foot-4 and weighs 160 pounds, has a handicap index of 11.2. She said Fort Wayne women's golf officials told her they were concerned she might "overpower" the tournament competition. Officials did not understand that her body does not produce testosterone at the same levels as someone who was born completely male, Swope said.

Franze, the Fort Wayne golf official, said it was Swope's birth certificate - not competitive concerns - that kept her out of the tournament. "That was never a point in this," Franze told The Journal Gazette. The point is she was born male, and our participants have to be born female. That's the bottom line. The USGA and the Indiana state association go by that."

Swope wants to have her birth certificate changed to state she was born female. According to the Mississippi State Department of Health, such a change could be made under a court order, though the change would have to be noted on the document.

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Commentary Continued...

From the Unknown Secretary's Desk

[Ed Note: the names mentioned in this article are fictional characters, and could well be one of my own rants!]

Hello My Dear Trannies,

That time of year has come around again where we all of us must consider and make some decisions about Seahorse Victoria. Decisions of continuing membership and AGM proceedings related to the election of a new committee. Decisions that will impact on the future direction and management of the Club. Decisions that, if not thought through, could have a very real adverse effect on the Club.

Consider the following points:

- The lack of participation by the members in the social activities.
- The falling Ashburton attendances.
- The all too familiar practice of most members leaving at the end of meetings without staying back just a few minutes longer to assist with the clean-up.

You only need to put your chair away in the storeroom or take your plates/drink glasses to the kitchen – although help with the washing up would be nice. (At a Northern meeting earlier in the year, everyone bailed out leaving just Danielle and myself to do all the clean up on our own. Thanks a lot, girls!)

This practise shows a complete disregard for the dedicated few who remain behind to clean up. Why is it that this practise has reached the stage where one particular member has had to resort to taking the issue on board as a personal crusade to stir the membership out of it's complacency?

- The lack of interest in any members volunteering to assist the severely depleted and overworked committee.
- Likewise, Danielle's appeals for assistance with organising the Masquerade Ball largely falling on deaf ears. Do you want a Ball or not? If you want the Ball to happen you'd better think about helping out!
- Because of the preceding points, the possibility of the remaining committee members not re-nominating because they feel overworked and unappreciated, that they are beating their heads against a brick wall.
- The very real possibility of there being insufficient numbers to form even the bare bones of a new committee and the Club thereby being faced with a breakdown of management and future direction.

Strong words indeed!! But dire times necessitate such commentary.

Why?

Why has Danielle had to resort to issuing her ultimatum that, if there is insufficient help on the new committee elected at the September AGM, she will not stand for the Presidency let alone any committee position? That she will not do all the work on her own? (Fair comment!)

Why am I likewise feeling so disillusioned that I may well take a similar stand?

Why is Anne also feeling disillusioned and what of her reaction?

Why, out of a membership in excess of 130, is the committee reduced to just 4 dedicated members?

Does it surprise you to learn that for some time now, probably since early 2002 there has been a group of mainly long-standing members, which has been covertly active in undermining the committee? As recently as late 2003 this group was seriously considering what would have amounted to a coup to remove the President.

Why, if this group has been so disgruntled over an extended period, have they not fielded their own candidates for the committee? Why, if they were planning a coup as recently as late last year just after the AGM, did they not field their own candidate for the Presidency at the AGM? One really has to wonder about their agenda and motivations!

Why is it that the Club seems to have an abundance of the type who are least visible in terms of their involvement and participation yet are the most vocal in their criticism? Why do too many members seem to have too much to say about what's wrong with the Club, yet they not prepared to come forward and assist in a constructive and meaningful way?

Why is there such apathy and complacency within the Club?

Why is your Club, with the most honourable of intentions and objectives, sorely needed by the TG community, with dedicated and hard-working committee members, in such decline?

Why? What is it that you, the members, want?

Reprinted below is what I wrote following the AGM last year. Is this year going to be any different? Am I going to be writing something similar this year? (Provided I am still Secretary of course!)

The AGM has been run and won for another year. And what a disappointment it was!

The attendance was a dismal and very disillusioning 25. We barely managed to achieve a quorum, running the risk of having to do it all again next month. As President Danielle outlined in her annual report, presented on the night and reprinted in this edition of the magazine, whatever it is that you the members want from the Club, you will only get out of it what you yourself are prepared to put in.

What about it ladies? What about showing some support? Support for your sister members, support for the ideals and objectives of the Club, support for the social functions and activities, support for the time, effort and expense (in some cases 'above and beyond the call.....') the committee members give freely and willingly for the benefit of the Club and you, its members.

If you won't support the Club what will you do as an alternative, where will you go? Where can you go and get the same support for yourself in terms of social activities, friendships, empathy from like minded souls, opportunities to express your preference by dressing up in your finery and having somewhere to go? Think about it!!"

Until next time ladies,

Susan

Confessions of a Dangerous Mind...

Continued from Page 12

I have already received one reaction to this proposal. A young lady called me to say she felt that this effort to remake TGSF was being steamrolled without any discussion or input from members. And then she asked a very poignant and pertinent question: "If TGSF abandons me, where will I go?" Where indeed. I feel for her. I feel for the dozens like her. I am like her and I am proud to be. What will happen to all of us if TGSF abandons us?

Remember what happened in Yugoslavia? It was a loosely knit group of factions and confederations hastily thrown together and called a country, bound by nothing, united by nothing. When the leader died, the country split into its historic factions and disintegrated. I don't need to remind you of the bloodshed that ensued.

Ultimately, it is going to be your choice. You elected the leaders, you pay the bills and support the organization with your dues. TGSF belongs to you – not to me or Siobhan or Laura or Kara or any of the ExCom members. So you tell us if you want to kill the butterfly. Tell us if you want to implode the organization like an ancient Vegas casino and start fresh Also tell us if you'll be there to help us rebuild. And if you want us to keep our hands off your organization, please tell us that as well.

This issue is a long way from being resolved. It will be here for months if not years after some of us leave the organization. If we choose a new mission and you want to join us, welcome. If you feel you would rather go elsewhere, I'm sorry. You too will always be welcomed at TGSF or whatever it is we finally call it. That is one aspect of this organization that will never change. I'll see to that.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

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Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Financial Report

as of July 20, 2004

Assets

Cash	7045.36
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
Total Assets	8245.36

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	
Tyler Fong	400.00
Design Center	500.00
Total Liabilities	900.00

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenues

Memberships	390.00
Donations	125.32
Advertising	1129.97
Pride Booth	361.00
Red, White, and Blonde BBQ	567.21
Total Revenue	2573.50

Expenses

Channel	269.20
Tyler Fong	100.00
Unity Event	25.00
Pride	261.90
Total Expenses	656.10

Net Income 1917.40

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

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

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give

as of July 20, 2004

Elizabeth Jeffords $100.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

Contact TGSF!

