

TGSF's Big Shew, Big Hit!

TGSF • *The Channel*
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2000 - 2001 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Nicole Cook
 Vice President Aiyanna Eveningstar
 Secretary Debbie Cook
 Treasurer Deborah
 Education Stephanie Ann Blythe / Jennifer Anoinette
 Outreach Telzey Adams / Kalani Makanani
 Social Tianna "Diva" DeVil / Serena Anderson

Membership Report

As of July 15, 2000

Membership 157
 Total Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Membership 273
 New Memberships This Year 14

TGSF (TransGender San Francisco) is a CA non-profit corporation. Donations to TGSF are TAX DEDUCTIBLE on both Federal and California income tax returns. Talk to your tax advisor for details.

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 Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Debbie Cook / Ayme Kantz
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: .. Telzey Adams, The Cooks

Ad Rates

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

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

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FROM THE EDITOR...

"The thing is, I never was one of those Times Square transsexuals. It's not like I was hanging around street corners in Bartlett or Burlington, dressed like a slut and trying to seduce mixed-up teenage boys.

Or, I imagine, mixed-up grown men. The sexually...confused. I never was the sort of transsexual - the sort of person - who abused people, or tried to take advantage of them.

Of course I knew transsexuals like that. I knew - I know - prostitutes. I know transsexuals who will do whatever it takes to get the money they need for their reassignment, and I know transsexuals who are simply...so bewildered by their own sexuality that they're content to fill their bodies with female hormones, and keep their penises intact. They'll seduce anything that moves.

But there are people who aren't transsexuals who are like that. Not straight, not gay, not bi. Omnisexual, I guess. Megasexual.

Either way, that's not me, I've always been as domestic as a balloon shade or a perennial garden. And just as harmless."

I just finished reading *Trans-Sister Radio*, by Chris Bohjalian. Some of you have already read it (and I've reprinted another review of the book elsewhere in this issue). This story cut me to the bone, particularly the above excerpt taken from one of the main character's (Dana) radio broadcast transcripts.

Those tiny paragraphs have opened up an old wound that I had thought healed. They've brought me back round to the "non-op" conundrum (a discussion I've had with you previously in this column). I read those words and I immediately thought to myself, "Is that what being non-op is all about? Is that what I am? A seducer, an abuser, a predator? Bewildered enough by my own sexuality that taking advantage of another isn't even an issue?" God how selfish.

I thought I had resolved my issues with being non-operative. I really had. During last month's confessional, I thought I'd realized some sort of satisfaction at where my transition has leveled off. I thought I liked being non-op for a change, mainly in part due to other people's interest in me because of it. I had reconciled myself to the fact that I'll never have the money for surgery. And I've listened to all the lectures about trimming the fat, excising the luxuries and putting the money spent on pleasures aside for my reassignment. Never gonna happen. I live too much for the moment. I forget about the past as soon as it slips by. My eyes are on the future, but really I have little control over what will happen to me when I type the next paragraph, let alone setting a date for going under the knife. I'm too compulsive. My money and I quickly part ways...and more the fool am I because of it.

But I was wrong...so very wrong. I just can't go through the rest of my life in this sexual limbo. "Bewildered by [my] sexuality." Am I now confusing "dominant energy" with the fact that I still like to use my penis on a woman? (Talk about residual male programming!) Was that the only satisfaction I ever derived from being a man? And what does that say about my commitment to finishing my reassignment? Just what is it that's so satisfyingly feminine about "submitting" to a man and having him inside me? And why am I now so...bewildered at the thought I was, up until now, happy to have both? Can't I have my cake and eat it too?

No, Ayme...you can't. You know you can't. It's not that simple anymore. It never was. Suddenly ten years of my life seem so futile, insignificant, perhaps a total waste of time. "But certainly not," I hear you say, "Look how far you've come! Look at where

Continued on Page 3



YOUR CHIEF SERVANT

By Nicole Cook

Well it has been another great month, we successfully held two big events (The Big Shew and the Pride Parade Float), the library was moved to it's new location which has full access to everyone during normal working hours and we have moved ahead with several new programs for

TGSF. We now have four new TG community service programs which we will attempt to fund in the next year using two other new revenue generating programs. I would like to give you a brief idea of what each of these programs will be.

San Francisco Bay Area Comprehensive TG Outreach Schedule - This Program will: 1) Identify all organizations in the greater San Francisco Bay Area that are providing outreach Services to the general public on the Transgendered community. 2) Establish a database capable of handling the TG outreach opportunities (people requesting outreach speakers) and Outreach Speakers from all the organizations resulting from step 1. 3) Develop a system for gathering new information from each outreach supplier and placing it into the database described in step 2. 4) Supply area wide TG outreach speaker needs for the current month and next 2 months for publication on the TGSF website for review by all available Outreach Speakers and sister organizations who are providing the information. 5) Automate the speaker to opportunity matching process by allowing all qualified speakers to review and accept engagements posted to the web site by completing a web form.

Currently there are a number of organizations providing formal TG outreach to the community. None of these organizations has compiled a master database of requesters or speakers. Most rely on human memory to fill recurring engagements. This project would be a joint effort where all of these organizations would develop a common receptacle for gathering requester and speaker resources. In addition, several tasks can be combined and done once for all groups, such as development of material for the classes, training and speaker qualification.

San Francisco Bay Area Comprehensive TG Education Schedule - This project is very similar to the outreach project, the five steps are the same as the outreach project but as applicable to TG education events. The idea behind this proposal is to provide better information to the Transgendered community about what educational services are being offered. In addition, once we know what everyone else is offering, we will be in a better position to identify areas that are not being offered, so we can develop educational seminars in those areas. In addition, by providing the schedule to all the pools of available attendees, we will enhance the probability that each session will be attended by a larger number of people.

Continued on Page 11

PAULA-JO HUSACK, MA, LMFT, CGP
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From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

you were!" Sure, I've made tremendous progress, both physically, mentally and (I would hope) emotionally as I make my way through this Life as a woman. Many would venture I have the best of both worlds (an overused cliché, I know). And while my journey has been a slowly progressive one (albeit stagnant at times), still something is not satisfying me about reaching the pinnacle between the two. I feel poised yet again on that fence, at the edge, walking that fine line, desperately concentrating on not falling off. Perhaps all I really need to do is stop focusing so much on my dick, look up and see what's around me and regain my balance. "Git yer head outta yor crotch, girl!"

But I realize now that there's still so far to go. Still much pain to endure. Still many experiences to explore. Still many hidden hopes to be raised, perhaps crushed. And still many tomorrows to pick myself up and try, try again. I do know, for a fact, that inside I am beautiful and worthy, and yes, harmless – surely there are others with eyes to see. It's what keeps me going.

Chris Bohjalian has certainly struck a nerve. I wept at the part where Dana recounts her childhood and those horrible, horrible nights in bed, curled up in a ball, shaking with sobbing tears at the unfairness of it all. Knowing, even at that early age, that something got screwed up somehow between X and Y, and feeling scorned, ashamed...and helpless because of it. He could have been writing about me. Or a thousand other transsexuals.

So, again, I ask any Non-Op TS out there that cares to respond – just what IS it that makes the non-op equation work for you? How did you reconcile the yin and yang within you? Is it just because it's *de rigueur*? A fad? Do you, too, enjoy the notoriety? Like the attention? Into seducing anything that moves? Or is it some sort of Petticoat Junction way-station where one can get comfy, have a drink and a smoke, read a good book and then suddenly realize ten years have gone by and no trains have come through?

Perhaps being non-op is a trap of one's own devising. I just think I know now, that it's somehow too good to be true. It's just too bloody convenient to say "Oh I don't hate my penis...it's a pleasure center after all! Sure it works!" While that certainly leaves my options wide open for bed partners, it's not who I am inside. While I may be adventurous, I don't consider myself promiscuous. And while I may be, at this moment, bewildered at my own sexuality, I find myself yearning for much the same things anyone does: to find somebody to love, and be loved back, each for who we are.

There are those who I run across occasionally that tell me it's what's inside a person that counts (and you know from last month I sincerely believe that to be true). Yet still what seems to matter most to me now is this appendage at the juncture of my legs and torso. It doesn't define who I am. But neither does it belong there any longer.

Yet I also realize that having a vagina instead of penis isn't going to define who I am either. But it will, finally, allow me to look at myself in the mirror and say unflinchingly, and with utter conviction...that I am a woman healed.

New Member(s) since July Issue:

Paula Bacigalupi

Ronald Gray

Welcome!

EXCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Berkeley at the Pacific Center on July 9, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were President Nicole Cook, Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar, Secretary Debbie Cook, Treasurer Deborah, Outreach Co-Chair Telzey Adams, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani Makalani, Education Co-Chair Stephanie Ann Blythe, Education Co-Chair Jennifer Antoinette and Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil. Lynnea was our guest.



The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Communications: and how Tianna is involved in the community and making her position known throughout the community.

