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

April 1999 Volume 18, Issue 4

# TGSF Vestal Virgins for Widow Norton

# The Channel

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

## ExCom 1998-99 Officers

*(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)*

President ..... Leslie Bailey

Vice President ..... Lulu Blau

Secretary ..... Veronica Smith

Treasurer ..... Debbie Cook

Education ..... Nancy Cupps / Juana Smith

Outreach ..... Sandra Brewer

Social ..... Nicole Cook / Evette RoqueLaurie

## Secretary's Report

1998-99 Membership as of February, 1999 ..... 286

Last Fiscal Year 1997-98 Total Membership ..... 327

New Memberships this year ..... 70

## Treasurer's Report

Approx. Account Balance as of February, 1999 ..... $8,545.00

(Includes the "Home for TGSF" Fund)

TGSF is a non-profit corporation. *Donations to TGSF are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.*

*The Channel*, the TGSF Newsletter, is published monthly. Submissions should arrive at TGSF by the 15th day of the month preceding publication. Contents reflect the opinions of the contributors and are not necessarily those of TGSF. Other organizations may reprint or reproduce uncopyrighted portions of the newsletter for their members, provided TGSF is acknowledged as the source of the material. Copyrighted materials may be reproduced only with written permission from TGSF.

## Newsletter Staff

Editor and Advertising ..... Ayme Michelle Kantz

Contributing Photographers ..... Telzey Adams, Debbie Cook

..... TG Forum, Veronica & Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

## Ad Rates

| | Per Issue | Six Months | Per Year |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Business Card** (3-1/2 x 2) | $ 25 | $125 | $ 250 |
| **4x5** | $ 60 | $300 | $ 600 |
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Personal ads from TGSF members: $10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

**Hotline & Voice Mail**
**415-564-3246**

## From The Editor...

First, let me begin by welcoming a new advertiser: the fabulous Piedmont Boutique located in the Haight. If you've never allowed yourself the unpredictable experience of visiting this incredible establishment, then I heartily recommend that you do so immediately! The owner, Uti, and her wonderful staff are ready to help you find exactly what you're looking for. I went in recently searching for tight black trousers (they're hard to fit on me and even harder to find 'cause my legs are so long), and as soon as I told them what I wanted, I was whisked back to the dressing room and almost immediately a wide variety of tight black trousers began pouring in for me to try on. They made it so easy, quick and totally satisfying that I didn't even have to waste time browsing blindly through the racks - which isn't so bad in itself, because there's a lot to look at and every single piece of merchandise in the store is made by the staff, so quality is assured, they know their merchandise, and the selection is amazing! My god you could get lost in there for days! Go there, and mention you're a TGSF member and they will take terrific care of you, guaranteed!

### Cotillion In The Red...Again?

It's come to my attention that the Cotillion lost money again...for the second year in a row, and that the producers don't feel obligated to make up the shortfall out of their own pockets as last year, mainly because the TGSF checking account has money in it this year.

I can only surmise that the $1,400 Cotillion shortfall will be made up from the current surplus I've generated for the Secretary's budget (in which the newsletter is housed). And this kinda cheeses me off a little bit. I mean, I haven't done all this work to make the newsletter pay for itself, only to have that money appropriated because the Cotillion wasn't budgeted properly and turned out a financial loser.

Please don't get me wrong here. The 1999 Cotillion was fabulous and fun - a wonderful party, very supportive, very inclusive, very entertaining. But it *lost money again!* The Cotillions in the past used to be TGSF's biggest money makers of the year (yes we can use the word "fund raiser"), so much so that we even had enough to make a $500 donation to Open Hand (which made good press) and still come out healthily in the black. But this year for example, we literally *gave away a quarter* of the money spent on the food (granted, most of the food didn't go to waste, but 25% of it went out to non-ticket holders). Ticket prices were reluctantly raised only $5 - hell the recent Coronation cost $40 a head and they didn't even serve food! With the spread TGSF put out, a $40 Premium Ticket would have been as easily sold (and we wouldn't have a shortfall). Cotillions used to generate hundreds of (net) dollars to TGSF's coffers - so what has happened?

***Continued on Page 3***

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## President's Message

**by Leslie Bailey**

I don't know if human nature, being what it is, will ever allow for a completely satisfactory situation whereby all minorities are understood and accepted. Mistrust, insecurities, conditioning, selfishness, hoarding and competitiveness are just a few of our more sterling traits that seem to work against such a possibility. We need not look any further than Matthew Shepard to be reminded about how much distance we still have to go. Actually we each carry with us constant reminders as we struggle to establish a life for ourselves that is not jeopardized by someone's reaction to our transgendered natures.

It is against this backdrop that I would like to commend two of our members for their courageous and substantive contributions to a better life for all of us. Such contribution can consist of political activism or the simple act of living one's life well and honestly.

Theresa Sparks was instrumental in organizing the candlelight vigil at the Castro Theater where over a hundred of us were able to show our solidarity for Brandon Teena who was killed because she passed herself off as a man. We were out there. We made a statement. I hope we made a difference.

Jane Bolig, since living full time as the terrific woman that she is, has quietly (or maybe not so quietly) taken on leadership roles at the taxicab company where she works. She was on a city task force and was recently appointed to the mayor's Taxi Council. She is the first openly transgendered person to have such an appointment and will be a tremendous ambassador for everyone of us. Jane was sworn in along with about a dozen other appointees at a ceremony in the supervisor's council chambers in the newly renovated city hall. I must admit that attending the ceremony as Leslie (the chambers were packed) was in and of itself quite satisfying.

I'm also reminded of a good friend who has very successfully mainstreamed herself and who regularly makes lunches for the homeless in the tenderloin area of San Francisco. I hope that those who receive her generosity somehow sense what a special person she is.

I'm rambling a bit, and since I don't feel well as I write this I'm having trouble concentrating. What I'm trying to touch on is this: ultimately being transgendered is not about wearing fun clothes and makeup, it's about being able to express our sense of gender while going about our regular business.


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## *From The Editor...*

***Continued from Page 2***

...Poor planning and perhaps misplaced priorities - oh sure, everyone involved all worked their asses off to pull it together, and all of them are to be commended and congratulated. But if I was a Cotillion producer, my first priority would've been to bring this thing in at least within budget. In this case though, I suspect there wasn't a budget, or if there was, it wasn't closely adhered to. Now I don't mean to rag on ExCom - I know this is a volunteer organization and we're all doing the best we know how. But to go through the 1998 financial debacle and then repeat it again in 1999 tells me someone didn't learn something or wasn't paying attention. I just don't see how this organization is going to grow and meet the demands of the coming millennium when the Paul Committee is robbing the Peter Committee to pay for its overindulgences. This break-even mentality, write-the-checks-and-we'll-sort-it-out-later thinking has simply got to stop.

The fact that ExCom even has to make up the difference from another committee's budget (the Cotillion expenses should be coming out of the VP's budget, not the Secretary's) clearly demonstrates the underlying problem TGSF is going to continue having unless ExCom decides to show some fiscal responsibility. It's not a question of where the money can be spent better elsewhere, but if we've got the money to spend at all! We should certainly spend all the money we want on the Cotillion - it's an event worth every penny. But we can't spend more on it than what the budget allows, or TGSF is going to go belly-up broke and we won't be able to fund ANY educational, outreach or social programs.

Some might think misconstrue these as "anti-Cotillion" remarks, but I write them in hopes that you'll see that this just isn't so and that I only have TGSF's interests at heart (I'm really not a meanie! I think the Cotillion is great!) and that serious consideration will be given them by the membership as well as ExCom as they begin planning the next fiscal year.

### *Elections!*

I know a "Leather and Lace" night was announced at last month's social for April's event, but we'll have to put it off a month (sorry!). Instead however, we have much more important matters at hand. Yup, it's Election Night my friends and Thursday, April 29 is the deadline for getting your votes in and counted. If you haven't mailed it by now, bring your ballot with you to the social. Any of you who follow my musings have already been through Ballot Casting 101 and know I'm not beyond threatening you with a good flogging if you don't exercise your voting privilege! Amongst frantic tabulating, ExCom will also be presenting their annual awards to the membership, so it's really wonderful to turn out that night in force and show your appreciation and support to those members who've been instrumental in making TGSF still the best and largest independent organization of its kind in the country. Show your pride! VOTE!

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*March 1999*

## ExCom Meeting Minutes

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held at the Smiths in San Francisco on March 7, 1999 at 3:00 p.m. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Smith, Education Co-Chairs Cupps and Smith, Social Co-Chairs RoqueLaurie and Cook and guest Janis R. Treasurer Cook and Outreach Chair Brewer were absent. The Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

**Communications and Announcements**: The Imperial Court's Investiture in March sometime, but no one knew exactly when. It was mentioned that the web page needed updating. Janis suggested getting the "TGSF" domain and thought that Jamie Fenton could probably arrange it. TGSF was invited to the Phoenix Pride Day Parade, April 17.

**Old Business**: Sandra had taken care of the DBA form so checks to TGSF can be deposited.

**Minutes**: Juana moved for January's Minutes (there had been no February meeting) to be approved, Nicole seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

**President**: Leslie reported that it looked as if the Cotillion lost around $1,500. There will be a reappraisal on March 21 at Leslie's. Because the club was financially better this year as opposed to last, Leslie did not feel that she needed to pay the loss out of her own pocket as she did last year. But Veronica and Juana were dismayed. Veronica noted that the Cotillion used to be a big moneymaker. She opined that if the tickets had been five dollars more per ticket, the Cotillion would have broken even. But Leslie and Lulu thought that opinions should be tabled until the scheduled Cotillion discussion. There would be fuller report by the time of the next ExCom meeting. Meanwhile, Juana and Leslie are still taking grant writing classes.

**Vice President**: Lulu was revising and updating the Cotillion handbook. There had been some unexpected conflicts. Evette suggested some rules of conduct. Lulu also wanted to revisit the events in which Miss TGSF was expected to participate. She thought it was time to start Pride Parade and Really Big Shew preparation.

**Secretary**: The numbers continue to decline. As of March 1999, TGSF had 284 members of whom 68 were new.

**Treasurer**: Leslie believed that even with the Cotillion loss, TGSF should still end up with around $5,000 in the bank (including the Home for ETVC Fund). Leslie wanted everyone to appreciate how much better this was compared to the previous March when ETVC had NO money in bank and needed $2,000 to finish the fiscal year. But ever-worrying Veronica was actually very much concerned over the financial situation. When Ayme relocates to Oklahoma, it will be difficult for her to be as diligent about checking with the advertisers (advertising presently pays for the newsletter completely and even takes in a little profit). If ad revenue in the next fiscal year goes down, the socials no longer generate much revenue, and the Cotillion is again a major loser, Veronica worried that the club again would find itself in financial trouble. But Janis and Nancy both thought Veronica was much too gloomy. Nancy suggested that with Ayme gone, perhaps someone would come forward to be Advertising Director. And Leslie said Ayme had agreed to continue monitoring advertisers if TGSF would pay the long-distance phone bills. Leslie will give the Treasurer stuff to Debbie soon, so that Debbie can have it readied for the next Treasurer.

**Education**: Elaine Sagant for March; Will Roscoe for April; and Danae Doyle for May.

**Social**: Nicole said that 131 Supper Club (formerly Charpes) now charges $300 for the back room. Nancy thought that was unreasonable when one considers how much business TGSF brings. She thought it should be possible to negotiate a better deal. Nicole would search about for other places. She was considering Josie's Juice Joint, but parking would probably be a problem there. Nicole mentioned that the SGA talent show was taking place on March 27. The Sacramento Coronation would be April 24.

**New Business**: There was a discussion about an unauthorized letter that had recently been sent to a television news program. This letter forcefully expressed a very strong opinion and started off with a reference to the writer's TGSF office. There was concern that such a reference to the letter-writer's office might cause the letter to be misinterpreted as somehow representing TGSF's official opinion. Leslie stressed that the discussion about this situation was not meant as a criticism of that particular officer or in any way a denigration of her past contributions. But Leslie wanted it clearly understood there was a difference of opinion about how to write letters expressing strong opinions. In response to this situation, Nicole had drafted a letter to the news program informing its staff that the former letter they had received from a TGSF officer did not reflect the views of any other TGSF officer or of the club.

