The TGSF Channel
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

January 2002 Volume 21, Issue 1

A TGSF Holiday Fête!

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 2001 - 2002 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President ..... Aiyana Eveningstar
Vice President ..... Rachael Janelle
Interim Secretary ..... Nicole Cook
Treasurer ..... Stephanie Ann Blythe
Education ..... Ally Grillo
Outreach ..... Kalani Makanani
Social ..... Tianna Marie DeVil

Membership Report

Current Membership as of:

December 10, 2001 200

Due to recent events, current Membership data is being recovered, and will be updated as soon as possible.

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.

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Contributing Photographers, this Issue: ..... Telzey Adams and Rachael Janelle

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

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Actually, I don't have a lot I want to say this month, as we begin our journey into the 21st Century with a little more self-assurance. All that squabble about whether it was the "real" Millennium at 12:00am on '00 or '01 doesn't mean squat any longer. We're definitely here!

I've decided to give myself a reprieve and forego any lengthy or introspective dialogue. As I go to press for this issue, I'm still in Xmas mode and am about to split town to spend the holiday with my 93-year old Grandmother. So without further ado, I am going to reprint the following article.

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday and may I wish you and yours all success, joy and happiness in the coming New Year.

Ayme

SALVATION ARMY FEARS LGBT PROTEST

Christmas Time Is When Salvation Army Takes In Lots of $$$... (It's About the Money After All)

By MARK O'KEEFE
c.2001 Newhouse News Service
December 5, 2001

Gay rights activists are stuffing fake $3 and $5 bills into the Salvation Army's red kettles this holiday season, protesting its denial of health benefits to gay partners of its employees.

The protests have been scattered so far. But officials at the Salvation Army — which takes in more donations than any other charity in the country — worry that they will mushroom after the holidays, making the organization, like the Boy Scouts of America, a symbol in the divisive battle over gay rights.

"Just wait, it's going to come," said Salvation Army Commissioner Joe Noland, commander of the eastern territory and one of five members of the Army's national policymaking team.

Gay rights groups have hinted that a broad-based, national campaign may be unleashed when the timing is right. They have been reluctant to go on the offensive while bombs drop in Afghanistan and amid public desire for domestic unity in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

But "when all of this subsides, and it will, this issue with the Salvation Army will still be there and there will be a reaction," said David Smith, a spokesman for the Washington-based Human Rights Campaign, a leading gay rights group. "The same thing will happen to them that happened to the Boy Scouts."

The Boy Scouts ban gays, and in communities across the country, pressure has been put on the United Way, a major source of scout funding, to withhold money.

Continued on Page 3

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]

Salvation Army...

Continued from Page 2

The current hullabaloo arises from the Salvation Army's decision — and later reversal of that decision — to permit its 13-state western territory to offer benefits to "legally domiciled adults," a broad term that could include gay partners of employees. At a time when the Bush administration is pushing government funding for faith-based groups, it illustrates the predicament some face in accepting money with stipulations that run contrary to religious beliefs.

"What can seem like a relatively insignificant decision — even a well- intentioned one — can five, 10 or 15 years down the line be one of historical significance. And this decision has that kind of importance," said retired Salvation Army national commander Robert Watson, referring to the insurance benefit.

"Is this homophobic? Some people might call it that. Those who judge us might use some of those terms.

"But if we change who we are to accommodate our culture or the pressures of those who would try to reshape us, we aren't who we say we are."

The Salvation Army, begun in London in 1865, says it is an evangelical Christian organization that serves the needy without discrimination.

But it also maintains that sex outside marriage is sinful. And in 1998, the Army gave up $3.5 million from San Francisco rather than comply with a 1996 requirement that organizations doing business with the city provide the same benefits to same-sex domestic partners as to married couples.

Earlier this year, the charity turned to the White House for help. As reported by The Washington Post, the Bush administration agreed to issue a federal regulation preventing enforcement of ordinances such as San Francisco's. In exchange, the Salvation Army would help in passing the president's faith-based initiative, an effort to widen federal support for social programs run by religious organizations.

Stung by allegations of political deal-making and facing elimination of public funding in other western cities, leaders from the Salvation Army's western territory suggested a compromise: Offer employees the option of purchasing health care benefits for a "legally domiciled" member of the household, whether that person is a parent, a nephew or, in the few cities where such relationships are acknowledged, a gay domestic partner.

A scholarly paper written by Philip Needham, chief secretary for the western territory, proved persuasive.

"Just as we would not argue that our compassionate assistance to a gay couple in need of our services does not constitute support of their lifestyle, so I can hardly see how providing access to health benefits to an existing employee's domestic partner constitutes an endorsement of their relationship," Needham wrote.

In late October, the Salvation Army's national policymaking team, the Commissioners Conference, decided to give each regional territory autonomy in making benefits decisions.

The western territory announced it would extend benefits to legally domiciled adults. San Francisco officials applauded.

But there was outrage on another front: Psychologist and evangelical radio kingpin James Dobson, whose "Focus on the Family" is broadcast by more than 3,000 stations every weekday, urged listeners to protest the decision, "because it will lead to similar decisions and compromises" at other Christian institutions.

In an interview, Focus on the Family spokesman Paul Hetrick cited Harvard University and the YMCA as two organizations that began with a Christian mission but gradually lost their religious identity. He said the Salvation Army's insurance decision could put it on the same road.

The Army was flooded with complaints — from donors and from members of the Salvation Army denomination, which is kept financially separate from the charity. Watson, the former national commander and author of "The Most Effective Organization in the U.S.," was among the influential critics.

"Let's swallow hard," Noland, the eastern territory commander, recalled telling his fellow commissioners. "Let's take a deep breath and make this thing right."

In mid-November, the decision was rescinded. "We deeply regret the perception that the Commissioners Conference surrendered any biblical principles in making the original decision," the charity said in a statement.

While that satisfied the Army's evangelical constituency, others were outraged.

"They are violating their own anti-discrimination language in their own mission statement and they're doing it absolutely in response to pressure from conservative religious groups," said Roey Thorpe, executive director of Basic Rights Oregon, based in Portland.

Thorpe has encouraged stuffing red kettles with the fake bills, printed off the Internet. One bill says, "When the Salvation Army ends its policy of religious bigotry and discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people then, and only then, will this be a real dollar bill."

The Internet home page of the Washington-based Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian and Gays also promotes the protests, which it says began with its Genesee County chapter near Flint, Mich.

Meanwhile, the American Family Association of Michigan has promised that for every fake bill found in a kettle, it will donate an equal amount to the Genesee County Salvation Army, up to $1,000. "We've been averaging two, three or four fake bills per night," said Major Ralph Bukiewicz, the Salvation Army's Genesee County commander.