Old business: Nicole makes a motion to appoint Serena Anderson to the vacant seat of Social Co-Chair. Treasurer Deborah seconds, the motion passes.

President: Nicole presented a number of new programs to the ExCom last month. All ExCom members had a chance to read through the proposals and discuss them before voting on them. There was no discussion and a vote was taken on the following proposals:

San Francisco Bay Area Comprehensive TG Outreach Schedule

San Francisco Bay Area Comprehensive TG Education Schedule

TGSF Resource Guide Expansion Project

TGSF Education Grant Project

TGSF Homeless Help Project

TGSF Corporate Sponsorship Project

I Want to Join But I Can't Afford To Pay Right Now

All motions passed.

Last month, a proposed donation to the Pacific Center was discussed and a vote on it was postponed until more discussion was held. Nicole proposed that instead of a \$500 donation to the Center right now, that TGSF donates \$250 now and re-address the issue in 6 months. Stephanie Ann mentioned that this same thing came up when TGSF talked about donating Cotillion profits to Project Open Hand and the UCSF Breast Care Center. With possible Corporate sponsorship being proposed, maybe we should start playing like the bigger groups. Nicole makes a motion to donate \$250 to the Pacific Center. The motion passes. The location of the TGSF library is at Carla's in San Jose. The whole thing is there and she has volunteered to maintain the library. Nicole would like to propose that a free ad be run in the newsletter for the duration of hosting the library. Nicole would also like to propose that a free ad be run in the newsletter for 3 months for Diva's. We made \$348.00 at the Big Shew and Nicole was quite pleased to be handed a check in that amount. Both ads would be run as + page ads.

Vice President: Nicole indicated the parade budget submitted last month was off. We came in just under budget this year. The total was about \$900 approximately. It turned out to be a good float for being "home-made". The T.V. coverage was a little dissatisfying and we need a better press release with the media mentioning that we are the newest group in the parade. Regarding the cotillion committee, Jaime mentioned that she would like

to handle the production part of the cotillion. Nicole mentioned that Alexis Miranda has also expressed an interest in helping. Aiyana has a list of previous volunteers she will be contacting to see if they are still interested in helping. She would like to try to get an initial meeting together before July 19th. Nicole asks about Aiyana visiting BofA to show her ID for signature on the bank account. She hasn't done that yet, but will visit the bank this week.

Secretary: Treasurer Deborah handed off some tax information to be looked at. The membership database is coming together nicely. Labels were run from it and it is functional. Treasurer Deborah will handle the gathering and binding of the reciprocal publications to eventually end up in the library. Secretary Debbie will hand those off to Deborah at the next ExCom meeting.

Stephanie Ann received a packet of letters from DeAnza college for the Outreach talk given there a couple of months ago. UCSF Clinical Cancer Center sent a letter of thanks for the \$500.00 donation TGSF provided them. There has been a document generated from the past newsletters that Telzey lent to Nicole and Debbie that documents the past ExCom members from 1985 on. A copy of the minutes were recently sent out. Debbie calls for any amendments to the minutes. There were none. Debbie calls for approval of the minutes. Kalani seconds. Minutes were approved. The TGSF computer was going to be put up for sale on Ebay with the proceeds going to the club. Treasurer Deborah doesn't have a computer at home and would like to use it. Nicole and Debbie are in the process of getting it ready to hand off. Kalani offers to donate a CD-ROM for the computer. We will take Kalani up on that offer. The auction items donated by Sandra Brewer has not yet gone up on the website. A newsletter article went out mentioning the auction and that if anyone was interested to please contact us for the URL. There have been no contacts yet. Telzey hands off other books and calendars that were sitting around. At the last ExCom meeting, an ATM debit card was discussed and Secretary Debbie was approved to go ahead and try to get one for the club. The person whom Debbie spoke with at BofA suggests instead a Business Credit Card because ATM Debit cards are not distributed to corporations. . .for the corporations own safety according to the California Corporations Code. There would be 2 cards, one in the possession of the Secretary, the other in the possession of the Treasurer. Stephanie Ann wonders whether there would be a fee for the card. Debbie states there would not be. A motion is made to apply for 2 credit cards for the club with one going to the Treasurer and one going to the Secretary with accompanying Standing Rules outlining the use of the cards. Treasurer Deborah seconds. Motion passes. Copies of how to make additions to the TGSF online calendar were handed out to all ExCom members so they could add events the Secretary doesn't catch.

Editor: The newsletter was sent out on time. We were over on the budget because of the extra copies sent out to members for the change in venue. We were over budget by \$75.00.

Publicist: This position will be handling advertising, old renewals and possible sponsors. Currently Nicole, Debbie and Ayme Kantz are currently handling this position.

Treasurer: Deborah shows a balance on TGSF's account as \$7,777.07. Deborah will send a revised financial statement for the newsletter.

Social Chair: The mid-month venue is still pending, but the end-of-month social is currently being worked on. With the success of the Big Shew, Tianna is planning another show for the end-of-month. With Diva's being generous in offering us use of

Continued on Page 5

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

their facility, we would like to take advantage of that. It would be nice to get other groups outside of our organization to attend. Rehearsal times will need to be set up. There will be dancing after the show like before. Tianna would like flyers distributed all over the place to get people to attend. Secretary Debbie suggests the Thirsty Bear. Nicole also mentions that our traditional Trannyshack visit is approaching and that we should be there when they take pictures for their calendar. Stephanie Ann mentioned that there were some complaints of cigarette smoke during the Big Shew. Tianna will talk with Alexis about that.

Outreach Chair 1: Telzey mentions that all of the Tapestry magazines that were at the parade booth were completely depleted. The flyers that were at the booth are somewhat up to date, but Nicole mentions she will be updating the flyer using information from AEGIS as a guide. It was suggested that the flyer should be available on the website. Grand Duchess Patty Mae passed away. Her memorial is on July 16th with a celebration of her life following at Marlena's. \$16.00 in contributions were collected from the parade and was handed off to Treasurer Deborah.

Outreach Chair 2: Speaking engagements for this term are still undetermined. There will be an orientation class to help get things rolling. The number of speakers have not really increased. We have a number of speakers that have volunteered in the past on a list. The same for the number of venues asking for speakers this term. We have some of the same ones we have had in the past. The speaker orientation class will be held either late August or early September. The Blue Muse or possibly Jelly's could be used for the class. Nicole mentions possibly using Diva's as a daytime event on the 4th floor. Tianna mentions that there is also Jezebel's upstairs but it is kind of small. The producer of the Queen of the World pageant contacted Kalani and requested either the President of TGSF or Miss TGSF to be a judge. The event will be filmed.

Education Chair 1: Nancy Cupps emailed Dr. Preecha about his visit to the U.S. Nancy asked Dr. Preecha to reply

back to her and Stephanie Ann. He hasn't gotten back to either yet. The S.F. Public Library is being looked at as a venue for seminars. Donations will cover the expenses, however, it could be a problem when asking for donations at a public library. Stephanie Ann will check into their policy again. A self-defense class may be a good seminar. There is a possibility of getting a demonstration and then getting people to sign up for the class after that for the introductory class. The problem could be the cost. It is about \$1,200 for 10-12 people. The demonstration would be about \$400. The class is a couple of hours long. Nicole mentions that it sounds awfully steep. Tianna mentions that we should look into self-defense more because that would be a really great topic. Stephanie Ann thinks it would be a good idea to write something for the newsletter to solicit ideas of the members.

Education Chair 2: Jennifer would like to get someone to come in and do a hair and makeup seminar. She has a hairdresser that would like to come and do that. Maybe at one of the end-of-months like we have had before. Maybe holding an seminar before the social and then holding the social. We need to also make sure that there is enough light to see. Nicole mentions that a panel of post-SRS transsexuals, each who have gone to a different Dr. for their surgery, to come and give a talk about their experiences.

New Business: Nicole would like to bring up the topic of a letter that was entered into the newsletter by the former Miss TGSF 2000, Michelle. The letter she wrote didn't acknowledge the fact that Tianna has now taken her place. Tianna mentions that after reading the article, it made it look like she wasn't aware that she was replaced or either she wasn't acknowledging the fact that she was replaced. Others seeing Tianna in the role of Miss TGSF may be thinking that she is standing in for Michelle until she returns from her trip. Neither of which is true. What bothered Tianna the most isn't the members that read the newsletter and then come out to the socials and see what's happening, but those that are by-mail only members who are only reading the newsletter. It's not a power struggle. The position isn't being challenged. She won the title fair and square. The contestant rules are written that if you are unable to finish your term, then your first runner-up steps up to take your place. If the first runner-up can't do it, then the second-runner up takes it. Tianna feels it was handled incorrectly when Michelle first mentioned that she would be leaving town but coming back to do the major events. Both Nicole and Aiyana feel badly that it wasn't communicated correctly to everyone and that a letter wasn't written to spell out the situation. Michelle did leave on good terms and will be known as the former Miss TGSF 2000. Nicole plans to write a letter that talks about that and how Tianna has stepped up into the position

Adjournment: At 5:30 p.m., Nicole makes a motion to end the meeting, Social Co-Chair Tianna seconded the motion, the motion was passed. Next ExCom Meeting is on Sunday, August 6th, at 3:30 p.m. at the Pacific Center in Berkeley.