Also, Nicole offered drafts of two new standing rules for consideration. The intent of the first proposed standing rule was that no TGSF officer should cite TGSF in a letter expressing personal opinions to outside organizations, especially news organizations, without that letter being first reviewed and approved by the ExCom. No letter written by an officer should insinuate, indicate, imply, suggest or in any way hint that the opinions expressed belong to anyone or anything other than the person writing the letter unless that letter is reviewed and approved by the ExCom. No TGSF officer should allude to her position as a TGSF officer in a letter of personal opinion without the review and approval of the ExCom. No officer may write a letter in such a way that a reasonable person could assume that the opinion expressed is the opinion of ExCom and/or of membership without the review and approval of the ExCom. Nicole moved for this proposed standing rule to be adopted. Juana seconded Nicole's motion and it was unanimously approved. Veronica asked if there would be any censure or public chastisement for any officer who went against the rule, but no real conclusion or decision was made on that particular issue.

The same officer who had written the offending letter had also in her newsletter column occasionally expressed negative comments about particular people. In the February and March issues of The Channel, her columns had been edited by the Editor at the

***Continued on Page 5***


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## Meeting Minutes

*Continued from Page 4*

request of both the President and the Secretary. The columnist reacted strongly saying her column was unjustly edited. But every other ExCom officer agreed that the edits were justified. Again, Leslie wanted to stress that this discussion was not meant as a criticism of that particular officer and again stressed there was merely a difference of opinion about what to print in the newsletter.

Nicole's second proposed standing rule had to do with the power of the Secretary and Editor to edit the newsletter. These two people, of course, have always had the power to edit all materials that go into the newsletter. Editors edit, after all, and the Secretary's responsibility is merely to produce a newsletter that informs the membership. Opinions may certainly be expressed, but should be expressed in an appropriate way. The Secretary and/or Editor may cut, edit or alter any article either considers inappropriate. Neither the Secretary nor Editor are required to notify the author of the edited, altered or cut article before publication. If an author feels she has been unfairly edited, she may bring the issue before the ExCom. Veronica reiterated that there had only been one author whose column had been edited. Veronica moved that the second proposed standing rule be adopted. Nicole seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

**Next ExCom Meetings**: April 11 at Sebastapol at 2:00 p.m. and May 2 at Albany at 3:00 p.m.

At approximately 6:20 p.m., Veronica moved to adjourn the meeting, Juana seconded and motion was unanimously passed.

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### *Significant Other Support - East Bay*

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

## "Simply Because He Plays With Dolls Doesn't Mean Son Has A Problem"

**By John Rosemond**
**Copyright 1999 Knight Ridder Newspapers, Houston Chronicle, March 17, 1999**
**Provided by Phyllis Frye [Phyllabuster]**

*(Phyllis note: I wish that the writer had included a transgender comment, but the article is simply too good to pass up.)*

Q: Much to our chagrin, our 6-year-old son Robbie has always preferred to play with dolls and other "girl" things. He also prefers playing with girls because boys, he says, play "too rough." We recently went to a therapist who wanted Robbie to be present at the first appointment. I felt this was unnecessary, even humiliating, so we went by ourselves. The therapist accused us of not only being "resistant," but also "enabling" Robbie by, among other things, letting him play with dolls. At that point, my husband and I walked out, but now I'm worried that perhaps the therapist was right. How serious is this sort of problem, and do you think we're enabling?

A: Let me answer the first half of your question by asking: If Robbie was a little girl named Roberta who preferred playing with boys and doing boy things, would you be worried? I'll just bet your answer is, "Of course not!"

My point is, your anxiety over Robbie's play preference reflects a knee-jerk cultural bias. Unfortunately for boys, it's generally regarded as OK, even admirable, for females to do traditionally masculine things, but a male who prefers stereotypical feminine things is generally looked upon with suspicion, to say the least. You neatly avoided any mention of your real worry, which is that Robbie's preference for "girl things" presages adult homosexuality.

The fact is, masculine play preferences for boys do not guarantee heterosexuality any more than feminine play preferences foreshadow homosexuality, and that's equally, but oppositely, true for girls. I can't guarantee that Robbie won't, as a young adult, announce that he's gay, but I can assure you that whether he plays with dolls or toy guns at this age will have nothing to do with his later choice of sexual partners.

Are you enabling Robbie's preference for "girl" things? My dictionary defines enable as "to make possible," so in the strictest sense of the term, the answer is yes, you are definitely enabling, but so what? If Robbie was my son, and he wanted to play with dolls, I, too, would make it possible for him (i.e., enable him) to play with dolls. If, however, the therapist was using enable in the pejorative, psychological sense, to mean you are aiding and abetting improper behavior, then my answer is "hogwash."

In the first place, Robbie's play preferences are not improper, much less pathological. In the second, it would be highly improper of you to force Robbie to play with things he doesn't enjoy. In answer to "How serious is Robbie's problem?", I don't see that he has any problem at all, outside of the fact that his parents think he might have a problem.

If he hasn't already, Robbie will eventually pick up on your anxiety, which will cause him to feel self-conscious about something that is really quite innocent. (In this regard, I approve of your decision to leave Robbie out of the appointment with the therapist.) Which is why it's so important that you stop worrying and enjoy parenthood. You'll only get one shot at it, you know.

When all is said and done, this is a matter of Robbie's personality. You didn't cause Robbie's personality, and you can't change it. You can, however, make him feel as if there's something wrong with who he is, in which case Robbie may never become the person God intended for him to become. And I suspect God doesn't like us messing with his creations.

# TGSF Events in April

## SUNDAY / APRIL 11TH, 2:00PM

### *ExCom Meeting*

Here is your chance to enjoy the country side in a nice leisurely drive to beautiful Sebastopol. If you need directions give us a call (707) 824-0860. Remember, attending Excom's will give you the opportunity to participate in the production of our events and help shape the way things are done in the future.

## FRIDAY / APRIL 9TH, 8:00PM

### *TGSF Library / Poker Night*

Call Nancy Anne at (415) [redacted] for information and directions. Peruse our extensive archives or join in the game! Nancy Ann has been under the weather lately, so please call to confirm.

## WEDNESDAY / APRIL 14TH, 8:00PM

### *Mid-Month Social*

The April Mid Month will be at Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint. Josie's is located at 3583 16th Street, San Francisco, CA. To my knowledge we have never held a mid-month here but from the information I have receive it should be a great venue.

## FRIDAY / APRIL 16TH, 5:30PM

### *NewsCom Meeting*

We need staff for the newsletter committee! It's great to have articles from around the globe in The Channel, but we need more focus on our local events and want local input! If you have a knack for writing or a yen to be published, plan on meeting us at TGIF's, on 4th Street (downtown) between Mission and Howard for some event planning and coverage, a little nosh and, of course, refreshing adult beverages! Thanks!

**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.

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## SATURDAY / APRIL 17, 2:00PM

### *Education Seminar: Woman Warrior/ Woman Chief: Two-Spirit Women And Their Sisters*

Will Roscoe presents "Woman Warrior/Woman Chief: Two-Spirit Women and Their Sisters," a slide-lecture on Native American women warriors and chiefs at the Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission Street (near S. Van Ness).

Although Europeans stereotyped Native American women as dominated by men, they were in fact more independent and powerful than women at any level of European society. Throughout North America, Native women became chiefs, warriors, and shamans. Some, like Weetamo of the Wampanoags and Lozen of the Apache were prominent leaders in native resistance. Others, like the Kutenai Qánqon-kámek-klaúlha, served as mediators and ambassadors. In the far west, women who lived like men as a result of visions or dreams often married other women. This lecture presents the results of over 15 years of research into Native two-spirit traditions. Illustrated with over 100 slides, it explores the life and times of woman warriors and chiefs over the course of four centuries.

Will Roscoe, Ph.D., is the author of *The Zuni Man-Woman* and *Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America*, and the editor of *Living the Spirit: A Gay American Indian Anthology*. Suggested donation is $3 - $5. Call (415) 337-5409 for more information.

## THURSDAY / APRIL 29TH, 8:00PM

### *End of Month Social - Elections and Awards Night!*

This is one of the most important Socials of our fiscal year, and it's vital for you to be there. Tonight we'll be tabulating votes for the new ExCom members who will represent and guide TGSF into the new millennium. Held at our usual venue the Blue Muse, located at 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. On top of casting ballots and announcing the winners, each of the outgoing officers of ExCom will be presenting their annual awards to those members who best exemplified the spirit of volunteerism and dedication to the betterment of TGSF.

***Now Available!***

## 1999 Resource Guide

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

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

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

# Calendar of Events – April 1999

## Other Groups

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

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

***Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)***
Blue Rose Chapter meets 8:00pm the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month in Sacramento. Write PO Box 215456, Sacramento, CA 95821-1456 or call 916-482-7SGA (7742) for meeting locations.

***Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)***
Meets 1st and 3rd Monday of every month. 8:00pm at Just Rewards Nightclub, 2520 Camino Diablo in Walnut Creek. Write to DVG, PO Box 272885, Concord, CA 94527-2885 or call 925-937-8432.

***DVG Rap Group (RCC)***
Meets 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month, 7:00pm at Rainbow Community Center, 2637 Pleasant Hill Road (@ Taylor Blvd.) in Pleasant Hill. For more information call 925-937-8432.

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

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

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

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

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | 1<br>7:00 PM<br>DVG (RCC) | 2<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM RGA | 3 |
| 4 | 5<br>8:00 PM DVG | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night | 10<br>8:00 PM<br>FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA |
| 11<br>2:00 PM<br>TGSF:<br>ExCom<br>Meeting | 12<br>7:00 PM<br>TransBay | 13 | 14<br>8:00 PM<br>TGSF:<br>Mid-Month<br>@ Josie's | 15<br>7:00 PM<br>DVG (RCC) | 16<br>5:30 PM<br>TGSF:<br>NewsCom<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM RGA | 17<br>2:00 PM<br>TGSF:<br>Education<br>Seminar |
| 18 | 19<br>8:00 PM DVG | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 24<br>8:00 PM<br>FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29<br>8:00 PM<br>TGSF EOM<br>Social @<br>Blue Muse | 30<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | |

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| NOV | 15 | 20 |
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| JAN | 10 | 13 |
| FEB | 7.5 | 10 |
| MAR | 5 | 7 |
| APR | 2.5 | 3 |

# Our Readers Respond...

## *Support For Spain*

**Kim Perez F. Figares ([redacted]@mundivia.es)**
**President of Identidad de Genero**
**Acting President of the Spanish Federation of Clynical Transsexuality (from AOL TCF)**

### Dear Friends,

This is a message from the Asociacion de Identidad de Genero (Gender Identity Association), a Spanish transsexual organized group, directed to all gay-lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual groups, as well as human rights organizations. From this frame, we want send some news to you and ask for your solidarity.

On February, the 11th, the Andalusian Parliament had the representatives of Identidad de Genero as guests for the discussion of a motion introduced by the PSOE (Socialist Party) about transsexual people's rights, especially the right to sex reassignment surgery through the Andalusian Health Service. The motion was passed with no votes against: the PSOE, Andalusian Party and United Left (IU) and the abstention of PP (Conservative) pushed up to this historic victory; a victory that should fill with proud not only all the GLBTT people in Spain but everyone all over the world that cares for human rights and human dignity.

This subject has been widely echoed by the media all around Spain and also in Latin America. It seems not to be a coincidence the fact that the following March, the 17th, a similar motion -this time brought up by United Left- will be discussed at the national Parliament in Madrid.

However, the PP position (this party gathers there the majority of seats) is so doubtful, perhaps negative, that we are already expecting the worst to happen. Especially, when we ask for an unanimous vote, as is adequate for a health and human rights issue. Therefore, we must desperately need mobilizations and support -indeed real mobilization and support- from all transsexual, gay and lesbian, transgender, bisexual and human rights organizations in Spain, Europe and the Americas.