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Roxy Carmichael-Hart ..... [redacted]
Or ..... [redacted]

Vice President
Laura Marlowe ..... [redacted]

Secretary
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Education
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Damon Helton ..... [redacted]

Outreach
Allison D Laureano ..... [redacted]
Kara Flynn ..... [redacted]

Social
Anne Louise Mortenson ..... [redacted]
Tommie Watson ..... [redacted]

Other Email Addresses

Editor, *The Channel*
Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]

Miss TGSF 2004
Anne Louise Mortenson ..... [redacted]

Mr. TGSF 2004
Bobby Cheung ..... [redacted]

TGSF Outreach Ambassador
Kelly Anne Marsh ..... [redacted]

TGSF.Org Webmistress
Siobhán Ellis ..... [redacted]

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So Now I'm Waist-Training With Corsets, But Where Does It All Go?

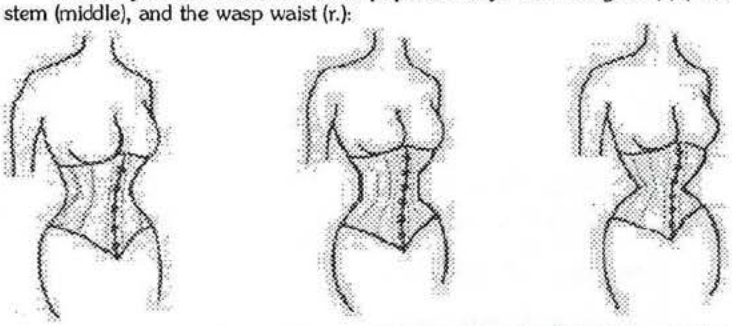
(Part III in a three-part series)

(c) By Ann Grogan 2004

(Reprinted with permission from Corset Magic: A Fun Guide to Trim Your Waist and Figure. Formerly titled, The Corset Diet Book). Available now by eBook ($15) at www.romantasy.com, or hard copy of manuscript for book-in-progress ($30 US; $40 OS).From my own experience wearing corsets, I've noted some rib as well as organ movement, some differences in my body's functions, and variations in comfort level when I wear different styles of corsets. I was initially curious as to why the underbust hourglass Victorian style corset always seemed best for training purposes. Here's why.

How Various Corset Styles Impact the Organs and Bones

Three styles of corsets are most popular today: The hourglass (l.) , the stem (middle), and the wasp waist (r.):



A fourth style seen here, the flat-bodied style typical of the eighteenth-century and earlier, is not an optional style for waist training and is seen more typically today in corset wedding gowns and for cocktail wear. It is not the corset of choice for waist training because it pushes in somewhat unnaturally on the rib cage. It artificially elevates the bosom to create what I call "grapefruit," and typically ends at the waistline, not giving sufficient below-the-waist coverage to lace down and create enough waist reduction while also controlling the tummy.

Effects of The Hourglass Style

You already know a bit about the hourglass style and that it comes highly recommended for waist training. However, a single reason for why it is recommended or what it does to the internal organs, is impossible. What I personally observe when wearing this style follows. If you wear this style, and since your stomach is located mainly above the waistline, you should experience only moderate to little constriction of that organ. Others experience different sensations. The Trench-Browns of C&S Constructions corset company, described effect of this corset style on the body in a letter of May 29, 1995:

"The compression at the waist is spread over a larger area in this style (compared to the wasp waist or the stem waist styles) but the deformation of the rib cage makes the corset more uncomfortable to wear and takes longer to adjust to. The ribs and pelvis are stretched apart giving a slight increase in height. This style gives a shape that is easier to tailor clothing to fit, and thus show off the small waist."

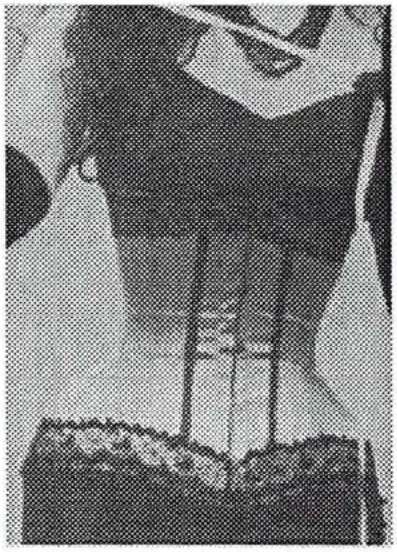
This statement is of great curiosity to me, since my experience of moderate corseting over ten years shows that the hourglass style neither appears nor feels like it "cruelly" deforms my rib cage, nor do I find it more uncomfortable to wear than the stem or wasp waist styles. Indeed, I find it's the most comfortable of all the styles.

However, if, either intentionally or unwittingly, an hourglass corset has been made to constrict at the upper or lower edges, you might notice moderate to +uncomfortable pressure on your upper ribs and hipbones. Over time, say years of lifestyle corseting, your ribs may, and will likely, move permanently, even with an hourglass style corset.

Fakir says that "The Hourglass Figure ideal is easier to attain and requires less severe and less lengthy training than the wasp . . . (it) calls for a rounded small waist at the normal waistline. Physically, the hourglass corset creates a stem between the upper and lower torso." (Corset News Letter, No. 34, page 8, published in September 1989 by Ruth and Lewis Johnson of BR Creations Corset Company). I don't, however, believe that Fakir meant to use the word "stem" to signify the same kind of stem evident in the stem-waisted corset shown below. Both technically in construction, and visually, these two styles are very distinct.

Colleen Gau, reported by Professor Steele in The Corset: A Cultural History, compared the exercise capacity of female students wearing the Victorian style corset of 1865 with the Edwardian or straight-front style of 1900. Subjects wearing the latter style complained of balance difficulties and increased back pain.