Nails Wigs Lingerie



Cosmetics Lingerie Shoes Nails Wigs Fem Fashions Cosmetics

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**The Current Location of the
TGSF Library!!**

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

SUNDAY / AUGUST 6TH / 4:00pm

ExCOM MEETING

The monthly meeting of the ExCom will be held at the Pacific Center. The Cotillion is just around the corner (can you believe it?!?!?) and volunteers will still be needed for that upcoming event as well as the Halloween Party. If you are interested, please contact your Secretary or come to a meeting !!

The Pacific Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. If you need more information, please feel free to contact your Secretary Debbie Cook at (707) [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]@yahoo.com.

WEDNESDAY / AUGUST 9TH / 7:00pm

TRANSBAY SOCIAL

Don't not forget that Wednesday is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. Quetzals is located 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 7:00 pm.

FRIDAY / AUGUST 11TH / 8:00pm

MID-MONTH SOCIAL

Well, we haven't been here for a while, so due to request we shall return to the Thirsty Bear Brewing Co. Here you will have an opportunity to venture out into the world with your more adventurous sisters! Which by the way, I see is more and more all the time! Way to go girls!! At any rate, this venue was a good one. A microbrewery here in San Francisco not only has great beer, but has a wonderful menu as well! The staff was polite and the crowd was curious. The Thirsty Bear Brewing Co. is located at 661 Howard St. Com'on do some outreach with 'tha Diva' girlfriend! See ya there!!

THURSDAY / AUGUST 31ST / 8:00pm

END OF MONTH SOCIAL - DIVAS ★ 2000!

Again something different! Your presence is requested for an evening of entertainment as our Rainbow community comes together to bring you a wonderful show. You will have an opportunity to see legendary entertainers Nikki Starr and Alexis Miranda as well as talented members of TGSF including 'yours truly' perform for your eyes only! If you came to the very successful 'Really Big Shew', then you will be familiar with this absolutely fabulous venue!

Diva's located at 1081 Post, between Polk & Larkin - 3rd floor. Show starts at 9:00 p.m. Admission is \$5.00 and Couples \$9.00.

TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give
as of July 15, 2000

Valerie Cross \$170

Bless you and thank you for caring!

Saturday, August 29th!

STRESS REDUCTION CLASS

I have been asked to pass along the news that **Dr. Elizabeth M. De Bruin** is teaching a Stress Reduction Class at the Billy DeFrank Center on August 29th from 7-8:30 PM.

All are welcome—check with BDF for details.

EXPANDED HOTLINE HOURS!

Hotline hours have been expanded to include 10pm to 2am. While this may seem a bit late for some of you, it is a great time for those of you that wait until the kids or other family members are asleep to address your transgendered correspondence. Telzey still answers the phone live from 7pm to 10pm. And now Debbie and Nicole answer the phone live from 10pm to 2am.

August's Birthdays...

8/00	Candy Love	8/20	Jeanette Heulin
8/1	Tracy Foiles	8/20	Roxanne C.
8/2	Nicole Mossinger	8/21	Erin
8/3	Angel Louise Grant	8/21	Esmarelda J. Alderete
8/3	Cheryl Sheppard	8/23	Joyce Jones
8/7	Debra Bolle	8/24	Denice Gee
8/8	Linda Phillips	8/26	Kay Mathews
8/9	Billie Jean Hall	8/27	Joesanne
8/11	Mary Elicker	8/27	Louise Warren
8/13	Andrew Firebaugh	8/27	Lulu Blau
8/13	Susan Seger	8/27	Sabrina Evans
8/14	Charlene Merlot	8/28	Evelyn Perry
8/14	Kran Kilpatrick	8/29	Erin Russell
8/16	Casey Cole	8/29	Lea Lee
8/16	Gail Stern	8/31	Bardi deTro
8/17	Deborah Anne B.	8/31	Darcy Leopard
8/19	Suzanne Taylor		

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Contact TGSF:

President, Nicole Cook [REDACTED]@tgforum.com

Vice President, Aiyana Eveningstar .. [REDACTED]@earthlink.net

Secretary, Debbie Cook [REDACTED]@yahoo.com

Treasurer, Deborah due soon

Education, Stephanie Ann Blythe [REDACTED]@tgforum.com

Education, Jennifer Antoinette [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Outreach, Kalani Makanani [REDACTED]@tgforum.com

Outreach, Telzey Adams [REDACTED]@angelfire.com

Social, Tianna DeVil [REDACTED]@sirius.com

Editor, Ayme Kantz [REDACTED]@aol.com

or tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

Calendar of Events - August 2000

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. 510-548-8283

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

Meets 1st and 3rd Friday of the month 8:00pm at the New Community of Faith Church, 6350 Rainbow Drive, San Jose. 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 162907, Sacramento, CA 95816 or call 916-364-7212 for meeting locations. Website: www.sga-tg.org; email: www.sga.com.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM

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

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-██████████

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

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.

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Thursdays every month at The Diversity Center, 1328 Commerce Lane, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

The Mid Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:30 PM MPTG	3 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	4 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	5
6 4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	7 8:00 PM DVG	8	9 7:00 PM TransBay	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social	12 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13	14	15	16	17 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	18 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	19
20	21 8:00 PM DVG	22	23	24	25 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	26 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27	28	29	30	31 8:00 PM TGSF: End Of Month Social		

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please Print / Check all that apply:

New Member Renewal Member # _____ with Family Member

Member Birthdate (Month/Date): _____ / _____ Family Member Birthdate (Month/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
 - \$40.00 Full Year Family Membership
- (Note only one copy of the Channel will be sent to this address).

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

Our Readers Respond

DEAR TGSF MEMBERS:

I thought I had better drop ya'll a short note to say hi and generally keep in touch. Yes this will go out to several people privately also, however it is with sincerity and thinking of each of you individually that I write this.

I still have a couple more years to go over here in Arabia, then this part of my life ends, finally. I have decided to push it out to the beginning of 2003 and take the early out with a few benefits and return to my home in wonderful and free California. You may remember I am a San Francisco girl/boy too!

My California based Femme' collection continues grow by leaps and bounds, not to mention my Rubber wardrobe as well as my collection of wonderful leather "specialty items". Did someone say Lingerie? Well I have decided to expand my humble girdle and custom corset collection and really go for it, including to start modeling them for my commercial grade digital camera when I am home in October. There are a few custom corsets on the drawing board including a very special one that will be extremely sexy and severe, right down to the shoulder posture straps and neck corset. I expect to get some serious figure training in this beauty! Cant wait to get this made and properly fit over at Vintage Elegance! I must admit I located a wonderfully sexy and elegant satin evening gown on the Internet this morning that is a must have for TGSF special events, once I get my Femme self situated. The thought of all the various TGSF fashion shows that I look forward too are making me dizzy! Class to sleaze, you gals are great!

Planing on adding some classier outfits for my expected debut at TGSF meetings, which I have shamefully not been able to attend when on leave. Shame on me, punishments should be forth coming. Hopefully I will get the courage and just show up, even if en'drab? With a little planing I can get a nice unisex (Femme') suit outfit together and soften up my look enough to feel comfortable yet not embarrassed or too self-conscious. I suspect a very common problem with "new girls" like me? Any recommendations on this subject are very welcomed. By the way, Miss Darcy Leopard has been a great source of inspiration and encouragement for me. She represents TGSF very well, to an unknown member like me. She has befriended me and given me hope that there is a place for me in this great organization.

The sexy, alluring fashions sound wonderful to a dedicated fetish dresser like me, however I am scared to death about public exposure and ridicule! Some serious makeovers and make-up classes are in order! Your valued opinions and recommendations on getting started are always appreciated.

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.

I look forward to the constant reminders and encouragement in TGSF each month, that is it hard to "come out", however seeing all of you reassures me, that it is truly worth the effort! I follow the activities of a free and progressive society each month through the TGSF newsletter, which I feverishly look forward too. I imagine what it will be like to know all of the wonderful people I read about and occasionally get a glimpse of through the photos. The one thing that always strikes me about the pictures is people look happy and are generally having a good time. As it should be.

So my precious and valued friends take care of yourselves, let me know what you think about anything any time the mood strikes.

The participation of everyone is paramount to our choices remaining free. We can all participate in some way, that is all that is required to make some small progress each day and year. It is my great pleasure and honor to know you all, as best as possible for the time being.

Above all, stay safe and enjoy your free and wonderful chosen life.