If this proposal does not turn into its passing, transsexual people all over Spain, except Andalusia, will most likely have to wait several years yet before obtaining the right to gain their dignity, their only open door to live, the free sex reassignment surgery as well as a Sex Changing Law. If vote in Andalusia has been a victory for all the GLBTT movement in our country, we hope that motion in Madrid will be not a defeat. Your help, your mobilization, is needed for us.

Please do show your solidarity sending to the following address the below shown messages.

### *Sample Letter*

Mr Javier Arenas, General Secretary
Mr Damian Caneda, Spokesman in the Social Matters Commission
Ms Amalia Gomez, General Secretary for Social Matters
Popular Party, Madrid

Sirs, Madam,

We have heard about a proposal to be soon introduced in the Spanish Parliament (Cortes Generales) regarding the rights of transsexual people ..

We expect a Party like yours, which involves liberal and center positions, will most firmly work to acknowledge for Spain rights that have long been recognized in other European countries.

We hope your vote for this motion will be affirmative, showing therefore your concern for the advance of health and human rights issues in your country and all over the world.

Yours,

(Your name and organization's name)

---

### Dear TGSF:

We also have, among our members, a highly respected new political appointee, just named by Mayor Brown to the new Taxi Commission of San Francisco. I speak of Ms. Jane Bolig. I wish her the very best of success, and hearty congratulations. I'm sure she will make us proud.

Sincerely,

**Dick Fogel**
**Taxi Medallion #164**
**TGSF Member #2067**

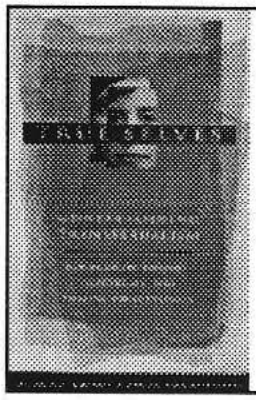
---

### Dear TGSF:

Some random thoughts:

- A Big Sister program is really needed;
- Name tags are a must, even should be mandatory - big tags that can be read from a few feet away;
- Back to my favorite - we need a logo - should never have dropped it.

**Betty Byrne**



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# Our Readers Respond...

## Dear TGSF:

*Temporarily trying to survive the perverse environment of this third world toilet and the Middle Eastern State of decay...*

This letter is a reaction and response to the published letter of Ms. Erin Brush in the February 1999 issue of *The Channel.*

I am sorry to hear that Ms. Brush is so dismayed with the membership and staff of TGSF. I would actually like to meet her some time in our future. I am suspicious that I may meet a person that expects a bit much... I find the personal attack on Ms. Brewer offensive and disrespectful to all of the fine people that keep TGSF in one piece. I know from personal experience that running any organization that is not heavily funded and out of the public vogue is taxing under the best of conditions. I believe that the letter was inappropriate for newsletter distribution for two primary reasons. It was too personalized and after all the author is dropping out. If in fact Ms. Brush was in for the long run and willing to say in person what she was so good at doing in a hit and run fashion, I could take her views much more seriously. As pointed out by Ms. Kantz, Ms. Brush has the potential to be a donating and significant person if she would participate rather than go off in a huff. She is clearly educated and capable of logical linear thought. Unfortunately her personal feelings and issues with TGSF are able to over shadow larger needs. Ladies, the enemy is not within! It is commendable that Ms. Brush wishes to pursue intellectually stimulating situations, as we all do under the correct conditions. However, on the lighter side I realize that many people do participate in TGSF as a venue for embracing their femme' side and will tend to enjoy themselves when allowed. After all, as the song goes, "Girls just wanna have fun"? I know I wanna be a B&D lingerie model in my next life!

Consequently please find my overseas dues enclosed as well as a small donation to make up for the loss of Ms. Brush's dues for next year. I do not know her, however I wish her the very best in her search for the support and reception she was unable to find at TGSF functions. Ladies have faith, you must all forge ahead in her absence. Oh my such drama!

I believe if a person is willing to look, most anything anyone could wish for is available somewhere in TGSF. Maybe this is wishful thinking from someone that daily, pines away for a freethinking, progressive, open society. I temporarily am living in a society that gave up many generations ago. Consumed by selfserving egotists and religious fanatics these completely helpless, pathetic and dysfunctional people are a result of what can happen when you do not participate. I only suggest that we all do what we are able. Dropping out is not an option. If you are unhappy, get involved, affect changes, participate. If you are pleased and derive pleasure from TGSF you are obligated to return something to the group. Both are a recipe for success.

Warmest Regards,

**Valerie Cross**
**Lost in the Middle East**

## Are You A Veteran?

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

## Dear TGSF,

I'd like to cordially invite any and all of the TGSF sisters to participate in this years **California Dreamin'** convention which will be held from April 22 - April 25, 1999 at the AirTel Plaza Hotel and Convention Center in Van Nuys, CA. All the pertinent information can be obtained from our website: http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin, or by telephone at (714) 281-0271. We've got a wonderful program of presenters lined up plus outings to the Wizardz Magic Show at Universal City and a trip to the world famous Queen Mary Lounge in Studio City.

In the year 2000 we will again be back at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn in beautiful San Francisco for the tenth anniversary celebration of California's event. The dates for this event are April 27 - April 30, 2000.

If you would be kind enough to spread the word to the TG community in your area I'd greatly appreciate it. I hope to see you next month. In closing I'd like to say congratulations on another successful Cotillion. I wish I could have attended it. Best wishes and thank you.

**Joan Goodnight**
**California Dreamin'**

## Dear TGSF:

**by Aqua Tranny (Aquatranny@aol.com)**

Does anyone else like the idea of all the transgender groups in the SFPride parade marching together? TGRage has made inquiries and all that is needed is for the groups in question to request to be next to one another. I'll attach the response from the parade people.

My sense of spectacle loves the idea of TrannyShack, Tom Waddell, FTM, International, the Pacific Center, DVG, RGA, LMNOP, etc., TGSF, and all y'all passing in more or less coherent review before something like one half million people. TGSF in the lead, of course.

If DiDi's heels give her hell again this year she can take a little more time and not worry about the gay square dancers having their way with her.

The Pride parade is as big a thrill as being at the Cotillion. There is something very affirming about that many people cheering you on.

Here is the email from the pride parade committee: (Joesfpride@aol.com)

Hi,

Thanks for your e mail. We don't reserve a block of time for groups as a general rule. However, if groups want to march together we usually honor the request if each group that wants to march together in a group lets us know when they send in their applications. Just be sure that all of the tranny groups that want to march together indicate on the application form on line 6 that they want to be placed with other tranny groups and we will do it for you.

We are always looking for volunteers for the Float March committee, which oversees the Parade production. If anyone wants to help us, and that includes preparing the actual line up of the contingents, please let me know or show up at our next meeting which will be held on April 7th at 7 PM at the Pride Office which is in the Fox Plaza Building, 1390 Market St. Suite 1225. Remember that the deadline for applications is on April 1, after that date the fees go up. - Joe

## February - March Socials in Review

**By Nicole Cook**

The February 15th DVG social at JR's in Walnut Creek was lightly attended with several of the DVG regulars in attendance. The Serena show was played on the monitors about half way through the meeting. (The Serena show is the piece that was done on the Cotillion for one of the Bay area TV shows). We spoke to a number of the ladies there and most seemed very positive about the Cotillion.

The February End of Month social on February 25th at the Blue Muse was suppose to be a Winter sportswear contest. But since few if any people showed up in that sort of outfit, most of the time went to the nominations for the next term of office of the ExCom. Surprisingly enough we had candidates for each position and we even have more than enough candidates for some positions.

I would like to mention one other item here, if you look at our membership fees and compare them to other organizations like ours, you will see our annual fees are quite low. It really helps if we can generate some revenues during the end of month events (We do not have any fees for the mid-month events). If we have someone at the door we can usually get a decent amount, enough to cover fees for the event and have some left over for the Halloween party or the Cotillion. Unfortunately, nobody wants that job. So remember, the next time you attend the end of month try to find an ExCom member and give them your $3.00.

The SF Court Coronation at the Gift Center in San Francisco on the 27th of February was a rather interesting event. This was my first court function. Most of the event consisted of other courts and groups like ours introducing themselves to the Emperor and Empress. You might not think this would last long but when people come from all over the country it takes a while. The best entertainment of the night was a Hawaiian dance performed by a group from Hawaii. It was really spectacular the way the moved together.

The March 10th Mid-Month at the Lunacee Lounge in San Rafael had a decent turn out of around 15 of our members. The comedy was quite entertaining. We saw around 7 or 8 amateur comedians including our own Serena, who put on a great comedy & magic act. Many thanks for the members who suggested this as a venue for us to try, we will most likely use this venue again.

The First March SGA Social at Joseph's on March 13th saw about 25 to 30 SGA members show up for the SGA elections. Most of the girls had dinner before the elections, dinner went off without any significant events (with the possible exception of the TGSF Social chair almost choking to death on a piece of meat, but after several quick Heimlichs we were off to the elections). As it turned out only 17 of the more than 25 members attending voted. Krystal received the most votes with Tina-Louise, Trina, Liz, Joanna winning the other seats (Sorry if I am off on the spelling girls, I am doing this from memory). Since my ribs were sore we decided not to go to Faces and headed home.

### *TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give*

**as of March, 1999**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gary Anspach | $70 | Jennifer Hope | $20 |
| Nepenthe | $20 | Andrea Drane | $100 |
| Valerie Cross | $150 | Kim Hraca | $20 |
| Kelli Wellington | $10 | Nicole Mossinger | $50 |
| Sheila Faulkner | $40 | | |

***Bless you for caring and thank you!***

*February Seminar Review*

## How to do Glamorous Self-Portraits

**By Veronica Smith**

Saturday afternoon on February 20, Jim Sturgeon, professional photographer, gave a demonstration on self-portraiture to about a dozen members of the transgender community. Mr. Sturgeon does quite a bit of color photography. But he is especially fond of the dramatic effects that black and white can produce. He is particularly interested in using lighting to enhance mood. While fully conversant with the expensive strobe lighting effects of professional studios, Mr. Sturgeon was specifically asked by Education Co-Chair Juana Smith to demonstrate a less expensive method of lighting and shooting for the amateur.

Mr. Sturgeon said that with a fairly good modern camera and about $100 worth of equipment, an amateur can produce high quality photos. He suggests investing in a backdrop of black velvet to rid completely the background of intruding distractions. Black velvet absorbs light, so the beginner will not have to worry much about background shadows or reflected light. He also suggested acquiring two lamps and light stands. He stressed that they did not need to be strobe lights. He very often uses 100 and 75-watt bulbs for a "key" light and "halo" light, respectively. The key light is the main source of light for the photograph, while the halo is for fill or special enhancing effects, usually relating to the top of the head. Starting from a simple but sure-fire "butterfly" set-up, Mr. Sturgeon went on to more complex lighting compositions. Each composition revealed a different but unique effect. He also showed what to avoid when setting up the lights for the shot such as unbecoming nose and under-eye shadows and "horror lighting." Using terms that seem much less technical than they sound here on the printed page, Mr. Sturgeon said that he usually shoots glamour photos with a 35-millimeter camera's f-stop at f8 and shutter speed at 1/125. He favors Kodak T-Max 400 film and uses a tripod and release cable. He demonstrated how extensions to the release cable can allow the subject/artist to photograph herself up to 35 feet from the camera without rushing back and forth depending on the automatic timer.

Mr. Surgeon went beyond the simple mechanics of photographing to terrific but cheap techniques to enhance shots. For example, he suggested stretching a piece of black nylon stocking tautly over the lens and secured with a rubber band to create a great diffuser. (Gee, most of us probably have an extra black nylon stocking, but what would Didi do? All she has are black fishnets.) He also went on to talk of make-up for color and black/white photos. And more interesting, perhaps, he talked about the psychology of portraiture, the creation of a mood and production of a look that captures such a brief moment in time for eternity. It was a comprehensive and exciting seminar discussing yet another method with which we can explore our femme selves.


