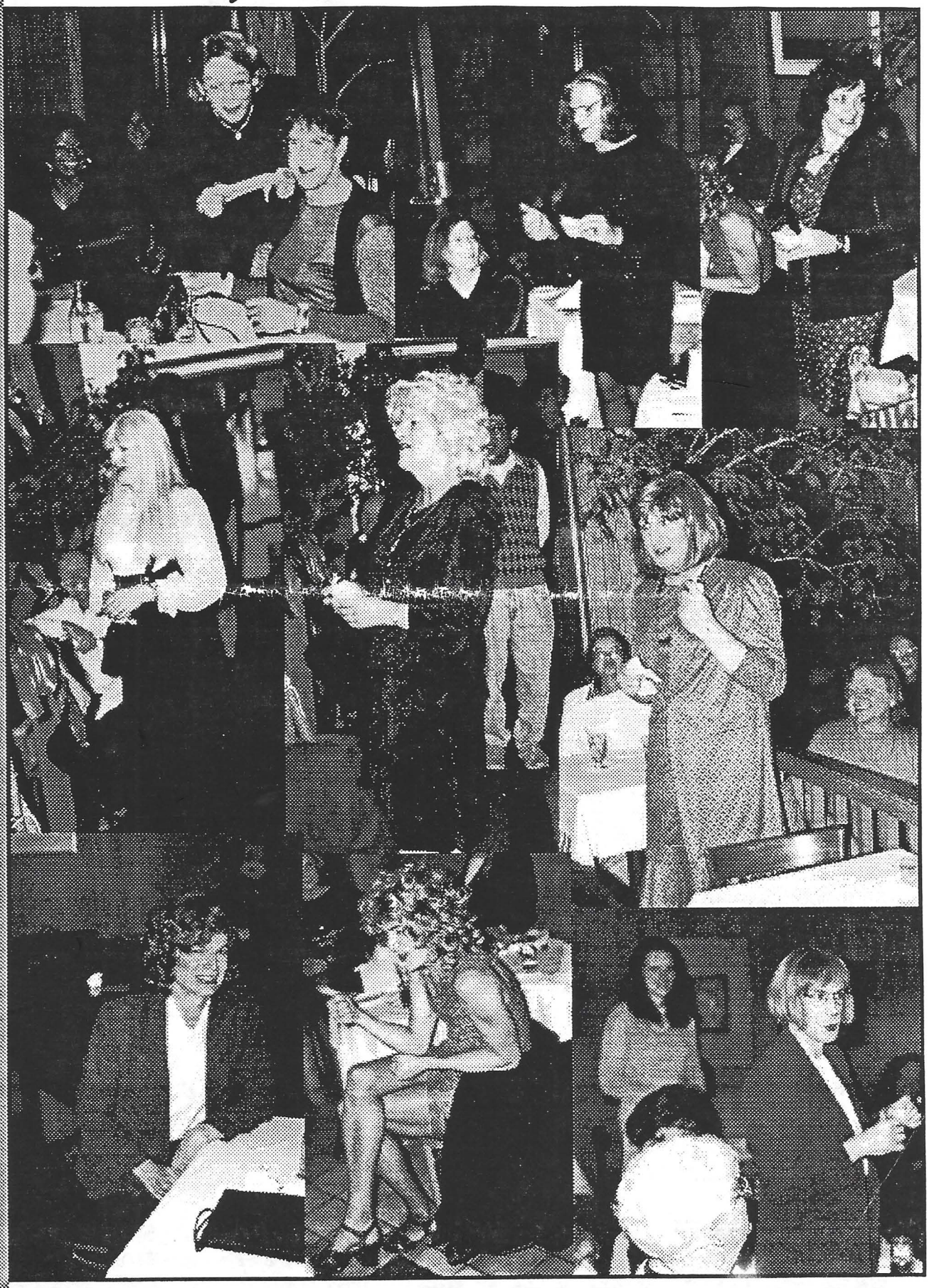
The Channel
TGSF's
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly EFVC)
May 1999
Volume 18, Issue 5

# TGSF TP Truth or Dare



# 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

Final 1998-99 Membership as of April, 1999 ..... 291
Last Fiscal Year 1997-98 Total Membership ..... 327
New Memberships this year ..... 75

***1999-2000 Officers will be announced in the June issue of The Channel**

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

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## Newsletter Staff

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Contributing Photographers ..... Telzey Adams, Debbie Cook
..... TG Forum, Veronica & Juana Smith and Jamie Fey Fenton

## Ad Rates

| | Per Issue | Six Months | Per Year |
|---|---|---|---|
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## From The Editor...

Well dear readers, I've set a date to vacate the state and I shall be mid-west bound, hitting the highway with my honey in a UHaul on Thursday, June 3rd. I hope to continue editing *The Channel* from there, but if the July issue is out a tad late, I'm warning you in advance now.

But to that end, I'd like to put out a call now for an experienced DTP person who would be interested in picking up the project if it becomes too much for me to handle from half a country away. It would make more sense to have it published by someone local anyway. If you're Macintosh savvy, all the better (but not imperative). One of the other duties I've assumed as Editor is to maintain and contact our Advertisers database. While providing the newsletter from Oklahoma presents some logistical problems (which are solvable), I need to pass the responsibility of keeping up with the database to someone local before I leave, so if anyone reading this is interested in either job, please contact me or an Officer soon!

### Now About The Internet...

I've become convinced that our physically declining membership is online instead. The bodies are still here in the area, it's just infinitely easier to have most of their (informational and other) needs met with a (by today's standards) minor investment in a computer, from the comfort and privacy of their own home, and with the assurance of complete anonymity if they so choose. So I say, if our members are migrating to the Net, then TGSF has got to be there waiting for them.

If the new ExCom does anything else in the next year (besides the budget Ayme?), TGSF needs to have a dedicated presence on the web, that looks professional (or as good as our volunteer talent will allow, but still devoting some consistent hours on it; if needs be, ExCom should hire somebody), is updated with current information, provides a way for members to join or renew online (secure credit transactions), passwords for access to the Newsletter (either to read online or download later) and other secure areas: chat rooms (for committee meetings as well as personal interests), an online store, the TGSF library and Resource Guide, Member Site of the Month - I think you get the idea. But first, TGSF needs its own domain on the web, and new ExCom members are already working on making that happen as we speak.

### So I'm Asking You...

Is there someone out there who can devote the time to do this for us?? Now I have some experience writing HTML files for Wells Fargo, but I can tell you upfront right now - to write and program a sharp site, with all the bells, buttons, wavs, cookies, Java and CGI scripts (ad infinitum) not to mention rewrites and testing...it's

***Continued on Page 3***

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## President's Message

**by Leslie Bailey**

### *Openers*

Jane Bolig was appointed to the mayor's Taxi Commission not council as I reported last month. I'm happy to make the correction as it gives me another chance to pat her on the back.

We have a lot of fun in the gender community. Some of it is edgy and over the top as we experiment with how to present ourselves and what to do with ourselves once in girl mode. We are making up for lost time and lost opportunities. Goddess knows you have all loosened me up from my sometimes overly serious nature.

### *Events (The Last 11 Days)*

The results of the "Quality of Life" survey that many of you filled out last year was presented on Friday, April 16, in San Diego at the annual national ACA convention (American Counselors Association). The Three-hour presentation was led by Toni Genalo and Dr. Judy O'Donoghue and the panel of seven included myself, Ann and Diane Giles and Valerie G. The bottom line (Toni will write up a more complete report) was that on average you rated the quality of your lives as good or high and that you felt that you function successfully. The major stress in your lives centers around (no surprise here) acceptance and relationships. Dr. O'Donoghue challenged the counselors to see and treat the whole person not just the transgendered part. She also observed that transgendered people tend to be "an authority unto themselves." We give ourselves permission to break some serious taboos and we can be a bit self-centered as we pursue this self-discovery process.

"Back to the Past" is a documentary about a senior girl at East High in Salt Lake City who in 1996 tried to start an after school support club for gay students. The end result was that after many parents (not hers), the legislature and the school board finished over reacting, all non-academic clubs were banned in order to get rid of this one small, menacing club. By interweaving older footage, the film successfully and poignantly places this story in the larger context of the national human and civil rights struggle. Courage shines through and hatred and bigotry just get uglier.

Our last education seminar featured Will Roscoe, Ph.D. presenting "two spirit" Native American women who moved across gender lines to function as hunters, warriors and leaders. They were respected not only by their own, but (begrudgingly I'm sure) by whites who had to confront their courage and skills. Among many Native American tribes "two spiritedness" was often seen as a spiritual gift and a blessing to the community.

I'm writing this as I ride home with Kalani from Cal Dreamin in L.A. Old friends, new friends, some interesting workshops on substantive issues, good community.

### *Conclusions*

At dinner after the presentation, Dr. O'Donoghue pointed out that we mature in part by completing developmental tasks at various ages. Transgendered people pull double duty in that in some ways we have two modes to deal with from a developmental point of view. I appreciate that Juana Smith has tried to get us to see what being a woman really means and therefore to see how much more that just clothing is involved in being transgendered. In older non-western cultures transgendered activity and behavior was purposeful and served not only the individual but also the community. It can be still today. We can contribute at home or at work (don't we wish). Hobbies, day outings, community service, .....