Sincerely with love,
Valerie Cross, [redacted]@yahoo.com

To ALL MEMBERS OF TGSF:

I have reserved for January a large display case at the Alameda County-Fremont Central Library for an exhibit on the development of transgender civil rights. This is an opportunity for you to display photos to the public. It will be in view of children so please select tasteful, photos without erotic appeal. I am looking for transgenders in everyday, especially vocational settings, including F2M. These should not be photos about having fun this time. Serious pictures are desired for a display designed to appeal to the conscience. For information, please e-mail [redacted]@hotmail.com.

There is plenty of time. Please be thoughtful in what you contribute. We want to show people who can and do give to the common good.

Love and Light,
Lynnea

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

TRANSCENDING TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

Special Events!

THE AUCTION BEGINS

The **Donation Auction site** is now available. The URL is <http://www.tgsf.org/auction/auction.html>. There is no direct link to the page from the TGSF main page due to the nature of some of the material.

If you see something you like just email (or call) your bid to us at [redacted]@yahoo.com, [redacted]@tgforum.com or (707) [redacted]. Remember you must be a member to bid. Not all the items are currently listed. The list will grow.

The auction for the currently listed items will end on August 21st. If someone would like to pick up their items at the End of Month (August 24th) just let Nicole know.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COTILLION

Aiyana Eveningstar is looking for a few good girls (and boys!) to help with coordinating various aspects of running the cotillion event.

Especially needed are people who can help with advertising, ticket distribution, and obtaining sponsors. But help in any fashion is greatly appreciated.

Please contact Aiyana at (415) [redacted] or email [redacted]@earthlink.net and be involved in the event that is the heart of TGSF.

Phyllabuster

LITTLETON ON NBC DATELINE

By Phyllis Randolph Frye

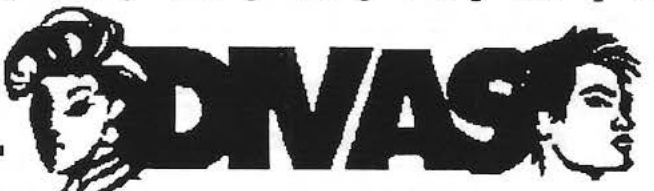
I just learned today that the air date for the NBC "Dateline" piece on Christie Lee Littleton is now officially scheduled for Tuesday, August 1, 2000. I suggest that you tell everyone you know to set their video machines. Play the show to your friends, family, neighbors and show it at your local monthly meetings.

Write to NBC Dateline and say thank you. For those of you who are real internet nerds, if you discover a way to get NBC to broadcast this over the net so that those outside of the USA can also get it, let me know, and I will send it out!

As I understand, the show will have Mrs. Littleton, attorney Alyson Meiselman, therapist Randi Ettner and attorney George Brin. Attorney Meiselman and I are co-counsel on this project. She and I made a deal that if we could keep the case in Texas that I would be the lead attorney, but if it went to the US Supremes, then she would be the lead attorney. So Alyson is the one who will be interviewed. That is okay by me, because I know my hand has been in this case since it was dropped by Mrs. Littleton's former attorneys, and I know my hand has been in the national TG legal movement since the beginning. This is a result, and I am proud. I am proud of Alyson, of her hard work, of her great mind, of her fighting spirit and of her willingness to take this to Oral Arguments if we get that far. And I am proud that, of us two lawyers, each of you will get to meet her on the "Dateline" show and come to be proud of her as well. She is one of our legal-street-fighters, a role model for sure!

We also have the rare privilege of seeing one of the greatest in the TG helping community, my personal friend, therapist Randi Ettner. What more can I say. Attorney Brin, who represents the doctor who was sued for medical malpractice in the death of Mrs. Littleton's husband, will also be on the show.

In the event that you are not yet up on the issue, go to <http://christielee.net>. You will also read that Attorney Brin filed with the US Supremes a waiver which says that unless the Supremes require a response to our (Alyson and me) Writ, then he does not plan to file a response. I hope that you read the writ.



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Book Report

TRANS-SISTER RADIO

BY CHRIS BOHJALIAN

by Robin Washburn - Lewisville TX

I always approach transsexual material with skepticism because it seems most is basically wrong, when written by non-transsexuals with their assumptions and pre-judgements factored in. That's why I was so surprised by *Trans-Sister Radio*, a mainstream novel written by an established mainstream novelist. Only once or twice did I think "That is not how it really would have been." and those weren't glaring errors, if they were errors at all.

Dana Stevens is a pre-transition transsexual, a tenured professor at a local university, who meets and falls in love with Allison Banks, a sixth grade teacher in the small Vermont town where the story is set. Allison has a daughter in college, and an ex-husband across town. The story is written in their four voices, giving viewpoints from each central character, plus there are fictitious transcripts of programming on NPR from a story on Dana..

The book opens as Dana and Allison have just met, and follows their story as they begin living together, through Dana's transition, surgery, and through their love story.

There is humor, lots of it. Some seems especially designed for the TS audience, like when Allison's ex-husband, Will, says "Everyone knows someone who knows someone who knows a transsexual. Or is related to one. Remember that notion that only six degrees separate any two people on the planet? Well, you can halve the number between any normal person and a transsexual." Or when Dana is talking with her father: "You're a big man, Father." I said. "I don't want to be either." "Either?" he asked. "Big Man."

There is conflict within Allison when Dana has her surgery. Will it make a difference how she sees Dana? Will it mean Allison is gay? And this is a small town, with fundamentalists who object to Allison's teaching their children while living with "that person."

All characters are fictitious, except for a few NPR on-air personalities such as Linda Werthimer, who are treated fictitiously, but the story reads true to this discriminating and, frankly, picky transsexual reader. And, happily, it will be at least as educational to the uninitiated reader as any TS textbook or other non-fiction work I've read.

Bohjalian really did his homework. Example, Trinidad, Colorado is the setting for Dana's surgery, with a Dr. Meehan, who is barely thinly disguised, obviously Dr. Biber - there is even a replacement to the "Biber-babies" catch phrase - "Meehan's maidens."

Trans-Sister Radio is a good read. At 373 pages it's not a high-speed read, but it was difficult to put down. *Trans-Sister Radio* is newly released, available on the shelf for \$24.95, or on Amazon.com at a significantly reduced price.

Seahorse Medical Clinic Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



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(408) 292-1078

TGSF BALANCE SHEET - 6/30/00

Assets	
Cash	\$7,001.70
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Computers	\$100.00
Total Assets	<u>\$8,351.70</u>
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	\$1,000.00
Taxes	\$356.69
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,356.69
Equity	\$6,995.01
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$8,351.70</u>

TGSF Monthly Income Statement June-2000

Revenue	
Membership	\$1,455.00
Advertising	\$300.00
Cotillion	\$0.00
Donations	\$386.00
Social	\$378.69
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$150.00
.....	<u>\$2,669.69</u>
Expenses	
Cotillion	\$609.49
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$134.30
Social	\$20.00
Education	\$22.04
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$1,780.45
Operations	\$464.07
.....	<u>\$3,030.35</u>
Net Income	<u>(\$ -360.66)</u>

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 CURRENT MISS TGSF 2000 - TIANNA DEVIL

By Nicole Cook

Many of you are already aware of the passing of the Miss TGSF crown, but for some of you this may be news. I had intended to write an article about this much earlier, but the delay in being elected combined with having to address pride month on my first month in office resulted in my overlooking this task. So I will write the article now.

During the April 9th ExCom meeting the old ExCom was notified that the current Miss TGSF would be leaving the area in less than 1 week. A number of ExCom members expressed a concern about her ability to perform the duties of Miss TGSF if she was out of the area. Then President Leslie wanted a chance to share our concerns with her and we needed to find out how the first runner up felt about taking over for a partial term. As a result no vote was taken during this meeting.

At the following meeting on May 2nd, it was clear that the title should go to the first runner up. First, let me say that Michelle's reason for leaving was most honorable and hence she will retain her title in future programs and publications. As we have done in past years, we will just show 2 Miss TGSF's for the year. Since Michelle had departed to help out a family member in need three week earlier, it would not be appropriate to delay any longer. We had checked with Tianna DeVil (the first runner up) and she was ready and willing to take over as Miss TGSF 2000. So at the May 7th ExCom meeting, Tianna was made the current Miss TGSF (for those of you that read the ExCom Minutes, you already know about this).

Since that time Tianna has been nothing short of stellar in her performance of the duties of Miss TGSF 2000, attending not only the required events and socials but a number of events which were not required and as a result have brought us closer to a number of sister organizations. Tianna and I both serve on the Employment Committee of the San Francisco Transgender Rights Implementation Task Force with two other members of TGSF Lynnea Stewart and Marcia Chapdelaine. Tianna has also been to the GAPA Banquet, The Dyke March, The San Jose Pride Parade, The St. Lukes Talent Show and was performing on our float at the San Francisco Pride Parade. Looking forward Tianna plans to attend the Sacramento Ducal Ball, Model Search 2000, The Miss Gay San Francisco Pageant and will be a judge in the Queen of the world Pageant. This type of broad based exposure is just what TGSF needs to become more well known in the community as the place to be if you are TG. So the next time you see Tianna be sure to tell her what a great job she is doing for the organization.