Colonel Tom Jones, a national spokesman for the Salvation Army, said fake bills also have turned up in Detroit, Chicago and Milwaukee. The impact has been insignificant considering that the Salvation Army collected $1.4 billion in donations last year.

"There is something happening out there," Jones said of the scattered protests, "but it appears to be limited.

"At least at this point."

Wendell Debele M.S. (T.C.M.) Dipl. L.Ac.
(aka Aiyanna Eveningstar)

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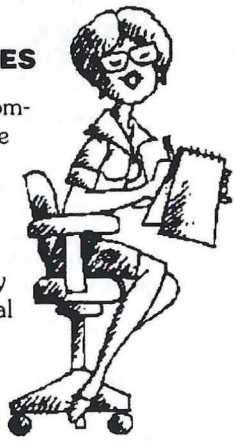
December, 2001

TGSF ExCom Meeting Minutes



The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in San Francisco at the home of the President Aiyana Eveningstar, on Thursday, December 6, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were President Aiyana Eveningstar, Vice President Rachael Janelle, acting Secretary Nicole Cook, Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe, Education Chair Ally Grillo and Outreach Chair Kalani Makanani. Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil was absent.

Debbie Cook was a guest.

The meeting was called to order at 7:50pm.

Minutes:

The minutes were inadvertently sent to print before the ExCom could read them, so the minutes were not approved at this time.

There was, however, an amendment to last month's minutes by the Education Chair Ally Grillo. The amendment states, "The Education Chair wishes to state that there has been no cutback of seminars, despite contrary indications contained within the President's report at the November 8th ExCom meeting."

President's Report

Aiyana has been working with the Franchise Tax Board regarding the missing tax filing. She has submitted a letter to them and is currently waiting for a reply.

Aiyana has found a paper in Janis' box of Secretary stuff that needs to be sent in to the county tax board that confirms we are a non-profit organization. That has been taken care of.

Finding new insurance coverage is another matter Aiyana has been working on. She mentions that we could save anywhere from $500-$800. She is waiting for final proposals now.

Vice President's Report

Rachael mentioned that we needed to order a sash still for the Cotillion. Nicole has confirmed that we will order that as soon as we can.

The Cotillion page on the website also needs some revisions to include the pre-show, out-of-towner event and post- Cotillion brunch information. Also a mention of where to send money for tickets was a request to be added as well.

Rachael handed out the latest Projected Income sheet, expense sheet as well as the ticket sales so far. We are still on budget. To date, we have brought in about $3,000 in ticket sales. We have about $500 in ads sold for the program as well. The awards have come back as well as the crown and were given to Aiyana to hold.

Ally was asked if she could woman the table inside the Design Center to answer questions regarding the club, handing out pamphlets, etc. It would be nice to have the table open before the show and during intermission. She happily volunteered.

The next Cotillion meeting is Monday, December 17th at 7:00pm.

Momma Reinhardt, one of the judges of the Cotillion, asked if TGSF would be interested in running an ad at her event in February. It is the 36th Annual Motorcycle Awards Event held in San Francisco. The cheapest ad would be a $50 half page. The ExCom agreed it would be a good idea to participate as long as we have the funds in January.

Acting Secretary's Report

We have a current membership of 189. We still don't have addresses for 12 members. We have had so far 13 new members sign up using the online service and this is a good sign. A couple of members have paid via PayPal, which Debbie has sent Stephanie Ann a message about so it could be recorded in the treasurer's journal.

Nicole has spoken to the people at the Car LLC program in which we donated 2 of our cars and she is not very happy with the results. Evidently, the cars didn't sell for hardly anything. Nicole sent a message back to them to let them know of our disappointment for selling a running car for less than $100. This worked great for Jaime Fenton's car, but just not for ours. Some money will come, but as a result of the low amount, Nicole has stated that she will pay membership dues outside of that. Nicole requested a check in the amount of $150.00 instead of the $198.41 that was spent out of pocket on the awards. Rachael suggests that the full amount be reimbursed to Nicole and that the membership be given to her for this year for her help with the Secretary position. Aiyana mentions this is ok with her as well.

Two sets of address labels as well as return labels will be printed this time and sent to Aiyana since January will be a busy time for many of us.

Treasurer's Report

The bank account is currently at $914.24 once all of the bills have been paid and the Cotillion payment goes out. Stephanie Ann will email a list of those members who have paid to Nicole so she can match it up to the membership database.

Education Committee Report

Again, the next educational seminar will be on January 12th at 2pm at the Women's Center. It will be a seminar on plastic surgery with Dr. Brink. He would like to presents slides however, we need an overhead projector or device he can hook to his computer. Aiyana says she will check with Lichen to see if we can use his.

Ally mentioned her disappointment of what happened during the last ExCom meeting with the vote to supposedly cut back on education activities. She was very upset that this had taken place since she was not at the last meeting. Ally wondered if it is a budget problem or a problem getting the personnel to staff such events. Aiyana mentioned it is a staffing thing. With not all of the chairs being filled on the ExCom, everyone is being pushed to the limit. Ally mentions that not a lot of people are needed to put on the seminars and that Stephanie Ann has been co-managing the events with her. Nicole mentions that the vote was for a minimum number of events. The issue was set globally. It basically is a message to the members that if we cannot get volunteers to help, the amount of events are likely to decrease. That doesn't necessarily have to be followed. The number of events the education position would like to hold can be as many as can be handled. Aiyana supports Nicole's statement. As a result of this discussion, an amendment to the minutes has been posted above under the Minutes section of the newsletter.

Social Report

The January socials will be surrounding the Cotillion – the Cotillion Pre-show at Divas on January 24th at 8pm, the out-of-towner event at Asia SF on January 25th at 7pm and the Post-Cotillion party at The Blue Muse on January 27th from 10am to 1pm.

Continued on Page 5

The Vice President Report and Final Comments

By Rachael Janelle

- The Holiday Inn Hotel on Van Ness Ave will be the host hotel will have a hospitality suite all day Saturday.
- Friday night event will be at ASIA SF at 7:00 and other activities for the evening - January 25. 2002 7:00pm
- Saturday January 26, 2002 door open at 6:00pm and show starts at 7:30pm
- January 27, 2002 Sunday 10:00am to 2:00pm post-celebration brunch at The Blue Muse on 409 Gough Street in San Francisco - individuals can order off the menu (no set price.)

My Final Comments:

Why my final comments? My job as TGSF vice President is to coordinate the Cotillion and the pride parade events. My job is almost complete; all that is left to do is to put on the show January 26, 2002. I write the article for the channel a month in advance, because the deadline is the 15th of the month for the next month. So my next report for February would be January 15, 2002, which is only 11 days before the cotillion. I will not have much to report.

