

Christmas Cheer with TGSF...

The Channel
TGSF
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 Aiyana Eveningstar
 Secretary Debbie Cook
 Treasurer Deborah
 Education Stephanie Ann Blythe / Jennifer Antoinette
 Outreach Telzey Adams / Kalani Makanani
 Social Tianna "Diva" DeVil / Serena Anderson

Membership Report

As of January 15, 2001

Membership 241
 Total Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Membership 242
 New Memberships This Year 39

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

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. **Please support our advertisers, and tell them you saw their ad in The Channel!**

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FROM THE EDITOR...

Ya know, sometimes my job as Editor makes me feel like a little kid with a long stick, taking whacks at a hornet's nest just to see what happens. I'm sure by now you know that a lot of my writing is introspective and off-the-cuff, but as a writer I view the effort as creating art. And art is subversive. I make art to elicit a response - doesn't matter what type of response I receive (and it's always nice when it's one I expect) - as long as others respond, then my art works and it's worth doing. I suppose it stems from a little frustration at not getting much response from you, Dear Reader, by way of contributions to this, your newsletter. Naturally, I'm thrilled when I find a letter or comment in my mail box that merits publishing, particularly so when it's pertinent news to our community or an article that promotes or discusses our lifestyle. But ya gotta take the bad with the good in this job, and my December 2000 column elicited the following words from a long-time member:

"I was hurt and concerned about the historical revisionism in your attempt to promote diversity and social acceptance. We pioneers were not 'just a bunch of white male crossdressers searching for a party.' Nor were our early affiliations narrow. I can't expect you to know our history, but straw man references do not invite the seeking of a true historical perspective. If we are discounted as frivolous, why should anyone care about us and the problems we tackled? Here is our history in short. The first term of our name was "Educational." The second was TV (Transvestite) originally. Historically, [we] also covered transsexuals and other gender persons. Our objectives were outreach, education, and safe interactions among all. Most founders were doing the media, schools, and professional groups long before ETVC/TGSF. Most gender persons were living in painful isolation."

First, I must apologize to this member for my off-handed remark. Taken out of context, it was a shabby thing to say about an organization that has done much for me personally, and has done so for countless others during its long and varied history. Yet the reader's remarks require justice, as they are without doubt, completely valid ones.

I was talking about Labels in that column, and trying to point out that while labels are useful in providing a reference point for common ground, they also work to divide and separate us. For some people my remark was a label that defined their experience, offensive (to some) as it may be. But believe me, I've heard worse comments with regard to the organization. But hey - my article did its job - I got a response!

Be that as it may, back in 1985 ETVC was formed with one founding notion: Exclude No One. Patterned after the Tri-Ess model, the founders of TGSF, however, didn't agree with that model's exclusionary practices, and so set out to invite all gender-variant, gender-gifted people to come together and make a difference, to educate, to reach out, to promote, to socialize, to provide a safe haven. When the owner of the old restaurant, Chez Mollet (forgive me, I can't remember his name), agreed to let the group hold regular meetings in the now famous back room, people like Joan Sheldon, Diahanna, Wilfreda and Ken Pool grasped the opportunity to become our true pioneers. They laid the foundation for what we've evolved into today. I know there are several others I should mention here, but our member is right - I don't know TGSF's history as well as I'd like. Maybe one of you will take the hint and write it up! <whacking hornet's nest with stick>

And undoubtedly, we owe a huge debt of gratitude, and should pay tribute to, Ginny Knuth and her partner Nancy Ann (God rest

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YOUR CHIEF SERVANT

By Nicole Cook

By the time you read this the Cotillion will probably be over (unless you are in the Reception suite helping us fold it). I hope everyone who attended the Cotillion had a great time. You may be thinking that you will have to wait another year for a big event. But this is not the case. In early March, SGA will be hosting their Talent Show and the next event in San Francisco is California Dreamin' in April. This year we will be holding our end of month at the hotel, and we are looking for volunteers to help host a pub crawl on Saturday night. If that is not enough for you, keep in mind that a few months later we will be doing the Pride Parade again. There is always an event to look forward to.

It is great to have these events that allow us to have a good time. However it is important to participate in other events as well. The Employment Committee of the San Francisco Civil Rights Implementation Task Force is in the process of implementing two projects and we need your help. Below I have listed a number of areas where we need expertise and volunteer effort. If you can help out in any of these areas, give me a call and let me know (707) [REDACTED]

TG First Contact Project

- Flyer design and printing
- Information Research (on SF Businesses)
- Phone work Calling to make Appointments
- Coordinating Statistical Information
- TG people who can make on site visits in SF
- Development of Follow-up Material

TG Respect Video Project

- Video Production
- Video Director
- TG Actors & Actresses
- Information Research (on other similar videos)
- Professional Video equipment
- Professional Video equipment Operation

SGA TALENT SHOW

Sacramento Gender Association will be having their annual talent show on March 10, 2001 upstairs at The Townhouse, 1517 21st Street in Sacramento.

If you are interested in performing, please leave a message for Miss SGA 2001, Liz D. on the SGA hotline at (916) 364-7212.

If you haven't attended this one, you really should. As many of you that attended last year know, it was a really terrific show and promises to be even better than the last!!

Be there or be left out. . .

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

their souls) who introduced themed-socials, and such staples as Poker Night, the Hotline, the S.O. group, this Newsletter, and began forging the first tentative links to the Drag Queen community. It was from Ginny's visionary dreams, and Joanna Carron's endless energy that the Cotillion first sprang forth, and over the next two decades, blossomed into the premier annual TG event on the West Coast that it is today. With leaders like these in our history, TGSF has been long-established as a valuable resource worldwide, and still remains the largest independent organization of its kind in the country.