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Your Chief Servant...

Continued from Page 3

TGSF Education Grant - This project creates an educational grant(s) yearly which will be given to someone in the Transgendered community. The idea behind this program is to select members of the TG community who are struggling to make their life better and give them a helping hand. Some of the criteria for this program will be: The program will be funded entirely by corporate sponsorship money. We will identify funds set aside for this program to the corporate sponsor who provides the money. This program would not be initiated until there were sponsorship funds to cover the grant. Once the grant is covered, a candidate would be selected.

TGSF Homeless Help Grant Program - This project recognizes that we have members of our community who are homeless. It also recognizes that we are not in a position to start a homeless help project on our own. The essence of this program will be a grant to existing organizations like the Tenderloin Self Help Center or Project Open Hand on behalf of the Transgendered patrons who use those services. One or more programs will be selected as beneficiaries each year. Announcements of funds going to each beneficiary will be made at the Cotillion. All funding for this program will come from revenues other than membership dues.

Corporate Sponsorship Program - In order to have new programs that do not draw from our currently limited sources of revenue, we need new revenue sources. In the past it has been difficult for us to get grants from some organizations in part because we did not provide the types of programs they were looking to support. The idea behind this program is to actively market large corporations (who have a history of giving to the Gay & Lesbian communities) for corporate sponsorships. The resulting money would be used to fund several of our programs. These programs would include but not be limited to: The Cotillion, The TGSF Grant program, The TGSF homeless help program.

TGSF Resource Guide Expansion Project - The idea behind this proposal is to expand the Resource Guide program to a more professional bound directory look. The new version will contain paid ad's which will represent the majority of the revenues generated by the program. Some of the features will include: Expansion of Venues covered to include more TG friendly venues that do not necessarily focus on the TG community. Expansion of the products covered to insure we are addressing the interest of the female impersonator segment of the gay community. Development of a pricing scheme for Business Card, Quarter Page, Half Page and Full Page ad's. The pricing scheme would be developed after performing a cost impact study on the government requirements for sales of products. Develop a distribution network (venues that will sell or make the guide available). Make arrangements with professionals (doctors, psychiatrist, etc.) to have the guide available.

I feel the possibilities for these new programs are exciting, and I feel that these new programs will take the organization to a position where TGSF is a more visible force in the San Francisco Bay area for providing assistance to the TransGender community. I am certainly interested in how you feel as well, so if you have any thoughts on these programs contact me and let me know how you feel. You can reach me at [REDACTED]@tgforum.com or (707) [REDACTED]

The Transgendered in Popular Culture:

THE SLOW PATH FROM RIDICULE TO RESPECT

by Vicki Gray

One very common way that transphobic people deal with their discomfort and repugnance of the transgendered is to ridicule the transgendered objects of their feelings and to seek to place them in a box outside the larger box of acceptable socio-political discourse. Unfortunately for the quality of that discourse as well as for the lives of transgendered people, an increasingly coarse American media was only too happy to oblige with reinforcing images.

Television talk shows of the chair-throwing variety have led the way in trivializing and confusing the issue. Jerry Springer, Donahue, Sally Jessie Raphael and others have served up an almost steady diet of outrageous drag queens on shows with titles like "Guys Who Want To Be Girls" or "Can You Tell the Difference?" Programs like the enjoyable-for-what-it-is "Ru Paul Show" and the crude and justifiably canceled "Ask Harriet," which featured a cigar-smoking male sports writer who dons drag to land a job as a gossip columnist, fit this mold. So, too, do films like "Mrs. Doubtfire" and "Wong Fu," which, in efforts to titillate by whistling past the barely hidden fears of their audiences, confuse the public about a serious issue, the nature of gender identity disorder and the efforts of transsexuals to deal with it with a modicum of dignity. They simply want to get on with their lives in their chosen gender as unobtrusively as possible. As the vast majority of them who have lost their families or settled for a lower paying job in the process can testify, this is not a course they embarked upon to see their kids or to get a job.

Even more egregious, more troubling in the wake of an era of purported PC is the penchant of some television shows to rely on drag to ridicule and belittle the transgendered in much the way vaudeville and films used to rely on black face to elicit a cheap laugh at the expense of African Americans. Among such shows are The Drew Carey Show, the aforementioned and thankfully departed "Ask Harriet," and an "In Living Color" show that ironically targets an African American audience.

Probably most disturbing, however, are the genre of films that portray crossdressing men as psychotics intent on resolving their internal conflicts by killing women. Films like "Psycho," "Dressed to Kill," and "Silence of the Lambs" have been seen by millions. Their effect has been to create a stereotype of transvestites and (in the case of "Dressed to Kill") transsexuals as unstable, dangerous people. In particular, they have contributed to an "an unknown and unfounded fear amongst women."¹ Since, as one reviewer of these films put it, "transvestites and transsexuals as a rule don't participate in violent crime... it is unfortunate that they are used as scapegoats."² It is unfortunate, indeed...and also ironic, since he is wrong in one important respect. The transgendered are often involved in violent crimes...as the victims.

The media picture, however, is not entirely bleak. Some recent offerings show an attempt to deal with the issues of the transgendered in sensitive, serious ways. Among these are the now classic "Crying Game," as much about the horror of political terrorism as about transgendered, perhaps homosexual love; "Ma Vie en Rose" a beautiful Belgian film about the difficulties of transsexualism not just for the gender dysphoric individual; in this case, a child, but also their families; "It's Different for Women;" "Boys Don't Cry;" a Christmas 1998 "Ally McBeal" program that accurately, caringly portrayed its impoverished, disempowered transgendered victim. In these, the transgendered person is slowly evolving from ridiculed object to autonomous, sympathetic subject.

To date that has been an evolution process hindered by the paucity of authentic transgendered voices. The advent of transsexuality has been so new, so sudden that such voices, with a few notable exceptions, have yet to be heard. The transsexual

hagiography does not yet have its Oscar Wildes, Vita Sackville-Wests, Walt Whitmans or Gertrude Steins to speak to a larger audience with posthumous dignity. With a transsexual identity that itself is only 30-50 years old, those who have embraced that identity have heretofore, by and large, been involved with the day-to-day, life-and-death existential struggle of just being. This has, perforce, been an introspective, for many all-consuming enterprise – one that has left little time to "prove" one's worth in broader endeavors.

But this, too, is changing as older people, who have already made a mark in their chosen field, acknowledge their transsexuality. As Kessler and McKenna discovered nearly two decades ago, "It may not occur to older transsexuals to request surgery until they discover a precedent. Feinbloom (1976) reports a considerable rise in inquiries at the Gender Identity Service in Boston from men over 45 after the publication of Jan Morris's *Conundrum*."³

Autobiographical accounts such as Morris's speak to two audiences. First, they convey to transsexual readers that they are not alone and that they can lead productive, fulfilling lives. This helps build a positive self-image where there was once confusion and shame and the first stirrings of solidarity where there was once only isolation. Second, to the broader non-transsexual audience, they incarnate issues that were once abstract and force their readers to confront those issues in a real world context. Thus, in reviewing *Crossing*, the "memoir" of Deidre McCloskey, an accomplished economist and historian at the University of Iowa, Maxine Kumin writes:

When I received 'Crossing,' I wondered why the editors had not designated it for review by someone gay, or someone involved in the transgendered community. Reading it, I realized that I – a lifelong heterosexual woman – need this book. All of us need to consider the way our culture shapes gender expectations and makes unspoken but profoundly rigid gender assignments based on physical appearance, apparel, gait, gestures, voice and so on.⁴

In the end, she concludes: "This is a woman worth knowing." As is clear from Kumin's review, this is a judgment based on her sympathy for McCloskey's demonstrable grit and determination. It could not be otherwise for McCloskey's *Crossing*, like Morris's *Conundrum*⁵ is not really a memoir of a whole life but rather an account of an episode or facet of a life – the process of transition. It says nothing of her academic accomplishments or other interests. Far more satisfying as a memoir is Morris's later *Pleasures of a Tangled Life*,⁶ in which she describes the many pleasures of a full and cultured life. In it, she treats her transsexuality tastefully, periphrastically, almost as something that must be "gotten out of the way" before moving on. She does so in a six-page opening chapter "As to Sex" that is almost like an elided "I" in her life.

To another audience, Morris insisted that she does not want to be pigeonholed as a "travel writer."⁷ (Given her distinguished bibliography of historical works such as *Pax Britannica* and *Fisher's Face*, not to mention her reputation as a Welsh nationalist, she has little to fear on this score.) Left unsaid, she does not want to be pigeonholed as a transsexual writer anymore, I suspect, than Deidre McCloskey wants to be known as a transsexual economist. What transsexuals want – need – is to be judged on the body and quality of their work, the totality of their lives. To do otherwise would be tantamount to labeling Walt Whitman a "gay poet." He was that, to be sure; but-oh so much more. Until we can get past our own preconceptions of gender and sexuality when looking at transgendered, they will remain one-dimensional, ridiculed caricatures rather than being seen as multi-faceted, autonomous and, maybe even, valued participants in the communal socio-political dialogue.