Why not a report after the cotillion? Will I hope you were there to see the show and to enjoy the evening? The theme of the cotillion this year is "An Evening with Friends" and that is really what the whole event is about. To enjoy an evening with new and old friends. Yes I hope we can make extra money to donate to some excellent groups and to even pay for the cost of the event.

This year I have made some changes to the show, but all the change I made was for positive reasons or to make the event profitable, not to just make changes. I have had a great time making new friends and working with them and growing my relationships with old friends. And I still have seven weeks to go. A week ago one of the contestants called and left a message telling me how excited she and her wife (which is her helper back stage) were about being in the cotillion. That made me realize that all the work and energy that I have done was worth it. I'd like thank everyone that has been involved. Thank you so much.

PAULA-JO HUSACK, MA, LMFT, CGP
LIC. #MFC27864

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Transcending Transgender

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City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries

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

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

Outreach Committee Report

Kalani has recently done an outreach seminar with Nicole Mossinger at DeAnza College. There were about 130-140 students they spoke to.

Rachael asked about the person who asked for a speaker for the California Endowment Foundation focus group. Kalani will try to get Tianna to speak at that one and if not, she will come down and speak for them

There is another speaking engagement coming up in the next semester at Solano Community College.

Announcements

The Cotillion planning meeting will be held at 7:00pm December 17th at Aiyana's home.

Old Business

Ally was asked if she would like to write an amendment to last month's minutes that informs the members of what her plans will be for the upcoming Education sessions.

New Business

None

Adjournment

The next ExCom meeting will be held on Thursday, January 3rd, 2001 at 7:00pm at the home of President Aiyana Eveningstar [redacted] San Francisco. Aiyana made a motion to close the meeting and seconded by Rachael the meeting was adjourned.

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TGSF
TransGender San Francisco
(formerly ETVC)

TGSF Events in January

Monday / January 7 / 7:00pm

TGSF Cotillion Planning Meeting

at Aiyana's house, [redacted] in San Francisco.

Monday / January 14 / 7:00pm

TGSF Cotillion Planning Meeting

at Aiyana's house, [redacted] in San Francisco.

Friday, January 18, 2002 - 7:30pm

Ms. Bob Presents Slide Talk On Transgender History

Ms. Bob Davis will present a slide talk on rarely seen images of historic cross-dressers at A Different Light Bookstore in San Francisco. See separate ad elsewhere in this issue for more details.

Thursday / January 24th / 8:00pm

Diva's Night Out!

Start your Cotillion Weekend with TGSF at Diva's, Polk and Pine, San Francisco. Call Rachael for details: 408-[redacted] or Aiyana at 415-[redacted]

Friday / January 25th / 7:00pm

TGSF End of Month Event

Another Evening at Asia SF!

Your Cotillion Experience continues at the fabulous Asia SF, located at 201 Ninth Street @ Howard, and their phone number is 415-255-ASIA. Call Rachael for details: 408-[redacted] or Aiyana at 415-[redacted]

Saturday / January 26th / 7:30pm

TGSF Cotillion 2002!

An Evening With Friends

Don't forget to get your makeover from Carla at the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway Hotel, where we'll have a hospitality suite all day! Call Rachael for details: 408-[redacted] or Aiyana at 415-[redacted]

Sunday / January 27th

TGSF Post-Cotillion Brunch.

At the Holiday Inn Golden Gateway Hotel, San Francisco. Call Rachael for details: 408-[redacted] or Aiyana at 415-[redacted]

New Members Since December Issue!

Sherilyn Connelly	Megan Regiani
Katrina Bugher	Nikki Lynxx
Michelle Connell	Chrys Salt
Rachael Collins	Anne Mortenson
Mai Ku'uipo	Karen Clark
Terry Ryan	Scott Carr
	Glenn Marzillo

January's Birthdays

1/00	*Glenn Marzillo*
1/03	*Emilee Madison*
1/08	*Billy Jean Kanios*
1/11	*Andee Werthman*
1/14	*Mai Ku'uipo*
1/15	*Miki O'Donnell*
1/15	*Georgina Castleberry*
1/16	*Rachael Dettmer*
1/18	*Millicent*
1/23	*Pam Lew*

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

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Nails Wigs Lingerie

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The Current Location of the TGSF Library!!

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Calendar of Events – January 2002

Other Bay Area Groups

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

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

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

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

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

FTM
A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; 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-[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 GLBT 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 - (408) 619-2908.

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7:30 PM MPTG	3 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT **7:00 PM TGSF ExCom Meeting**	4 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	5
6	7 5:00 PM CCHH **7:00 PM TGSF Cotillion Plan Mtg** 8:00 PM DVG	8	9 7:00 PM TransBay	10	11 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	12 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
13	14 5:00 PM CCHH **7:00 PM TGSF Cotillion Plan Mtg**	15	16	17 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	18 **7:30 PM Ms. Bob @ Different Light** 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	19
20	21 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	22	23	24 **8:00 PM TGSF: Diva's**	25 7:00 PM SVGA **7:00 PM TGSF: Asia SF** 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	26 **7:30 PM TGSF: Cotillion 2002!** 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
27 **10:30 AM TGSF: Brunch @ Holiday Inn**	28 5:00 PM CCHH	29	30	31		

TGSF Membership Application

Membership Year is May 1 to April 30 / $30 Single Membership; $40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond

Your Special Invitation!

Esprit 2002 - An Event Not to be Missed!

I'd like to take this opportunity to invite all of you who have been associated with Cal Dreamin' to take part in Esprit 2002, the Pacific Northwest's premier Transgender Conference!

Esprit 2002 promises to be the best Esprit conference yet! For the past 14 years, Esprit has been jointly planned and hosted by The Emerald City of Seattle, Northwest Gender Alliance of Portland, and The Cornbury Group of Vancouver BC. If you come to Esprit and really participate, we promise you a full week of fun, learning, growing, and meeting new friends. That's right, you get to spend a full week "en femme"! Esprit 2002 starts on Sunday May 12, 2002, and finishes up one week later on Sunday May 19th! It is held at the Red Lion Inn in Port Angeles, Washington, about a three-hour drive from Seattle. Port Angeles is beautifully situated on the Straits of Juan de Fuca separating the US and Canada, and at the base of the Olympic Mountains.

We have a full slate of seventy classes planned along four separate themes, including the Basics of Crossdressing, The World of Transgender, Transitioning, and an extensive Couples program for those in a relationship with a Significant Other. We bring in nationally known speakers such as Sandra Cole, Peggy Rudd, and Anne Lawrence along with thirty-five local Northwest experts to lead each class.