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## Telzey Adams For Outreach Co-Chair

I bring some years of experience on the Committee, particularly with the hot-line and publicity. I hope all who vote for me will also consider getting more seriously involved, themselves, in the club's activities.

## Sugar And Spice

**Reprinted from online TG Community News, Vis A Vis, by Dina Amberle**

The recently renamed TGSF group in San Francisco, California publishes The Channel newsletter and it carried an interesting article by member Erin DeSouza titled, "Gender Skybox; My Baseball Road Trip" in the November '98 issue.

Proving that she is not just a pretty face, and that baseball really is the national pastime, Erin recounts her summer excursion to visit some of the East Coast's major league stadiums in Toronto, Montreal, and Baltimore, with a side trip to Cooperstown's Hall of Fame. Apparently, this was not Erin's first baseball-themed road trip. She had previously visited some of the Southern California ballyards along with some towns in the Arizona spring training league.

Traveling by air, rail, and bus to get across country and south from Canada, Erin has a pretty grueling itinerary to follow. For the border check with Canadian customs, she brought along a copy of a letter from her therapist to account for the difference in appearance from her male ID's but Customs did not question her. In each city, she saw a game and also the sights of the cities she visited. Keeping the baseball theme intact, she dropped into the Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York and Babe Ruth's birthplace in Baltimore. Erin gives some interesting anecdotes about each stadium and the games she saw, as well as some of the other local highlights of her stops along the way. After her return to San Francisco, she has enough time to catch a Giants day game and an Oakland A's night game, which shows a certain devotion to baseball that seems almost quaint in this day and age.

Far more interesting to me in Erin's lively trip was the subtext of a transgender person who is proud to be a sports fan. Nowhere in her lengthy article was there one mention of shopping or (thankfully) what she wore each day. This is a much different piece than anything I've read in TG support group newsletters and shows that we can be interested in - and interested about -something other than women's garments. It's refreshing to see that someone isn't afraid to acknowledge that you can't take the boy out of the girl... and you can take the girl out to the ballgame.

## Why We Want To Be Social Chairs

**By Nicole & Debbie Cook**

Debbie and I are running for Social chair because both of us would like to contribute to the well-being of the organization. Both of us have had a lot of fun since we started attending the socials and we would like to help make these special events grow.

Both of us see the position of social chair to be one of the key roles in the organization. It is at the social event where our members can meet one another and get a feeling of family with the other members. It is always challenging to greet and introduce everyone new that comes in, however Debbie and I will strive to work towards this goal.

We would like everyone who comes to feel welcome. Also since I spent some time as a "by mail" member, who was looking for a way to take that first step, I am committed to doing whatever I can to making the first step as easy as possible for our by-mail members.


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### *April's Birthdays...*

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| 0401 | Jane Kennedy | 0412 | Julie Freeman | 0425 | Jamie Faye Fenton |
| 0403 | Elaine Lerner | 0414 | Chelsea Bowman | 0426 | Lynn Ball |
| 0404 | Paula Summers | 0415 | Sharon Moriarty | 0427 | Joyce Segal |
| 0408 | Davida Frazier | 0418 | Wilhelmina Beins | 0428 | Betsy Briggs |
| 0408 | Toni Sparks | 0418 | Candie Valdez | 0428 | Stephanie Michie |
| 0409 | Veronica Smith | 0419 | Bobbie Williams | 0428 | Tedra Thomsen |
| 0409 | Diana Beck | | | 0429 | Ellie Anderson |

***Many Happy Returns of the Day!***

## From Argentina: Trans Sexual Lessons

**by Alejandra Sarda**
**Taken from _Anything that Moves_ #17**
**(provided by [redacted]@hotmail.com)**

Here in Argentina, our trans sisters (no brothers visible, yet) have taught us the following, among other things:

- How to look gorgeous, offer a cup of tea, and be ironic after having spent the whole night at a police station, being beaten and abused by brutes.
- How to leave the shadows of shame, self-loathing, and fear of the powers that be — once and for all, proudly and fiercerly, hand in hand with anyone who wants to join the parade.
- How sex/gender dichotomy is the force suffocating us all, even though some of us can "pass" as conventional. This we haven't learned by reading, but by watching sisters who died because they injected silicone right in their blood, hoping to "pass" and stop being abused.
- Where to draw the line as a movement. If we take the middle-class, white gay man of the North as our measuring stick, our work will be done once he can marry his monogamous lover and hold legal custody of their two dogs. But if as our standard we choose that trans sister who will never, ever pass, and strongly commit to go on until she can be safe in the streets and has full access to everything this world offers... then we are very far from any coffee break.
- How to do real grass-roots organization. In Argentina, whatever the event be — demonstration, party, conference, you name it — the trangendered are always the biggest group. Their leaders take the time to visit every cheap hotel, every corner where sex workers gather, and talk, talk, talk about why it's important to be seen and heard. They are never too tired, too busy, too important, to listen to still another story of pain and loss and loneliness.

### *When Do We Fail Them?*

We fail them when we fall prey to the illusion of normalcy: because we "pass," because we are married or too (feminine) (masculine) to be threatening even with a (female) (male) lover, because we are deeply into the closet and nothing and nobody bothers us, their concerns are not ours. After all, being bisexual is just a pastime, just a lifestyle, and we are just like everyone else. Those freaks don't belong in our sanctuary.

They can even "ruin" our small successes. In my country, many gays, lesbians and bisexuals still refuse to march in our pride parades because "too many transvestites are there; they draw too much attention from the media" (as if trans people should be held responsible for the others' choice of the closet).

Many still refuse to support our sisters — who are all sex workers, and as they have no other choice, they can't really know if they would choose it or not — in their struggles because "that is not discrimination based on sexual orientation; those are sex workers' problems and I have nothing to do with that. I pay my taxes." For so long, the trans community has been the chosen recipient for all those wanting to feel cowardly, "higher than thou", "normal" and "accepted" and "safe" in comparison.

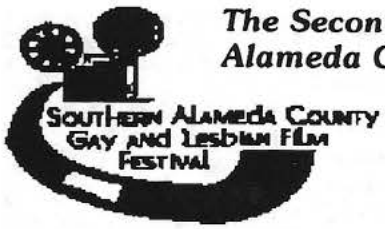
And of course, our communities overlap. In my country, the trans community used to be very strict regarding sexual orientation —straight or out — as were bisexual people — only conventional genders allowed as options. As people start to mix and get to know each other better, and to question traditional gender affiliations too, some trans people are allowing themselves to leave the constraints of the "straight in order to be a real woman/man" dictum, while some bis are acknowledging that, for instance, their pleasure in wearing clothes they are not supposed to might mean more than "just a little dirty secret," i.e., a whole new identity for them.

How can we continue helping each other? Talking and listening. Being close. Not just at political occasions, but in our personal lives, too — some people might march with the transgendered because it's politically correct to do so, but would never allow them to mix with their "normal" friends in their homes.

It might sound naive, but I still think the best way to help is allowing oneself to be touched, to be moved by the complex beauty of another human soul, and surrendering to it.

Let's fall in love.

*Alejandra Sarda is a long-time queer rights activist and writer. Alejandra lives in Buenos Aires, and was at last report — but hopefully not for long — the only out bisexual in the lesbigaytrans movement in Argentina.*




### *The Second Annual Southern Alameda County Gay and Lesbian Film Festival...*

...will be held at Chabot College's Little Theater in Hayward on May 21 & 22, 1999.

The Film Festival Task Force is currently screening films for the event and will make final selections by the end of March. Several films are being considered, including "It's in the Water," "Lilies," "Fire," "Everything Relative" and "Some Prefer Cake." The Film Festival Task Force is specifically looking for films that are new, have received good reviews, appeal to a wide audience, and include humor and fun.

The Film Festival Task Force is meeting biweekly on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at CommPre. If you have any suggestions for films or you would like to get involved, please contact Darci Meyers at (510)[redacted]. We look forward to seeing you at the Film Festival!

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Southern California's FTM community invites everyone to FORWARD MOTION: Celebrating Cultures, Advocacy, and FTM Lives. FORWARD MOTION is the fourth conference in a series which started with the groundbreaking First All-FTM Conference of the Americas, spearheaded and organized by FTM International in San Francisco, in 1995. Subsequent conferences have been organized by local communities in Seattle and Boston.

FORWARD MOTION will offer three full days of diverse programming primarily for people who were assigned female at birth or in childhood who have masculine self-identifications some or all of the time, and our community (including "questioning," significant others, spouses, partners, family members, friends, allies, supporters, and others). Discover new possibilities for yourself and for our community! Make new fun-to-meet friends! Share and receive support! Find out about our history and make a difference by helping to shape our future! Win a night on the fabulous City of Angels on THE DATING GAME hosted by the incomparable Kate Bornstein! Learn more about our arts, family issues, sexualities, politics, health care, and much more! Dance to live bands, swim in the pool reserved exclusively for conference use, enjoy the art exhibit curated by Jordy Jones, and live it up in community!

FORWARD MOTION will take place October 8-10 at the Hilton Burbank Airport. All programs will be in one convenient location right across the street from the Burbank Airport and just a low-cost shuttle ride away from Los Angeles International Airport. Conference rates are as low $92 a night (up to 4-person occupancy). You can make hotel reservations by calling 1-800-HILTONS and requesting the special FTM conference rate at the Hilton Burbank Airport. Rooms are limited, so be sure to make your reservation early! Special airfare packages will be available by calling Gunderson Travel at 1-800-872-8457 (or 310-657-3944 from the Los Angeles area).

Early conference registration before April 15 is only $50.00 and includes a free FORWARD MOTION souvenir t-shirt. Full information on registration rates is on the FORWARD MOTION registration form.

The success of FORWARD MOTION depends on the assistance of trans people and our allies everywhere. Many members of our community — especially youth, those early in transition and those living without hormones and/or surgery — are in financial distress. The formation of true community depends on the convergence of our community from all socioeconomic, racial, and cultural groups. Please consider making a donation to ensure low registration costs, high quality programming, and ample scholarships for those needing financial assistance. Checks or money orders should be made out to "FTMCLA." For more information on fundraising, or to organize a benefit to send people in your community to FORWARD MOTION, please email MasenD@aol.com. To volunteer for FORWARD MOTION, please email [redacted]@aol.com. To make program suggestions, please email [redacted]@aol.com.

For registration forms or if you have any other questions, you may write to us by U.S. mail to FTMCLA/P.O. Box 922342/ Sylmar CA 91392-2343, or by email to Conf99FTM@aol.com. We will soon have a conference website up; we will post the URL soon. If you would like to receive conference updates via private email, please notify us and we will add you to our email list

*Day Five*

## Equality Begins at Home

*Civil Rights Bill Clears Colorado House Committee; Wisconsin Legislators Sweetened Up; Equality Begins At Home Sweeps Into Iowa Senate.*

Washington, D.C. — March 26, 1999 — Midweek activism garnered historic firsts for supporters of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender equality in states across America. For the first time, a Colorado House Committee released a GLBT civil rights bill for floor debate; Delaware organizers staged a lobby day; and activists in Iowa met with leaders of the House and Senate, as well as with Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack.

The legislative happenings, and dozens of other events, were part of Equality Begins at Home, one of the largest grassroots mobilizations in the history of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) movement. More than 350 events are taking place throughout the country during the week. The following highlights describe some of the actions that have taken place:

Today's vote by Colorado's House Appropriations Committee in favor of a civil rights bill marks the first time ever that local activists have been able to get the bill to the House floor, and they are optimistic about its chances for passage. Today's vote came on the heels of a rally yesterday at the State Capitol for hate crimes legislation, also pending in the state legislature. A town hall meeting immediately following last night's rally focused on protecting GLBT families, and a tremendously successful community forum Tuesday, entitled "Who put the 'T' in my GLB?" confronted transgender inequality. Equality Begins at Home in Colorado was also marked at a number of religious services at which GLBT people were celebrated. The Rev. Georgia Humphrey of St. Barnabas Church in Denver reminded her congregation that "saying 'I believe' in diversity and the tolerance of all people is just not good enough. You can't sit. You have to stand. You have to be ready to reach out and do something."