Effects of The Stem-Waisted Corset Style



The stem-waisted corset style uses rigid boning to create parallel sides at the waistline, rather than follow the natural body curves as does the hourglass style. The wider the "stem," the more pressure will be felt. The Trench-Browns describe the stem-waisted corset style as follows:

"This is a modification of the hourglass shape. The rib cage is less deformed but the ribs and pelvis are stretched apart much more to give a long slender waist. With this style the wearer can not only reduce the circumference of the waist but can also gradually increase the length of the stem giving an ever more slender and fragile appearance to the waist. Because of the stretching effect and the pressure onto the pelvis and upwards under the ribs, this is the most demanding style to wear and it is essential that the aspiring stem waist wearer be completely at home in an hourglass corset first." Although I only own one stem corset made by this company, I would concur, in general, with their statement. However, I'm puzzled by their statement that the rib cage is less deformed with the stem corset than with the hourglass. My experience is the opposite.

Effects of The Wasp-Waisted Corset Style

There's a lot of debate and confusion in popular writings about what exactly is the wasp-waisted corset style, or even if a separate style exists by that name. Some believe the term applies to any style corset that makes a noteworthy waist, while others come up with differing definitions. For example, some say the wasp style severely compresses the upper ribs and creates a V-shape at the waistline. Others believe that it exaggerates the upper rib cage by permitting it to expand, with severe pressure placed only on the waistline, shown in the photo here.. Still others equate it with the hourglass style. The wasp-waisted corset style as described by the Trench-Browns, and how I understand this style, is as follows:

"This style follows the contours of the ribs and pelvis and then goes sharply in at the waist. All the compression is in the space between the lower ribs and pelvis. The ribs are hardly deformed at all. This style is the easiest to get used to but the severe compression centred (sic., British spelling) on such a small area can cause skin problems occasionally." However, Fakir takes the opposite view. "The Wasp Figure Ideal was in vogue from about 1890 to 1918. Its aesthetic calls for an artificially diminished upper torso and high, sharp waistline. To do this, the waistline is raised several inches from its normal position," he says.

"Physically, the wasp corset creates a sharp bend in mid-spine and tremendous constriction of the lower and floating ribs. Wasp figure training is difficult and was usually started only in very young (and supple) bodies. It was often preceded by a year or more of corset training in the less severe hourglass style," he says.

Continued on Page 19

Where Does It All Go?...

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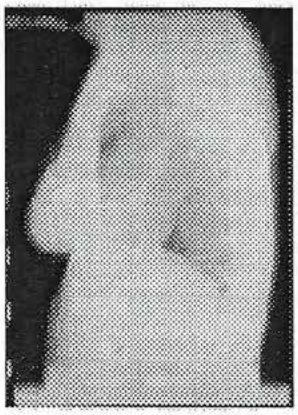

Regarding rib movement direction, as opposed to mere inward compression, apparently, until 1992, Fakir originally believed that in an hourglass or a wasp waisted corset style, both the floating and attached ribs were displaced upwards: ". . .[the "insides"]. . . are reduced in volume and rearranged. The most affected body parts are the rib cage (lower ribs compressed, upper rib cage greatly expanded (sic) and stomach/liver/intestines which are mostly pushed upward into the thoracic cavity." (CNL, No. 34, page 8, September, 1989.)

In 1992, he had the chance to examine the side and back torso X-rays of Cathie J. in a corset, seen here, which were published and which he discussed in the CNL in September 1992. Cathie is now a lady in her early 60s who has been corseting at her husband's request for some 15 years and has reduced her waistline to 15" under a corset. You can also see the back X-ray, but not the side one, on page 66 of Professor Steele's The Corset: A Cultural History.

Fakir ". . .compared her X-rays with my 1960 torso modification drawing. In the back/front view Gray, her rib cage has been tremendously expanded and pushed upward out of the corset, her torso lengthened, just as the drawing suggests. But I was wrong on what happens to the floating (lower three) ribs. Instead of being compressed together and pushed upward, on Cathie they are clearly spread apart and pushed downward into the thoracic cavity!" However, upon examining the same front X-ray of Cathie, Dr. B., the retired coroner, and Professor Steele interpret it to show that the ribs move up: "A tight corset does indeed push the ribs significantly in and up, altering the position of internal organs" says Steele.

However, she does not distinguish between the fixed true and false ribs, and the floating ribs. Without benefit of these X-rays, Dr. David Kunzle, author of Fashion and Fetishism: A Social History of the Corset, Tight-Lacing and Other Forms of Body-Sculpture in the West, believes that waist compression forces the lower ribs upward and the pelvis downward, stretching the spine ever so slightly.

I don't believe that X-rays of one tight-lacer definitively resolve how the fixed or the floating ribs move for moderate corset enthusiasts, or when rib movement becomes permanent, versus temporary. I've never seen an actual X-ray of the organs or skeleton of an occasional corset wearer other than myself, but it's clear that much more than moderate corseting practices and longer wear than a three-month waist-training program will be necessary to permanently re-sculpt a skeleton, as has been done in the case of some notable present-day tight lacers such as Fakir and Cathie J. Speaking precisely to the point of how modern day corsets are really different and less risky garments than historical ones, Kristina Harris, a corset historian who writes for Lady's Gallery, a Victorian costumer's publication, responded to an uncomplimentary "Letter to the Editor" regarding an article on corsets that appeared in Vogue magazine in December, 1994:

"As a costume historian, I couldn't help chuckling as I read Hollie Geren's letter in the January Issue ("Waisting Away," Talking Back). One can hardly compare an eighteenth-Century corset to the corsets that are popular today. The former were long and rigid, made with steel or unyielding whalebone, encasing the wearer from shoulder to hipline; women couldn't bend over.

Today's corsets are much shorter and made of far more flexible material (Usually plastic feather boning or spiral metal), and you can certainly bend over in them!" However, even when spiral steel is used for boning modern day corsets, they typically use a rigid busk. Thus, while the wearer of a spiral steel-boned corset may bend somewhat from side to side, bending precipitously forward at the waistline is virtually impossible in any corset made with a busk.

According to Professor Steele, the concept that a corset could be comfortable emerged sometime after the word "comfort" entered the French language in 1815. Various corset makers started advertising that corsets can "make you beautiful without suffering" and that they had "found the secret," which may or may not have been true. A demanding style of Victorian corset was in fact the heavy and long-front "cuirass-corset" which was new in the 1870s and against which many doctors and others inveighed, according to Dr. Kunzle.