And girl, do we have fun too! Each day features social activities such as a Prom Dance, Cabaret Talent Show and our special Graduation event for first time attendees. We also have a fashion show, lots of dancing, and an afternoon set aside for fun activities in the local community.

Did I mention our fabulous vendors yet? They are ready, willing and able to help you with makeup, wig selection and care, voice, image, breast forms, nails, jewelry.. Just about everything a girl could want! Plus we also feature a carefully selected list of vendors and businesses that welcome us in the local community.

And if you think this is just a regional conference, think again! Last year we had attendees from 18 different states and provinces, plus several girls that came all the way from New Zealand. So hop on a plane or get in your car and get to Port Angeles WA for a week you'll never forget! Visit www.espritgala.com for more information on our unique event.

Thanks! And we hope to see you at Esprit 2002!

Kelly Hansen
Education and Schedule Coordinator

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Dear Madame Editor,

You got it, baby! What a brave statement ("I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar - Or, How I've Learned To Love My Penis"), and absolutely right on. The whole point isn't to be a man or a woman, but to be your own true self. So hard for a transsexual woman when reassignment surgery is held up as the Holy Grail of Genderdumb.

How often have I heard post-ops, like clucking hens, smugly reassure themselves of their superiority over pre- and non-ops. Good god, how many of us are getting our weenies chopped off just because of that kind of peer pressure, when, really, if we kept our OME intact we'd be both happier and richer.

Think, darlings: So long as you haven't had the operation, you can always change your mind. I know a girl who backed out of surgery the day before because she knew she wasn't ready. Years later, she was, and has no regrets.

For others, it isn't right and never will be, but it takes a lot more courage to admit it and say so, than to let the tide take you out and leave you adrift.

Live your life. Save your money (juuuust in case). Listen to your spirit.

Kudos to you, Miss Ayme, for bravely going where no man has gone before.

With Admiration,
Shirley Faire

New Group!

United Genders

Dear TGSF,

For all those who view gender as having more than two options. This is to let you know that there is a Gender Queer support group in the East Bay called United Genders of the Universe. It's been meeting for a little over a month and its a real interesting group of people, very diverse in age and identity. I've really enjoyed the meetings I've attended. From the flier:

Do You:

- Prefer not to identify as a "man" or a "woman"?
- See yourself as outside the gender boxes?
- Get frustrated by the world's misjudgment of your gender, age and identity?
- Feel restricted by labels, categories and pronouns?

Who is Welcome?

All Ages. All Anatomies. All Hormone Levels. All Ways Of Expressing Yourself.

Meets every Sunday evening at The Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley CA, (510)-548-8283 x0 or http://pacificcenter.org

Are you a boy or a girl? NO are you? Well right now I identify as a two-spirit androgyne in full MTF transition. :~>

Love you all, Have a safe holiday, and hope to see some of you Sunday.

Anya Morningstar

Special Events This Month!

January 12th!

Face-Time with Dr. Brink

A TGSF Educational Forum on Plastic Surgery

A woman's face (or a reasonable facsimile thereof) can be yours by the hands of a surgeon skilled in plastic surgery. Although the price is high and the recovery process painful, the results can change how the world perceives you, and even how you perceive yourself.

Plastic surgeon Robert Brink, M.D., of San Bruno will be meeting with us to explain his techniques and answer our questions on a subject that - let's face it - is pretty irresistible for some of us. By the way, if you've had facial surgery and would like to share your experiences, contact Allyson Grillo, (415) [redacted] [redacted]@zeus.sjsu.edu, or just show up at the forum.

January 12, 2 p.m. - The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, San Francisco. The Women's Building is located four blocks from the 16th Street BART station.

For more information, contact Ally Grillo at (415) [redacted] or via email at [redacted]@zeus.sjsu.edu.

Host Hotel for Cotillion 2002

Holiday Inn Golden Gateway

1500 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94109

415-441-4000

The rate will be $99.00 for a single room per night

Please mention TGSF to insure hotel rate

Hotel deadline January 6, 2002

A hospitality suite at the host hotel all day Saturday.

Sunday January 27, 2002 will be a post-celebration brunch

Carla will be doing make-over and nails all day Saturday at the host hotel

Contact Carla at 408 298 6900 for appointments

Cotillion 2002!

January 26, 2002 — 7:30pm
Design Center Galleria

"An Evening with Friends"

Directed by Rachael and Madeline

Host hotel Gateway Holiday Inn

January 18th!

Columnist To Present Slide Talk On Transgender History

Ms. Bob Davis will present a slide talk on rarely seen images of historic cross-dressers on **January 18, 2002, at 7:30 p.m.** at A Different Light Bookstore in San Francisco. The event will draw on Davis' "Regina Antiqua" column, which runs in a national magazine, Transgender Community News.

Each month for the past three years, "Regina Antiqua" has featured a photo of an "old queen," along with a lively commentary by Ms Bob. Many of the images are publicity shots of now little known female impersonators from the first half of the 20th century.

Ms Bob is a noted Bay Area writer, collector and dealer in transgender photos, books and memorabilia; she writes the column "Drama Queen" for Lady Like Magazine and serves on the Board of Directors of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California.

A Different Light is located at 489 Castro St. (between 17th and 18th streets) in San Francisco. The talk is free and open to the public. This talk was originally scheduled for September, 2001, but due to the events of September 11 was postponed.

For information, please contact Emery at A Different Light Bookstore, (415) 431-0891, <Emery@ADLBooks.com> or Ms Bob at (510) [redacted] <[redacted]@tgforum.com>.

January 23rd!

Transformations For The T Community

Hair Styling, Makeup And Hints For A More Beautiful You

A Beautiful Workshop With Brian Finney

On **January 23, 2002** from 7-9PM there will be a seminar at the Billy DeFrank Center in San Jose on hair and cosmetics for TGs. The instructor is Brian Finney - a San Jose "hair artist" I've known for more than four years.

Brian asks all participants to bring their accessories, extensions, hair pieces, etc to 'play.' Donations for the Billy DeFrank Center are always welcome and encouraged. Billy DeFrank Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 938 The Alameda, San Jose, 408-293-3040, x116.

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

More Calendar Items!

January Events at Billy De Frank Center

1-15-02 / 7-9PM

"Tea for Ts"

An evening for transgender women to learn about breast health issues from Dr. Suzanne Dibble.

1-16-01 / 7-9PM

Healthy Relationships

How to create One, How to keep one, How to make one grow, with Amy Caffrey LMFT

1-16-02 / 7-9PM

"Working Through This Christian Thing"

Reverend Marcia Free of New Community of Faith-Exploring the faith of our childhood and the impact on who we are today.

1-17-02 / 7-9PM

Breast Cancer Support Workshop

For women with breast cancer and their partners.