We can't all be on the front lines publicly. However we all can push our personal frontiers as we develop a more meaningful female component even if it means doing most of the inner work while in guy mode.

I hope people can appreciate our really fun and sometimes silly times. And I hope they can also appreciate our efforts which are purposeful and contributing. I hope we never take ourselves so seriously that we lose sight of the former and I suggest that the acceptance, which we deserve and want, is in part predicated on the latter.

**GET ONLINE!**
**WWW.TRANSGENDER.ORG/TGSF/INDEX.HTML**

## *From the Editor...*

***Continued from Page 2***

going to be a hell of a lot of work, and I can't do both a website and the newsletter. Hiring a pro to build a website for TGSF initially might be expensive, but I think it would be money extremely well spent, and once the basics are in place a dedicated and knowledgeable volunteer with internet access (perhaps on a tidy stipend from ExCom) could easily maintain and upgrade the site with a minimum of fuss.

This is not to belittle the efforts already being put forth on behalf of the group. But let's face it, volunteerism will motivate a person only so far. If ExCom will approve a fee for this project, and you're qualified to take this on, please contact me or an Officer! I'd really like to see this seed planted firmly in the ground before I leave!

### *I'm Having A Vision...*

So assuming TGSF has an impressive web presence on the Net doesn't mean we're in the clear. If this vision I have in my head ever becomes a reality, I also believe that membership in TGSF will soar to unprecedented heights. Membership will truly go global. At that point, TGSF must continue to emphasize the opportunities to physically interact with each other. That means hosting the Cotillion and many other like events and excursions, and Socials that occur more frequently. TGSF will be able to offer loads of information about the transgender experience online, but regardless of any community we may create there, we will still need the opportunity to meet face to face, even more so.

### *So In The Meantime...*

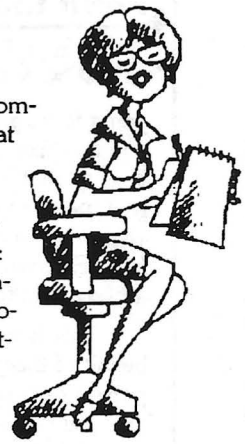
Please...don't think that just because we've elected new officers, that there's nothing further for you to worry about because they will run the organization by themselves. Join one of their committees! Contact the Social Chair because there's always something that needs doing. Get on the Education Committee and help plan and implement the seminars and events that are at the heart of TGSF as a non-profit organization. If you're out and comfortable, volunteer for the Outreach Committee and speak at our colleges and to the media or show up for KQED Pledge Night. And hey! Join the Newsletter Committee, because with me in Oklahoma, more than ever we're going to need local writers covering local events. There's a place for all of us at TGSF, but it also depends on all of us to keep the group running, not only at its current pace, but for the leaps we're destined to take in the future.

### *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.

*April 1999*

## ExCom Meeting Minutes



The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Sebastopol on April 11, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. In attendance were President Bailey, Vice President Blau, Secretary Smith, Education Co-Chair Smith, Social Co-Chair Cook and Treasurer Cook. Plus, ExCom welcomed three guests: Susie S., Janis Ryan, and Miki O'Donnell. Education Co-Chair Cupps, Outreach Chair Brewer, Social Co-Chair RoqueLaurie were absent. The Meeting was **called to order** at 2:30 p.m.

**Communications and Announcements**: Leslie happily announced that Andrea Drane celebrated her first anniversary since her surgery on April 10.

**Old Business**: Nicole had mailed the letter discussed at the last meeting to Dateline.

**Minutes:** Nicole moved for March's Minutes to be approved, Juana seconded the motion, and they were unanimously approved.

**President**: Leslie declared that the Cotillion reappraisal on March 21 had been productive, but there was still no final financial statement of the event. Veronica therefore requested that any discussion of the Cotillion be postponed until such financial statement be made available to each officer. Lulu and Nicole said that they would email such an account to each officer by April 25, one week before the May ExCom meeting.

**Vice President**: Lulu wanted to relate some of the highlights of the Cotillion reappraisal meeting. She said that the general consensus of those who attended the meeting was that TGSF should not scale back on the Cotillion, but rather reach even higher. The major problems, Lulu conceded, were that Leslie and she had been understaffed and that they did not and sometimes simply could not delegate properly. However, Lulu said that they were getting even further ahead in preparing next year's Cotillion. But Juana wanted the next ExCom to see a timeline, budget and written report BEFORE the next Cotillion, not a financial reappraisal AFTER it. Juana actually thought such documented preparation should be required. The present ExCom had never been shown any projected budget or timeline before the last Cotillion. Leslie said that the entire ExCom would have a written report within two weeks and included in that report would be a projected timeline and budget for the next Cotillion. Lulu also said that she was working on a contestant handbook. Success next year would also depend on backstage deportment. Lulu said that the organizers must find ways both to use TGSF's members for volunteers and at the same time the organizers must reach beyond TGSF for its audience (because TGSF's membership base was no longer large enough to guarantee success by itself). Juana observed that TGSF was also hosting California Dreamin' 2000 in April just a few months after the Cotillion and she worried about using up the ever-shrinking well of volunteers. She asked if TGSF was overextending itself. Janis said that she was going to this year's California Dreamin' and Esprit in April and May respectively. She would like to bring along flyers or programs advertising next year's Cotillion. But a specific date had not yet been set. Leslie said that she would call the Design Center and get a date.

**Secretary**: The ballots and renewals were being returned at a good pace. TGSF ended the year with 286 members of whom 69 were new. TGSF had lost 100 members in the last two years. Veronica saw no indication that the downward trend would stop any time soon. However, there were already 97 members with 5 new for the 1999-2000 year. Veronica wanted to know if she should buy membership cards for the new members only, or should TGSF replace all the members' cards with new ones? So far she sent confirmation letters saying that the letter alone was confirmation. She submitted her projected budget for the next fiscal year to the Treasurer. On a different note, Veronica wanted all officers to be aware that she and Ayme were starting up the Newsletter Committee again. Veronica and Ayme hoped that they could encourage more of the members to contribute to the Newsletter.

**Social**: Nicole said that she was focusing some attention towards The Really Big Shew. The May social was scheduled for The Blue Muse. Veronica said she preferred 131 Supper Club (the old Charpes) to The Blue Muse for mingling. At The Blue Muse, she always ended up stuck at a table. Whereas, at socials, she wanted to get away from the dinner's dirty dishes and walk around. Perhaps 131 Supper Club's back room might actually be worth $300 in today's market. Eventually she thought it would be possible to associate a special feeling with the back room, somehow make it significant for the members to cross through that little portal area into their "special place." And paying for it might mean that there would be less chance of being preempted by other clientele. Nicole did not honestly think the back room justified the expense and she preferred both the food and prices at The Blue Muse. But Veronica thought that with someone collecting fees and passing out name cards, 131 Supper Club's backroom could be affordable. But Nicole remained unconvinced. She had observed that many folks did not go into the back room at 131 Supper Club, but just hung out at the bar. Leslie acknowledged that there was good camaraderie at the bar and she liked the layout better there than The Blue Muse. But Nicole reiterated that many people enjoying that good camaraderie at the bar did not go into the backroom. Veronica offered that if lingerie shows, cleavage contests and costume prizes were held in the backroom, people would pay to see them. Leslie said she would check out the management at 131 Supper Club to see if she could negotiate a different price.

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

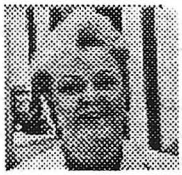
**New Business**: The May social was TGSF's birthday social, Nicole would try to get a cake. Juana would call KQED to discuss participation with its pledge night during Gay Pride Week, June 21-27. Lulu thought there was still plenty of time to investigate getting an information booth at the Pride Parade Party.

**Treasurer**: While Treasurer Debbie was cooking, Nicole explained quickly but efficiently several spreadsheets of information pinned on the wall. She showed how she and Debbie had spread expenses and income and were preparing written reports for the Newsletter.

**Next ExCom Meetings**: May 2 at Albany at 3:00 p.m. The ExCom meeting would be the traditional joint meeting that included retiring officers and their replacements.

At approximately 4:45 p.m., Nicole moved to **adjourn the meeting**, Juana seconded and motion was unanimously passed.


Transformations



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## Treasurer's Report

At long last, we have the financial reports that are supposed to show up each month in the newsletter. This series shows the financial report year-to-date beginning in March 1998 and ending in March 1999. The three statements below indicate the organizations current financial standings. The Balance Statement indicates that the organization had $11,853.56 in cash and supplies at the end of May 1999.

***TGSF Balance Sheet***

| | |
|---|---|
| **Assets** | |
| Cash | $10,603.56 |
| Event Equipment | $0.00 |
| Decorations | $1,000.00 |
| Food Service | $200.00 |
| Office Supplies | $50.00 |
| Computers | $0.00 |
| **Total Assets** | $11,853.56 |
| | |
| **Liabilities** | |
| Taxes | $109.69 |
| Insurance | $1,512.00 |
| Utilities | $138.23 |
| Total Liabilities | $1,759.92 |
| Equity | $10,093.64 |
| **Total Liabitilies & Equity** | $11,853.56 |

The Income Statement shows we brought in $33,452.79 in revenue and paid out $25,320.51 in expenses for the period beginning May 1998 and ending March 1999, which indicates we made a profit so far of $8,132.28.