Later in the century, however, corset design took a step toward comfort. Either French couturier Jean Worth, or Madame Inez Gaches-Sarraute, introduced the straight-front corset in 1888, which was lower on top and did not push on the bosom. It also used a straight busk that reduced direct pressure on the abdomen and smoothed out indentation at the waist. However, this style which became known as the "Edwardian" or "Gibson Girl" corset from the time period of its birth, by resolving one problem ended by creating another. It thrust the wearer's chest uncomfortably out and created a sway back!

Dr. Kunzle tells us that thereafter, starting in the late 1800s, the corset became progressively lighter, looser, and shorter, even employing elastic gussets, and was abandoned by the generation of the early 1900s. In 1913 World War I delivered the "death blow" to corsets, when patriotic fever pressured corseted women to contribute steel to the war effort. According to Professor Steele, historians attribute the corset's demise to dress reform and the women's rights movement, but foundation garments continued "to be an integral component of the female wardrobe until well into the 1960s." Furthermore, the corset became "internalized through diet, exercise, and plastic surgery."

Fashion historians note the waxing and waning of corset wear about two or three times in the first half of the 1900s, until Madonna wore her famous John-Paul Gaultier-bullet bra corset in 1987, when, with a vengeance, corsets came back into vogue. One time involved the example of the fictional character, Scarlett O'Hara, who appeared struggling to be laced into an 18-inch corset, of course, in the 1939 movie, "Gone With the Wind".

The next noteworthy occasion was in 1947 when Dior introduced his corseted suit on a 19-inch waist model. Fakir became fascinated with corsets in 1958. He developed a new corset pattern after he discovered that existing corset patterns were designed from about 1850 to 1895. It was no surprise that those patterns did not fit the modern figure. (Body Play and Modern Primitives Quarterly, Vol. 1, No. 1, March 1992.) "People had changed. They were now taller, thinner and differently proportioned. Also, these old patterns could not be radically modified to do the complex body sculpting required of them."

Eventually Fakir passed his pattern to Ruth Johnson and her BR Creations corset company, as exclusive licensee of the design. Unfortunately for us corset enthusiasts, Mrs. Johnson retired in April, 2004, and her lovely corsets will no longer be available. Pressure on the Waistline I've always been curious about the amount of pressure exerted on the waistline of those who corset. I found some answers in Dr. Kunzle's book.

In 1887, R.L. Dickenson, M.D., led a team of doctors to undertake certain experiments. He found that there was no direct correlation between the reduction of the waist and the pressure exerted upon it, nor between the latter and difficulty in breathing. But he found a lot of variation in the strength of the abdominal wall and the readiness with which the internal organs moved.

Specifically, Dr. Dickenson found that a one to one and a half-inch reduction in the waist of one woman caused more total waistline pressure (73 • pounds) than a reduction of five inches in another woman (65 pounds). This makes sense when you consider the issue of hip spring discussed earlier. Reducing the waist of a skinny woman causes more pressure than for a fat woman.

He found that the average pressure over the sixth and seventh ribs after deep breathing was 1.625 pounds per square inch. Another writer, V. H. Taliaferro, M.D., reported in 1873 that the total pressure exerted by a "moderately laced corset" averaged out at roughly the individual's body-weight. Yet one more writer, Justis Thiersch, M.D., concluded in 1890 that the "typical" corset exerts constant pressure of one and a half to two kilograms on the waist.

I discovered the research method used to derive this information in Professor Blum's research on corsets. She says that Dr. Dickinson used a simple method capable of measuring very exact pressures. He first attached a modified blood pressure cuff bladder or bag to a standard sphygmomanometer (Whew! What a word!). Then he placed the inflated bag against the patient's body and noted measurements for normal breathing and deep breathing. Blum measured similar pressure sites on the torso using a catheter with special balloon adapters. She found similar results as did Dr. Dickinson in 1887!

So, Where Do Internal Organs and Bones Really Go?

Based on the opinions of the experts mentioned above, coupled with my own personal experience, my conclusion regarding organ movement for people who moderately and occasionally wear corsets, is that the kidneys and pancreas likely don't move, nor does the colon, excepting the transverse colon which is not tacked down. The liver, spleen, duodenum, and the stomach will also rise and the lower intestine will be pushed slightly downward.

Absent some precipitous lacing down as I once did in my Eighteenth Century corset, described below, and absent a 24/7 corseted lifestyle, ordinary corset wearing should not impact the skeleton. Regular corseting over time, such as wearing a corset three times a week six hours a day at a four inch reduction, will push the ribs together in the front and exert mild pressure on the lower floating ribs. Whether the true and false ribs move up, or whether the floating ribs definitely move up or down is not clear to me, and precisely when the movement becomes permanent for a corset wearer is also not clear.

What's clear is that results vary with the individual and how frequently, at what reduction, and for how long they lace down. Sorry I couldn't be more explicit. Perhaps someday we might use Virtual Reality to derive definitive answers. A physics professor at Iowa State University has built a cave for computer imaging and is apparently interested in determining organ displacement in tight-lacers, according to Professor Blum.

If you'd like to learn more about what could happen to you if you're in general good health when you waist train, and what things to watch out for even if you have a few minor or temporary health problems or condition, I hope you'll pursue your research in my book, Corset Magic: A Fun Guide to Trim Your Waist and Figure.

Curvaceous Challenge To Tradition

By Reed Johnson, Los Angeles Times
Contributed by Cecilia Barzyk

Jacqueline Aristégui, a famous transgender performer, turns heads in conservative Mexico.

MEXICO CITY — The hour is late, and the dimly lighted streets around the Arlequin Theatre are empty save for prowling cops, wary taxi drivers and the ineffable aroma of fresh corn tortillas commingling with diesel fuel. But the striking blond with killer legs and linebacker shoulders is just warming up for the evening.

Striding through a backstage door in a modest blue skirt, matching blazer and 3-inch heels, Jacqueline Aristégui — better known by her stage name, Libertad — is besieged by a quartet of middle-aged fans who've been waiting patiently for 20 minutes. Though you'd think she'd be whipped after back-to-back performances of "Violines y Trompetillas" ("Violins and Little Trumpets"), a middlebrow sex farce, Libertad greets her visitors like long-lost cousins: "Mucho gusto, mi amor, felicidades!" Then she dashes off an autograph and flashes a toothy smile for an impromptu video group portrait.

Could this really be the most controversial woman in Mexico — not counting President Vicente Fox's lightning-rod spouse, Marta Sahagún?