As we enter this fledgling Millennium, TGSF continues the noble traditions of our Founding Fathers (or Mothers as the case may be). Often the group acts as a springboard for our members as they come Out to raise public awareness, joining such groups as the Transgender Task Force, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, the Human Rights Commission, running for public office or sitting on the Boards of major companies. Recently, the Transgender Political Caucus (comprised of many former and current members of TGSF), sent out a questionnaire to several candidates running for District Supervisor slots in our recent elections. For your interest, you'll find the a summary of the Election and the TRC questionnaire, along with the candidate's responses elsewhere in this issue.

Clearly the last sixteen years have seen ETVC/TGSF through ups and downs, yet it continues to drive forward, reaching out to create alliances and continuing to expand their affiliations. I never meant to imply that our Mission Statement was ever narrow or blinded. But while TGSF may be the "farm club" for many of us transitioning from one state of being to another (or exploring the freedom and security it offers), it will always continue to exist because, plain and simple, it's fun! The freedom to express our gender preference in the company of like-minded expressionists is downright exhilarating - an incomparable high. Not frivolous by any means, but certainly flirtatious, joyous, and celebratory. Those of you at the Cotillion must have seen the positive energy and happiness exuded not only from the contestants, but from all in attendance - all colors, all genders, all encompassing. How can you beat that? Granted, TGSF means many things to many people, be it education, outreach, support or communion. But damn, they sure know how to throw a party!

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.

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ExCOM MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Berkeley at the Pacific Center on January 7, 2001 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were President Nicole Cook, Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar, Secretary Debbie Cook, Education Co-Chair Stephanie Ann Blythe, Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil and Social Co-Chair Serena Anderson. Treasurer Deborah, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani Makalani, Outreach Co-Chair Telzey Adams and Education Co-Chair Jennifer Antoinette were absent.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m.

President: Nicole indicated that our insurance bill was paid. We had to make sure we had it for the Cotillion, so \$2,000 was paid toward insurance. It should be added to the ExCom agenda after the Cotillion to review our insurance due to it being so high. The insurance company informed Nicole that the amount was raised due to the increase in Outreach. Contact information would be great for us so we can call around to get quotes.

TGSF was approved for office space in the new Community Center sharing with Youth Gender Project. Nicole spoke with Jaron at the Youth Gender Project and mentioned that we could not afford more than \$100 a month and he understands that. Jaron seems to think that their group will be manning the office most of the time during Transgender business hours, which would work well for us since we would hardly have anyone in there. Our files and other records along with the TGSF phone will be stored there. The office is about a 7x10 office. It's pretty small. We would get so many meetings a month in the conference room for being a member of the center. Nicole will continue working with Jaron to see what happens.

We received a notice in the mail from the Internal Revenue Service that we owe \$480. Nicole spoke with someone at the IRS and was told that we could abate the fees by sending a letter that we are a non-profit support group not a for-profit group. Our last tax person mentioned that if we aren't being bugged by the IRS, we don't owe them money. We aren't being bugged. Something interesting though that was found out is that our taxes are due on September 15th and our fiscal year ends on June 1st. That will be written into the Standing Rules for the next board.

It was mentioned at the last meeting that using TGSF funds at Coronations was not an approved expense. Treasurer Deborah brought up an interesting question about using TGSF funds for beverages and snacks at the ExCom meetings. Nicole assured her that it would be brought up at the next ExCom meeting and so it is. Most of the time Nicole and Debbie pay for what is brought to the ExCom. We occasionally don't have the budget for it so one time, snacks and drinks were paid for by TGSF. Nicole makes the point that Miss TGSF gets into the Coronations for free but we don't pay for her food. For other members of TGSF as well as the officers, the Coronations are really a voluntary event. It is not this way for Miss TGSF. On the other hand, the ExCom meetings are really not that voluntary. The 4 core officers are supposed to be there and at least 3 of the other officers should be there. Nicole asks for opinions on the subject. Serena asks if there is a budget set aside for things like that. Nicole mentioned that there is not. Serena suggest that there be a \$10 spending limit. Nicole proposes that as long as it is under \$20 that using TGSF funds for ExCom meeting for refreshments is acceptable. Stephanie Ann seconds the motion. The motion is approved unanimously.



The California Corporations Code document, which is required for 501c status, needs to be signed by the officers of the ExCom that volunteered to be on the document. Serena is not currently on it, but should be added. The document is passed around to be signed by each officer.

Vice President: The contract for the venue of where the Cotillion will be held had been acquired and both \$2,500 payments have been made.

The catering bill will need to be paid next and is due soon.

The insurance rider is due to the venue very soon. Nicole is working on getting that and hopefully it will be in the mail.

The timetable and floorplan is already taken care of. They have been created and are ready to be sent to the venue. The venue also wants a vendor list. It is a list of people taking things in and out of the building. They wanted the band and the front layout on there, but that's it.

Aiyana needs a good publicity photo of Tianna to give to Kevin Anderson to include in the program. Last year, Serena had a photo shoot with a photographer and he was contacted, but he was not interested in doing it again this year. It was requested that if any of the officers know of a photographer that would be willing to donate some time to the club to let Aiyana know. It was also discussed that Michelle Garcia's picture needs to be included in the program before Tianna's picture. Kevin will have to break up the pictures because there just isn't any more room to keep them all together.