In forthcoming months, I will review in this space new books, films, and videos that are breaking down the stereotypes and painting a more positive picture of the transgendered. Stay tuned.

BARNEY FRANK, HRC AND THE TRANSGENDERED

The Channels' readers may be interested in the following exchange of letters concerning inclusion of transgendered people in hate crimes and job discrimination legislation. The first and second appeared in the Chronicle June 27 and July 11, respectively.

Editor -

Wednesday's Chronicle reported U.S. Senate passage of hate crimes legislation protecting women and gays and lesbians, as well as the reaction of Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign. Like Ms. Birch, I, too, welcome this legislation and agree with her that "America is one step closer to becoming a safer place for all Americans."

I wonder, however, whether it might have been made safer still had gender identity been included as a protected category. For the transgendered are being killed at a rate of nearly one a month with little notice from the media, the public, or the HRC. In addition to Brandon Teena, whose courage and tragedy have been belatedly immortalized in "Boys Don't Cry," the victims include, among others: Tyra Hunter who bled to death on a Washington, D.C. street while medics joked about the "incongruity" between her dress and genitals; Steven Wilson, a nine-year old boy who was raped and drowned by a neighboring child because he played with "girls' toys;" and Lauryn Paige, an 18-year old male-to-female transsexual who was stabbed several times, had her throat slit, and was left to die in a Texas ditch.

When, against this background, the transgendered petitioned the HRC and Congressman Barney Frank for inclusion in the current legislation, they were told to wait their turn. For his part, Frank said: "I believe that we should make it clear under ENDA that to the extent that people who are transgendered are being discriminated against because they are perceived to be homosexual, that should be outlawed." This, of course, is simply not enough.

It is time for the HRC and the rest of the lesbian and gay community to stop claiming their dead transgendered brothers and sisters as gay martyrs, while attempting to sweep those still alive under a rug.

Vicki Gray

Editor -

I recently saw the letter published in the June 27 edition of The Chronicle from Vicki Gray, describing which aimed at transgendered people and complaining of my view that, for a variety of reasons, we should not be including transgendered people as a category in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

What the writer neglected to mention is that at a meeting of the Judiciary Committee on June 21, I offered an amendment to the Violence Against Women Act specifically including transgendered people in the list of groups who were entitled to special attention in anti-violence efforts. I was able to get that amendment adopted as part of a broader amendment seeking protection for sexual minorities. Unfortunately, the entire amendment, including the language I had offered for inclusion of transgendered people, was defeated on a straight party line vote with every Republican opposing us and every Democrat supporting the position. There are political and substantive complications regarding transgendered inclusion in the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, which are not present with regard to anti-violence measures. I have therefore consistently supported full inclusion of transgendered people in legislation to deal with violence and I will continue to do so.

Barney Frank
4th District, Massachusetts
House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Frank:

I have read your July 11 letter to The San Francisco Chronicle and appreciate your clarification of your position. Since my earlier letter to The Chronicle had been transmitted on June 21, I had no way of knowing of your action in committee that same date. For my part, I apologize for mixing the apples of ENDA with the oranges of the Hate Crimes Prevention Act (HCPA), which I believe was the legislation passed by the Senate on June 20 and to which Ms. Birch was referring.

I believe, however, that you, too, may have been dealing in apples and oranges in your July 11 letter; to wit, perhaps confusing readers with your reference to the Violence Against Women Act, which act is, I believe, different from the HCPA which I further believe does not include the transgendered as a protected category. To be sure, I may be wrong. While appreciative of your effort with regard to the Violence Against Women Act, I feel compelled to ask whether you have supported inclusion of the transgendered in the HCPA.

Concerning ENDA, might I also ask what the "political and substantive complications" regarding transgendered inclusion in that legislation are? Why do you feel that, "for a variety of reasons," the transgendered should not be included in ENDA?

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Victoria Gray

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FROM FARM TO PRIDE PARADE

by: Aiyana Eveningstar

I am lying on a bed late at night in my satin nightgown while I'm visiting my mom in the hinterlands of South Dakota. I have never really lived here (less than 1 year), but this is where my mom has spent most of her life. The family is here and after she raised me she took care of the grandchildren and second cousins until they were grown.

This is the county where things are raised and grown. A land of four seasons most of them extreme. My relatives say I bring San Francisco weather with me. When I'm here its warm in the winter and cool in the summer. Normal here is quite the opposite. All I can do is thank my lucky stars that depending on the season I haven't been frozen or melted by now. Usually I'm eaten alive by mosquitoes, but I haven't seen any this visit.

They grow the woman here on the large side. It must be the diet. Wherever you look there is cholesterol in potent quantities. I have no trouble finding my size in the several large chain stores that dot the landscape. Some of the lingerie here is even more racy than I can find in the city. I guess farm girls really enjoy raising things, a statement I will let stand on its own. I wonder if there are any other satin nightgown wearing farm boys out there. If there are they're well hidden. I'm so happy that I'm not hidden any more.

It was just a few weeks ago that I was in the middle of building the Pride Parade float for TGSF. Having spent most of my time safely behind the closet door, I now really enjoy being visible in front of hundreds of thousands of people. It's so uplifting to be appreciated by a crowd.

Making a float from my crude drawing and vivid imagination was no easy task, but somehow it materialized. There were many volunteers without whose help all the stuff that made up our rocket ship to the future, Club Freedom Float, would have never been put together. Outstanding efforts were made by Nicole, Debbie and Lynnea. I really enjoyed getting to know many people that I hadn't met before.

The material we were using to build the float, a refractive rainbow polymer, which we glued over cardboard panels painted silver, looked great in the sunlight. Float volunteers had no trouble making it into interesting patterns and designs. From the starship cockpit in front to the rocket nozzles in the back, no part of our truck showed. The crowd seemed to love it. The ride was a little shaky for those on board for the parade as at the last minute the truck I had reserved as an automatic turned into manual with a jumpy clutch. I could talk more about my experience in trying to get a truck but that would take a whole other article.

The space that was used to put together the different floats was perfect. It had lights, electricity, and 24-hour access. I was there most of the night a few times because that was the time I had free. There were others who also worked late without me. My favorite night was when Lynnea and I were serenaded by Dale on saxophone and Nicole on guitar playing jazz and baseball tunes. Dale couldn't help herself, she's an avid fan. We have been going together to the new Baseball Park as I have seats.

Doing that work and being in that place, I could feel part of a community. The more I come out, the more I feel the support of others, the more I know that people care. It makes me think less of the time I spent not being me or being alone. I like being around people. Something Aiyana couldn't do in South Dakota.

So even though Aiyana has her roots in South Dakota, her heart will always be in San Francisco with the extended family that has let her shine and grow. This is my heartland.

June 2000 - July 2000

ON THE ROAD WITH MADAME PRESIDENT

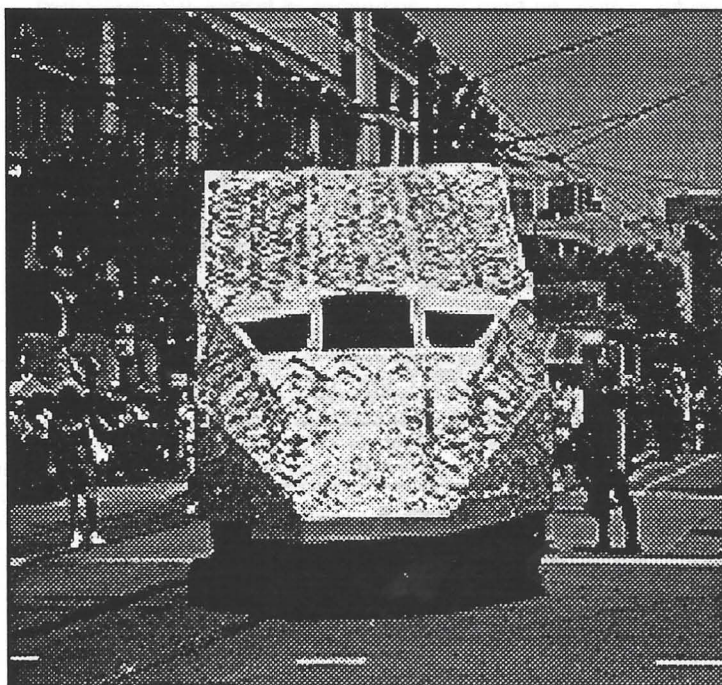
By Nicole

As we entered June 19th we knew we were in for a busy week. In addition to the events happening that week I began teaching summer school. After teaching on Monday I headed for the Big Shew rehearsal. When I arrived it looked like Jamie had everything under control and she had a few show veterans there to help her (Lulu and Alexis). Several of the performers were there and they were able to run through some rehearsals. I was only there for a short time, I did not arrive until around 9:30 or 10:00 and most of the rehearsal was wrapping up when I arrived.