What few in her native country dispute is that Libertad — a former L.A. resident who in a previous, hormonally befuddled life was the male soap-opera star Armando Palomo Suárez — has embarked on what she wryly calls "mi nueva realidad." That "new reality," the result of a 1997 sex-change operation in the United States, has made the 42-year-old actress Mexico's most famous transgender person. The question is how Mexico will handle this startling transformation.

Until two months ago, it appeared that Libertad's gender switch wasn't going to be any big deal, certainly not a cause for front-page national news. But on the night of April 23, federal agents took Libertad into custody in the city of Puebla, about two hours southeast of Mexico City, where she'd been performing in a touring version of "Violines y Trompetillas." She was charged with falsifying documents by identifying herself as a woman named Jacqueline rather than a man named Armando on a voter registration credential — a federal offense. On June 8, a federal judge found Libertad guilty as charged.

In the weeks since she was detained, Libertad, who maintains that she is legally a woman, has been sucked into a legal imbroglio that could reshape the future of sexual rights in this socially conservative, staunchly Roman Catholic country. If an appeals process, expected to take six months, does not negate the judge's decision, Libertad likely will be facing a four-year probationary sentence or even prison time — in a women's prison, that is.

"The authorities are negating that I am a woman, but they put me in the Reclusorio Femenino," Libertad says, referring to the Mexico City lockup where she was held for 22 hours after being picked up in April. "So am I a woman or not?"

That question, according to Mexican authorities, is beside the point. Palomo-Aristégui wasn't charged with swapping genders, they say, but with trying to pass her/himself off as one person when her/his legal identify was that of another. "We don't have any racist or discriminatory intentions against anything or anyone," says Ernesto Prieto Ortega, director of the Civil Registry of Mexico City, which maintains official records and authenticates personal data on millions of Mexicans. "We don't have any opinion. We comply with the law."

But Libertad and her supporters argue that the real issue in her case is that the Mexican government doesn't want to recognize transsexuals as a group or cede them any legal rights. "I feel as if I were a criminal," Libertad says, "and I'm not a criminal."

A homebody offstage

If she didn't exist, Pedro Almodóvar might have had to invent her for one of his outrageous, gender-skewering melodramas. But there's nothing self-consciously over the top about Libertad. Spend a few hours in her company and you'll witness no diva histrionics, hear no gushing reminiscences of fabulous parties or scandalous dish about fellow celebs. Apart from a ten-

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Still another reason to NOT vote Republican!

Social Security Policy OUTS Transsexuals!

CT Transadvocacy Coalition Alert

As we all are highly aware these days, identity verification, theft and security are on the tips of many bureaucrats' tongues, as well as government agencies. And of course this includes the United States Social Security Administration. If you are not a transsexual or an immigrant you probably are not aware of a little known item termed: SSA's no-match letters. These are letters sent by the Social Security Administration to an employer if the employee's W-2 detail information does not match the Social Security Administrations record. And of course, for some unknown reason, gender is one of the fields in this information match! Now you may say, What is the big deal? Well if you are a transsexual it is a very BIG deal.

As background, let me explain a little about one's gender [in reality sex] and the Social Security Administration. As noted recently by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition regarding changing ones gender on their SSA record:

The new SSA policy (RM 00203.210 paragraph C) requires a person — the Number Holder (NH) in SSA parlance "to provide clinic or medical records or other combination of documents showing the sex change surgery has been completed. All documents must clearly identify the NH." Previous policy required documents that show sex change surgery has either been completed or started.

If you are a fully post-operative transsexual, you have no problems. However, if you are one of the more numerous Transsexuals that have not had the privilege and/or desire to have this expensive and major surgery, what is the impact of the SSA's policy to you? Well, in that case, expect to receive a call from your employer, asking you to explain why your employment gender [sex] does not match that on the SSA records. And of course, if as with many transsexuals you are not Out at your workplace, you have just been OUTED by the Federal Government! And even if you are Out at work, your operative status may not be out [last time I checked, employers did not do crotch checks] and of course, at best, such a situation is highly humiliating and degrading.

In fact yours truly can attest directly to this! On June 17th, 2003 at 4:07 PM an email was mailed from my HR/Payroll department to me stating: "... Social Security Administration has reviewed the information that we have on file for you and they have indicated that your gender does not match the record that they have. ..."

Needless to say, even though I am very out at work, this email was highly humiliating and degrading. And of course, my first concern was that will I be fired or required to change my company's employee gender designation? For details on how this situation unfolded, you are referred to my write-up on the CTAC website at: http://www.transadvocacy.com/ssa

At any rate, this issue is not about me. In 2003, the SSA began notifying employers if any employee record had a mismatch and I was simply one of the very first to be impacted by this revised SSA policy. And unfortunately other Transsexuals are now receiving similar letters, some with not as positive outcomes as I have had!!!

Clearly this is a violation of one's privacy rights. I shall excerpt a portion of a letter from Linton Joaquin, Director of Litigation at the National Immigration Law Center [http://www.nilc.org] and co-signed by over thirty other organizations, that was sent to the SSA:

"... Alerting the employer of the specific reason for the mismatch serves no useful purpose; instead, it will violate individuals' privacy rights by giving out unnecessary information. For example, the second code explanation notifies the employer that there is an SSN/gender mismatch. Currently, there are many jurisdictions that enforce transgender explicit non-discrimination laws. Code explanation two could potentially facilitate discrimination against transgender individuals whose names/numbers appear on a no match. To prevent this, we firmly believe that only the employee should know or needs to know the reason for the mismatch. We feel it would be prudent for the SSA to avoid potential conflicts with other areas of the law by keeping the reason for the mismatch confidential. Ensuring such confidentiality is especially sensible given that only an employee can amend his/her records."

Perhaps I am wrong, but if a similar Outing by a Government Agency was being done to Gay's and Lesbian's, I would venture we would hear a vociferous outcry by Congressmen such as Barney Frank or Edward Kennedy. Not to mention the National Gay and Lesbian organizations. Yet outside of this alert, or those by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, there is precious little VOICE OF OUTRAGE!

Well, the Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition is reaching out to you and your organizations to join us in a collective VOICE OF OUTRAGE, at this illegal and wrong OUTING of Transsexuals by the SSA. We are also talking with some Trans Supportive national organizations in the hope that they also will add their voice to this wrongdoing by the SSA. And remember, there is still a struggle for gender identity or expression inclusion in the National Employment Non-Discrimination Act [ENDA] as well as precious few states having non-discrimination laws protecting gender identity or expression. Clearly, I cannot think of a better reason than this horrific Outing by the Federal Government, to include non-discrimination protections for gender identity or expression.