***Continued on Page 14***

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## *Equality Begins At Home...*

***Continued from Page 14***

In other legislative happenings during EBAH week, Delaware's GLBT civil rights bill failed on a close vote in the House. Delaware activists consider the attempt nonetheless to have been a crucial stepping stone to the eventual passage of the bill. The vote was held in conjunction with yesterday's EBAH lobby day, Delaware's first-ever for GLBT issues, which was attended by more than 80 people. A number of religious leaders and the House and Senate sponsors of the civil rights bill participated in a press conference at Legislative Hall with representatives from Equality Delaware and NGLTF. In Maryland, the House of Delegates passed a civil rights bill Wednesday. However, the bill was amended to exclude transgender people. The Maryland State Senate is expected to vote on the bill soon.

There were many firsts in Iowa during Equality Begins at Home week. For the first time in memory, a group of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender activists and allies were invited to visit with the Governor in his office. In an unprecedented lobbying effort, 130 people from all over the state met with and lobbied the Senate's president, majority and minority leaders, and the House's minority leader. Senate President Mary Kramer presided over the Senate wearing GLBT-supportive buttons. For the first time in the Capitol's 115-year history, an openly gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender choir sang in the rotunda.

Today in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, an Equality Begins at Home luncheon united local elected officials and corporate executives who are GLBT allies. Activists hope to educate the participants about GLBT issues in an effort to pass municipal civil rights ordinances and domestic partner policies at local companies.

Several hundred people gathered Thursday for a hate crimes vigil in Norfolk, Virginia, site of the still unresolved murder of Henry Edward Northington. Northington, a gay homeless man, was murdered earlier this month, and his severed head was left near an area known for gay cruising. Although anti-gay bias may have played a role, the motive of Northington's murder remains unclear; several other murders of homeless men in the area have yet to be solved. In Richmond tomorrow, a "March and Rally for Equal Justice" will converge on the State Capitol, where activists will hold hands in a circle around the building.

In Madison, Wisconsin, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender "citizen volunteers" mixed with school groups, lobbyists and legislators at the State Capitol on Tuesday as Action Wisconsin conducted "Sweeten 'Em Up," Wisconsin's first-ever GLBT lobby day. Volunteers carrying plates laden with homemade cookies, bars and breads stopped at legislators' offices to deliver letters which announced Equality Begins at Home and thanked legislators "for doing the often challenging work of representing all the people who reside in [their] district[s]." Attached to each letter were names of GLBT people and people who support equal rights for GLBT people. Also in Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Equal Rights Commission passed a resolution earlier in the month calling on the city to create a domestic partnership registry.

African-American state legislators from around the country were contacted by the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum as part of Equality Begins at Home. Willa J. Taylor, chair of the Forum's board of directors, told legislators in a letter: "not all African Americans are straight and not all gays and lesbians are white. In your district alone, there are hundreds of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered people of African descent you are not fully serving when you ignore the concerns of the queer community. During this week of Equality Begins at Home, when the LGBT community will be concentrating our efforts on state houses around the country, the National Black Lesbian and Gay Leadership Forum calls on you, as African American legislators, to remember that the fight for civil rights and social justice is not the exclusive domain of any one group. As a race of people who has known - and continues to experience - the bitter taste of inequality, we must embrace all of our people in the struggle for freedom or none of us will ever be free."

*Equality Begins at Home is coordinated by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and organized by the Federation of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Statewide Political Organizations.*

## GENDER LOVING CARE - A GUIDE TO COUNSELING GENDER-VARIANT CLIENTS

**by Randi Ettner**
**Book Review provided by Phyllis Frye**
**[Phyllabuster]**

*(Phyllis note: Randi is a therapist that I trust. She has written a book for all of the therapists out there who want us to pay them by the hour to educate them on our issues. Tell those folks to get Randi's book.)*

Transsexuals, cross-dressers, and other gender-variant clients are frequently misunderstood and, therefore, inappropriately treated by clinicians. The condition is often inaccurately diagnosed as a sexual identity issue, further obscuring effective interventions. Furthermore, the options of recommending hormonal and surgical treatments often cast the therapist in the unfortunate position of gatekeeper.

To this confusing and emotionally charged topic, Randi Ettner brings a deeply humane and thoroughly authoritative voice. She shares stories from her clinical practice, letting readers hear the struggles and turmoil of gender-variant individuals. She provides both an overview of gender identity and practical advice on counseling. Gender Loving Care is the first book to combine theory and application to assist professionals working with the transgendered.

"...Throughout this book the reader is treated to compelling case examples from the author's wealth of clinical experience in this field. These cases serve to electrify key teaching points in a way that will be memorable for readers...Arguably, the most potent sociopolitical point repeatedly hammered home by Dr. Ettner is the observation that 'In this age of political correctness, it is still okay to mock the transgendered.' This theme resonates like a sentinel bell in the night to wake up those who would knowingly, or unwittingly, participate in this embarrassing anxiety-provoking sport. The book is timely, unmatched by any other work in the current literature...well researched, bold in presentation, and a delight to read." - George R. Brown, M.D. Professor of Psychiatry, East Tennessee State University

"In physical size, Dr. Randi Ettner is a small, in fact petite, woman. But in empathy for and awareness of the continuing trials and struggles of transsexuals, she is a giant. Her intelligence and insight, as expressed in this book, are what professionals need to experience. In fact, all society should be listening to what she tells us. This book is must reading for everyone." - Sheila Kirk, M.D. Transgender Surgical and Medical Center, Pittsburgh

Gender Loving Care ISBN 0-393-70304-5 $25.00 W.W. Norton 1-800-233-4830. Randi Ettner is at [redacted]@aol.com.

## New Trans Book

**Provided by Mary Boenke (MaryBoenke@aol.com)**

**TRANS FORMING FAMILIES: REAL STORIES ABOUT TRANSGENDERED LOVED ONES** is a great new book, hot off the press last week, edited and self-published by Mary Boenke.

The book is a collection of stories by mothers of very young gender variant children, parents of adult transgendered folks, spouses and partners, and even grandparents, siblings and friends. Written mostly by "ordinary people", who have all struggled from bewilderment to acceptance and even celebration, these 31 stories serve as role models for all those families who are still hurting, rejecting, or feeling isolated — or who have already "arrived"!

The subjects vary greatly, — both FTM's and MTF's, intersexed persons, cross-dressers, adults and children, mostly American, but several from other countries; some even with physical disabilities, and from all walks of life. But all are stories of profound caring, stories of pioneering families who put love above all else and come out accepting, even celebrating the courage and specialness of their transgendered loved one.

Jamison Green says "No concerned parent, family member or friends of a transgendered or transsexual person can fail to be moved by these stories, a long overdue book, a book of love..."

The book also includes a glossary, current list of trans organizations and a trans-family reading list. Also an Introduction by Jessica Xavier, Foreword by Robert Bernstein, and Preface by the editor about her own family experiences and learnings. Predicted to be a best seller within the trans community.

Mary is the mother of an FTM son, Chair of PFLAG's Transgendered Special Outreach Network (TSON), founder and Co-President of the Roanoke PFLAG chapter, and a trans-activist.

(She is also a co-author, with Jessica Xavier and Nancy Sharp, of the popular 16 page introductory booklet, Our Trans Children, which has sold over 13,000 copies. 2nd edition, updated, now available, also from Mary [below]. $3 for 3, $18 for 25, $34 for 50, etc. including mailing.)

The book is $12, including mailing, through April 30. (Then to cover price, $13.95.) 164 pages, paperback. Make check out to Mary Boenke and mail to her at: 180 Bailey Blvd., Hardy, VA 24101. Inquire about larger orders and consignments.

For reviews, excerpts, and more information visit the book's website: www.aiyiyi.com/transbook, call 540/890-3957, or email [redacted]@aol.com.

### Email TGSF:

President, Leslie Bailey ..... [redacted]@slip.net
Secretary, Veronica Smith ..... [redacted]@aol.com
Social Chair, Nicole Cook ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com
Editor, Ayme Kantz ..... [redacted]@aol.com


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## *Thailand's CD Kick Boxer*

## Wants to go one step further...

**Written by Gregg Jones, The Dallas Morning News**

BANGKOK, Thailand — To be or not to be — a man or a woman, that is. That is the question facing Parinya Kiatbusaba, Thailand's famed transvestite kick boxer. And while his doctors have their doubts, Parinya says he's ready to take the plunge.

The cross-dressing 18-year-old welterweight met with doctors in a suburban Bangkok hospital earlier this week in the first formal step toward what he describes as his lifelong dream: to become a woman. Parinya became a national sensation last year by showing up in the ring wearing lipstick and mascara and kissing his opponents on the forehead — then leaving them weak-kneed with his wicked left hook and flailing feet.

His antics packed arenas and attracted fans from around Asia. He was such a hit that he was invited to strut his stuff in Japan. But after a recent falling out with his manager, Parinya says he has hung up his boxing gloves and plans to start a new career in show business — after a sex change.

In laid-back Thailand, attitudes toward sexuality are ambivalent. Buddhism, the predominant religion, is tolerant of gay and transvestite lifestyles. But the doctors who met with Parinya this week aren't ready to sign off on the operation just yet. One doctor told a Thai newspaper that Parinya had talked anxiously about the change and his ability to make a living as a woman.

"Personally, I do not support his sex change operation for I want (Parinya) to live his life normally," Supot Sumritvanitcha, director of Yanhee Hospital in suburban Thon Buri, was quoted as saying in Thursday's "Bangkok Post". "To live as a woman, he can wear makeup and women's clothes. If he wants to return as a man, he can."

Because he is legally underage, Parinya will have to get his parents' approval for the operation. He will also have to undergo a psychiatric evaluation that will probe his reasons for wanting to become a women, doctors say. But Parinya seems to be approaching his life-altering event with the sort of flair that vaulted him to international fame in the first place.

Accompanied by a minor show-biz personality best known for her own sex change, Parinya sashayed into the hospital this week wearing a T-shirt and his trademark lipstick, rouge and mascara. Then, he smiled sweetly for a photographer as a nurse drew blood from his left arm.

Parinya confidently predicted that he would find a doctor who would perform his operation. He also mused about his future as a performer.

"I think I can play any role," he told a Thai reporter, "but I want to be a folk singer."

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## Gender Freedom Announcement

**Sarah Fox, Chief Administrator, QUILL**

[QUILL] Over the years, I have been increasingly concerned with the conditions that exist for the transgendered peoples in several other countries. Many of you, as LGBT organization leaders, have seen articles I and others have redistributed from Argentina, mostly written by the Argentinean activist, Alejandra Sarda. The Argentinean government seems to be encouraging the wholesale extermination of transpeople there, in much the same way as the Nazi party did during the German Third Reich. I was reminded of this fact recently when I was visiting Gwen Smith's "Remembering Our Dead" page: http://www.gender.org/remember/core.html. I suggest you pay your respects there if you haven't already. It's a sobering experience.

I noticed that several of the people listed there were in fact from Argentina. To get some flavor of the atmosphere of terror there, I would suggest you read the page dedicated to Ms. Mocha Celis: http://www.gender.org/remember/people/mochacelis.html Over the years, I've also reported on conditions in other countries, such as Mexico and Greece. The persecution suffered in each of these countries has its own unique flavor and macabre character, but the result is the same — the deaths and disappearances of countless transpeople and the terrorism of an entire population.

**Something Must Be Done!**

I know that many of you will be lobbying this year at GenderPAC's Lobby Days, Sunday May 23 (for training) and Monday-Tuesday, May 24-25 (for lobbying). I am angry enough about conditions internationally, that I would like to explore means of affecting US foreign policy towards transgender-oppressive countries. I would like to consider spending an extra day or two in Washington lobbying on these issues.

These countries are also, more often than not, oppressive of other groups, including especially ethnic groups and political dissidents, and sometimes US foreign policy does hinge on a country's history of human rights abuses.

Perhaps by adding transgender grievances to the laundry list of other grievances against certain foreign governments, we can help to contribute to an atmosphere of urgency that would affect relations between the US and those governments. Thus, maybe we could help to leverage some changes in the treatment of the transgendered in those countries.