***TGSF Annual Income Statement***

May 98 - March 99

| **Revenue** | | **Expenses** | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Membership | $8,187.79 | Cotillion | $12,058.08 |
| Cotillion | $11,450.00 | Newsletter | $5,635.71 |
| Advertising | $7,495.00 | Halloween Party | $1,997.54 |
| Donations | $1,675.00 | Pride Parade | $497.35 |
| Social | $3,495.00 | Big Shew | $0.00 |
| Education | $750.00 | Social | $517.32 |
| Outreach | $400.00 | Education | $727.67 |
| | $33,452.79 | Outreach | $0.00 |
| | | Operations | $3,886.84 |
| | | | $25,320.51 |
| | | **Net Income** | **$8,132.28** |

Finally, the Projected Budget Summary below indicates the amount of revenues we intend to receive and the amount of expenses we expect to pay-out over the next fiscal year.

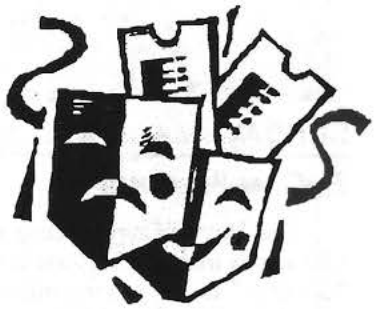
| **Annual Budgets** | **Revenue** | **Expense** | **Profit/Loss** |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cotillion | $11,450.00 | ($12,058.08) | ($608.08) |
| Newsletter | $8,994.00 | ($6,762.85) | $2,231.15 |
| Socials* | | | |
| *w/Halloween & Shew | $3,363.39 | ($2,835.00) | $528.39 |
| Education | $900.00 | ($873.20) | $26.80 |
| Outreach | $480.00 | ($240.00) | $240.00 |
| Operations | $20,829.35 | ($4,664.21) | $16,165.14 |
| Projected Budget 1999-2000 | | | $18,583.39 |

## Get Ready For The Pride Parade!

**Volunteers needed now for the June Pride Parade Committee for Booth setup, staffing and teardown, Float construction, Marchers, Safey Monitors - You name it, we need it! Contact an Officer quickly!**

***Coming Thursday, June 24th***

## Calling All Talent! - It's The Really Big Shew!



Get ready for TGSF's 7th (almost) Annual Really Big Shew. Since we didn't hold it last year, we thought this year it should be reprised!! Once again, it will be held upstairs at Kimo's Show Lounge. We are looking for talent. . .any talent, whether it be singing, dancing, stand-up comedy, whatever you can do. If you are interested, please call either Lulu Blau (415) [redacted] or me, Debbie Cook at (707) [redacted] or e-mail me at [redacted]@tgforum.com and get signed up!!

## The Newsletter Committee Goes Online

**by Janis Ryan**

At the Newsletter Committee meeting on Friday, April 16, we decided to try holding future meetings online. The best way that I know of doing this is using the chat feature of ICQ, an Internet messaging service. The program to do this is available for many different computers free from the Mirabilis Web Site at: http://www.icq.com/download/

Using this service, we will be able to meet together in an online chat environment, and exchange ideas for stories for future newsletters. The service also allows us to see which users on our contact list who are online, and to transfer files.

I'm always happy to help others get started with this online service. My ICQ number is 13516501, and I can be reached via email at: [redacted]@hisnhers.com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# TGSF Events in May

## SUNDAY / MAY 2ND 3:00PM

### *ExCom Meeting*

The May ExCom meeting will be held at Leslie's home in Albany this month. Everyone is welcome to attend when we say "Goodbye" to the retiring officers and "Hello" to their replacements! If you've been thinking about attending but have never really done it, come on down! Let your voice be heard or feel free to volunteer for one of our upcoming events. If you need directions, feel free to contact Nicole or me (Debbie) at (707) [redacted] or e-mail us at [redacted]@tgforum.com.

## FRIDAY / MAY 7TH 2:00PM

### *Fundraiser For Tenderloin Self Help Center*

Roxie Cinema, 3117-16th Street, between and Guerrero. See separate article in this issue on Page 11 for more information.

## SUNDAY / MAY 9TH 1:00PM

### *Newsletter Committee*

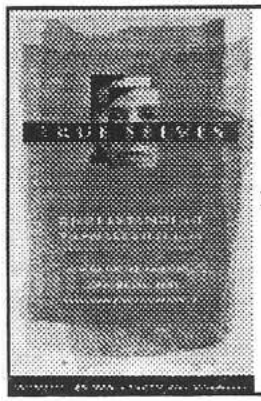
Calling all writers...we need to beef up our staff of reliable correspondents. Meet at Ayme's apartment for brainstorming, assignments and other mind-altering substances. Call 415-751-2552 for directions.

## WEDNESDAY / MAY 12TH 8:00PM

### *Mid-Month Social*

The May Mid Month will be once again held at The Thirsty Bear. The Thirsty Bear is located at 661 Howard, San Francisco, CA. From what Nicole and I heard, this turned out to be a great first-time venue in January, so as long a Nicole isn't sick again, we look forward to meeting everyone there!

If anyone is uncomfortable going to The Thirsty Bear because we do mingle with the after-work crowd, the TransBay group will also be meeting in Quetzals at 1234 Polk, between Sutter and Bush (right down the street from Kimo's). Park in the large parking structure and walk around the corner to where the coffee shop is located. This event starts at 7:00pm.



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## FRIDAY / MAY 14TH 8:00PM

### *TGSF Library / Poker Night*

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

## SATURDAY / MAY 15TH 1:00PM

### *Education Seminar: Fashion Consulting*

May's Education Seminar will feature Danae Doyle, a local Fashion Consultant. It'll be held upstairs at Kimo's (corner Polk & Pine). Donations of $3 to $5 are appreciated. For those interested in more information regarding this seminar, check our website after May 1st.

## THURSDAY / MAY 27TH 8:00PM

### *End of Month Social - Leather and Lace!*

The end of month will be in our usual venue The Blue Muse, located at 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Since the Leather and Lace event was postponed by the election events last month, we will be holding it this month instead.

Wear your most creative leather and lace outfits and make your own fashion statement! There will be a contest and a prize for the winner.

## HEY!

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

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

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

## *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 – May 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 |
| 2<br>3:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting | 3<br>8:00 PM DVG | 4 | 5 | 6<br>7:00 PM DVG (RCC) | 7<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM RGA | 8<br>8:00 PM FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA |
| 9<br>1:00 PM TGSF: NewsCom | 10 | 11 | 12<br>7:00 PM TransBay<br>8:00 PM TGSF: MMo @ Thirsty Bear | 13 | 14<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM TGSF: Library / Poker Night | 15<br>1:00 PM TGSF: Edu Seminar - Fashion Consulting |
| 16 | 17<br>8:00 PM DVG | 18 | 19 | 20<br>7:00 PM DVG (RCC) | 21<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap<br>8:00 PM RGA | 22<br>8:00 PM FWW<br>8:00 PM SGA |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27<br>8:00 PM TGSF EOM Leather & Lace @ Blue Muse | 28<br>7:00 PM SVGA<br>8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

## TGSF Membership Application

**Full Year Membership May 1 – April 30**

*Please Print / Check all that apply:*

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

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

Preferred Name: _____

Mailing Name: _____

Family Member's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

How did you hear about TGSF? _____

Your Email address: _____

I am enclosing a Check or Money order for:

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

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

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

**New Members** only; See Chart at right)

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

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

# Our Readers Respond...

## Dear TGSF:

I just had to run this by the group. I came out at work to one of the Lesbian women I work with. Actually it was my Supervisor. I came out to her friend last week and was well received. So she mentioned that I should tell my supervisor, becaues she would appreciate it.

Well I showed her pictures of Tianna at home and at some of the venues that I've visited. She was full of questions and I answered as many as I could in the short period of time we had. She was amazed at the transformation and didn't recognize me at first. But the one thing that I wasn't prepared for, was the criticizm that followed!

The next thing she asked was, if I was gay and attracted to men. When I told her that I was attracted to women, both GG and TG, she looked a bit puzzled and disappointed. I asked her if she knew anything about transgenders or knew anyone that is TG. She said she didn't, but did have some problems with the whole TG community. I asked what that might be. And she said that she resented the transgender community riding on the coat tails of the Gay Rights Movement!

She said, "I'm not transexual or transgender, I'm a gay woman and I don't think that TGs should be represented under the same umbrella as Gays and Lesbians."

Well at that point I spoke up saying that the TG community comes under a large umbrella encompassing everyone gay and straight alike (although what the Hell is straight?!) I mentioned that my TG friends are both gay and straight. I don't discriminate and don't care! I love all of my Sisters!

I asked her if she was aware that the Gay Rights Movement was started by Transgender Drag Queens at Stonewall. Her response was " they're gay and belong with the gay movement, but the rest us need to have our own movement, because gays have worked too hard to have equal rights to have us come along and reap the benefits."