The Cotillion budget has been revised to accommodate the increase in the venue and the caterer. The venue was increased to \$5,000 from \$4,500 and the caterer was increased to \$4,350 from \$3,400. \$3,900 in ticket money has already been received and \$8,120 in Accounts Receivable for tickets reserved. This is a total of \$12,000 at this point we have committed for. The advertising is another \$2,500, and we are in great shape so far. Nicole calls for a motion to revise the Cotillion budget to reflect the increases. Aiyana seconds. Motion is approved.

The publicist for the Cotillion needs to get a list of the newspapers in the area and send them a Cotillion advertisement blitz. Aiyana needs to contact Marcia by email to see if this has already been done or is getting close to being done.

The San Jose Mercury News is doing an interview with Tianna.

Aiyana will be looking into getting TGSF a table on the floor at the San Francisco Coronation on March 3rd.

Secretary: Membership has been up over the last 7 months. We currently have 240 members, up from 238 last year.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

Only one past income tax return was ordered from the IRS because they are asking for \$23.00 per copy and we are in the Cotillion crunch at the moment.

Editor: The newsletter went out late, but it has gone out due to the Secretary's lateness. We are on budget for the newsletter.

Publicist: There were no advertising renewals this month.

Treasurer: Treasurer Deborah has, as of January 7th, 2001, resigned due to life responsibilities. (The ExCom wishes Deborah and Roxanne luck in Sacramento and, after reminding them that there is another group in the area, will hope they become regulars. For they would be a great asset to the group !!) After the Cotillion, the vacant seat will try to be filled but until then, Secretary Debbie will cover the Treasurer reports. There is currently \$3,160.28 in the bank. Many of the payments for the Cotillion is bringing the account down, but with the expectation of money for

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Cash	\$2,253.06
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Computers	\$100.00
Total Assets	\$3,603.06

Liabilities

Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	\$1,000.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$25.55
Operations	\$25.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,050.55
Equity	\$2,552.51
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$3,603.06

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	\$200.00
Advertising	\$0.00
Cotillion	\$3,520.00
Donations	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
.....	\$3,720.00

Expenses

Cotillion	\$2,826.00
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$600.96
Operations	\$50.55
.....	\$3,477.51
Net Income	\$242.49

HEY!

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

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

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

Meeting Minutes...

Continued from Page 4

tickets coming, things look great.

Co-Social Chair: Tianna is busy with Cotillion related events. She would like to work more closely with Serena for the upcoming mid and end-of-months.

The February End-of-Month will be a theme. With the Cotillion being Brazilian Carnivale and Mardi Gras falling at the end of February, this would be a great time to have a Mardi Gras theme. More will be discussed and written up by Tianna.

The April End-of-Month will be at Cal-Dreamin'. That will be discussed in more detail later.

Co-Social Chair: Serena reports that she will be handling the January mid-month at Tango Tango. She will also be directing the pre-cotillion show at Diva's on the Thursday night before the Cotillion and is getting some great talent lined up. The February mid-month will be held at a new venue called The White Horse in the East Bay.

Outreach Chair 1: Nicole reports for Kalani that the Speaker Orientation class is still scheduled for February 11th at 2:00pm at the Blue Muse. A flyer will go out in the February newsletter.

Outreach Chair 2: Telzey was absent. Nicole mentions that we will be reducing our phone answering hours for TGSF to Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 10pm until 2am.

Education Chair 1: Stephanie Ann had nothing to report except she is busy with Cotillion events.

Education Chair 2: Jennifer was absent.

Adjournment: At 5:45 p.m., Nicole makes a motion to close the meeting, Aiyana seconded the motion, and the motion was passed. Next ExCom Meeting is on Sunday, February 11th, at 3:30 p.m. at the Pacific Center in Berkeley.

Special Topics Meeting: None. There was a Cotillion Planning meeting 4 hours before.

New Members since January Issue:

Phylicia Anya Morningstar

Erin Cadiz

Billy Jean Kanios

Welcome!

SUPPORT GROUP FOR TRANS FOLKS
510-527-5662 ▼ valigl@aol.com

MEETS MONDAYS, 1:30 - 3:00PM

Open to MTF, FTM, third-gendered, undecided, at any stage of transition. A safe place to receive support from peers and explore a variety of issues. Can fulfill the therapy requirement of the current standards of care.



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 Co-facilitators: **VALERIE IGL**, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist,
 and **REID VANDERBURGH**, MA in Counseling Psychology student and FTM.

Sunday / February 11th / 4:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

The monthly meeting of the ExCom will be held at the Pacific Center. We are always in need of volunteers. 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 / February 14th / 7:00pm

TRANSBAY SOCIAL

Don't forget that 2nd Wednesday of the month 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.

Wednesday / February 14th / 8:00pm

TGSF MID-MONTH SOCIAL

This month we'll meet at a new venue. . . The White Horse in the East Bay. It's tell a friend night, so bring a friend with you. But don't worry if you don't bring one along, there will be plenty of friends to go around!! The White Horse is at 66th and Telegraph on the North Oakland / Berkeley border. Take I-80 towards Oakland and take the Ashby exit. Go east for _ mile, then turn right on Telegraph. Go 3 or 4 blocks and it's on the right hand side.

Thursday / February 22nd / 8:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH SOCIAL

It's time for a theme !! Since Mardi Gras is only a couple of days away and the Cotillion recently featured Brazilian Carnivale, we thought that it would be a terrific idea to hold a Mardi Gras theme. Come wearing your most outrageous Mardi Gras outfit. . . there will be a prize for the best costume.

This social will be held at Divas upstairs 4th floor - 1081 Polk St. in San Francisco. Street parking may be difficult, so get here early!!