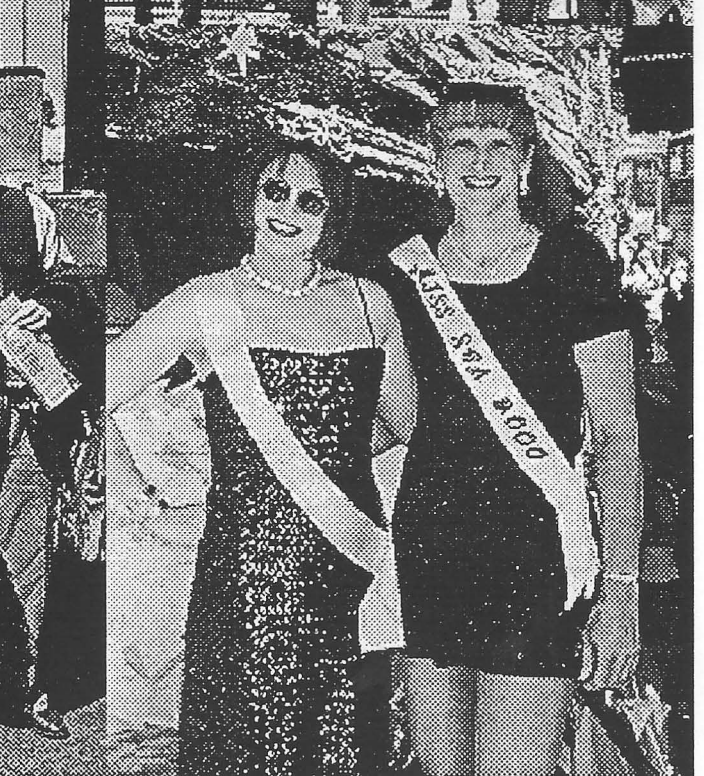
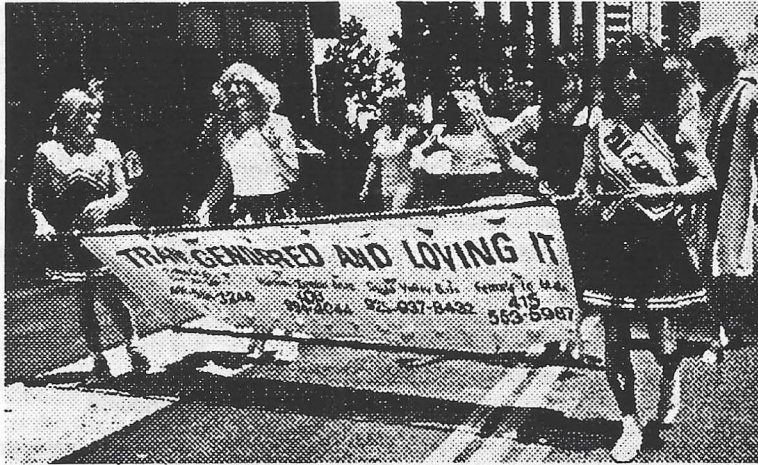
Then it was time for the Big Shew itself. Debbie and I arrived at Diva's around 6pm to start setting things up. Not long after that more people arrived to help set up. We used some of the black cloth from the Halloween party to enhance the look of the stage and set up some privacy in the stairwell (which we were using as a dressing room). Jamie, Lynnea and others continued setting up the venue while Debbie and I headed out to the street to put up signs. We originally were to be at Kimo's and at least one pride week publication still showed our event there, so we put up signs on both doors to Kimo's and at a variety of places between Kimo's and Diva's. When we returned it was close to time to start the show. As it turned out Diva's was a much classier venue than Kimo's. I have had a chance to see a few of the floors and my impression of Diva's is that of a Transgendered Playboy club. The bottom floor looks like many bars in the area, the third floor is the dance & show floor and the fourth floor is set up like a private club.

The show began almost on time with The Outrageous Miss Didi Mau finishing her act by pulling Ed Sullivan (Lulu Blau) out of the audience. As the show progressed, Ed slowly transitioned bit by bit into more female attire, ending up in vinyl fetish wear. There were lots of great performers, Annie was there from Chico (you may have seen her in one of the SGA shows before), Dale performed with another Nicole, Tianna and her dancer friend Michelle worked the audience with a sexy dance number, Alexis Miranda former Empress of San Francisco graced us with two numbers.

Continued on Page 17



Parade Pics!



October 5-8, 2000

THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CROSSDRESSING, SEX AND GENDER

From: Angela Gardner <[REDACTED]@ren.org>

Just a short note to let everyone know that the 4th International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex and Gender will definitely take place from October 5-8, 2000.

We'll be at The Warwick Hotel in Philadelphia, PA, USA. The 4th Congress page is still on our website and it has revised fee schedules to encourage diverse attendance. The final schedule will be on the site within a week or so. We will send another email to let you know when it is up. We're looking forward to an exciting event.

The Renaissance Transgender Association, Inc's website can be found at <http://www.ren.org>

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BRAIN RESEARCH FOCUSES ON TGs

by Bob Roehr

(reprinted from the Bay Area Reporter)

Many transgender people say that they feel as if they are trapped in the body of the wrong sex. Now there is biological evidence in the brain that lends credence to those feelings. The research was published in the May issue of the esoteric Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism.

Dr. Frank P.M. Kruijver and colleagues, working at the Netherlands Institute for Brain Research, knew from animal and human studies that the differences between male and female are more than just genital plumbing. Hormones are one factor, and so too is the brain, possibly in part as a result of those hormones.

Their research looked at the limbic portion of the brain, the center of emotion and basic body function. It is the most primitive core that is common to all animals, while man has evolved layers of brain beyond that, which allows for rational thought.

The Dutch sample included nine presumed heterosexual males, nine homosexual males, 10 presumed heterosexual females, six male-to-female transsexuals, and six brains (three male, three female) of patients with sex hormone disorders. They ranged in age from 20 to 53 and died of multiple causes from AIDS to suicide.

Kruijver's team took super-thin slices of human brains obtained at autopsy and performed a complex but standard series of preparations. Then they began counting neurons, the basic cellular component of the brain. They looked in particular at the somatostatin-expressing neurons, which are associated with growth hormone.

They found that heterosexual men had 71 percent more of these neurons than did heterosexual women. Homosexual men were clearly in the male range, in fact they averaged a fraction more neurons than their straight counterparts, though with the small size of the sample the difference did not reach statistical significance.

Male-to-female transsexuals mirrored heterosexual women in their neuronal patterns. It did not matter whether the person realized their transsexual identity early or later in life.

Nor did use or non-use of the feminizing hormone estrogen as an adult seem to have any impact upon brain structure. That was confirmed by examination of a straight male with an adrenal tumor that produced extremely high levels of estrogen but no change in brain neuron count. Post-menopausal women did not differ from their younger peers.

One hypothesis was that perhaps lack of testosterone in the transsexual person was responsible for the neuron count. But the pattern did not differ between those who had sexual reassignment surgery and those who retained testes. Nor did heterosexuals who lost their testicles to cancer show a change in their brain.

Kruijver also studied "the first collected brain ever of a female-to-male transsexual." The neuron pattern "was clearly in the male range." In fact, it was higher than all of the presumed heterosexual males and all but one of the homosexual males. The person had stopped taking testosterone three years before death.

This research adds to the body of evidence strongly suggesting that transsexualism has a biological origin that is prior to adulthood. It may be in part genetic, or a result of factors in the womb, or during early childhood development.

On The Road...

Continued from Page 14

There were also performances by Joy, Lynnea, Janis (I think this was her debut), more from the Outrageous Miss Mau and Debbie and I. The room looked pretty full and the room was bigger than Kimo's, but I was still pleasantly surprised when I was handed a check for \$348. We were getting a number of Diva's customers coming to our show and that worked out great. We will return to this great venue again.

It seemed like the next day (oh it was the next day) that we arrived at Pier 15 again to work on the TGSF Pride Parade float. We slept late and arrived in the evening on Friday. There were a few people there when we arrived working on the float. The truck was here now and we could really get going. The day shift left and Debbie and I worked all night building the frame around the front of the truck and putting most of the gray skins on it. Through the night music resonated off the walls of the hangar style building interrupted occasionally by the sound of a saw, drill or hammer. By the time the sun started to come up on Saturday our float looked like a giant catering truck. We turned control over to the day shift at around 11am and hoped Aiyanna, Lynnea and their crew could work some magic on the float. When we got home we were exhausted and we went to sleep until it was time to wake up for the Parade.

We woke up early on Sunday Morning and returned to Pier 15 to help get the float to the parade staging area. We arrived before 8am and we were amazed to see what the float had become. Several TGSF members had worked on the float during the day on Saturday covering all the skins with the refractive material Aiyanna had acquired. It now looked like a space ship and the stage on the back looked pretty neat. There were not many people in the hangar and a news crew that was there seemed eager to interview someone, so they came over and interviewed us. Around 9:30 or so Aiyanna showed up and we were ready to move the float. I would go through 3 outfits before the day was over, I began in Jeans and a blouse, right before we left the pier I changed into a short black dress with refractive glitter on it to match the float. We jumped into the truck and proceeded down the Embarcadero at ultra slow speed.