1-23-02 / 7-9PM

Transformations

A beautiful workshop for the T Community - Brian Finney of Backlot presenting-Hairstyling, Makeup and Fashion Hints.

1-23-02 / 7-9PM "

Menopause: Myths and Realities

With Mary Craft RN- Exploring natural yet modern ways to do "the change".

1-29-02 / 7-9PM

Breast Cancer Forum

With Dr. Suzanne Dibble. Learn the latest information about breast cancer in a gentle, informal environment.

1-30-02 / 11AM–1PM

Vintage Taste of San Jose

Luncheon for Mature LGBT Adults followed by Program to be announced

1-30-02 / 7-9PM

Overcoming Depression

Dennis Hinkle PH.D - "Working through issues in order to have a full and rich life.

2-12-02 / 6:30PM

Fourth Annual Providers Dinner

With Dr. Suzanne Dibble at the Santa Clara County Medical Assn. This is an evening of dining and learning with Dr. Dibble presenting "Removing Obstacles to Health Care for the LGBT Community".

Contact Marianne Gallagher
Adult Services Coordinator
408) 293-3040 extn 116
FAX (408) 298-8986
supportedu@defrank.org or www.defrank.org

Coming in February!

Move Like a Woman! (Or is it *as* a woman?)

A TGSF Educational Forum on Dance

2:00pm / February 23

The Women's Building, 3543 18th Street, San Francisco (Mission neighborhood)

If expressing your femininity means more to you than just wearing the right outfits, this seminar is for you. Denae Doyle, an image consultant based in Santa Cruz, will be teaching us to express our feminine selves through dancing. Her presentation will not be about learning dance steps, but about something deeper and perhaps more fun: moving in a way that reflects our inner selves. For more information, check out Denae's web site, www.femimage.com. Denae, by the way, will be a judge at the TGSF Cotillion in January. She is a genetic woman skillful at teaching TG girls the subtleties of a new lifestyle.

The Women's Building is located only a few blocks from the 16th Street BART station.

Cotillion 2002

Ticket Sales Locations

San Francisco

Marlena's - 415 864 6672

Piedmont Boutique - 415 864 8075

Wellness Center - Tita Aida - 415 292 3420 ext 348

San Mateo

Women's Health Boutique - 650 357 9236

Fremont

"I Love It" Boutique - 510 797 5066

San Jose

Carla's - 408 298 6900

For information or questions contact:

Rachael – 408 [redacted] or Aiyana - 415 [redacted]

Cotillion2002@email.com

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF Balance Sheet

(November 21, 2001 through December 15, 2001)

Assets

Cash	$914.24
Event Equipment	
Decorations	$1,000.00
Food Service	$200.00
Office Supplies	$50.00
Total Assets	$2,164.24

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	$0.00
Educational Fund	$1,600.00
Taxes	$0.00
Insurance	$0.00
Utilities	$0.00
Operations	$0.00
Total Liabilities	$1,600.00
Equity	$564.24
Total Liabilities & Equity	$2,164.24

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	$397.66
Advertising	$500.00
Cotillion	$2,130.00
Donations Received	$0.00
Social	$0.00
Education	$0.00
Outreach	$0.00
	$3,027.66

Expenses

Cotillion	$2,698.41
Halloween Party	$0.00
Big Shew	$0.00
Pride Parade	$0.00
Social	$0.00
Education	$80.00
Outreach	$0.00
Newsletter	$510.67
Operations	$199.09
Donations Paid	$0.00
	$3,488.17

Net Income (Loss) ..... ($460.51)

TGSF Donations

Our Friends Who Give
as of December 15, 2001

Nicole and Debbie Cook $50.00
Karen Hossfeld $25.00

Bless You and Thank You!

Contact TGSF!

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Comments and suggestions concerning the TGSF *web site* www.tgsf.org

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Requests for information concerning TGSF *and upcoming events*

Calendar ..... [redacted]@tgforum.com

Submissions of descriptions of upcoming events of TGSF *and other groups for publication in* The Channel, *the calendar on the* TGSF *web site, the* TGSF *Telephone Hotline, the* TGSF *email list, and sharing with other groups.*

Sex Talk

by Simon Sheppard, PlanetOut

Speaking Of Cross-Dressing

Sex can be a drag. On the other hand, drag — men dressing in women's clothes — can be very sexy indeed.

Guys who cross-dress come in many varieties. There are male-to-female transsexuals who, though woman-identified, still have pretransition bodies beneath their frocks. Tranny cross-dressing is primarily about gender identification, not sexuality — some male-to-females are gay, some bi, some kinky and others as thoroughly vanilla as your grandma.

Things get a lot more sexy, though, where transvestites are concerned. Classically defined, transvestites are folks who get off wearing the clothing of the opposite sex; we're not talking about guys who go out on Halloween wearing bad wigs and big fake boobs. It's generally agreed that the vast majority of male transvestites aren't gay-identified at all. More likely we're talking about somebody like nice Mr. Macy down the street, who gets a boner putting on wifey's frillies while she's at the bridge club. And many of the men who get off on other guys in full drag think of themselves as straight, too; just ask any transvestite hooker about her johns.

Still, it's no surprise that plenty of the guys turned on by women's clothes are in fact gay or bi. Queer men are in a great position to cross those "boys wear blue" boundaries. Many more or less effeminate men find that drag lets them play with self-image in rewarding ways, exploring the blurrable frontiers of gender while feeling sexy as hell.

But drag isn't just for the less-than-butch. One beefy guy, the kind of gay man who could pass for a motorcycle mechanic even if that wasn't just what he is, confesses, "I like wearing women's panties, the silky kind. Sure, men's underwear is available in all sorts of sexy varieties, but there's just something about slipping on panties made for a woman that gets me off. That's it, though; other than that, no women's clothes." And even men in the leather community, with its supermasculine image, have been known to trade their boots for high heels. In "leather and lace" events, leathermen compete in cowhide, then transform themselves into fashion models that could give Miss America a run for her rhinestones.

Drag can also spice up a sex scene. Messing around with gender can be big, hard fun in which women's fashions are near-indispensable props. It need not be anything elaborate, though. One guy showed up at an unsuspecting buddy's house carrying a paper bag, popping into the bathroom and emerging shortly thereafter in nothing but a velvet miniskirt and elbow-length gloves. "It was a total shock," says the host, "but I just hiked up his skirt and got busy."

Cross-dressing scenes can be playful or seductive. They can also be just plain nasty. "One guy I know, a butch little hairy fireplug of a man," says a kinky queer, "had me dress him up in Frederick's-of-Hollywood-style bra, panties and stockings and then treat him like a slut. He loved it. Actually, we both did."