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.

February's Birthdays...

- | | |
|------|--------------------------|
| 2/00 | Suzan Reed |
| 2/01 | Francis Vavra |
| 2/05 | Carol Anderson |
| 2/05 | Robin Barrett |
| 2/07 | Richelle |
| 2/08 | Laura Butler |
| 2/16 | Vicki Gray |
| 2/17 | Carla Blair |
| 2/20 | Debra Darling |
| 2/28 | Christine Michelle Ricci |

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

NEW ONLINE SO LIST!

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

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Nails

Wigs

Fem Fashions

Lingerie

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The Current Location of the TGSF Library!!

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Cosmetics

Shoes

Nails

Wigs

Fem Fashions

Lingerie

Cosmetics

Calendar of Events - February 2001

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. 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.

FIM

A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FIM 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-XXXXXXXXXX

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 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 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT 8:00 PM TGSF: Jan EOM Social	2 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	3 8:00 PM Cotillion - Carnivale Brazilia!
4	5 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	6	7 7:30 PM MPTG	8	9 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	10 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
11 4:00 PM TGSF ExCom Meeting	12 5:00 PM CCHH	13	14 7:00 PM TransBay 8:00 PM TGSF: MidMonth Social	15 7:00 PM DVG (RCC) 7:00 PM SCT	16 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap 8:00 PM RGA	17
18	19 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	20	21	22 8:00 PM TGSF: End of Month Social	23 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr: Rap	24 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
25	26 5:00 PM CCHH	27	28			

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year runs from May 1st - April 30th; \$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

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.

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

Our Readers Respond

DEAR TGSF,

My story is over. Fifteen years ago it began with a phone call. This past year it ended with a scalpel. Now a new story begins.

Fifteen years ago I was in mid-life crisis. I had resisted making a beginning since early adolescence, perhaps because the feelings came and went, and each time they ebbed I convinced myself they were gone for good and no longer had sway over me. Now they were back, no different from what they had been for 30 years: an erotic, compulsive, persistent obsession with cross-dressing; fevered, sleepless desire for magical transformation, for escape, refuge, sweet peace, wrapped blissfully in women's clothes and makeup. And, oh, how far off and impossible and therefore impossibly sweet and intense the desire. The difference now was that I could no longer feed the desire in secret solitude until it was spent in sexual fantasy and regretted in shame and buried like evidence of a crime. The feelings might go away, but they would never be gone for good. My life, half over, felt useless and wasted as if I had been running on glass. Would this be the whole rest of my life until I was dead?

The beginning was a phone call, really a series of calls, made in fear that the ears of the world were open and listening for me to say what I was afraid even to think.

Before making the calls, I had to figure out where to call. Hadn't I had read something in Dear Abbey about an organization for transgender people, the Janus Society? There it was, listed in the phone book on Union Street in San Francisco. One late summer afternoon, my wife and kids out of the house, I crouched on the floor in our bedroom and made the first call. A woman told me that she got a lot of calls like mine, but that the number no longer belonged to Janus. They had moved to Southern California. She gave me an address. Did I want it? Oh, yes! Oh, no...How could I write to them? They might reply, and the postman would see the return address and tell my neighbors and they would put up signs on my front door and I would lose my wife and children and become an outcast and a laughing stock and my family would be shamed. No, no letter.

There was another listing, for the Janus Library on Divisadero Street. Maybe they would let me check out the books. (But where would I hide them?) A man who sounded gay said that that I had reached a medical library. He got a lot of calls like mine, and advised that I call the Sex Information Hot Line, and gave me the number.

With eager, now steady, fingers, I dialed. "How may I help you," said a calm, reassuring voice. I told my story. "Good news. I have two resources listed. Are you looking for therapy or a social contacts?"

"Tell him therapy," said the inner policeman I had listened to for 30 years.

"Both, please" said my inner Winnie the Pooh, and I was given numbers for the Pacific Center and ETVC.

"When you call the ETVC number, ask for 'Don' or 'Jenny.' And, please, be good to yourself," the man said.

The beginning had begun.

Shirley Faire

DEAR TGSF,

I have visited many drinking and entertainment establishments in the last eighteen months, especially those recommended in the TGSF Resource Guide. While I had positive experiences at all, I would like to express my opinion of a particular favorite, The Club Tango Tango on California St. in San Francisco.

I have found the staff, Glen, Michael, Jason and Tommy to be exceptionally nice and make me feel very welcome. They have a Drag Show on Friday and Saturday nights that is the best I have seen. The audience is primarily tourists and out for the entertainment San Francisco is so well known for. On other nights karaoke is featured and the talent level is quite high.

But what makes this establishment such a consistently enjoyable experience is the fun and friendly attitude of the patrons. Whether it be the tourists of Drag Show night, or the "regulars" one sees there frequently, I am always made to feel genuinely welcome and not just tolerated. I strongly encourage our members to visit and hope they feel as I do.

The Tango Tango is located at 1550 California St. between Polk and Larkin. Tell them Joyce sent you.

Joyce White

DEAR TGSF,

One of my sisters is married to a crack dealer. My father and mother have recently been arrested for growing and selling marijuana and are currently dependent on my other two sisters, who are prostitutes.

I have two brothers, one who is currently serving a non-parole life sentence in Attica for rape and murder of a teenage boy in 1994. The other brother is currently being held in the Wellington Remand Center on charges of incest with his three children.

I have recently become engaged to be married. Brothers and Sisters, my problem is this:

I love my fiancée and look forward to bringing her into the family and of course I want to be totally honest with her...