I suggest that we, as the US transgender community, owe it to people who are less fortunate to try to help them. I would like to initiate discussions about how this objective might be accomplished. I suggest that we could start an organization called Gender Freedom International that could lobby yearly in Washington after GenderPAC Lobby Days. If you are interested possibly in spending some extra time in Washington for our international brothers and sisters or are otherwise interested in these issues, please contact me at [redacted]@gender.org.


*REBECCA AUGE, Ph.D.*
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Meanwhile, I've received this communication from Kim Pérez Fernández-Fígares of Spain. The Spanish transgender community is on the threshold of creating some real legal and social change, and they have asked our help in a letter writing campaign. I hope you can spare a few minutes to rattle off an email in support. Her letter is attached below.

***************

Dear Sarah,

I send to you our new report *(please see "Support For Spain" on Page 9 - Ed.)*, where you can see things are moving slowly - especially, the Minister of Health (Popular Party) having said they are "considering" the possibility of an approval.

But nothing is sure. That's the reason we send again this report, to maintain the mobilization of transgender organizations. We need messages to the Popular Party, even if repeated, for proving there is a public opinion with us. The transgender movement is too young in Spain, our organizations are too weak, and thus we need the international support. These days of February and March are truly transcendent for us. We have gained the public respect with the vote at the Parliament of Andalusia; and we cannot lose this gain with a defeat at the national Parliament. In Spain, people are beginning to understand transsexual people; and such a defeat would means years of work for place us again where we are today.

So, I ask you to send this report to your list and encourage everybody to pass it along. Thank you very much and to all your correspondents.

**Kim Perez F. Figares**

## *New TG AA Group!*

### *Alcoholics Anonymous Starting Soon For Transgendered Alcoholics.*

**by Kristin D., Tom M. Kaiser Member**

This is a meeting being started by and for Alcoholics who are either Transsexual, Transgendered or Crossdressers as a place where they can openly discuss the issues that affect them without the embarrassment that may be felt in a traditional AA meeting. We felt the need for this type of meeting to provide a place where we could meet in a comfortable setting without the pressures of disclosing what to some is still not common knowledge among their peers in the community.

There is precedent for this type of meeting in AA already as there are many professional meetings where doctors, lawyers and other professionals meet to address their needs without the stigma that may be felt from attending regular meetings. While this group is primarily intended for the target group we feel that any alcoholic in need may attend if they have a desire to stop drinking, we would not turn away anyone in need.

Please distribute this information to your colleagues who may know of a TS/TG person who may benefit from this and feel free to list this meeting in any helpline guides or reference materials at your facility so that the information is available to your staff who may come in contact with someone seeking help.

For directions to the facility or more information, e-mail to : [redacted]@geocities.com. Where: Kaiser Permanente Medical Center, Birch Building, 910 Marshall St., Meeting Room # 2, Redwood City, CA, Wednesday's at 8:00 PM, starting April 7th.

## Editorial

**Riki Anne Wilchins**

[QUILL/GenderPAC] It is at once sobering and heartening to see straight news media finally giving gay hate crimes the serious attention and space they deserve. Even the New York Times has weighed in with repeated editorials on the vicious murders of Matthew Shepard and now Billy Jack Gaither. The gay press, of course, is filled with these stories; the HRC webpage opens with Billy Gaither's terrible murder.

I used to explain to college audiences and Congress-members alike that every four or five months another fairly straightforward, unambiguous gender hate crime occurs. Awful as that figure is, I didn't know how good we had it.

Rita Hester in Boston, Chanel Chandler in California, Steve Dwayne Garcia and Jane Doe in Houston, Lauryn Paige in Austin, Fitzroy Green in New York, Vianna Faye Williams in Jersey City, and Tasha Dunn in Tampa... We are now averaging one gender-murder every month. Simply put, in the last half-year, this country has turned into a meat-grinder.

Where are the voices crying out against the murders of these people? Is it that the violence done to Rita Hester or the sadistic torture and murder of Lauryn Paige are less horrific? Is it that the hatred which impelled the killer of Tasha Dunn to, in the words of the police, beat her to her last breath any less virulent and profound?

Or is it that when a hate crime occurs based on race, or religion, and now, at last, on sexual orientation, reasonable people can reasonably hope that voices will be raised in protest? But are six murders, or sixty murders, that occur based on gender rendered mute and invisible because certain kinds of bodies and certain kinds of hate don't matter as much? Within the queer community and certainly within the straight press, we are disposable people.

How many of us will need to die violently, alone, and in terrible pain before our press, our leaders, and our organizations speak out? Perhaps they never will speak out, and some of us will continue to pay for being gender-different with our lives.

It is ironic that GenderPAC's National Survey of TransViolence reveals that the most common epithet used when we are bashed is "faggot." Transpeople are targeted because of the perception that we are gay. And gays are often picked out because they are "visibly queer," that is, because they are gender-different.

But the fine-line distinctions we draw to populate and protect the divisions among us—between orientation and gender or between gay and queer or between you and me—are lost upon those who stalk and prey upon us. We are all at risk, even if only some of us count.


*Barbara J. Anderson*

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## The International Hike Against Hate

### *July 24 - October 11, 1999*

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[QUILL] One man wanted to hike for Matthew and others who have died because of hate. The hike was originally planned to begin in Alaska and go 2500 mile to Wyoming. Mrs. Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother wanted to join Lee Thompson in his hike. Since then, people from other countries have asked to hike also. The route had to be cut in half and start in Seattle because of the amount of people who want to participate. Now over 15 organizations are participating and hundreds of people want to hike the entire 1600 miles.

A permanent flame, the "Flame of Hope" which is an eternal flame, will be lit in Seattle on July 24 by Mrs. Shepard, Mrs. Dorothy Hydjas, a member of the James Byrd family, Claudia Brenner, and others. A relay torch will be lit from it and walked to Fort Collins, Colorado. It will arrive 10 weeks later in Fort Collins. The same people will lite the other eternal flame there in a ceremony. A concert will follow. IHAVE Foundation, organizers of the hike, invite you to join in the human rights event of the year. Come HIKE AGAINST HATE ! Contact them at http://www.ihave.org

## New Online SO List!

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


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## What do Little Bookstores, Big Networks and TG Support Groups Have in Common?

**by Veronica Smith**

I'm no expert but a trend seems to be developing. If that trend were actually to continue at the current rate, it's hard to see how TGSF could even exist in, what, five or ten years? However, I suspect, at worst, membership would probably only drop to about the number of people who actually show up at the socials. Everyone else would just join on-line clubs and meet in virtual chat rooms. Personally, I think it's more fun to get dressed and meet friends face-to-face in face. But, I dunno, if I were completely closeted and did not feel a special connection to a particular group, I guess I'd just surf the net.

Don't get me wrong. I don't blame the internet for anything. It is no more surprising that established TG organizations have lost members to the proliferation of TG websites than that established TV networks have lost market share to the proliferation of cable TV stations (perhaps a poignant comparison for an organization that used to be called Educational TV Channel). I find the computer in all of its functions faster and more convenient than the old-fashioned way. For example, I actually have fond memories of carefully browsing through library card catalogues, but now give me an on-line search every time. And most folks probably regret losing little neighborhood bookstores and even twinge whenever they see one close, but that won't stop them from clicking Amazon.com.

From what I read, TGSF is not the only group suffering (although it is sometimes difficult to tell since most newsletters have a sort of cheerleader quality to them, filled only with transgenderism-is-wonderful articles like "My First Time in Curlers," the kind of stuff I usually write). But unless I'm mistaken, there aren't that many clubs out there that are truly growing. It is inevitable that there will be a period of adjustment and accommodation to the remarkable phenomenon of the quickly growing TG cyber community. We cannot just keep doing what we did when we were the only game in town or think we should just do more of what we did only better. The major networks could double the number of TV shows they produce, but it probably would not lessen the cable stations' impingement of their market share. And small bookstore owners might extend their hours, offer all the bestsellers and sell every coffee drink they can think of, but it won't stop folks from ordering on-line.

Let's face it, local TG groups cannot compete with the growing cross-gender computer community, not only in interest and scope, but in effectiveness as well. When I was at Southern Comfort, folks talked about communicating with lonely TGs in Latvia, Estonia and even Croatia. Hearing how such isolated folks learned they weren't alone was heartwarming and inspirational. That is great outreach! Better than TGSF ever could have done or ever could do unless we had a more impressive presence on the web. That's something to think about. What if our writers put some of their past work on our website, categorized, indexed it and limited access to members? We've had some really good writers, like Jane Bolig and others. I even met someone at a convention who had read Juana's old Wife and Times of a Crossdresser series. That series had apparently traveled because others at the table had heard about the water balloon incident too and I was embarrassed all over again (thanks, Juana). The Channel has a storehouse of material that might be enjoyed by a larger public. If we had the means to present that material on-line, maybe we could increase or at least maintain membership. Some of our members might even allow to have their pictures displayed. Perhaps Didi Mau or Lulu Blau would oblige?

## Men Could Have Babies Too!

**Copyright (c)1999 Nando Media (http://www.nandotimes.com) Agence France-Press**

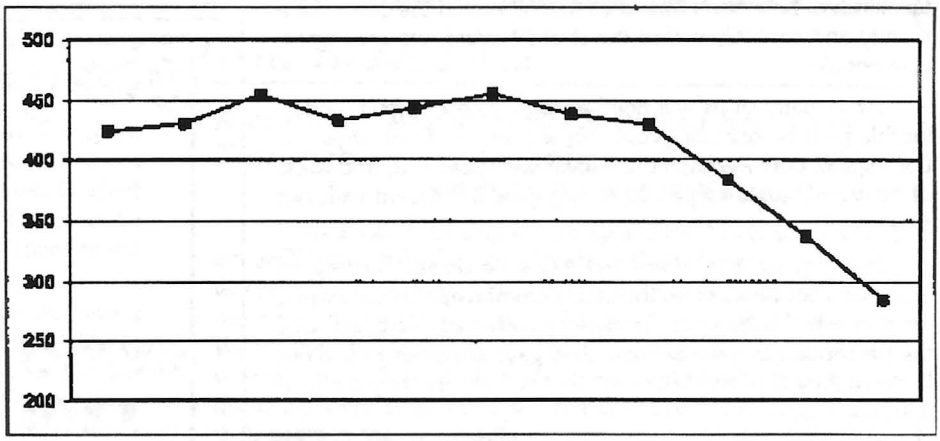
LONDON (February 20, 1999 7:40 p.m. EST) - Advances in medical technology mean men could now bear children, according to one of Britain's leading fertility experts, the Sunday Times reported. The paper, citing a forthcoming book by Lord Robert Winston, says doctors could use modern techniques to implant an embryo into a man's abdomen, allowing him to carry it to full term and give birth by cesarean section.

Professor Winston, who was ennobled three years ago, is head of the fertility clinic at a leading London hospital. "Male pregnancy would certainly be possible, and would be the same as when a woman has an ectopic pregnancy — outside the uterus — although to sustain it, you'd have to give the man lots of female hormones," the paper quoted him as saying. He outlines the concept in a book due to be published in April.

Winston said such fetuses could be implanted inside the abdomen with the placenta, through which the baby is fed, attached to an internal organ, such as the bowel. He acknowledges it would be dangerous because of the risk of bleeding from the placenta, and hormone treatment could leave the man with larger breasts.

The idea of a man giving birth was the plot of the Hollywood film "Junior" starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, as the parent-to-be, and Danny DeVito. If it did indeed prove possible, it could benefit homosexual couples and heterosexual couples where the woman could not physically carry a baby, the paper added.

The Sunday Times cited a recent case of a woman in England who carried a baby outside the womb. The embryo made its way into her abdomen and attached itself to her bowel, but she was able to continue with the pregnancy without mishap. Other fertility experts quoted by the paper agreed male pregnancies were, in theory, possible, but warned of ethical problems.