These "forced feminization" scenes can be like playing with fire; after all, homophobes think that gay men are sick for "wanting to be like women." And misogyny rears its ugly head sometimes, too. But, like any other kink, if approached consciously and consensually, cross-dressing can be fancy, fabulous fun. "I'm pretty clear," says the motorcycle mechanic, "that I'm not a woman, and don't want to be a woman. I just like wearing panties. I'm cool with that, and so are the guys I have sex with." Ken in public, but Barbie in the bedroom? Sure. Why not?

Adult Daughter of Transgender Featured in Cosmopolitan Magazine

Cosmopolitan, December 2001, pages 122, 124
224 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019
(e-mail: cosmo_letters@hearst.com)
(http://www.cosmomag.com)

"My Father Wanted to Be a Woman"

Laurie Cicotello was a teen when she discovered her dad was a transsexual. Here, she describes how she dealt with his dramatic transformation. As told to Gina Zucker Until my early teens, I was part of what seemed like a regular suburban family: We had enough money and a nice house in Colorado, and my parents were happily married . . . or so I thought. Life as I knew it had always felt ordinary, but when I was 14, something happened that brought my illusion of normalcy to an abrupt end.

A Shocking Discovery

As an only child, I was definitely Daddy's little girl. I felt more comfortable with my dad than with my mom, and I never found it strange that he had an effeminate side. Both of his ears were pierced and he had longish hair, but that was the style in the 1980s, so my friends and I just thought he was cooler than most fathers.

I was a typical adolescent with raging hormones and a rebellious attitude. Late in the summer of 1985, just before I entered high school, I began stealing money from my parents' room to buy junk food. One day, while rummaging through my dad's drawers looking for cash, I discovered weird porn magazines that depicted women with penises. I didn't understand what they were, and I was so caught up in my own life that I chose not to think about it. But about a month later, I found photographs of my dad wearing women's clothing, as well as his journal, which I couldn't resist reading. While I don't remember everything he wrote, one sentence sticks out in my mind: "I'll commit suicide if Laurie ever finds out the truth." "The truth about what?" I wondered.

I was devastated that my father, to whom I'd always felt so close, had apparently kept a major secret from me. Confused and upset, I confided in my best friend from school - a guy named MacGregor - about what I'd found in my dad's dresser drawer. Knowing I wasn't very close to my mom, MacGregor convinced me to talk to my paternal grandmother, thinking she might be able to shed some light on the situation. About a week later, I went to her house. When I told her what I had seen, she began to cry. She said, "Daniel [my dad] has been dressing in girls' clothes since he was 4." Grandma had always kept it a secret from the family; she told me how he'd played with dolls and worn his sister's hand-me-downs until his father took the dolls away and told him to be a man.

I decided I had to confront my dad. A few days later, he, Grandma, and I went to play miniature golf. As the three of us drove to the course, my grandma said, "Daniel, Laurie knows about what's going on with you." I started to cry in the backseat, and my dad and grandma cried as well. We didn't say much more at that point; we just went and played a crappy game of miniature golf. Eventually, my dad and I talked, and the truth began to surface. He told me that he felt he should be a woman but he was born with the wrong equipment. He said Mom had known about this from early on: She'd walked in on him while he was wearing a dress six months after they were married. She loved him though, so she stayed with him. He'd been transitioning to a more womanly appearance over many years - growing his hair and nails,

Continued on Page 15

Shirley Faire

When Bad Dreams Happen to Good People

The other night I dreamt that a hand was clutching the back of my neck. I didn't know it was a dream of course, or else I would not have tried to cry out for help; tried, but the words wouldn't come. The hand held me fast, paralyzing me with fear. I opened my mouth and feebly pushed out a groan, then a quite audible "Help!" which woke me up to find my arm bent behind my head and my own hand firmly gripping the back of my neck. I felt relieved yet foolish, like a dog that realizes it's been chasing its own tail; or a James Thurber character: "Aunt Shirley, whose constant cries in the night awakened half the neighborhood, along with Uncle Earl, a light sleeper himself, who resisted the urge to replace Aunt Shirley's errant hand at her neck with two of his own..."

How could this have happened? Once, taking a personality questionnaire, I remember answering "What position to you sleep in?" with "B. On my side, legs slightly bent, arm under my pillow." None of the choices came even close to "On my back, with my hand clutching the base of my neck," nor would I have checked such an answer.

I often have violent dreams even though I am not a violent person. Whether I am a good person I am not in position to say. I like to think that I am. I have been known to pet dogs. When approached by beggars I sometimes bestow a quite generous smile. I vote Democratic. If I'm not a good person, I'm not a horrible one, so why should I have bad dreams? And why should I attack myself? Am I trying to kill myself for the insurance?

What we must remember—or, *I* must remember (you don't have to remember anything)—is that when discussing dreams we are delving into the realm of the unconscious. The first thing to know about the unconscious is that it has no conscience, only desires. It isn't as nice and smart as the rest of you and it doesn't care a fig about you, only its own desire for money, sex and power. And you, you are a mere tool, or impediment. It doesn't stop to think that to get away with murder, one must be able to get away; that is, physically flee the murder scene. How can the unconscious be so diabolical and yet so stupid?

To answer this question, let us consider what Carl Jung, the famous Chinese psychiatrist and father of revolutionary leader Mao Tse Jung, said about dreams: that our dreams are formed not only out of personal experience, but from the collective unconscious, which we share with a lot of other unconscious people, whether we know them—or even *like* them—or not. They might be nice people, rascals or whatever, but you have no control over them whatsoever; you're stuck with them, like uninvited relatives at Christmas, and whatever stupid dreams they might dump under the tree. You and I, being the suckers we are, give out our nicest dreams to just anybody, never to see them again (which may be one reason why so many bad people report having wonderful dreams, and respectable citizens like us have the other kind).

The only conclusions one can reach, therefore, are that the collective unconscious is a Marxist plot and Dr. Jung was a dupe; and also that bad dreams involving actual physical threats to one's well-being are caused by highly unsavory characters who, if you saw them walking toward you, you would cross the street to avoid; yet they infest your poor brain's collective unconscious like rats in the walls.

What a relief to know not only that I am not responsible for my bad dreams, but *why* I am not responsible. And yet...what then? Must I accept that one day I will wake up to find myself strangled by my own hand? Assuredly not, for I have dreamed up a plan of my own to out smart and thwart the collectivist thugs: First, I will never let them know that the way to strangle somebody successfully is from the front of the neck, not the back. Proactively, I have posted notices all over my collective unconscious's community bulletin board that my life insurance policy is canceled.

Already, I'm sleeping better.

Dining With Friends?