Should I tell her about my cousin who voted for Bush?

**Signed,
Worried about my reputation**

Editor's Note: Strictly tongue-in-cheek <grins>

Barbara F. Anderson

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Certified Sex Therapist

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Special Events & Announcements

Coming May 25th - 28th, 2001
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FTM 2001: A GENDER ODYSSEY

(Seattle, WA) **FTM 2001: A Gender Odyssey** is the fifth conference organized under the auspices of FTM International for female to male transsexuals and anyone interested in gender issues, or the people who love them. It will be held in Seattle, WA. Memorial Day weekend, May 25th - 28th, 2001.

This is the follow-up to the very successful Forward Motions conference held in Burbank, CA. in October 1999. Local organizers for FTM 2001: A Gender Odyssey expects as many as 500 participants from around the world, across the nation, and all walks of life.

The featured speakers will be Phyllis Randolph Frye, Houston attorney for Christie Lee Littleton and transgender activist extraordinaire, and noted author Patrick Califia-Rice. There will also be numerous workshops, "town meeting" plenaries, social activities, and information sources.

Topics will include gender theory, cultures, and politics; all aspects of transitioning from female to male; relationships with family, friends, partners, and lovers; and their relationships with FTMs and others who were born with female bodies but have a masculine gender identity.

Special early registration rates are available until Feb. 15th, and there are a limited number of scholarships, especially for youth. Registration information can be found at the conference web site www.ftm2001.org or can be requested via voicemail at 206-527-7433 or in writing to P.O. Box 23157 Seattle, WA. 98102. There are also advertising and vendor opportunities at the conference. That information is also available at those contact sources.

If you have a web site that you would like to link to the conference's, please inform us; or if you know of other people or organizations who should be getting these announcements, please forward them and/or send us the necessary contact information to do so. Contact Rory Gould at ftmconference@yahoo.com or leave a voicemail message for the organizing committee at 206-527-7433 for further information.

TGSF Donations - Our Friends Who Give as of January 15, 2001

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NATIONAL TRANSGENDER LOBBY DAYS ANNOUNCED

It's lobbying time again! The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) is pleased to announce preliminary plans for the group's first-ever organized lobbying effort in Washington DC. The premier transgender community initiative on Congress will occur the week of May 14, with a plenary training and strategy session on Sunday, May 13.

NTAC, the newest national transgender civil rights organization, is sending out a call to the nation's transgender and intersex community, all supportive family and friends, and helping professionals to unite for a show of strength on Capitol Hill. Founded in 1999, NTAC is currently the only national political group with special focus given to education about, and advocacy for, all transgender / gender variant citizens.

Many may ask why attempt lobbying a Congress that is numerically stacked against us? While there is no shot at favorable legislation this session, there is still much education to be done with our legislators. NTAC realizes that only by educating our legislators regarding our needs, can we affect change for our community - and our community has ample need.

Some talk around the nation has centered around a "mandate for morality" this congressional session, and what that means to our community. If indeed there is such a mandate, the last thing any of the target minority communities should do is to disappear or become complacent. This only lends the impression that we, as a community, have become disgusted and "given up the fight." Anyone who would have such a mandate in mind will take our inaction at this time as momentum for their movement.

Our community can make a statement by being proactive. Our needs must be heard, our experiences must be told. Help us as we begin laying the foundation for our future equality. We can do this! Please join NTAC, and other transgender and intersex groups and individuals from around the nation, on the week of May 14 in our nation's capital. For more information see the NTAC web site ... www.ntac.org/lobby.html

(The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition is the nation's preeminent transgender civil rights organization. NTAC works for the advancement of understanding and the attainment of civil rights for all transgendered and intersexed people in every aspect of society. For more information, visit the website at <http://www.ntac.org>)

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AN OPEN LETTER TO GENDER RIGHTS ACTIVISTS

Below is a reprint of an open letter from 22 transgender and gender-rights activists, seeking to begin a dialogue in and around the trans-community concerning an effort to reconstitute a political voice on the national scene. We think you might be interested in doing a news article on this development.

We are sending the letter in response to a series of disturbing changes in GenderPAC, which until now had been the de facto national political arm of the trans-movement. The letter details some of our concerns in that respect.

If you would like more information, please feel free to contact us.

Pauline Park
[redacted]@ix.netcom.com or 718-[redacted]
Donna M. Cartwright
[redacted]@Earthlink.net
or 201-[redacted] 212-[redacted]

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

We are writing to you to express our concern about the current crisis in transgender politics. We think it is time to start a broadly based dialogue to examine productive responses to this situation.

The new century brings with it considerable opportunity and promise for the transgender community, particularly in view of the organizing taking place on the state and local level. The formation of the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy (NYAGRA) in June 1998 and the recent launch of the Gender Rights Advocacy Association of New Jersey (GRAANJ) represent a significant advance for the transgender political communities in the Northeast. Existing transgender groups like It's Time, Illinois and individual trans-activists have built increasingly fruitful relationships with state LGBT political organizations.

However, a disturbing vacuum is developing at the national political level. For the last few years, GenderPAC has functioned in fact, if not in name, as the voice of the trans-community on federal public policy issues. But, after a year of wrenching internal struggle, that organization is now distancing itself rapidly from transgender concerns and community.

We share with Riki Anne Wilchins, GenderPAC's executive director, a critique of the narrow 'identity politics' that would divorce the concerns of transgender-identified people from a broader politics which recognizes oppressions experienced by "all" people who express their gender in non-normative ways. In our advocacy work, we try to find ways to take into account the complexities of variant expressions of gender without falling into simplistic identity categories.