When I mentioned the fact that we're both discrimnated against in the straight community. She said, "yes, they kill TGs." I reminded her of all of the gays and lesbians that have been beaten and killed. I said that we all need to stand together because we do have so much in common. And there is strength in numbers. Also, we in the TG community support all of the gay community activites, and we would be as bad as those who look down on us if we did otherwise. At that point, she said that a lot of other gays and lesbians felt the same way that she does! I knew that this feeling has existed in some areas of the gay community for some time now, but have never had it so up in my face! There is much work for us to do Sisters!

There cannot, no there Must Not be this separation between the two communities! We all want equality, the right to live our lives in peace and not have others impose their ethics and will upon us. I think that this situation can be dealt with through familiarity. A lot of this comes from not knowing who we are and what we're about. This is going to change! As I told her, I'll bet some of your gay and lesbian friends could be TG, but with that kind of attitude, that is one closet they're never going to be able to come out of! I think she heard me then!

I think that this is something that we all need to think about and act on in some way, before it drives some of our sisters deeper into that closet that we've all been trying to escape. It really bothered me that someone who has experienced the taste of discrimination as a lesbian woman in a professional atmosphere should spout such hypocritical views. It's views like hers, that keep movements from progressing. You would think that the gay rights movement would be willing to accept the support of anyone that cared, let alone a community like us that has experienced many of the same issues! I mean, how many of us deal with homophobia as well as genderphobia on a daily basis?

So we have just as much right to walk under that rainbow flag as anyone else. As I said earlier, transgenders were the front runners in the gay rights movement. Stonewall was also the beginning of the transgender rights movement. Let us not forget that. Those were Our Sisters out there!!!

Sorry to bend all of your ears for so long, but I just had to get this out of my system. In the answer portion at the Cotillion, the one thing I said I really wanted to do,was to bridge the gap between the Gay, Straight and Transgender Communities. I STILL DO!

**Love you all,**
**Tianna**

---

## Dear TGSF:

The points made in Tianna's letter about discrimination from the gay and lesbian community are valid and, in many cases, very accurate. It always amazes me to think that one minority class, particularly gays and lesbians, can be so narrow-minded in their belief system to exhibit such resentment, discrimination and (yes) hate towards the transgender community. This is especially disappointing in that it was the Stonewall riots, a demonstration by transsexuals and female impersonators, that is universally regarded as the impetus for the contemporary gay rights movement and much of the progress that has been achieved thus far. Also, for one to state that transgender rights have been "riding on the coat tails" of the gay movement shows an ignorance to what has been occurring legislatively over the last few years.

The gay rights movement has actively solicited, and received, transgender support for their initiatives with the illusive condition that we not be included in pending legislation but instead be the subject of an addendum to come later. Unfortunately, these "addendum's to come later" have either never materialized or been achieved only through the efforts of the transgender lobby acting alone. Current federal Human Rights and Hate Crime legislation, which are under consideration right now, are very graphic examples of exactly this strategy and how it is employed by the gay and lesbian lobby. This has also occurred in federal and state equal rights and housing discrimination initiatives. So....who's riding on whose coat tails? We now have Commissioners on both the Veterans Affairs Commission and the Taxi Commission in San Francisco and a number of representatives on the LGBT Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Commission. Someday maybe we will have an openly transgendered member of the Board of Supervisors. It could happen....it will happen, eventually.

When organizing the recent Transgender Vigil against recent murders, violence and crimes of hate which occurred in the Castro on February 20th, we found an initial resistance towards support from the local gay, lesbian and bisexual community. It was only

*Continues on Page 9*

# Our Readers Respond...

## Dear TGSF...

*Continued from Page 8*

after meeting, and establishing one-on-one relationships, with candidates of the Imperial Court and individuals representing other LGB"T" organizations did they come to the realization that we were all fighting for the same basic human rights of self expression....to live our lives in peace without the constant fear of violence. TGSF has for many years had a good relationship with the Imperial Court system as demonstrated by our participation in the graveside activities immediately following this year's coronation. That relationship needs to be nurtured and expanded upon. In my (admittedly) limited experience thus far, I have found that without exception, once a dialogue is established and we get to know one another, not as transgendered or gay or lesbian or bi but, as human beings facing many of the same issues, the same fears and the same discrimination, much of the historical resentment fades away.

It is my belief that TGSF can provide a leadership position in education and outreach to the GLB"T" community in San Francisco. We can be the liaison between the Castro and many of the neighborhoods where we live, Kimo's and the Motherlode, the Cotillion and the Coronation. Our participation in recent gay demonstrations against hate and violence such as the Shepard and Gaither vigils, and our visible leadership in the protest against Reverend Phelps and the Westboro Baptist Church, gave us an opportunity to meet and mingle with local gay activists. Now it is time to do the same with the mainstream gay, lesbian and bisexual community. In this case, familiarity does not breed contempt.....it creates understanding, respect and ultimately a unified G-L-B-T community in San Francisco.

In response to my reaction to Tianna's online posting, Suzanne L. [redacted]@inform.com) wrote, *" I think this is very important and I'd like to broaden it to include other minorities and women too. I'm afraid that I've witnessed discrimination by members of our own community against people of different colors, ethnic groups and women. My first meeting with, the then called, ETVC was marked by wonderful feelings. There were 100 of us! I couldn't believe my eyes. And when I looked around I saw Asians, blacks, whites, rich, poor, brilliant and dull. I took great comfort in realizing that we were "normal" in the sense of being found in all groups of people (when that still mattered to me)...so, while I agree that we need to work with the gay community to educate them that "WE" started the revolution, I'd be happy if we also remembered that we INCLUDE sisters and brothers of all races, colors, and abilities. "*

This is an excellent point; one which demands ongoing discussion, opinions and dialogue. While establishing a lasting relationship, a bond of diversity, between the gay, lesbian and bisexual community and the transgendered community in the region is indeed a worthwhile objective. Let us contemporaneously do the same within our own transgendered community. Presently, the regional trans-community is highly fragmented....suffering from many of the same bias found in society at large. We are a microcosm of the world around us, separated by our own ethnic, socioeconomic, racial, gender, sexual and "moral" discrimination.....yet undeniably bound together by the commonality of our individual gender anomalies.

In the San Francisco Bay region, including areas such as Walnut Creek, San Jose, Sonoma County and the Santa Cruz mountains, there are a number of different groups of transgendered individuals. In the City alone, we have TGSF, Trans-Bay, TGRage, TransAction, TransSupport, the Asian Pacific Island group, FTM International, the support groups at Tenderloin Self-Help, individuals who receive medication from Tom Waddell Clinic, Latina groups, African-American groups, sex workers, the Veteran's group at Fort Miley, individuals who frequent the "alternative" clubs such as Trannyshack and the Power Exchange.....the list goes on. In the South Bay, there are a couple of support groups primarily attended by those living in the Silicon Valley, a support group in Santa Cruz and others who are found on any given day at Carla's Place.

There are more groups in the East Bay, the North Bay and in Sacramento. In addition, many of the local gender therapists have support groups which meet regularly. But the largest group of transgendered individuals in the area is still those individuals who have yet come to terms with their trans-identity issues and are at home searching for answers, desperately seeking information and struggling with what to do with this "condition". I believe there are literally thousands of men, women, boys and girls in this region who would self-identify within the umbrella term of transgendered.....probably the single largest concentration of such people in the country, maybe the world.

It is my belief that TGSF, the largest organized such group in the region, should, can and is morally bound to take a leadership role in coalescing these divergent groups into one "community", one regional support structure.....one voice of self-expression. Just imagine the possibilities, the good, the universal support and strength that could evolve from such an accomplishment. So yes, let's work to create harmony between ourselves and the regional gay, lesbian and bisexual communities. It need to be done. But let us not forget about harmony at home as well.....that among our own brothers and sisters around the Bay.

**Warm regards,**
**Theresa Sparks**

**More Readers Respond on Page 10!**


**ARE YOU A VETERAN?**

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

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# Our Readers Respond...

## Dear TGSF:

While I don't agree entirely with Ayme's comments on Cotillion's losses this year, I must say that she is absolutely correct in stating that Cotillion shortfalls must not be made up by other TGSF accounts. That event MUST be a moneymaker on it's own merits or it should not be held. It is that simple.

I've often wondered EXACTLY what the Cotillion's purpose is because therein lies the answer as to whether it should live or die. Here's what I think it is now:

1. Great Public Relations. The Cotillion gives the club lustre and by far the best glitzy "drag" event in San Francisco. While I like the Court's coronations, they are a terrible bore compared to the Cotillion. Nightclub stuff doesn't compare either.
2. Old Home Week. The Cotillion is the one event every year where the old school crowd gets to come home. This isn't a small thing and more should be done to recognize and financially exploit this.
3. Excuse to get and wear fancy clothes. Not a small thing by any account.

Notice I haven't mentioned "fundraiser". Even in the best years this wasn't emphasized and now, I think it MUST be.

The Cotillion must be promoted and packaged as a FUND RAISER. I don't particularly care what the fund raising is for, but I would recommend keeping it simple: the money is to support TGSF, the best support group in the nation.