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## *Transphobia Root Cause of Homophobia in AZ*

### Phoenix Parade Bans Gay Veterans

**Written by Dennis Wagner([redacted]@pni.com)**
**The Arizona Republic**
**Provided by Jodie ([redacted]@aol.com**

A gay veterans group from Phoenix — snubbed by planners for this year's Veterans Day Parade — has issued a new call to battle: "Discrimination!" Wally Straughn, president of the Phoenix chapter of the Gay, Lesbian & Bisexual Veterans of America, said Wednesday that his group is fighting mad about being banned from the 1999 parade because one member marched in drag during last year's event. Straughn also said he was barred from the Veterans Day Planning Committee during "secret meetings."

But Paula Pedene, a committee member and spokeswoman for the Veterans Administration Hospital, said the gay chapter is not blackballed, and may be selected to march if members abide by the rules. The dispute, like others nationwide over gay participation in parades, involves a minefield of legal and social issues: First Amendment rights, public policy, sexual orientation and patriotism. The controversy began last year after 11 members of the gay veterans group walked down Central Avenue in street clothes.

Pedene said there were 120 entries in the parade and 30,000 spectators, but the gay vets were alone in inspiring anger and criticism. "We even had people pull out of the parade because they were in it," she said, noting that television coverage was beamed worldwide via satellite. Straughn was asked to serve on this year's planning committee by Bill Messer, chairman of the panel. But that invitation was reversed this month when Messer sent Straughn a pair of e-mail messages saying the committee had voted to reject him because of the 1998 embarrassment. "The committee felt it would not enhance the mission of the parade if you or your group participated in the 1999 parade," Messer wrote. "A vote was taken in January and (your) membership was denied."

Messer said Tuesday that there was no formal vote to reject Straughn and that the gay vets are not banned from this year's parade. He acknowledged, however, that Straughn was purposely excluded from meetings. And no other group has been notified of parade policy changes or the creation of a new "standards committee" to screen applicants.

Pedene said the gay vets were singled out because some of their members violated the dress code egregiously. "They came to the parade as cross-dressers in drag attire," she said. "None of them came in patriotic clothing. ... All we're trying to do is establish standards for the best parade possible."

Parade officials stressed that the gay vets were singled out because of their appearance rather than sexual orientation. Although the event has no written dress code, Pedene said 1998 participants were told they must wear uniforms or what the committee terms "patriotic attire."

Straughn said that he never got that word, and that other marchers wore civilian clothing — Gulf War mothers, beauty queens, Olympic kids and Sheriff's Posse members in minicars. Straughn said he believes the committee explanations are a subterfuge for anti-gay prejudice.

His vets chapter has 25 members. Photographs from 1998 show 11 marching in the parade, and only one — Neala Lynn Balmes, 50 — could be described as a cross-dresser. Straughn said Balmes, who is in the process of changing gender from male to female, always wears old-lady outfits.

"That's the real reason they don't want us in the parade," Straughn said. "But he didn't dress like that to embarrass anybody. That's how he dresses — she dresses — every day." Balmes said she wore a "a real common skirt" and a T-shirt because she was "trying to dress down. I didn't want to draw attention." Asked why she was in the parade, Balmes said, "I served in Vietnam (as a Jeep gunner). I'm proud of my military heritage. I'm also proud of being female."

Straughn said he was stunned by the rejection notes from Messer, who had asked him to serve on the Veterans Day Planning Committee after the 1998 parade. He said he contacted Messer repeatedly requesting a meeting schedule but only got "the runaround. Now I find they have been meeting behind closed doors for two months to bar us from the parade," he added. "These folks need to come out of the closet, and let's talk."

Straughn has written a complaint letter to Phoenix Mayor Skip Rimsza because the city is a co-sponsor of the Veterans Day Parade. He said it was improper for a government-backed committee to hold secret meetings and to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. Messer said he understands why Straughn feels his group is a target of discrimination. "Lord, yes," he said. "I'm going to call Wally and try to get this thing straightened out."

Meanwhile, Straughn said his group is willing to wear whatever's required in the Nov. 11 parade. "If everybody's going to be in uniform, we'll be in uniform. We just want to be there to celebrate with them. We're not a bunch of radical people."


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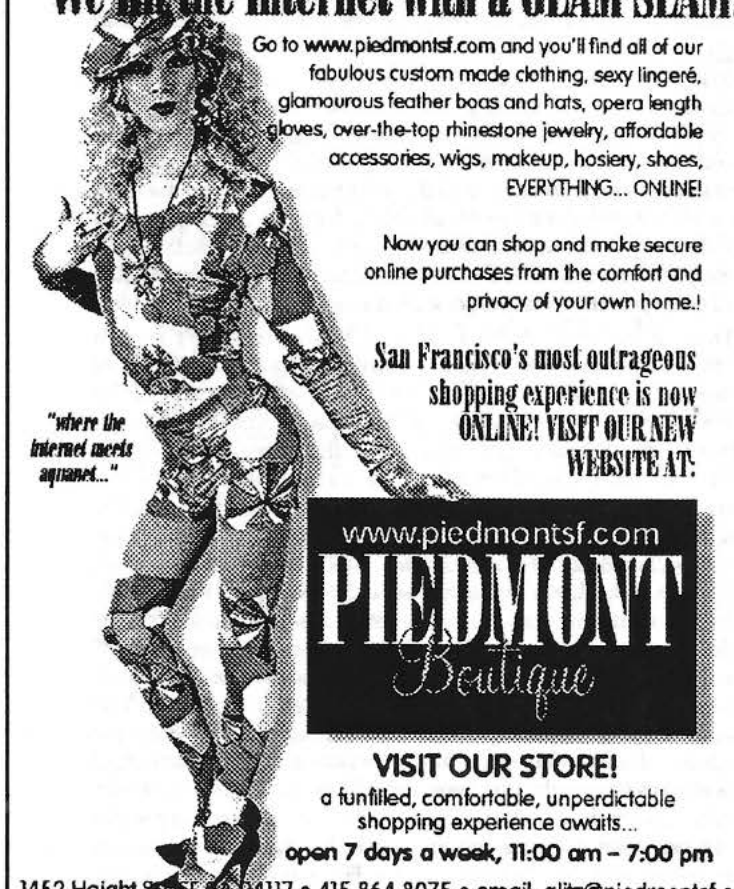

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## Silicone Smugglers

**Brenda Lana Smith (Brenda-[redacted]freeserve.co.uk)**

**Originally from http://www.papermag.com:80/magazine/mag_mar99/trannie/trannie.html**

Drag queens and transsexuals were, in a sense, way ahead of our culture's current obsession with cosmetic self-improvement. Long before there were collagen, fat injections, dermabrasion or acid peels, drags and trannies relied on liquid silicone injections to help them appear more feminine. It's pretty straightforward: Men's brows, chins and jaws are generally more prominent than women's, and enlarging the lips and cheekbones can help to balance these stronger features and feminize the face. A man's forehead is also often squarer, and silicone injections can "pump it out" and make it rounder. Below the neck, silicone can boost the volume in the breasts, hips and behind. What's more, the cost, discomfort and healing time of this procedure are all significantly less than those of cosmetic surgery.

Silicone, in fact, has taken on a larger cultural significance in the transgender world. Drag showgirls of the 50's and 60's, like the legendary Dorian Corey and the other glamour gals of the Pearl Box Review, longing for a more wow-'em-in-the-back-row look, developed a trademark silicone-pumped face: huge, angular cheeks; fat, puffy lips; and Jayne Mansfield curves. Glamour goddess Amanda Lepore, clubland celebutante and model-muse of superstar photographer David LaChapelle, is a contemporary descendant of this tradition. "I like a little freaky, you know, cartoony," she says of her va-va-voom voluptuousness. "Not passing like a regular female."

The injection of free liquid silicone directly into the body, however, is a highly controversial procedure. The primary method of breast enlargement in the 50's, silicone injection fell into disrepute in the 1970's after women reported all kinds of adverse reactions, including movement of the silicone to other parts of the body, inflammation and discoloration of surrounding tissues, and the formation of granulomas (nodules of granulated, inflamed tissue). Even though silicone in certain parts of the body, such as the face, is felt by some to be less risky than in the breasts, its injection is not approved by the FDA for any cosmetic purpose. Celebrity plastic surgeon Dr. Joseph De Bellis explains why no responsible plastic surgeon would inject silicone: "It's not available in this country. For all intents and purposes, you'd have to smuggle it in," he says. "The administration of it would set you up for a prohibitive amount of medical legal exposure, and on top of that, the predictability is so widely variable that you'd have to seriously question the motivation of your patient to undergo such a risk for a cosmetic result."

Despite such warnings, hordes of eager customers remain motivated to get pumped, and an entire underground network of gray-market silicone providers has developed to help them. These silicone "doctors" operate in homes and apartments, often traveling around the country to service large and devoted followings. Lepore, who has received countless treatments over the years, has witnessed the evolution of liquid silicone injection from medical respectability to backroom taboo. "I used to have it done in a plastic surgeon's office," she remembers. "But then people started doing it this way. Usually doctors would come from other cities and do people for a month or something." The well-known singer and drag performer Jimmy James has hosted her own "doctor" when she would come to town on her silicone junkets. "Someone will ask around, 'Who's interested in getting a lip, tits, butt?'" he explains. "And if Marnie [not her real name] sees a substantial enough list, she flies down and stays at a house or apartment. And then a stream of people just comes in." Business, adds James, can be brisk: "Depending on what kind of work, it's about two people or three per hour. If it's something simple, like lips, that procedure is very quick, and usually within about five minutes your lips are pumped. So she can really do a lot of people if it's just small things."

The equipment is fairly simple, according to Lepore: "They set up a table and they wear gloves. [There are] disposable needles and all that. They'll just discuss what you want, the prices and everything, and they'll just do it if they think you need it." Prices for injections range from $150 for lips to $450 for a shot in the rear, dangerous curves ahead. As with any unregulated industry, the silicone-pumping scene is marked by sharp differences in quality of service. A crucial variable is the technique of the "doctor," which can vary greatly, so girls rely on reputation and word of mouth. "You have to know the person and see the people she's been doing," says James. "I waited until I'd seen a lot of Marnie's work before having my lips done." (Marnie was unavailable for comment.) The sign of a good silicone doctor, many girls agree, is a refusal to offer quick results with huge injections in a single session. The process, according to Lepore, is best done over time. "Some people put in more, so you get better results at first," she reports. "But it's really not good. Less is more." Sophia Lamar, another star of the fashion and club scene and a self-described plastic surgery addict, praises her silicone doctor for saving her from herself: "The last time I saw her, she said, 'Don't call me, because I won't see you anymore. I think you have enough, and I'm not going to put more in you.' It's not like other people who put silicone [in] and say come on back, and you end up looking like those monsters with big, big cheekbones you can see from miles away."

Another crucial factor is the quality of the silicone itself. According to Chloe Dzubilo, the transgendered rock goddess who is also coordinator of transgender services at Positive Health Project, a service organization for people living with HIV, "There's industrial [-grade silicone], which isn't approved. And then there's medical." The problem is that medical-grade silicone is no longer legally available in this country, which is one reason why these silicone doctors are operating outside of the law. Although many girls have nothing but praise for their silicone doctors, not all providers are so conscientious, and the potential risks at the hands of unscrupulous hucksters include receiving too much silicone at one time, non-medical grade silicone or even a cheaper substitute, such as peanut oil. Dzubilo, who works with transgendered sex workers, explains: "The girls [on the street] a lot of time run to get it as fast as they can, whoever will give it to them in large sums. Because a lot of their money comes from sex work, they'll get a chunk of money, and they'll go, 'Come on, give it to me, give it to me,' and they'll run to somebody in Pennsylvania or different people in New York who do the industrial, which could be from another country, or could be mixed with oil, and those are basically the tragic cases." Such tragedies are all too visible- and permanent, Dzubilo adds, "Because it dents if they fall down, it slips and slides, honey. So 10 years later, the cheek is looking like a kneecap. And there a lot of girls from the 70's and early 80's that have that going on."