But in the name of "non-identity politics," GenderPAC is now pursuing a "mainstreaming" strategy that appears to involve de-emphasizing its connection to the trans-community. This new focus has resulted in the dropping of some of GenderPAC's transgender-focused projects. GenderPAC's call for its "National Conference on Gender" next spring made it clear that proposals for trans-focused workshops would not be well received.

Additionally, GenderPAC's Congressional E.E.O. Project, which it launched with great fanfare earlier this year and which it still touts as its showpiece effort in the political world, has, in fact, been languishing since early summer.

Sadly, trans-identified GenderPAC directors who have spoken in support of a transgender focus have been treated with considerable disrespect and pressured to resign.

GenderPAC was founded as a coalition of transgender-specific and other queer organizations with a mission to pursue the political empowerment of the transgender community through advocacy, federal legislation and other means. The scuttling of this original mission in favor of a vague focus as a 'national gender rights organization' means that there is now no credible organization to advocate on behalf of the transgender community at the national level. With queer concerns occupying a growing place on the national political agenda, we cannot afford to let this come about.

Given these recent disturbing developments, we believe that there is an urgent need to begin a discussion within the transgender community about reviving a presence at the national level. Toward that end, we would like to invite all interested gender activists — whether the primary focus of their work is political, educational, or cultural — to participate in a broad-ranging discussion of the issues raised by GenderPAC's dramatic shift in direction. We are planning to organize an e-group as the most feasible way to include interested individuals in such a discussion.

If you are interested in taking part, please let us know. But even if you are not, we would love to hear your views on the community's situation at the dawn of the 21st century.

ISO Couple...

Crossdresser and wife looking for similar couple 35-45 to share some dinner and conversation with in SF.

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This is the third of a series of articles by Janis Ryan in which she shares her observations and experiences as a crossdresser who frequently goes out in public en femme. Your comments are welcome. Janis can be contacted by email at [redacted]@tgforum.com

R-E-S-P-E-C-T

by Janis Ryan

When we go out in public as women, we need to keep in mind the feelings of other women. This is especially true in places such as restrooms and dressing rooms in stores. Keep in mind that each of us is seen as a representative of the entire transgendered community.

Many articles have been published regarding the use of women's restrooms, and the authors have expressed opinions which are often diverging. In this article I will summarize some of the issues and provide my experiences and conclusions.

Legal Issues

First, in California there is no state law against using the restroom of either gender. This is stated in an article on the **TG Forum** Web Site (www.tgforum.com) by attorney Carolyn Woodward. She states that it is "only illegal here to loiter about public toilets for lewd or lascivious purposes." Another law which I discovered makes it illegal to invade someone's privacy, which could mean intentionally looking into a private stall which someone else is using.

Some cities such as San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and North Hollywood, California and Seattle, Washington, have enacted laws which specifically require that people be allowed to use the restroom and changing facilities that they prefer regardless of gender. However, I have been informed that in Nevada and other places it is specifically illegal to do so. So consulting with an attorney who is knowledgeable about the law where you live or travel is important.

The Ladies' Room

Multi-occupancy women's restrooms always have individual stalls for privacy. In some countries in Europe and elsewhere public restrooms are shared by both genders, with the stalls in one area and urinals, if present, in another.

Many smaller restaurants, as well as BART stations, have single-occupancy restrooms, sometimes unisex and sometimes labeled for each gender. Others may have a separate unisex restroom for access by persons in wheelchairs.

Places such as airports usually have very large restrooms. Large department stores such as **Nordstrom's** have restrooms which have separate areas for women to sit and relax. Other stores, restaurants and other public places may have restrooms with several stalls.

Dressing Rooms

Stores which sell women's clothing generally have dressing rooms where customers may try on clothes before purchasing. Some, have unisex, single-occupancy rooms. Others have rooms with multiple stalls and larger mirrors in the area outside the stalls. Women who count the number of articles often monitor these brought in, give you a tag with that number on it, and count the number of articles that you bring out.

Personal Experiences

My first experience in using women's restrooms and changing rooms was during a trip to visit friends in Seattle in August 1998. I had joined then ETVG in February of that year, and had attended **California Dreamin'** as well as making trips to San Jose and Reno for makeovers.

Since then I have been in both northern and southern California, and many parts of Washington and Oregon as well. I have shopped alone and with friends in many of these places I have encountered very few negative experiences using women's restrooms or dressing rooms. In fact, since I have come out to some of my women friends we frequently go into multi-occupancy restrooms together.

Once in a restroom in a bar in San Francisco a woman asked me why I chose the room. I explained it to her, and she understood. Once in a department store, where I had just tried on a dress in another department I was told *not* to use a different women's dressing room to try on a shirt! At a transit facility in the Los Angeles area I was the only occupant of a multi-occupancy restroom when a male security guard knocked on entrance door and told me that I shouldn't be there. At a restaurant where the owner knows me one woman patron complained to the owner of my being in the women's room, and the owner asked that I not use it in the future.

Despite these incidents, I have found that most women either don't notice or don't regard me as a threat.

Practical Advice

First, *never* enter a multi-occupancy men's restroom while you are dressed as a woman. If anyone else is in there you will provoke a confrontation, and could face a physical threat.

The best choice, if possible, is to avoid the issue entirely by using a single-occupancy restroom or dressing room. Lock the door behind you, and use the facility in private. As I wrote in my earlier article *The Passing Lane*, "The most important thing about being out in public is **confidence**, which only comes with practice. Anyone will spot you if you look nervous and uncomfortable." This is especially true in a rest room situation. If you have *not* yet reached the point of feeling confident in public, don't use a multi-occupancy Women's Room.