Stay tuned for we will be developing an Action Alert for specific steps to be taken to correct this SSA policy. Till then, please let others know of this wrong being perpetrated on the Trans community. And we urge you to contact us at info@transadvocacy.com if you or your organization would like to assist or partake in coordinating an effective response.

Jerimarie Liesegang
Director, Connecticut TransAdvocacy Coalition

Curvaceous Challenge To Tradition...

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dency to refer to herself in the third person, Libertad is about as un-campy as they come.

She adores American country music. When she lived in L.A., her idea of a hot date was a trip to Disneyland or Universal Studios. With her big-boned amiability and soft-spoken earnestness, she recalls Roberta Muldoon, the former Philadelphia Eagles tight end turned transsexual in John Irving's novel "The World According to Garp." And her own life story is as much the stuff of fiction.

From the mid-1980s to the mid-1990s, as Armando Palomo, she was one of Latin America's most familiar TV faces. Palomo cut a dashing figure in Spanish-language telenovelas like "Rosa Salvaje" and "Entrega Total," at one time commanding upward of $10,000 per month, a hefty paycheck in the Latin entertainment world. These roles were juggled with a busy stage career — Cornelius Hackle in "Hello, Dolly!" was a personal favorite.

A big chunk of the money that Palomo-Libertad made from telenovelas went for her sexual makeover. Another part helped pay for her home in the southern hills overlooking Mexico City, which she built in 1985. Libertad shares her digs with a feisty Chihuahua, Putty, three Dobermans (Rommel, Ikram and Kurt), her mother and her 94-year-old grandmother. She says she spends much of her time at home, sitting out on her terrace, looking at the mountains, writing, thinking. "I'm a little bit reserved. I like very much to be in my own space. I'm not much of a partyer."

Perhaps, but she's also no wallflower, or pushover. It takes what Mexicans call huevos — literally "eggs," but you can use your imagination — for a young woman, let alone a man or former man, to walk down the streets here in a tight-fitting skirt or a hot pair of pumps. Libertad recalls one particularly unpleasant encounter with a group of taxi drivers outside Mexico City airport about four months ago.

"They began to make jokes: 'Ay, can you believe it!' 'Go out with me!' I said, 'I don't do that.' You're not going to educate them; you're not going to change them. But when I entered for the last time they shouted at me, 'Goodbye, maricon!' — a slang term for homosexual.

While a group of policemen stood by laughing, Libertad turned on the men. "I said to them, 'Who are you calling maricon? I want to know who is the most brave of you who wishes to get into a fight with me outside of here?' " According to Libertad, there were no takers.

The son of a bullfighter, Libertad says she first realized she was "a strange boy" around age 6 or 7, when she secretly began dressing up in her parents' clothes when they weren't around. What particularly anguished her throughout adolescence, and later drove her to see a psychologist, was that she still felt attracted to women. Married and divorced once, Libertad now has a girlfriend.

Despite money, a home and a thriving career, Palomo still clung to the dream of becoming a woman. But it wasn't fulfilled until Palomo decided to move to Los Angeles in 1995, following a short stint making soap operas in Venezuela. While living in Eagle Rock and later in San Diego, Palomo completed the long and expensive sex-change process. Since her identity switchover, Libertad says she has been able to put to rest another dream that haunted her for years, of being chased by a shadowy figure and taking refuge in a tree filled with black butterflies. For a long time the vision frightened and puzzled her. Now she has an interpretation:

"A butterfly in a stage of its life is a worm that has to crawl on the ground, as I crawled for many years of my life, until one day I had the opportunity to take myself much further in order to be born a cocoon, a chrysalis. This chrysalis was the United States. For me it was a cocoon in that I was preparing a new self that I would leave to fly, and this new self now is called Libertad."

A media circus

If Libertad were an obscure transgender hairstylist, or a transsexual hooker turning tricks on Insurgentes Avenue, instead of a well-known actor with poise and personality to burn, few Mexicans probably would care one peso about that new self. Instead, the Mexican media have flocked to her case, though Libertad says not all the attention is welcome. Many reporters ask questions like: What bathroom do you use, the men's or the women's?

"They want a circus," Libertad says. "One day they present women joined at the head, the next a cow with five feet and the next Libertad!"

But since the news of her legal battle went public, gay- and human-rights advocates have rallied around her. Mario Arteaga, a human rights lawyer and organizer of a June 26 Gay Pride Parade that drew tens of thousands to Mexico City, says that while one or two other transgender Mexicans have entered the public eye, Libertad's case is "bringing a light to a very strong set of problems in which many women live."

Libertad, who marched in the parade as an invited guest, contends that she's fighting not only for transsexuals but also for gays, lesbians and others who don't conform to Mexico's prevailing norms of macho men and deferential women. "If I lose, I don't just lose for me. It's like being Negro in a country of pure whites, or it's like being a dwarf in a country of tall people, or it means being a thinker in a country of fools. This is the worst, that we are in a country of fools, of closed people, and the worst that you can be is to be a thinker."

Some ordinary Mexicans believe that the government's actions against Libertad are a pointless distraction from glaring social problems like corruption, drug trafficking and a recent kidnapping epidemic. "Her private life isn't important to us, it's already known that he is transsexual. They should leave him in peace," said Ramón Valadez García, 47, a clothing seller, after attending a performance of "Violines y Trompetillas" with his wife and three sons.

As for her fellow entertainers, they appear to care more about Libertad's acting chops than her hormone count. Following her sexual makeover in December 1997, Libertad at first was hesitant about returning to her homeland and considered searching for acting jobs in the United States. "Mexico is a very difficult place, there is a lot of machismo, they are going to attack me, they are going to hurt me, I shouldn't be here," she thought at the time.

But in 2000 an actor friend, Carmen Salinas, lobbied her to take over a principal role in a play, "Aventurera," which turned into a succès de scandale once the public got wind of Libertad's gender switch. Since then, even a major Mexican TV network has been willing to cast Libertad as a woman. In the popular telenovela "Entre El Amor y El Odio," ("Between Love and Hate") her character, a deranged nurse, even had a romantic relationship with a man.