The leadership may think of other ideas but it would be a large mistake at this point to call the event a fundraiser for something other than a specific TGSF thing. In future years other charities can be considered but TGSF itself has plenty of need for revenue (anyone remember the building fund?)

Promoting the event as a fundraiser opens all kinds of doors and legitimately allows the club to charge more for it. If I'm told that the Cotillion is there to raise funds for one of the great support groups in the country I'm there with more money. If it is just another night out, I'm not going to be as willing to spend the money and am likely to squawk more about a high ticket price.

There is another point too: when the event is just another night out, it's much harder to say "no" to the poor-mouths and freeloaders who end up costing the organization lots of money with their demands for freebies.

Another advantage: Ticket prices can be marketed differently if you have a real fundraiser. You can have Benefactor tickets, charge $100 a piece for them, Supporter tickets at $75, etc, etc. Have limited, but reasonable, low price seating, just make sure you give the big bucks people the best seats.

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

**as of April, 1999**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Michelle Cole | $100 | Dahlia Peters | $20 |
| Phyllis Fink | $70 | Mina Schwartz | $10 |
| Jessica Ames | $50 | Donna Freeman | $10 |
| Janis Ryan | $25 | Karen Hossfeld | $100 |

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

## Dear TGSF:

Hooray for Theresa Sparks!!! You are so right, we need to get the various TG groups together, first here in the Bay Area and someday the USA and then the world. I know that sounds grandiose but in order to have a sway in what happens we need to be together.

Being a transsexual I know that what tends to happen is once we transition and then have our surgery, we melt away and want to live as women and not be associated with transgenderism. I hope that I never get to that point, I am proud to be transgendered and that is something that is lacking among many of us. The gays started to make their progress when then started their gay pride.

We need to stick together and become more visible to the general public. One reason we lack acceptance is the lack of knowledge about us and what we go through. People form their opinions based things like Jerry Springer (who doesn't want to educate but to titillate) thus forming incorrect ideas on who and what we are. We need more exposure like the feature on the Discovery channel.

But first we need to come together like you say and become a group not a grouping. I am willing to take the chance to become more open how about some more of you!! Do we stand together or fall separately!!!!

**Pamela Ann Reed**

---

I saw who came to that event. There were more than a few people there, including me, who have benefited tremendously from TGSF and can afford to give something back—especially when it is such fun. I also saw a number of business owners, including one who has no problem using club social events to promote her business, who can do more than just vend tickets...a lot more.

One last point: Saying "NO" to the freebie crowd isn't easy. But in the mid-1990s when the Cotillion was a moneymaker we had a hard rule: EVERYONE pays. The only exceptions were key crew people, the director and the chef. You have to have clear rules and no "special" side deals. Believe me, it's a lot better this way!

**Cindy Martin**
**Publisher**
**TG Forum**
**[redacted]@tgforum.com**


**KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC**
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# Our Readers Respond...

## Dear TGSF:

I am active in TGRAGE a group that protests transgender violence. There has been another killing. A trans girl was murdered with a baseball bat in Cordelle, Georgia on Tuesday, March 30th. Trans murders are happening about once a month as near as we can figure - 700% more frequently than for the general population.

Even with those kinds of stats and the hate and violence that all transgenders face I know how difficult it is to get the trans community to come forward and demand better treatment. I know how difficult it is to actually get the work done, be it editing or outreach. I have respect for anyone who will actually do the work. We may disagree with one another over tactics but we all share a vision of a society in which we are not targets.

**Aquatranny**

## Dear TGSF:

Calling all groups, community Leaders, and people who just care. I have this crazy Ideal. Lets get organized. Please forward these message to all groups within the TG Community. Looking for everyone who wants to make a difference. Lets get those issues posted. And see if there's an answer out there for them.

I've created a web community for everyone called TG Nexus. The TG Nexus is where thoughts and ideology merge into a cohesive network. It spans from the far reaches of the world and encompasses cross-cultural diversity as well as TG roles in today's society and tomorrow's.

It's part of a web service called Delphi that specializes in helping people create their own discussion groups. To join our discussion, simply go to http://www.delphi.com/tgnexus/start

If you've never used Delphi before you'll need to go through a quick registration (so you can post messages). It only takes a minute and it's free! Hope to see you there!

****Peacemaker****
**LeChara Johnson**

## Fundraiser For Tenderloin Self Help Center

The Tenderloin Self Help has been chosen as a beneficiary for the SF Sexworker's Film Festival, by Carol Leigh (AKA 'The Scarlot Harlot'), of COYOTE, to help our new sex worker project, which we are starting in collaboration with COYOTE. This event is to take place on **Friday, May 7 at 2:00PM at the Roxie Cinema, 3117-16th Street, between and Guerrero.**

You are cordially invited to this important event, where the Self Help's Director (Manager/Coordinator) will be on hand (dressed to the nines) to accept the money on behalf of the Agency. Tickets are $7,00 and 35% of the proceeds, will go to the festival and Carol, on behalf of COYOTE, has graciously half of the proceeds to us to help fund the Center's new project.

The Tenderloin Self Help Center is a Project of Central City Hospitality House, we provide survival and other resources, including a Case Management Project, which includes a harm reduction Counselor, a housing/benefits case manager, and an employment project, to several thousand people a month. The Center has been in operation since 1986 and has provided Services targeting homeless people, residents of the Tenderloin, and other disenfranchised groups.

We presently have three Transgender/transsexual support groups (including a monolingual Spanish Group) , with plans for a fourth one, to deal with addiction issues based on the Harm Reduction Model. The Center operates by Harm Reduction Philosophy of Substance Use, using the Continuum of Use Spectrum Model. Our Sex Worker Support Project will operate under those same principals and is designed to support sex workers and advocate for their rights as human-beings to receive just treatment at hands of law enforcement, medical support, support in leaving the sex industry (if that is their wish) or to remain in it and receive support for better working conditions.

For more information of the Festival contact: http://bayswan.org/swfest.html or swfest@bayswan.org. For information concerning Central City Hospitality House and the Tenderloin Self Help Center, please contact: Christine at TSHC (415) 565-3501 or http://www.dead.net/cavenWeb/unbrokenchain/hospitalityhse.html

Please come and tell your friends!! Let's support our sister and brothers in the sex work industry! Let's support COYOTE, which has worked so hard to improve working conditions and the lives prostitutes of every flavor, color, ethnicity, gender or gender orientation or identity, sexual preference and identity. A million thanks and hugs and kisses to Carol Leigh and all the participants in the Sex Worker's Film Fest!!

## May's Birthdays...

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0501 | Susan Agles | 0510 | Amanda Gonzales | 0518 | Rhonda Shaw |
| 0501 | Cindy Battani | 0510 | Charlene Chan | 0519 | Nikki Rillingale |
| 0501 | Alicia Kenwood | 0512 | Joyce White | 0521 | Sybil Holiday |
| 0502 | Consuelo Valdes | 0513 | Serena Anderson | 0523 | Angela Paige |
| 0504 | Melanie Okubo | 0513 | Sallie Hunt | 0525 | Tianna Marie |
| 0507 | Karen Erickson | 0514 | Phyllis Fink | 0526 | Kathy Edwards |
| 0509 | Gracia Thoreson | 0515 | Cindy R. Martin | 0528 | Nicole Cook |
| 0509 | April Brennan | 0516 | Susan Flowers | 0529 | Rhonda Holloway |
| 0510 | J.F. Schimmel | 0516 | Vera Sepulveda | 0530 | Chris Silver |
| | | | | 0530 | Jane Bolig |

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

## New Members Fiscal Year 98-99

Kim Power
Janet Freitas
Vikki Freitas
Tina Casara
Aiyana Evening Star

## March - April Socials in Review

**By Nicole and Debbie**

After much discussion about people not getting to meet each other at the socials, I decided to hold a mass "get to know each other" event at the March End of Month social on February 25th. Once again the classy Blue Muse was the setting for our event. Each member in attendance was asked to take a number of squares of toilet paper between 1 and 10 without knowing what it was to be used for. After everyone had their paper and much questioning, I explained the rules with a little help from Debbie. Each person was to tell one thing about themselves for each square of toilet paper they were holding. Debbie and I began giving 2 examples of how you could answer. Debbie told 5 un-revealing facts about herself, and I told 5 specific facts in detail about myself. It was a great way for everyone to get to know each other and find the same interests to talk about.

The SGA Talent Show at Joseph's on March 27th was a big success for the SGA. They raised over $500 during the event. Although at times you got the feeling that the MC was engaged in a virtual groping of your purse to make sure you did not leave with any money. There were several great acts and just to name a few...Krystal and Adam (from the Sacramento Court) did a Peg and Al Bundy act from "Married With Children". It was a riot and Krystal does a great imitation complete with frozen BonBons to boot, which she passed amongst the audience!! The current Miss SGA, Tina Louise, did 2 acts. Both were really unique and those 8" high heel shoes she was balancing in was an act all by themselves! We had a gal who did lip sync to a couple of Cher songs and while I was amazed at how much she looked like Cher, her wardrobe was incredible!! Of course, I can't forget to mention that Nicole and I did a live duet to a ballad by Metallica called "Nothing Else Matters" which we heard from other audience members sounded good, but we couldn't hear ourselves because the person running the sound system didn't know we were on live microphones. . .but when I came back out to do a live solo dedicated to Nicole by the Pretenders called "I'll Stand By You", I made sure to tell the gal running the sound that I was live and I could finally hear myself and take out all those sour notes I was probably hitting during the duet when I couldn't hear. All in all, it was a great chance to get out in front of others and try my talent which I bottled up for many years because I was afraid to sing in front of people. Look for Nicole and I at TGSF's Talent Show "The Big Shew" in June trying it again.