When you do decide to use a multi-occupancy women's room, just try to blend in with the other women there. Use the stall sitting down, and of course leave the seat down. Afterwards use the sink to wash your hands, and use the mirror to fix your makeup and hair.

If someone challenges you about being there, be tactful and polite. Explain why you are there, and that you do not mean to disrespect or threaten anyone by your presence.

Respect

I have experienced men trying to pick me up and suggest sexual acts. I have been groped physically. I have had one attempt by a man to snatch my purse. And I have often been in situations where I have felt threatened.

These are the things that women have had to deal with their entire lives. We must respect that fact, and not be perceived as threats to women ourselves.

I have found out that among the women that I know, and many whom I meet in public, most are understanding and helpful. It is by our individual actions in public that we can help gain the respect and support of other people for ourselves and the transgendered community.

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.

Phyllabuster

HETERO CDs

FINALLY FIGHTING BACK!

I was pleased to read the following three articles in the "Femme Mirror" of the Tau Chi Chapter of Tri Ess. I have no doubt that this copy went to other chapters and will probably appear in those publications as well.

There is no doubt in my mind that the greatest numbers and wealth in the LGBT community resides within the heterosexual crossdressers. I am very excited to see that the Winn Dixie case is driving home the message that their closets are not safe and that they must join with us in the struggle.

I salute the three writers and applaud their efforts. If you agree, please respond to the writers via the magazine's editors.

No-Winn Situation

By Jane Ellen Fairfax

This communication is intended for all chapters and forming groups, except Mu Beta Gamma Chapter of Miami, which, I am proud to say, has already acted in this most important matter.

We have before us a case in which, as crossdressers and believers in human dignity, we must act. Peter Oiler was an employee who drove trucks for Winn-Dixie Corporation. For 23 years he honorably plied his trade. Although he is a crossdresser, he confined his crossgender expression to his own home and his own time. Nevertheless, Winn-Dixie terminated his employment, citing possible harm to the company's image from Oiler merely being a crossdresser.

It is easy for us, being crossdressers who move freely back and forth in our expression of the genders, to think the struggle for the human rights of transgendered people is not relevant to us. The case of Peter Oiler shows how very false this notion is, for the discrimination is against a person like us. This is not the first time this has happened. There have been noteworthy cases involving several who are or were members of Tri-Ess. Ladies and gentlemen, discrimination against transgendered people does involve us! And we had better get involved in joining with our colleagues throughout the transgendered community in fighting it.

The transgendered community and the American Civil Liberties Union have taken up the cause of Oiler and his family in their struggle to recover his rights and bring an end to the wanton discrimination at Winn-Dixie. A Coalition has formed to join with them so that right may prevail. Tri-Ess has joined the Coalition, and sent the following statement for publication on the Web site begun for this purpose:

The monstrous conduct of Winn-Dixie, in denying a human being his livelihood on the grounds of gender expression, is an affront to all that believe in human dignity. As justification for this egregious discrimination, Winn-Dixie apparently cited harm to the company's image. Mr. Peter Oiler's 23 years of loyal service to Winn-Dixie and his consideration in confining his crossgender expression to his own time, marks this defense as a sham and a fraud.

Over and above its discrimination against transgendered people, Winn-Dixie is sending a chilling message to every American: Your employer can reach into the sanctity of your home, and terminate your livelihood on the basis of your private interests. Tri-Ess stands proudly with Peter Oiler and his family as they struggle to throw off the yoke of discrimination. It is our heartfelt hope that they will not settle with their oppressor, but will establish legal precedent so that this denial of human rights may never again occur in America.

I am urging each of our chapters and forming groups to join the Coalition for the protection of human rights at Winn-Dixie. In the name of human dignity, please do the following:

1) E-mail Eric Ferrero of the ACLU and copy Courtney Sharp, who has been a strong friend of Tri-Ess for many years and who is helping coordinate this effort. In your e-mail, you should request that your group be included in the Coalition. It will help if you would send a brief statement of support for publication on the Web site. This should be done right away. Their e-mail addresses are as follows: eferrero@aclu.org, and StressGone@aol.com

2) Disseminate information about the Oiler case to your membership, educating them about the issues.

3) Post a banner ad on your chapter's Web site, linking it with the Coalition's site, which is: www.ShameOnWinnDixie.com

4) Make contact with officials at Winn-Dixie and let them know how you feel about their conduct against Mr. Oiler. Here is their contact information:

President and CEO, Al Rowland, e-mail: AlRowland@winn-dixie.com, Phone: 904.783.5000, Fax: 904.783.5235

Division President, New Orleans Division (Oiler's Division), Michael Istre, e-mail: MichaelIstre@winn-dixie.com, Phone: 504.731.2200, Fax: 504.731.2379

Although Peter Oiler is a heterosexual crossdresser, I am proud to say that all parts of the GLBT community have taken up his cause. It is absolutely vital that we all get involved. If we don't look out for our own interests, this could happen to any one of us.

Some Thoughts on the Winn-Dixie Protest

By Bonnie

We have all heard about the Winn-Dixie protest/rally. For those who have not found it, there is a story on the event as reported by the Florida Times-Union. That story can be found at the following URL: http://www.jacksonville.com/tu-online/stories/010601/met_5058895.html

This article seems to have fairly reported the event and the situation of Mr. Oiler though it is difficult to tell knowing no more facts than we do. I have never been close to an instance of one losing a job because of crossdressing but a good friend of mine lost his position due to age discrimination it seems to me that this may be a combination of the two.