"As a human being, she has gained the affection of those who work with him/her, [for] the respect and professionalism as an actress that she has demonstrated," says Alberto "El Caballo" Rojas, the veteran Mexican comic who costars with Libertad and Alejandro Suárez in "Violines y Trompetillas."

And while he personally doesn't put much stock in the idea of transgender rights — "It seems to me that there are other problems that are much graver and urgent that need to be legislated" — Rojas does allow that, "from the simply human point of view, it seems more respectable what Armando Palomo did than what the soldiers in Iraq did with the prisoners."

Self-assured persona

As another recent performance of "Violines y Trompetillas" breaks up, Libertad waves ta-ta to the stragglers and lopes out the door to her VW Rabbit. She is heading across town to "Un Lugar Con Libertad" ("A Place With Liberty"), a cabaret bar on South Insurgentes Avenue, a slightly down-market version of the Sunset Strip.

The crowd is a fizzy cocktail of straight and gay, businessmen in suits and transvestites in an array of can-you-top-this ensembles. A Cuban waiter fetches drink orders. A singing cowboy with glistening pecs warms up the crowd with traditional Mexican romantic music, followed by a female blues singer belting out, inevitably, "I Will Survive."

Finally, around 1 a.m., accompanied by a blast of dry-ice fog, Libertad takes the stage, blond-tressed, red-lipsticked, fish-netted and topping it all with a '30s-style beaded dress and matching choker. After years of trying to be something that she wasn't, Libertad says, "I don't have the desire to be two people."

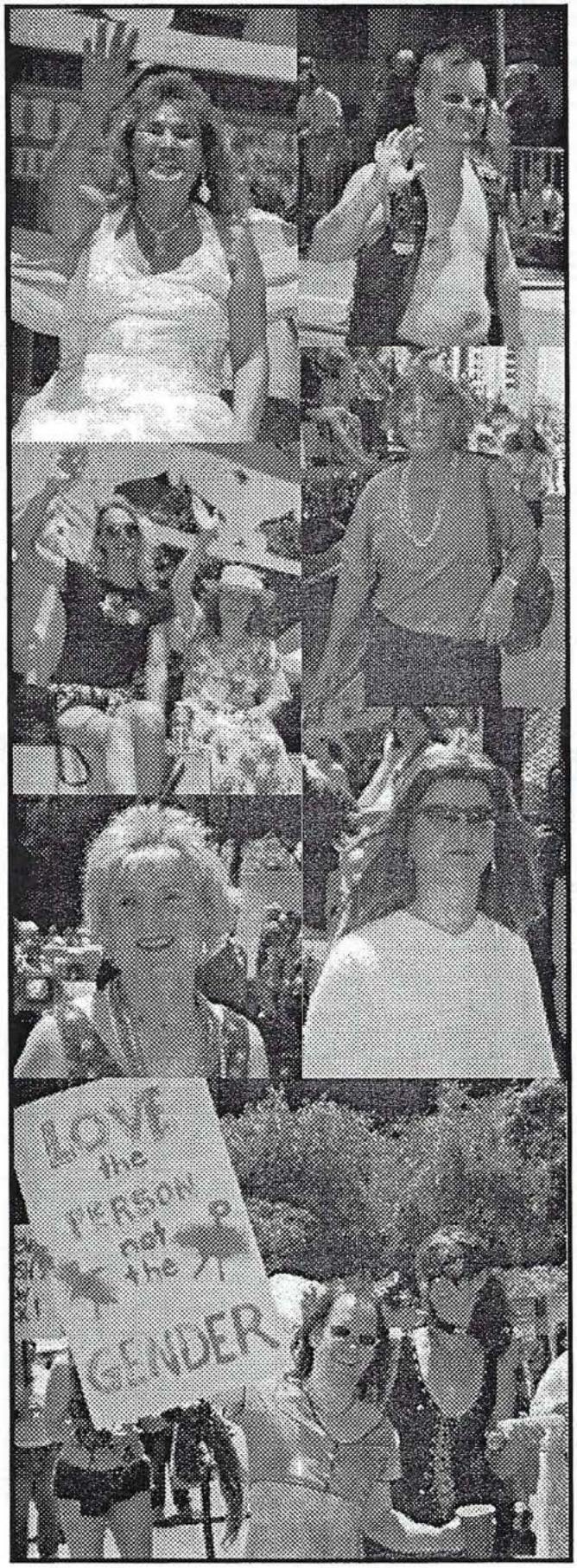
But as she works the narrow room, laughing and joking, sharing her microphone with audience members, ad-libbing about her legal trials, dropping her range from a silky tenor to a rumbly baritone, you wonder if a single name will suffice for such an oversize personality.

Two assistants hold up a large cloth. A strobe light flickers across the stage. Libertad turns her back on the audience and performs her latest metamorphosis. When she faces the crowd again a few seconds later, she is wearing a double-breasted man's suit and slicked-back hair, every inch the Latin lothario — by way of Marlene Dietrich.

"Behold the black butterfly!" her presence seems to declare. With a wink toward the front row, Libertad breaks into a new song. What evolutionary stage comes next is anyone's guess.

Anne Louise, Roxy, and Bobby at GAPA 2004

Pride '04 Pics!



A VERY Timely Book Review
High School Boy's Secret Is That He's Really A Girl

Reviewed by Kate Pavao
San Francisco Chronicle

Today's young-adult book market is exploding with a slew of new titles about growing up as a gay, lesbian or questioning teen, or as a kid with gay parents or family members. Now Julie Anne Peters pushes the YA market into a new arena with her groundbreaking novel, ***Luna*** (Little, Brown and Company; 248 pages; $16.95; ages 15-up), about a transgender high school senior.

The book is far from perfect, but it is notable for being the first of its kind, and for providing teens - and their parents - with an opportunity to learn about a complicated issue.

In the novel, snide narrator Regan is a high school loner whose popular older brother Liam has a big secret: He is really a girl who, as he says, "was born in the wrong body." At home and at school he dresses in "boy role," but when night falls, he comes into Regan's room to get dressed, apply makeup and put on a wig, becoming Luna, the name he has chosen for the girl he truly is. Now, Liam tells his sister it's time to set Luna free; he's going to "transition" into Luna full time.

Through a series of painful flashbacks woven into the narration, Regan reveals that she has always known her brother was different (he asked for a bra for his ninth birthday, and when he was in sixth grade she caught him dressing up in their mother's clothes). Readers will find it easy to understand Regan's point of view: While she loves her brother, and is supportive of his transition - she even goes shopping at the mall with Luna - she resents him, too, and the impact he's having on her life. ("Why can't you just give this up? Leave it the way it is, the way it's always been?" she wonders when he tells her he wants to go out in public again as Luna.)