Attractive private crossdresser and beautiful wife looking to make friends with similar couple (35-45) for dinners at home in San Francisco. Bring your wit, sense of humor, and favorite dress, and let's have some enjoyable evenings. [redacted]@hotmail.com.

Paid Advertisement

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 Cheryl at [redacted]**@yahoo.com** and explain a little about your situation.

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Phyllabuster

TG's RUSH To Buy Catheters and Urine Collection Bags

It seems that the Minnesota Supreme Court doesn't think that transgenders have the legal right to use the bathroom at work. At least not without a raising-of-the-skirt or a dropping-of-the-drawers inspection of genitals by the boss.

I envision transgenders in Minnesota rushing out to buy catheters and urine collection bags if they wish to continue to urinate while at work and keep their jobs. How they plan to defecate at work is still a mystery.

Although that is a bit tongue-in-cheek, it would certainly be a good publicity stunt. LGBT supporters in Minnesota gathering wherever they can get the press to meet them and all carrying clear plastic jugs suspended from their shoulders (like a purse) and partially filled with lemon Kool-Aid.

An article and a web connection to the court's decision are below.

I think it will rank right up there in the STUPID-JUDGES category with the Littleton vs. Prange decision of last year that said a vaginaed post-surgical woman was legally male.

As you know, we have used that STUPID-JUDGES decision, we call it the "Prange virus," to push some legal, same-sex marriages through San Antonio with a good and friendly press turnout each and every time.

And if for some reason you still don't think it matters who you vote for (judges are either elected or appointed by elected officials) then please go to my website (transgenderlegal.com) and read the four entries under the Littleton decision heading plus read the article written by me and published by the William and Mary Law School as it deals with RESTROOM USE ON THE JOB!

For those of you reading this who are lawyers, consider the potty-problem employer below (West Group) the next time you consider using one of their products.

Phyllis Randolph Frye
http://members.aol.com/prfrye
http://transgenderlegal.com

OutFront Minnesota Decries State Supreme Court's Transgender "Bathroom Decision" As Contradicting Common Sense

(Minneapolis) OutFront Minnesota, the state's leading advocacy agency serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, announced its regret over today's decision by the Minnesota Supreme Court denying the right of transgender citizens to appropriate restroom access. "To some, the issue of restroom access may seem trivial," said Ann DeGroot, Executive Director of OutFront Minnesota, "but those restrooms symbolize the traditional male-female categories which, as the Legislature realized many years ago, not all people neatly fit into any more. Further, the issue implicitly raises the question of who is entitled to define a person's gender identity: individuals themselves, or their employers?"

The case, Goins v. West Group, involved a growing workplace controversy: which restroom does a transgender person use? Julienne Goins, a former West Group employee, had transitioned from male to female even before beginning work at West, yet had been denied access to the women's restroom upon transfer to its Minnesota facility. Goins argued that restroom access should be based on one's consistently-projected gender identity, not on an employer's speculation as to its employee's anatomy. "Common sense says we interpret other people's gender based on their clothing, grooming, name, and so on, without ever knowing what their genitals look like," observed DeGroot. OutFront Minnesota and the Minnesota Lavender Bar Association submitted a friend-of-the-court brief arguing that the legislative history of the Minnesota Human Rights Act's "sexual orientation" provisions supported this interpretation.

"We're very disappointed the Court held that the law permits employers to ignore a person's everyday appearance, and focuses instead on areas of the body employers have no business demanding to see," said Phil Duran, OutFront Minnesota's Legal Program Coordinator and author of its brief. "This decision makes a mockery of the Human Rights Act by effectively mandating that transgender employees describe their genitals in order simply to go to the bathroom. This is the same sexual harassment this very Act prohibits." Duran predicted that transgender Minnesotans may now face demands to describe their genitals in order to access restrooms in public accommodations, such as restaurants, and in other circumstances.

The case had attracted national attention, and was the first in which the Minnesota Supreme Court had interpreted the transgender-related language of the Human Rights Act. That language has served as the basis for similar civil rights protections in other states since the Legislature approved it in 1993.

Equality Florida Media Release

December 13, 2001

Jacksonville Community Activist Murdered In Front Yard

Loss of Terrianne Summers Leaves Community Shocked and Saddened

Equality Florida joins family and friends in mourning the loss of transgender activist Terrianne Summers who was gunned down outside her home Wednesday night.

While the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office has no suspects at this time, the circumstances surrounding the murder indicate the attack may have been a hate-crime. Equality Florida recognizes that transgender people are statistically the most targeted group for hate violence in America today, and we call on law enforcement agencies to fully investigate the possibility that this was a bias motivated attack.

The murder comes in the shadow of November 28th, the third annual National Day of Remembrance for transgender people killed in hate crimes. According to statistics collected by the education organization Gender Education and Advocacy, hate crimes have resulted in the murder of nine transgender people in Florida, ranking our state as sixth most dangerous in the country. Unfortunately these grim statistics represent only a fraction of the violence transgender people experience because law enforcement agencies often undercount or incorrectly classify hate crimes against transgender people due to lack of education and awareness of gender issues.

According to the First National Study of Transgender Violence performed by GenderPAC, 60% of transgender people nationwide have been the victims of violent assault with nearly half requiring medical care for their injuries.

Terrianne was a human rights activist who worked closely with local and state human rights organizations and who helped to organize and empower the transgender community in the Jacksonville area. Her sudden and violent death is a great loss for her family and friends as well as for the transgender community long ravaged by hate-based violence.

"Terrianne was always quick with a smile and eager to help others," said Jessica Archer, fellow transgender activist and friend who works for Equality Florida. "She showed tremendous courage to be out and active in a part of the state where transgender people are highly misunderstood and are generally afraid of being visible."

Terrianne Summers is survived by a spouse and two children.

Father...

Continued from Page 12

getting electrolysis and a pair of women's eyeglasses. It was such a slow process that I had never put it together. Some transgendered people just dress differently and leave it at that, while others have sex-change operations. But in any case, they want to present themselves publicly as the sex they feel they really are inside. Suddenly, it all made sense. I remembered how my dad used to go on business trips with two suitcases; now I realized that one was for his male clothes, the other for his female outfits. My dad also went out a lot at night, and while he was getting ready, my mother often took me into my bedroom, saying "I have to talk to you about something" so that I wouldn't see him leave dressed in drag.