The SGA cheerleader squad (Jessica, Leana, Vanessa, Angela, Monika and Heidi) led the way carrying the banner. I hear they want to be brides next year. As we started moving, our DJ Grandmaster Debbie began the music. Miss TGSF 2000 Tianna DeVil and her two professional dancers took center stage with Miss TGSF 1999 Serena, Miss TGSF 1997 Dale and Miss SGA 2000 (me) taking dancing positions on the sides of the float. We also drafted Kalani to work the fire extinguisher (the smoke from our engines) and to dance between blasts. I began dancing in my black dress, but after we passed the TV camera's I took the dress off. Underneath the dress I was wearing my bright orange and yellow swimsuit. The swimsuit was not suppose to be a thong, but I was wearing shear to the waist nylons and there was no way to keep the back of the suit in position. After a while I stopped worrying about it, after all, some of the people in the parade audience were wearing a lot less and Didi was out in front wearing nothing but CD's. The temperature was great for the parade, not too hot and not too cold, a slight wind was coming down Market street from the ocean. The wind held the skin's on the float as long as we were on Market street, when we turned off of Market at the end of the parade we lost 2 of the skins on the top of the float, but it was ok, we were done. When we got off the float, I put the black dress back on and several of us headed over to Dale's house for a few

minutes for a soda and rest break. Then it was off to the TGSF booth in the middle of thousands of people. We slowly made our way through the crowd and found the booth. We had something to eat and at one point I ended up talking to another reporter with a camera. After about an hour of looking at the other booths & people, Debbie and I took the MUNI train back to the Embarcadero. We were going to take the new train down the Embarcadero to the pier but after waiting 10 minutes we decided to walk. When we arrived at the pier I changed back into jeans and we began to dismantle the front of the float. A few hours later Jamie showed up and began dismantling the back of the float. It was not long before all that was left was the truck. At about 5pm we headed for home to sleep again.

On Tuesday June 27th Debbie and I went to the meeting that Alexis holds for Transgendered people in the tenderloin at TARC (Tenderloin Aids Resource Center). It was an interesting meeting and I met several people who I had not met before. Alexis tries to get TG people with successful careers to speak at this meeting, so if you are interested let her know (or you can contact me and I will let her know).

After a week with no event Debbie and I found ourselves at the city government building for the second meeting of the Transgendered Civil Rights Implementation Task Force. There was a report from each of the sub-committee's on their progress. The Education & Outreach committee was renamed to try to make their mission less ambiguous and there was a lengthy discussion on how to address convention style outreach events. Lynnea was also at this event (hmm it seems like she has been at just about every event, sounds like a good candidate for the Executive Committee) along with a new person to the area, Chenoa. I had been talking to Chenoa for a while before she got here, she was able to arrange accommodations with Tyler (one of our outreach speakers) and she has been looking for a job in San Francisco. The only other TGSF member I remember seeing at the meeting was Marcia Chapdelaine (Marcia is the girl who sells the costume jewelry designed for larger anatomy).

On the 8th of July Debbie and I were at the SGA social at Joseph's in Sacramento. There were about 20ish people present and more than half of us had dinner. It was a week after the parade so several people had photo's. Some of them were great. The SGA cheerleader squad had lots of pictures. We had a few of the front of the float but we could use more. I met two new people Ronda and one other girl (forgive me I forgot your name), both were interested in becoming members of SGA so I expect to see them at the socials again in the future. I also had a rather interesting discussion with Julie and Holly about the other SRS Surgeon in Thailand.

The next day was the TGSF Executive Committee Meeting. Not much to say here (since the minutes are in the TGSF Channel), except that we are moving ahead with several new programs and I am excited about the progress we are making. Two days later we were at the SGA Board meeting and the SGA board was also making progress on improving the services being provided to the membership and the community.

The last event for this period was the Employment sub-committee meeting for the TG Human Rights Implementation Task Force. All four of the TGSF members who are on this committee were present (Tianna, Lynnea, Marcia and me). The chairwoman of the committee is a former ETVC member (Sarah Marshal). By the end of the meeting we were able to specify a Mission Statement for the Committee and cover several good objectives to move forward on. While we have a good TGSF representation on this committee, I do not think we have representation on any of the other 5 committees, so if you are interested let me know.

Nation's First TG Candidate for Congress!

UNIQUE IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE

by Mubarak Dahir

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I'm not talking about the much-trumpeted (and genuinely momentous) civil unions' law that kicked into affect July 1, giving gay and lesbian Vermont couples the same legal rights and responsibilities as straight married couples. The other political history being made in Vermont is a lot less publicized. And a lot more unusual.

For the first time in American history, an openly transgendered person is running for the United States Congress. The candidate is Karen Kerin, who will be trying to unseat Vermont Congressman Bernard Sanders, an Independent. But wait—the candidate's tale gets even more unique (and interesting.) She is running on the Republican ticket.

You'd think that these two attributes alone—being the first openly transgendered Congressional candidate, and seeking election as a Republican—would be enough to earn Kerin a page in the political equivalent of "Believe It Or Not." But the amount of ink and limelight these two aspects of her candidacy have received pale in comparison to the more personal, and more unusual, aspects of Kerin's life. One involves the circumstances surrounding her sex change operation. The other is the fact that she is legally married to another woman—although she may not necessarily be a lesbian.

Kerin is not a typical transgendered woman—a person who, despite being born in a male body, felt more like a woman than a man. Kerin, who was born Charles Kerin, lived life quite happily as a man for more than 45 years. Then, as Kerin tells it, she got cancer and had to make some drastic decisions. "It was a medical issue," is how Kerin, now 56, describes her decision to have a sex-change operation. She says her cancer left her with the option of removing her male genitalia, or remaining "hooked up to machines" for the rest of her life. She opted to have the sex change operation.

Kerin does not shy away from her transgender identity. Indeed, she embraces it. "The way I arrived [at going from being a man to being a woman] makes me no less transgendered," she says. She also says she is proud "to be the first transgender person running for Congress. It's a first for our community, and I'm glad to be out front."

She's a little more vague when asked how she reconciles her previous identity as a man with her new biological identity as a woman. The question gets particularly confusing when you add in the fact that in the mid-1990's, Kerin legally married another woman, someone she met while attending law school. Kerin was able to get a legal marriage certificate because her birth certificate still has her listed as a man.

So, is Kerin a transgender lesbian? She doesn't like such strict definitions, and avoids answering them directly. "Gender is in the head, sex is between the legs," she says. "My body is physically female, but in my mind, I'm still me." When pressed to answer whether that means she still "feels" like a man, she replies: "I make no apologies. The wonderful thing is the human species is highly adaptable. So I've made some social adaptations."

Though Kerin's candidacy is getting lots of media attention, she complains reporters are more interested in what's between her legs than what's on her mind. "It's gotten very, very personal," she says. "I just hope with time it ameliorates."

Part of the fascination, she admits, is that people can't seem to "get over" the idea of a transgendered woman in the Republican Party. Including many Republicans. Although Vermont's GOP chairman, Patrick Garahan, has referred to Kerin as "open, honest and honorable," others in the party are less thrilled with the notion that a transsexual is representing the Republican interests.

Kerin announced her candidacy in June after no other Republican stepped forward to challenge the incumbent. Recently, however, another Republican candidate has emerged to challenge Kerin in the Republican primary this September. Few doubt that knocking Kerin off the republican ticket is the genuine inspiration behind the newcomer's campaign.

For her part, Kerin expresses surprise that there is such a raucous—from both gay and lesbian communities as well as from the more conservative Republicans elements—that a transgender person would choose to run as a Republican. Besides being a lifetime Republican herself, she says, "historically, the Republicans have done more than the Democrats for civil rights."

She says she opposes Vermont's groundbreaking civil union's law on the basis that "it's separate and unequal. That's a highly discredited doctrine in civil rights history." And she concedes that her personal experiences "give me a better understanding than most about a lot of social issues."

Despite all the hoopla surrounding her sexuality and her choice of the Republican Party, however, Kerin emphasizes that she is not campaigning on civil rights issues. The core of her core campaign, she insists, is bedrock Republican conservative.

She believes in increasing the military budget ("There are all kinds of people who would love to take over the United States,") and tightening the government's belt ("The federal government has squandered our public finances on all kinds of social programs. They've done nothing to reduce the debt.")

At this point, Kerin admits she has an uphill battle to win the election, but hopes that as the Puritan interest in her personal story wanes, the interest in her political message will gain popularity. Even if she doesn't win, she says, she feels as the first transgendered woman to run for Congress, "when I'm done, I hope I've been able to change politics at least a little bit. All these social divisions based on sexuality and gender are absurd."

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