There was a rather light turn out to the April 14th Mid-Month at Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint. About 13 girls showed up for the event. Josie's is actually quite a nice venue. It has a stage with 2 floors of seating, a kitchen that serves a variety of food and a beer & wine type bar. While we were there 2 ladies used the stage to practice several musical numbers and were quite good. Someone must have become inspired by them singing because I received a request to hold a mid-month at a Kareoke venue which Debbie and I will check into for next month.

### 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

*April Seminar Review*

## Women Warriors/Women Chiefs

**by Janis Ryan**

Anthropologist and Historian Will Roscoe gave a presentation on Saturday, April 17, on Native American Woman Warriors and Woman Chiefs. It was held in the Jon Sim's Center, 1519 Mission St., in San Francisco, an interesting space with many rooms for practicing music and dance.

He presented many examples of women who had felt called to assume the roles traditionally assigned to men, as hunters, leaders and warriors. He illustrated his presentation with slides depicting early drawings and photographs of those women. He explored the Native American berdache, or third-gender role, a once common feature of Native societies.

He showed that after the early contacts with Europeans, the impression of these women was initially that of Amazon warrior women. He pointed out that the name of the State of California was derived from the character "Califi," who was such a character in a novel which was popular at the time of the Spanish conqueror Cortez. Later, that image changed to that of Indian Princesses.

Along the East Coast, women were involved both in personal and diplomatic contacts with the British, as well as in battles with them. In the end, they were often killed in battles or massacres. Later, when settlers from the United States moved westward into the Plains, they also encountered women who were among the warriors and leaders in their groups. The groups in which these women belonged often had distinct roles for these "two-spirited" women. These women often felt called to their roles by dreams and visions, and many became shamans or healers. They were often respected leaders and warriors within their societies.

The styles of clothing worn by the different women was varied. Some wore women's clothes all of the time. Others wore male clothes, often just a breach cloth, while hunting and in battle, and traditional women's clothes at other times. A Hopi Kachine depicts a person half-man, half-woman, with clothes and hair split between the two, and a bow and quiver of arrows on the back. Some of these women were distinct in that they had multiple relationships with men. Others had long-term relationships with other women.

In describing the work leading to his book *The Zuni Man-Woman*, Mr. Roscoe stated, "In the early 1980s, I became interested in the Native American berdache, or third-gender role, a little known but once common feature of Native societies. Eventually, after eight years of research and many travels, adventures, and fascinating contacts, I wrote *The Zuni Man-Woman*, the first tribally specific study of berdaches. While continuing research on Native North America, I have expanded my scope to include the study of similar roles, alternative genders, in other parts of the world and in western history."

Will Roscoe is the author or editor of many books, including: Living the Spirit: a Gay American Indian Anthology (1989), The Zuni Man-Woman (1992), Queer Spirits: a Gay Men's Myth Book (1995), Radically Gay: Gay Liberation in the Words of it's Founder Harry Hay (1996), Changing Ones: Third and Fourth Genders in Native North America (1998).

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## *Two Tranny Tales in One City*

## Out on the Town with Darcy

So what was that line about the best-laid plans of mice and trannies?

The original, best-laid plan was another classic night on San Francisco for Bree and Darcy. Three nightspots carefully selected to provide us with the mixture of ambiance we loved, each one carefully sequenced so we would arrive at the right place at the right time. Cocktails at the trendy, Tenderloin club called Backflip; a second round at the brand new, stunningly designed Mercury Club in SOMA; and finishing up with seeing a top-class Soul/R&B act at John Lee Hooker's Boom-Boom Room on Fillmore Street. It ended up that it would take us two, separate occasions to pull this off, due to a wrench being thrown in the works on our first attempt.

Backflip was a place we had previously failed three times to get into for various reasons, giving us the impression that we had to do "backflips" to get in! But this time we walked straight in with no hassles. We found a multitude of settings which one was encouraged to wind their way through. The first area had a circular, central bar, dimly lit with cobalt blue lamps. Beyond this room we descended a ramp/bridge crossing a pool of water which led to the restaurant. A liquid feel permeated this area, with yellow and light-green neon lighting illuminating curving passages, complemented by the curvilinear outdoor pool and patio. Moving on further we discovered a small bar featuring a fireplace and couch, which we later took advantage of for a photo backdrop.

We chose to seat ourselves at the bar with the blue lamps. We toasted our return to the night-clubbing realm, smiling at each other knowingly as we felt the energy of another exciting evening settling into place. We ended up chatting with a young woman sitting next to us, whom we found was quite knowledgeable on San Francisco nightlife. At some point Bree asked her if she had been to our next planned stop, the Mercury Club.

"Oh!" she exclaimed with wide-eyed enthusiasm. "That place is so incredible! You girls are just going to LOVE it!"

Well that settled it! Shortly thereafter, we were on our way to the Mercury Club. Unknowns to us, the aforementioned "wrench" was about to be thrown into our midst. Arriving at the entrance of Mercury, we were greeted by a couple of staunch and sharply dressed door guards.

"Good evening, ladies. As it now after 10 PM, there is a $20 cover charge to get in."

***Continued on Page 15***

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## *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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## TransAction Protests In SF

**By Jim Herron Zamora, (c) 1999 SF Examiner**

A coalition of transgender people claims they are subjected to "systematic harassment" by police officers and sheriff's deputies by being verbally abused either on the street or in jail. "When I walk in the Tenderloin . . . I feel the police want to stop me because I am transgender," said Nadia Cabeza, who said police frequently have assumed she is a prostitute and erroneously arrested her. The Police Department and sheriff's office deny the claims.

But the new coalition TransAction announced at a news conference outside the Hall of Justice on Wednesday that police in San Francisco pick on people who have changed their sex. "We're seeing transgendered persons who are the victims of police brutality and the numbers are on the rise," said Shawna Virago.

More than a dozen people spoke of bad experiences with police. Several cited cases in other Bay Area cities, but most directed their complaints at law enforcement in San Francisco. Some of the speakers admitted they were former prostitutes. But they said police use that as an excuse to harass them because they are transgender people.

Veronika Cauley, a member of San Francisco's Veterans Affairs Commission, said she has been verbally harassed by police or mistakenly stopped for questioning. "I was a prostitute in a past life," Cauley said. "But that doesn't excuse what has been done to me." Officer Sherman Ackerson said the San Francisco Police Department does not single out "any group for any reason. We do not target transgender people for any reason. We are treating them like any other person in San Francisco."

Several speakers complained about practices in the San Francisco Jail, saying they have been strip searched to determine their gender - an alleged violation of civil rights. They also complained of being subjected to verbal abuse and harassment behind bars. The rally was in part to show support for Victoria Schneider, a transsexual who has a lawsuit pending that alleges she was subjected to an illegal strip search by officers following a 1996 misdemeanor arrest. "When the police strip search women, it's as though we've been raped. It strips us of our dignity and our self-esteem," Schneider said Wednesday. The City has denied wrongdoing and is fighting Schneider's suit.

Sheriff Michael Hennessey said Wednesday that it is against his department's policy to strip-search in order to determine gender. He said that deputies will perform strip searches only if a suspect's recent criminal history indicates use of drugs, weapons or violence. "That applies to all arrestees in that category whether they are transgender or not," the sheriff said. "This is in order to keep drugs and weapons out of the jail system."

Hennessey also said his department does not tolerate deputies harassing inmates. He said the jail system has made special efforts to accommodate transgenders and keep "any inmate who is believed to be vulnerable" away from the general population. "We assess every single person for possible harm," Hennessey said. "We take that very seriously."


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***Participants Of All Genders & Sexualities Sought For A Sex Research Project***

## Is There Orgasm After A Sex Change?

Thanks to the pioneering work of Masters and Johnson, and researchers who followed in their footsteps, sexual scientists know a good deal about changes in the pelvic musculature during orgasm in people who are not transsexual. However, the same kind of information has never been gathered for male-to-female transsexuals (MtFs) who have completed sex/genital reassignment surgery (SRS/GRS). Would you like to make a difference?

Help a doctoral student and Ph.D. candidate at The Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality change the picture and get the facts out to transsexual people, their friends, loved ones, and care providers. Volunteer to participate in the first laboratory-type study on orgasm in post-operative MtFs.

People of all genders and sexualities are welcome and sought for this study. However, as the study will focus on the orgasmic responses of post-operative male-to female transsexuals, members of this community are especially needed. Also, postoperative transsexuals who volunteer for this study must have experienced orgasm at least once since SRS/GRS. All participants must be over 21 years of age, in good health, and be willing to self-stimulate to orgasm under laboratory conditions. Measurements of blood pressure, heart rate and anal sphincter contractions will be taken, and participants will be asked to complete a short confidential and anonymous survey. All results will remain confidential and anonymous. Participants will not be paid.