These horror stories are the darker side of a procedure that has happy customers like James, Lepore and Lamar. "The single greatest risk is the unpredictability of the results and the potentially devastating complications of the injections," says De Bellis. "I've seen some marvelous results lips and facial creases that have been injected that were flawless. And then I've also seen horrific, stone-hard calcifications." The scary part seems to be that even choosing a doctor carefully and assuring silicone quality may not be enough, for some poor results may be the result of individual physiological factors. "It may be due to impurities, it may be due to the delivery tech by the doctor," he explains. "And it may well be due to the patient's own body reacting. No matter what it is or whose fault it is, it's a risk you really don't want to take, because it's horrible to try to correct."

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## Silicone Smugglers...

*Continued from Page 20*

So why, despite all of the potential risks involved, are legions of drag queens and transsexuals still enamored of the magic of silicone? Well, it is perhaps no surprise that the word of the medical establishment carries little weight with this marginalized subculture. "I never had a problem with it," says Lepore. "I think it's the medical profession just trying to get greedy." And most of the medical evidence concerning silicone's risks concerns breast injections into genetic women, while there is little data on injections in the face of men or transgendered people. "There are no statistics following this really oppressed group of people," reports Dzubilo, which weakens the evidence of danger for many girls. And then there's the anecdotal evidence of those who have been pumped full of silicone and never suffered a negative consequence. "There are zillions of transsexuals who are still alive and receiving it and who are positive and doing great," says Dzubilo. "I know people who have under 200 T-cell counts and high viral loads and do just fine. And a doctor of a very famous transsexual in New York actually believes that the silicone has helped her with her HIV because it keeps her immune system fighting."

And despite medical advances such as collagen injections, liposculpture and implants, nothing beats a good old silicone shot for bang for your buck. "The thing about silicone is that it's so much cheaper to have your lips done for, like, $150, instead of the constant collagen or fat injections that come and go and cost you hundreds and thousands to maintain," says James. Economics may also be a factor for less affluent girls like the sex workers Dzubilo sees. "The more they get," she explains, "the cuntier they are, and the more money they make."

For these girls on the street whose wildest dreams don't include collagen shots at a Park Avenue plastic surgeon's office, silicone may be the only access to mainstream culture's obsession with cosmetic enhancement, and the promises it holds out for a better, happier you. Dzubilo puts it succinctly: "Everybody loves self-esteem, wants validation, whether they're transgender or whether they're a movie star." More than self-esteem, silicone may serve as a cultural marker within the transgender community. "When the girls get together around this, it's like a ritual," Dzubilo continues. "Maybe it's kind of like a tribal sisterhood thing, so that in case you're in that shopping mall in Jersey trying to fit into that size 10 shoe because they don't carry a 12, and you see a cheekbone under that hideous lighting, you might know you're not alone no more."

Economics, psychology and cultural identity doubtless all play a part in silicone's enduring popularity. But perhaps more significant is the irrational side of the basic human desire to be beautiful. Is the trannie with her cheek pumped full of silicone so different from the steroid-popping Chelsea gym bunny or the Upper East Side matron who's been nipped, tucked and pulled until she can't blink or smile? When it comes to our appearance, who really listens to reason? Taking risks in the pursuit of physical perfection can be driven by a deep, even spiritual need, maintains Dzubilo. "When you think of it clinically and medically, it loses its spiritual aspect," she contends. "And I really believe there's a spiritual aspect to it for transgender people, and they don't give a ____ what the doctor says. They are in great pain about it, but they say fuck it and go on. And they're like, 'Ooh, Miss Thing, I got my titties!' And they live through their titties, they live through their bodies. As much of a conflict as it is, it's also a solution. Dysmorphia to euphoria! That's one everyone should strive for, whether you're a Chelsea queen or a transsexual or a movie star or just the girl next door puking over the toilet."

## TPerson Moves Lawmakers

**Written by Natalie Hopkinson, Capital News Service, Alexandria Journal (from AOL TCF)**

ANNAPOLIS - Scowling and hurling questions, Del. Emmett C. Burns, D-Baltimore County, showed little mercy on the witnesses who testified in support of a law protecting gay and lesbian rights last week, including Gov. Parris N. Glendening. Then Alyson Meiselman took her turn at the House Judiciary Committee witness table. Poised and confident, her cheeks were dabbed with a little blush and she wore a brown tweed skirt and pastel green sweater. A flowery neck scarf added a stylish flair. "I am a conservative Jew, a private pilot," Meiselman said. "I am an attorney. ... And, I am a pre-operative male to female transsexual."

After Meiselman finished her tale of being kicked out of her son's Boy Scout troop, seeing her client list dwindle to zero and being denied access to restrooms, the legislators were visibly stunned. "I have to say, I'm getting thrown for a loop," said Del. Dana Dembrow, D- Silver Spring, breaking the silence. "You have moved me more than anyone else here," Burns added.

Meiselman may have moved the lawmakers, but the measure remains on shaky ground. Yet telling her story in such a public way was a personal milestone for Meiselman that was 48 years in coming. Born in Washington in 1951 as Alan Meiselman, she was raised in the Montgomery County suburbs as one of five children in a civic-oriented, conservative Jewish household. As a young man, Meiselman loved electronics and fixing cars with his dad. He dated girls, ran track and played softball at Springbrook High School and the University of Maryland, College Park, where he earned a sociology degree in 1973.

But every birthday, he had the same wish: "Dear God, tomorrow, when I wake up, please make me a girl," Meiselman recalled. From age 3 on, he would steal moments alone to luxuriate in his three sisters' wardrobes. Only then did he feel he was his true self. "When you look in the mirror and what you see doesn't match what you think, it causes you to be sad," Meiselman said.

After college graduation, he worked at a Prince George's County facility for emotionally abused children, beginning a long career of children's advocacy. "I saw that children's rights were being violated," Meiselman said. "I thought, they don't need a social worker, they need a lawyer."

He met a woman named Joan in college. Their parents knew each other and a shared interest in jewelry making made them fast friends. They married in 1978 and had three children, now ages 17, 12 and 11.

Never forgetting his mission to help children, Meiselman enrolled in Potomac School of Law in Washington and established a private family law practice in 1979. He earned national recognition for his expertise in international family law and also became adept at settling disputes in arbitration that were referred to him by Montgomery County judges. Meiselman said he settled 95 percent of those cases.

Until April, the Meiselmans appeared to be a typical suburban family. But to Alan Meiselman the rare moments alone wearing his wife's clothes left him increasingly dissatisfied and deeply unhappy. Meiselman sat down with his wife and told her he wanted to live as a woman. Joan cried for days, mourning the loss of Alan. But soon, she realized that Alan never really existed. "It became very obvious to me that this wasn't a death," Joan Meiselman recalled. "I don't have to lose this human being, this person. I love her for the person she is as a partner. I hope we can continue to be there for each other as partners for the rest of our life. Alan added, "I would say that since we dealt with her feelings about things, we've gotten much closer and calmer and a lot happier with each other."

*Continued on Page 22*

## SOFFA Voice

**Provided by Rica Ashby Fredrickson**
**([redacted]@netaxs.com)**

The second issue of 'Your SOFFA VOICE' is now complete. This issue includes some great articles: One is by Loree Cook-Daniels called 'Growing Old Transgendered' that talks about aging issues of TGs/SOFFAs and creating services to address these issues. Another is an article by Lee Smith on id'ing as straight, loving an FTM, and dealing with the world around her.

There is also a wonderful article by Mary Boenke of PFLAG called New Trans-Parents' Wonderings that talks about many of the questions/issues/reactions that parents have.

Then there is an story by a femme named Hope called "A Stunted Conversation: When Language Obstructs". Hope shares about dealing with people who have no concept of what gender really means, and there is a great poem by a femme named Sonya called "Domestic Bliss" as well as lots of other information like SOFFA contacts and announcements.

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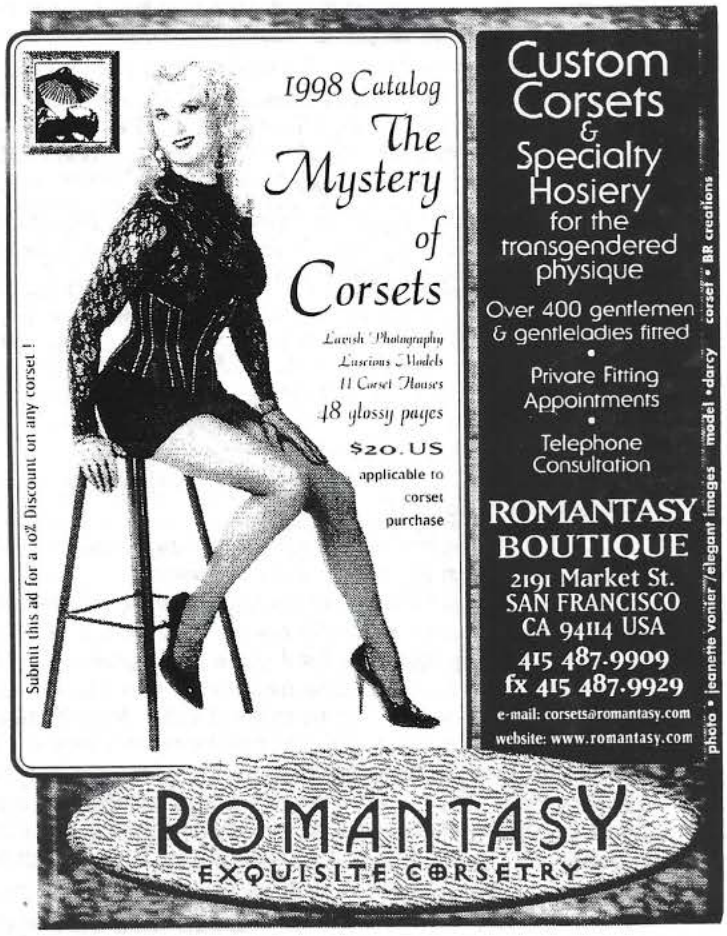



## TPerson Moves Lawmakers...

*Continued from Page 21*

The couple's 17-year-old daughter similarly took her father's announcement in stride. "Honestly, it's not that big of an adjustment," she said. "It's just a slight alteration. There is actually a lot more communication between us now."

After hours of therapy and family discussions Meiselman, bought a wig, a purple, flowered sleeveless dress, and a pair of size 7 women's shoes. Doctors also prescribed women's hormones. "Everything clicked immediately," Meiselman said. "The part of me that was missing was now present."

For practical and legal purposes, Alan Meiselman, the male, became Alyson Meiselman, the female. The operation that will turn her into a biological woman will happen in the fall. But the transformation took a toll on Meiselman's career. Some lawyers filed court pleadings alleging Meiselman was mentally unstable. And the mediation cases that had previously been referred in abundance dwindled to nothing. She now has no clients.

While her children are accepting and supportive of the woman they call "Dad," the teasing at school was at first very cruel. Meiselman was stripped of her position as a troop leader for her son's Boy Scout group and the family often gets harassing phone calls. And when Meiselman drove with his daughter to visit colleges, a police officer at a rest stop on Interstate 95 refused to let her use either bathroom.

The public nature of her profession meant everyone knew about Meiselman's transformation, so she was eager to come forward to support the gay rights bill, which has gained a high profile since Glendening has vigorously supported it.

But Meiselman took a brave step by exposing herself to the public when she appeared before the Legislature, said Jessica Xavier, a spokesperson of It's Time, Maryland!, a 60-member transgender group that documents harassment and violence against members and lobbies the state Legislature. "Any time anyone comes out and puts a human face on this phenomenon, they take a huge risk," Xavier said. "She's a very courageous woman."

Xavier's group has documented 20 cases of physical assaults, harassment, and job discrimination over the past five years. But attorneys won't touch the cases because the law doesn't protect these individuals. If Maryland passes the sexual-orientation discrimination bills it will join Minnesota in providing the best protections in the nation, Xavier said.

Despite Meiselman's moving testimony, Burns, a minister, won't vote for the bill. But Meiselman sees a victory in bringing to light a world that Burns and other lawmakers otherwise wouldn't see. "Let me ask you this," Burns said at the hearing. "Are you better off today than you were before?" "Yes," she said. "I cannot express how much better off I am emotionally," Meiselman said. "My children have accepted me and I've freed myself from a life long struggle."


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