More than anything, Peters is to be commended for spelling out the issues involved for a transgender teen - including defining what it means to be one. (For one thing, Liam makes it clear that he's not gay, even though he's attracted to guys. He tells Regan "It's not the same. I'm a girl.")

Liam tosses around some slang, calling transgender girls T-girls (as opposed to G-girls, or genetic girls), and talks to Regan about the Harry Benjamin standards of care, the steps he'll have to take to get a sex-change operation. In one exchange, he tells her about famous transgender people, including, he claims, Joan of Arc.

Sometimes the writing is a bit clunky, but the book is educational. Regan helps readers understand her brother's complicated identity by referring to him with female pronouns when Luna emerges.

Not all the plotting is smooth. A subplot about Regan's fledging romantic relationship with her chemistry lab partner underscores how difficult it is for her to have a life of her own (she turns down Chris' first advance because she has promised to go shopping with Luna, and later worries he'll be different around her after he sees her brother dressed as a girl). But the slapstick injuries that constantly befall the klutzy couple when they're together grow old. Readers will find themselves wanting to return to Luna's story.

Though Luna never experiences any real violence, the transgender teen does get stared at, followed and pushed around by a school bully when dressed as a girl. There are plenty of intense moments here, a few of which seem almost too dramatic to be believable (in one flashback, for example, Regan remembers that Liam tried to castrate himself as a child). The dialogue and narration, too, can seem overly done, especially in contrast to Regan's dry humor. (One night, hearing her brother crying in his room, Regan remarks, "His tears were eternal; they'd never go away.")

Overall, though, readers will learn a lot through Luna's experience - and through Regan and their parents' varying reactions. They will surely be encouraged to think about society's gender expectations - and what happens to those who live outside the boundaries.

New GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

GenderQueer, Trans, and Gender Questioning Youth Group The Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center is PROUD to announce the start of a new GenderQueer, Trans, and Gender Questioning Youth Group (new name to be announced in the future).

This youth program will provide space for discussion groups, workshops and activities, specifically for genderqueer youth and their allies. We are excited to be offering this new programming, for an underserved population, even in our own community. This new group is for young people 20 and under, who identify somewhere on the gender non-conforming spectrum, who are questioning their gender identity or who are considering transitioning.

This group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5-6pm at the DeFrank Center, which is located at 938 The Alameda, in San Jose. For more information please contact T. Aaron Hans, Program Director at 408.293.3040 ext. 112 or at progdir@defrank.org.

Remember Gwen Araujo!

Gwen Amber Rose Araujo (1985 - 2002)

...A transgender teenager from Newark, CA was murdered at a party by a group of men upon discovery of her transgender status. Twenty months after Gwen Araujo's death the jury deadlocked on whether her attackers were guilty of first or second-degree murder. According to Alameda County District Attorney's Office, none of the jurors were willing to settle for the lesser offense of manslaughter — despite efforts by defense attorneys in the case to argue that Gwen's killers were somehow justified because she did not disclose her transgender identity to them. The prosecutor already has stated that he will re-try the three defendants, Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jason Cazares, for murder.

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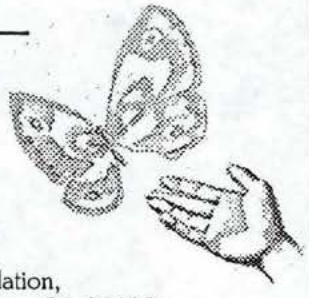

To contribute to Gwen's family directly: **Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund**, Bank Of America, Any BofA branch location, Acct# [redacted]

To support transgender education work: **Gwen Araujo Transgender Education Fund** c/o Horizons Foundation, 870 Market St. Suite, 728 San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 398 - 2333 / www.horizonsfoundation.org

Thank you!

Araujo Name Change Request Granted

Kelly St. John, SF Chronicle Staff Writer

A court commissioner has granted a Newark mother's request to posthumously change the name of a slain transgender teen from Eddie Araujo Jr. to Gwen Amber Rose Araujo, her family announced this morning.

The order by Alameda County Superior Court Commissioner Thomas Surh was issued June 23 — one day after the murder trial of three men accused of killing Araujo ended in a mistrial — though Araujo's family did not learn of Surh's decision until later.

Araujo's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, had requested the name change at a hearing on May 25. In a statement, Guerrero said she was "elated." Surh agreed to her request.

"It is one of my regrets that I didn't call my daughter Gwen more while she was alive," Guerrero said in the statement. "Having this order granted helps me to put that regret to rest."

Guerrero also said she now expects media outlets to refer to her child as Gwen Araujo instead of Eddie "Gwen" Araujo. Her attorney, Chris Daley, of the San Francisco-based Transgender Law Center, said he also hopes attorneys will use Araujo's new legal name when the case is retried.

Prosecutor Chris Lamiero said he will retry Michael Magidson, Jason Cazares, and Jose Merel, all 24, on first-degree murder and hate crime charges in the October 2002 slaying of Araujo, 17, who was born a boy but had been living as a young woman since age 14. Prosecutors allege Araujo was beaten and strangled after the men learned Araujo was biologically male during a party.

Lamiero made his decision after learning jurors agreed the crime was murder but remained deadlocked over whether it was premeditated. The panel was stuck 7-5 in favor of convicting Magidson on the first-degree murder charge, and deadlocked 10-2 in favor of acquitting Cazares and Merel for first-degree murder.

The jury had the option of returning a verdict of second-degree murder or manslaughter, but only if it first agreed on guilt or acquittal on the first-degree charge. First-degree murder is punishable by 25 years to life, second-degree by 15 years to life, and manslaughter by up to 11 years.

Because of attorneys' schedules in the case, the retrial is not expected to begin for months.

Addendum:

Granting a posthumous name change is rarely done but Transgender Law Center Co-Director Christopher Daley, who represented the family was confident.

"Make no mistake, this court order is not a symbolic document. Due to last week's mistrial, Gwen's name and identity will once again be subject to unprincipled attacks from the same defense attorneys who have spent the last several months disrespecting her. It is my strong hope that as we move towards a retrial for their clients, each of these attorneys will give this order the respect it demands by referring to Gwen by her legal name."

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