Exclusions: Participants must not have uncontrolled high blood pressure or any latex allergies, have a known cardiac arrhythmia, use a pacemaker, or have had a heart attack within the last twelve months. Additionally, participants must not have any rectalvaginal fistulas, fecal incontinence, or have had past anal surgeries which might affect the muscles around their anus. Also, participants must not have had sex/genital reassignment surgery within the last six months.

This study will take place in two or more central locations in San Francisco, two of which are MUNI accessible, including Club Eros on Market Street. The study sessions are expected to occur weekly from May through August, with one or two sessions on weekend aftemoons between 10am and 3pm, and a second or third occurring on a weeknight evening between 6pm and 10pm. Participants must provide their own transportation.

Please email serious inquiries to *poststudy@aol.com*. Please indicate your dates of availability and a phone number and/or email at which you can easily be reached. Thank you wholeheartedly for your interest and your time.

The researcher thanks Club Eros for their generous donation of space for this study, with particular thanks to Club Eros Owner Buzz Bense and Club Eros Operating Manager Baruch Gould!

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## Out With Darcy...

*Continued from Page 13*

We weren't about to fork out THAT kind of cover charge! Bree put some pressure on the door guards to cut us some slack, while I put my mind to work on an alternate plan. I suddenly remembered seeing an intriguing advertisement for a place in this neighborhood called Entros, which sported a logo of an upside-down, flying chair, and a reference to a time machine. The door guards were not budging at Mercury, so we let the flying chair inspire us to seek the mysterious realm of Entros.

But before we explore Entros, let us use a time machine to take us forward to our second adventure, in which we actually *succeeded* in entering the Mercury Club.

Bree and I were wise enough to arrive at Mercury *before* 10 PM on our second adventure. The same staunch and sharply dressed door guards were there to greet us again.

"Good evening, ladies. Step right this way!"

The bar in which we chose to seat ourselves dazzled us. Pitted mirrors covered the ceilings, columns, and most of the walls; metallic, beaded curtains covered the windows; and the remaining walls not mirrored were covered in silver paneling. Bree's sparkling, black jacket complemented the ambiance well, and we took note that most of the patrons were elegantly dressed in black. We ordered Martinis, and Bree took a picture of me seated next to a mirrored wall, to experiment with the flash bouncing indirectly around the room. Then we asked our cocktail waitress to take our picture together, and learned that there was yet another bar in back!

We entered the other bar to find low ceilings, stark white walls and white leather upholstery, giving it a very chic and cavernous feel. We took advantage of several photo opportunities, including one taken of us by our bartender, who was conscientious enough to make sure my upraised cocktail glass didn't get hidden behind a bar lamp! Later on, four incredibly statuesque, model type women entered the bar. Bree chatted with them about the infamous $20 cover charge. I basically remained in shock at how stunning they looked!

Where we headed next during our second adventure will have to remain a mystery for now, because it is time to hop back to our first adventure, and discover what happened at Entros!

Just entering Entros ended up being an adventure in itself. We found ourselves winding through a dark, narrow passageway knocking aside vertically suspended cushions like they were vines in a jungle. We laughed when we found ourselves disoriented at a dead-end, and when we eventually found the actual way in, things got even more surreal.

It suddenly felt like we were transported to some sort of Disneyland. The place was huge and brightly lit, and there were excited people bouncing about on strange contraptions. The "Blues Sisters" greeted us, and we had our pictures taken with them. The staff of the place walked about dressed in khakis, as if they were about to take us on Safari. We eventually learned from them that Entros was designed for people to play games that tested their ability to work together towards a common goal. It was not exactly what we were seeking that evening, but it was still bizarrely entertaining to stumble upon such a place!

We decided that it had become too late to head across town to the Boom-Boom Room, so we decided to check out another place instead. But before I tell you about that, let's jump forward in time once again to our second adventure, so we can check out the Boom-Boom Room after all!

Bree and I picked up our good friend Tianna after we left Mercury, and headed for the Boom-Boom Room. The place was going full blast, and we went straight to the packed dance floor, nestling in with the crowd to boogie down. The group performing was called "Elations"; four guys who sang and moved in sync, similar in style to the "Temptations" of the early 1970's. The crowd here was primarily African-American, middle-aged, and a bit taken aback when we came charging into the place out of nowhere! Nonetheless, we managed to get someone to take a picture of the three of us together almost right away. One gentleman was particularly funny when he first got a glance of Tianna and I.

"Whoa!" he began. "OK. I'm hip! I'm HIP!"

After the Boom-Boom Room, Bree, Tianna and I headed for the third destination of our second adventure. But of course, before I tell you about that, we need to hop back to first adventure, and check out Elroy's!

Elroy's is a huge, very trendy, warehouse turned bar/restaurant located at 1st and Howard Streets in the SOMA neighborhood. As we strolled about checking out the layout, the staff mistook us for members of the women's basketball team currently partying there! We ordered Cosmopolitans, and strolled upstairs to sip them while leaning on the railing of a pit, which allowed us to view the people downstairs. Later on we returned downstairs, and a couple of rather sauced, sharply attired, young Swedish guys began chatting us up.

"You girls are great!" said the more toasted of the two. "We just love the way people express themselves in San Francisco!"

"Don't you have any places in Stockholm where people can cut loose and express themselves like this?" I asked him.

"No!" he stated flatly. "It's totally boring and narrow-minded there!" Being fifty percent Scandinavian in my own ethnic heritage, I found this flat declaration rather disappointing!

Both of our evenings ended up at the same destination, the fabulous G-Spot dance club at 6th & Harrison. We danced like crazy on both nights with enthusiastic lesbians galore! Wonder Woman Tedra Thomsen was on hand to join us during the first night, and the "Queen of the Lesbian Magnets" Rachel Andrews was there both nights. During the second night, Tianna became infatuated with a hard-body, swimmer girl; I became rather "entangled" with a gorgeous, blonde English girl; and Bree's memory was lost somewhere at the bottom of her Cape Codder cocktail!

In conclusion, as much as Bree and I strive to structure our evenings for maximum, streamlined action, it can be sort of fun when a wrench gets thrown in the works to invoke the forces of spontaneity. One never knows what surprises await the Traipsing Tranny out to tear up the town!


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## MUNI Stalker Hearing

**by Theresa Sparks**

Just a quick note to tell you about the hearing Jo Ellen Fisher and I attended regarding Lamar, the infamous MUNI stalker. The "employee conference" was held on Thursday, April 15th, at MUNI offices on Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. It was conducted in the private office of the acting General Manager of MUNI, Lou Johnson, and was attended by Mr. Johnson, Ed (didn't get his last name), the Director of Articulation Services (whatever that is), two union officials representing the accused and Lamar himself. Jo Ellen and I were there to testify and Shawna Virago with CUAV (Community United Against Violence) and Rosalyne S. Montgomery with TRUE (TRansgenders United for Equality) attended as outside observers. Heather Brown and Rick Ballen also came by for support but were not allowed into the actual proceedings. Jo Ellen and I were summoned into Mr. Johnson's office one-at-a-time and asked to give our testimony, respond to cross-examination by MUNI or the union reps and allowed to make closing statements as each of us deemed appropriate.

Since I did not hear Jo Ellen's testimony, nor she mine, I can only relate to you what I said, my perception of the tone of Jo Ellens' remarks, my impression of Muni's attitude towards the hearing and what I believe to be the probable outcome of this proceeding.

MUNI had received twelve unsubstantiated complaints concerning Lamar's conduct. The narrative of each complaint was originally prepared by Jo Ellen, edited and formatted by myself and forwarded to MUNI through CUAV. So we knew exactly what they said. After reading the complaint describing my own contact with Lamar, I was asked if it was accurate, to which I responded that it was. Lamar was then given an opportunity to dispute the facts contained therein, which he did not. I then explained that the reason the other eleven complaints were "unsubstantiated" was that the complainants were too frightened for their own safety to come to the hearing. In doing so, I described the context within which we, as transgendered individuals, lived our lives, including job discrimination, social ostracism, constant harassment and daily ridicule. I emphasized that the most debilitating element of our lives though was not the discrimination but the constant fear of physical assault, hate violence and murder. I sited a few facts such as ten transgender murders in ten months, dozens of reported incidents of violence (and hundreds which go unreported), police harassment and institutional indifference.

When asked what I wanted to accomplish by testifying at this hearing, I told them I wanted Lamar's intimidating behavior to stop. I stated that he was scaring, threatening, harassing, stalking and verbally assaulting us and that it must cease before it escalates into something much more tragic.

I then told Lamar directly that he was frightening us and literally forcing us to modify the way in which we conduct our lives.....the places we go, the things we do and the people we meet. I said we truly meant him no physical harm, nor did we want to permanently impact his private or professional life (albeit he was ours) but that we just wanted him to immediately stop.....we demanded that he stop. Lamar then, through his union representatives, apologized for his conduct and expressed remorse to me and the entire community for what he has been doing.

Before dismissing me from the proceeding, Mr. Johnson stated that MUNI took these allegations and Lamar's activities very, very seriously. He also said that MUNI would do everything within it's power to cause this reprehensible conduct to cease, immediately.