Keeping the Silence

One of the hardest things for me to process was the deceptive deal my parents had made. Dad explained that my mother had given him a choice years ago - keep his secret under wraps or she'd divorce him. Most important, she threatened to leave him if he ever let me find out he was a transsexual. My mother is conservative and shy - letting the outside world in on this would go against her moral makeup. So, fearful of breaking up my parents' marriage, I didn't talk to my mom about any of this. But my father, on the other hand, was relieved not to have to hide it from me anymore. At this point, he had started taking female hormones. And to help me adjust to his transformation, he decided to send me to his therapist who specialized in transgender issues. My dad also said that he wanted to be called "she" instead of "he" from now on and that his name would be Dainna. "You can call me Aunt Dainna if you'd like," he said. I suppose he thought we could keep this between us without my mom finding out, as unrealistic as that now seems.

I didn't know how to feel, except numb. I went to the therapist, and she told me Dainna was going through "puberty" as she became a woman. This meant she wanted to do teenage things like go out a lot and share my clothes and makeup. I needed to accept this, the shrink told me, adding, "Dainna's emerging puberty is as important, if not more so, than your own." Obviously, this confused me and pissed me off. I now know that in families in which one parent is coming out of the closet or is transgendered, life often revolves around them while the rest of the family members' problems are neglected. As a result, I went into a deep depression and gained 100 pounds. I stopped wearing makeup because I had no intention of sharing it with my father. I felt alone and unattractive, and my self-esteem was too low to do anything about it. I certainly didn't feel like I could turn to my parents for help.

As Dainna's physical transition became more and more obvious, my mom continued to pretend that nothing had changed. Her husband was her closest friend, and I think she just couldn't stomach the idea of leaving him. At first, our neighbors just thought a woman had come to live with us. But inevitably, they realized what was going on. Kids began to make fun of me when I walked home from school. One boy would yell things like "There goes the fat chick with a faggot for a father," and the other kids would laugh. The next couple of years were rough. As my dad gradually went public, wearing female clothes during the day and living life as a woman, I started hooking up with guys who were often physically and emotionally abusive, another by-product of my nonexistent self-esteem. I also had to deal with plenty of mortifying incidents, such as the time our car broke down a block from our house and Dainna had to get out and ask for water for the engine from some neighbors. He was wearing a bright floral-print romper, and I was trying to shove myself down in the backseat so no one would see me. For a teenager, when your parents already embarrass you, this was over the top.

Acceptance At Last

It was a relief when, in August 1990, I left home for a small Catholic college in Hastings, Nebraska. I told no one about my dad, but very soon after I arrived, I realized I was sick of feeling helpless and ashamed. A few months into my freshman year, I made a decision to come out of the closet with the family secret. I began to tell my friends about Dainna, spoke up about her in class, and talked to anyone and everyone about transgender issues. Although at first I was teased by a lot of people, I also found that opening up about my life made people feel comfortable telling me their own secrets and troubles. For the first time in a while, I began to feel I had something to offer. One day when I was walking through the quad, I overheard a guy say to his buddy, "That's the girl whose father is a woman." The other guy just looked at him and said "Yeah? So?" It felt really good to be finally accepted.

After I graduated, I moved to Denver, near my hometown, and tried my hand at journalism and then worked as a clerk for the city government. Ultimately, I began to teach English, and I'm now a high school teacher in Hawaii. My parents remain married to this day. They don't have a sexual relationship, but they continue to be best friends, and however strange it might seem, this arrangement works for them. My mother has had to reconcile herself to the fact that her husband's secret is out, but she'll always be private about it, and that's okay. Because of them, I've learned to accept people's differences, and I'm able to see the shades of gray in any situation. I still say "Mom and Dad" half the time and get Dainna's pronouns screwed up. But I feel closer than ever to both of them. As for me, I'm now 30 and single. For the first time, I feel that I'm ready for a real, intimate connection with a boyfriend. I'm looking forward to having a healthy relationship with someone who really loves me and can accept my unique family.

[Articles reader Laurie Cicotello is online at [redacted]@aol.com, and Articles reader Dainna Cicotello is online at [redacted]@aol.com]

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Court Weighs Transgender Widow's Claim

Ann Rostow, Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network
Wednesday, December 5, 2001

The Kansas Supreme Court heard arguments Tuesday in the case of a transgender woman who is fighting for recognition of her marriage in an estate dispute.

The woman, J'Noel Gardiner, married 85-year-old Marshall Gardiner in late 1998, when she herself was 40. Marshall Gardiner died without a will less than a year after the marriage, and J'Noel found herself in a probate dispute with Gardiner's son Joe over the disposition of some $2.5 million.

Initially, Joe Gardiner asked the probate court to declare him executor of his father's estate. But after discovering that his stepmother was born a man, he asked a district court to declare the marriage void, based on her sex at birth and the state ban on same-sex marriage.

Although the district court ruled that J'Noel was legally male and that the marriage was not binding on the estate, a state appellate court reversed that decision in May of last year. Gender, ruled the three-judge panel, is based on numerous factors and cannot be legally fixed at birth. The Supreme Court will now resolve the question for the state of Kansas.

In 1999, a Texas appellate court ruled that birth sex determines legal sex for the purposes of marriage. The ruling, from the San Antonio-based 4th Court of Appeals, meant that Christie Lee Littleton could not sue for the wrongful death of her husband of seven years — despite the fact that Littleton changed her sex some two decades earlier.

If J'Noel Gardiner loses her case, she could have recourse to the U.S. Supreme Court. When Littleton appealed to the high court, three justices voted to hear the case, just one vote short of the necessary total.

President Aiyana, has been a bad girl this year - and that's just the way she likes it!

Resident Shutterbug, Telzey Adams, advises us to always keep a finger on the trigger!

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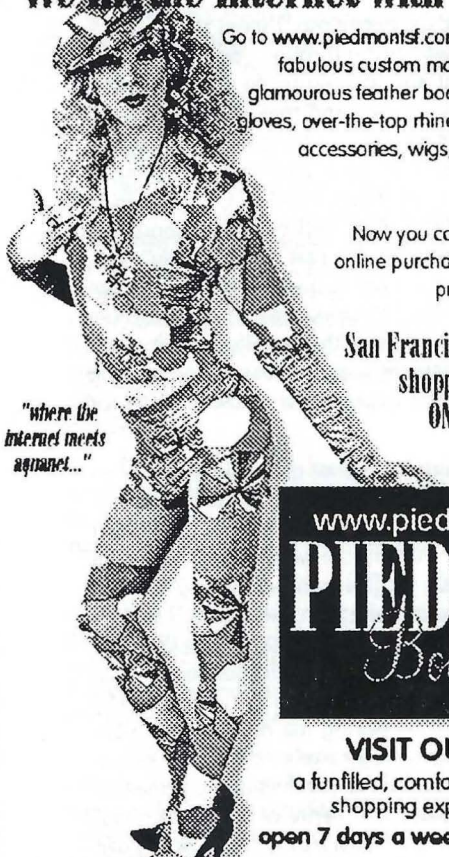

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