As far as Jo Ellen's testimony. All I know is that when she emerged from Mr. Johnson's office, she was visibly emotional and on the verge of tears. I am sure that the tone of her testimony, unlike the angry, accusatory and demanding tone of my own, was more vulnerable and straight from the heart. I applaud the courage it took to bare her soul.

What will come of this? Your guess is as good as mine. The officials representing MUNI seemed sincere but I'm not really sure what power or jurisdiction they have to truly affect Lamar's behavior. Lamar did appear to be remorseful. But wouldn't anyone under these same circumstances? So, who knows what will happen. It really depends on Lamar ....and I don't have a clue what was going through his mind during, or at the conclusion of, my testimony or the entire proceeding itself. I do know though that we did get "their" attention, MUNI, the City of SF and Lamar. Everyone we encountered was polite, respectful and appeared to be approaching this situation with a sincere desire to help. I want to believe Lamar's intimidating conduct will stop (and I think it will in the short term) and I do believe we did some good.....if for no other reason than we struck back, in our own little way, at one small element of societal oppression that is our daily companion.

That's my take on the events which transpired last Thursday. After the hearing we had a bite to eat, went shopping and then disappeared back into our own individual lives. Ah yes, just another day in the life of a transgendered person in the beautiful City of San Francisco.


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## HBIGDA Announces New Standards of Care Committee

**by Claire McNab [redacted]@siberia.demon.co.uk)**
**Originally from Dr Anne Lawrence's website (http://www.annelawrence.com/**

HBIGDA president Dr. Richard Green announced the appointment of a new Standards of Care committee in the January, 1999 HBIGDA newsletter. The committee will consider further revisions to last year's major update of the Standards. The new committee will serve for two years; Dr. Walter Meyer III will serve as committee chair.

The new committee consists of 17 members — nearly twice as many as the last one. It includes all current Board members, all current Officers except Dr. Green himself, and eight additional appointees. The members are, in alphabetical order:

Peggy Cohen-Kettenis, Ph.D. (Psychology, The Netherlands, Board member)
Eli Coleman, Ph.D. (Psychology, USA, Board member)
Domenico DiCeglie, M.D. (Psychiatry, UK)
Holly Devor, Ph.D. (Sociology, Canada)
Louis Gooren, Ph.D. (Endocrinology, The Netherlands)
J. Joris Hage, M.D. (Surgery, The Netherlands
Board member Sheila Kirk, M.D. (OB-Gyn, USA, Board member)
Bram Kuiper, Ph.D. (Psychology, The Netherlands)
Donald Laub, M.D. (Surgery, USA, Board member)
Anne Lawrence, M.D. (Sexology, USA)
Yvon Menard, M.D. (Surgery, Canada)
Walter Meyer III, M.D. (Psychiatry, USA, Committee Chair)
Stan Monstrey, M.D. (Surgery, Belgium)
Jude Patton, CMHC, CMFT, PA-C (Counseling, USA, Board member)
Leah Schaefer, Ed.D. (Psychotherapy, USA, Board member)
Alice Webb, M.S.W., LCSW, Ph.D. (Psychotherapy, USA, Officer (President-Elect)
Connie Christine Wheeler, Ph.D. (Psychology, USA, Officer (Secretary-Treasurer)

Four of these individuals were members of the previous SOC Committee (Cohen-Kettenis, Coleman, Hage, and Schaefer), and six were consultants to it (DiCeglie, Gooren, Laub, Lawrence, Meyer, and Wheeler). Two members of the new committee are transsexual (Lawrence and Patton), and one is transgendered (Kirk).

The previous SOC Committee listed several unresolved issues in one of its last drafts of the 1998 revisions. These issues were supposed to be addressed in the future, and it is reasonable to assume that the new SOC Committee may consider them. The issues were:

- Surgery for HIV positive persons (addressed in an HBIGDA resolution at the 1997 meeting);
- Reproductive technologies for hormonally or surgically treated GID patients;

***Continued on Page 18***

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***June 24-26, 1999 in Grand Forks, ND***

## GLBT Conference Announcement: Out On The Prairie

A first of its kind conference, "Out On The Prairie", scheduled for June 24-26, 1999, seeks to bring together the rural community in addition to those from the helping professionals, students and the public to explore the unique challenges faced by gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders and professionals who live and provide services in rural areas.

This three day conference, hosted by the Social Work Department at the University of North Dakota, is directed toward these individuals, their families and practitioners who work, live, or provide services in rural areas. Recent events reinforce the critical need for a rural dialogue and special training for those professionals who provide service in rural areas. For more information visit our website http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Castro/2921 or contact Nancy Rice, Dept of Social Work, UND PO Box 7135 Grand Forks, ND 58202 701-777-3770 Or 877-688-3660 (toll free) E-Mail: [redacted]@mail.und.nodak

## 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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## HBIGDA - New SOC...

*Continued from Page 17*

- Non-breast, non-genital surgery for undiagnosed gender dysphoric patients;
- Mastectomy and orchiectomy in patients who are not perceived to have a gender identity disorder;
- Reduced fees, including pro-bono work, for professional services for the transgendered;
- How to relate to requests for sex workers to have both breasts and a penis;
- How to assess real life experience in sex workers.

It is too early to know what agenda Dr. Meyer will set for the new committee. My hope is that we can make the Standards more flexible and more evidence-based, while removing unnecessary barriers to care.

As a transsexual committee member, I feel a special responsibility to represent the concerns of transsexual and transgendered persons during this latest revision of the Standards of Care.

To that end, I invite any interested transsexual or transgendered persons to write to me with their comments about the Standards of Care, and their suggestions for changes or improvements. The mailbox I have set up for this purpose is <standards@mindspring.com>. This is not an official HBIGDA survey; it is simply designed to help me better understand and represent community concerns. I may not be able to acknowledge every message I receive, but I will read and carefully consider each one.

**Thank-you,**
**Anne Lawrence**

*(Note from Claire: It's probably worth keeping an eye on this process, though I find it very depressing to note that yet again, the majority of participants are from North America, and every single one of them is a medic — even though a few of those listed are trans people themselves, there appears to be no-one on this panel whose sole function is a representative of trans people themselves. That prevalence of those who make money out of trans people (and therefore have a directly personal vested interest in maintaining a restrictive set of guidelines), and the absence of representatives of the users of these services probably explains why the agenda items outlined are so minimalist :(*

*Personally, I don't intend to waste my time writing submissions or suggestions to a self-appointed group so deeply skewed against us ... but I've reposted this information here for the benefit anyone who wants to have a go at persuading the gender industry to listen...)*


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## "SEX POLICE"


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What is sex? What is gender? For most people in the world, these questions are simple to answer; however, for a large number of us (those of us who belong to the TBLGI community), the answers are very complicated. No community brings these issues to the forefront of public attention than intersexed individuals (once called "hermaphroditic").

As a neurobiologist, I would argue that we of the TBLGI community are all "intersexed" in a broader sense. Strictly speaking, "intersexed" means being born with a mixture of primary sex characteristics. However, in a broader sense, I would argue that there are many ways to be intersexed, including having a brain that is partially differentiated in a manner inconsistent with one's genetic codes, affecting which "sex" one finds attractive, one's interests, one's personality, and generally how one wishes to express one's self. However, one is only considered "intersexed" in the truest sense if one has ambiguous genitalia.

While the differences between "intersexed" people and TBLG people may be significant from a medical standpoint, I think we all have a lot to learn from intersexed people from a theoretical and behavioral standpoint. Towards that end, I would highly recommend to you an article that has appeared in Salon magazine. For something done in a popular venue, it's actually quite good. You may find the article, called "Sex Police," at the following address: http://www.salon.com/health/feature/1999/04/05/sex_police/index.html

*(Editor's Note: I have a text file of the article in question, which is too lengthy to print here, but if anyone wants a copy, just send me an email.)*


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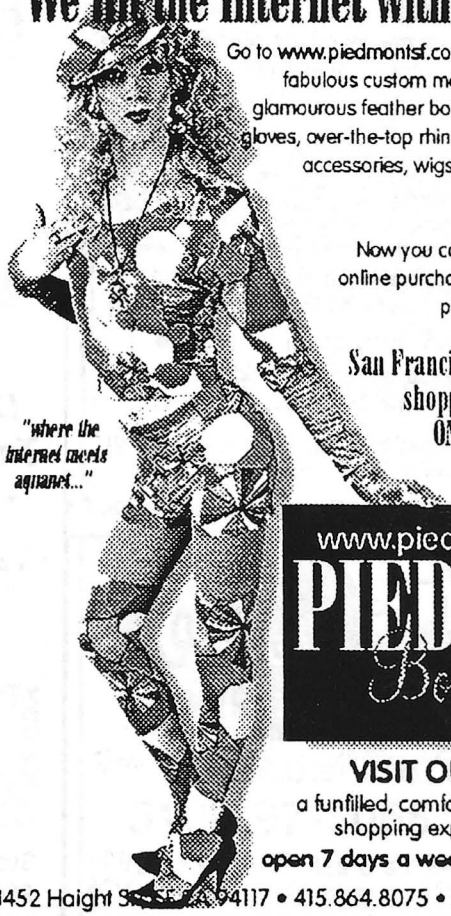


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