Prejudice by any of its faces is an ugly thing. Often people become too lost in business to recognize beauty; at that point ugly doesn't seem to matter much to them.

Continued on Page 13

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



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The article says that 20 people protested; thanks to Jo and Brandi, 10 percent of the protesters were from Houston. That is great. Thank you, Jo and Brandi, for representing us as crossdressers and the entire TG community. I wish more of us could have been with you, but knowing Jo, I have no doubt that we were all heard.

I have a tendency to try to read something positive into an article like this. Probably the most positive statement from Winn-Dixie was from their spokesman Mickey Clerc who said that the case is being reviewed internally and through the legal processes. I find this positive in that if it is still being reviewed, there is still a chance to be heard. We should all continue our efforts to communicate our feelings to Winn-Dixie in this matter. I know it seems futile but we may be able to make a difference and it is certainly worth the time to continue to make our feelings known via e-mail.

My personal message to the local Winn-Dixie at which I used to shop is ready for snail mail tomorrow. No, I did not have the courage to use my real name and address, but I did sign my e-mail address. I cannot count the amount of times I have been ma'amed in that store while dressed as Bill; the checkers seemed to get a kick out of it after they saw that I was smiling. As an aside, it seems that I get ma'amed more as Bill than as Bonnie. I wonder if there is a meaning in that?

If I were Peter Oiler, I don't know that I would go back to work for Winn-Dixie, should the opportunity arise. We must remember, though, that it was not the mass of people at Winn-Dixie who did this thing, but one or two ignorant managers. Unfortunately there is little that can be done to educate or change folks like that. My opinion, for what little it will be worth to them, is that Peter Oiler should be given the opportunity to rejoin Winn-Dixie and the managers responsible for his dismissal be dismissed. But that is the idealist in me.

What this has done for me personally is to make me realize that I have been lax in my support of the community in general. Sometimes it takes a bomb closer to home to make us realize our own frailty. I will be at the next Waco PFLAG meeting Tuesday night. That is my only local organization to support and it is a worthwhile one. I would encourage you all to support PFLAGTG support is on their agenda.

**Ms. Smith Goes to Austin;
Fun and Revelations Lobbying
at Texas Gender Advocacy Day**

By Julie

Roughly two years ago I went to my state capitol to lobby for transgendered, gay and lesbian rights. I was part of a great big group (more than 30 people) comprised of crossdressers, transsexuals, transgenderists, spouses and our brothers, the FTM counterparts. We visited almost every state senator and representative, in excess of 150.

Why tell you this? It was FUUUUUN!!! It was inspiring, meaningful and instructive. It was challenging, daunting and bold. It was delightful. Best of all, its happening again in February.

The event began before I arrived a whole DAY before. Sarah DePalma, the take-no-prisoners activist for T-folk in Texas and everywhere, had arranged for a primer the night before we

lobbied. We met at a motel near the state Capitol so that people could learn, arrive late and get dressed the next morning in safety and style. There were speakers who coached us on what to say. The organizers fielded questions and made sure everyone had what they needed. Most importantly, they handed out sheets listing the critical information the names of the elected officials, the location of their offices, a map showing how to get there and the times of their appointments. The organizers had already scheduled appointments, so that part was set. In addition, everyone was given the names and numbers of key bills we endorsed and disliked. This made it very simple to talk directly to our representatives in a cogent, forceful and meaningful manner.

I had to work the night before, but I took a day off from work and drove three hours to Austin to be there and do my part. I didn't have much vacation at the time (still don't!) but my spouse and I agreed that it was an important thing to do. We were right.

The Main Event

First things first the girls and guys all lined up in front of the state capitol for a big picture. We held up a banner, mugged for the camera and made history. (For the record, the photo was strictly voluntary.) The offices of an extra-friendly representative, Deborah Danburg, served as our headquarters. Her staff was very friendly, supportive and helpful, even in the midst of all their other work. I'll never forget them. One of the nicest things about this event, though, held true no matter whose office we were in we were treated with dignity and respect by absolutely everyone. That includes the state capitol police and the most conservative nut cases you could imagine. (It's so nice to feel like a lady.)

Well, we hit the halls. There was encouragement and discouragement. There were highs and lows, and lots of surprises. One of our girls, Vanessa, tried to talk a staff member into supporting a particular bill, one that would help provide job security to the transgendered. The staffer said she didn't think her office could support the bill. Vanessa quipped, Well, I guess you don't mind if we all go on welfare. This caught the staffer by surprise, and after a few minutes of talking and explaining, she changed her stance.

I talked with a very conservative lawmaker. He'd shot down many bills in the past. The main reason was that he was an insurance spokesman, and fought any bill that would cost insurance companies money. This included (amazingly) hate-crimes legislation and health care for those transitioning. However, he DID decide to back two pieces of legislation one allowing GLBTs more access in adoption, and one striking down a state anti-sodomy statute. Since they didn't affect his business, he didn't have objections.

Continued on Page 15

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- or tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

SUMMARY OF 2000 ELECTION

Hi everyone...

I needed to get the TPC wrapped-up in my mind so I could go on to other things in my life...such as finding a job. We did OK ladies and gentlemen. It's time now to turn over the results to the TG Task Force and let them do whatever they can with what we achieved. I think we achieved quite a lot. Thank you all for your support and participation. It was a joint effort all along the way from conception to the final delivery of the flyers. Below find a letter I hand carried to the Task Force. It describes most of what we accomplished. Wonderful job...and adios.

Theresa Sparks

The 2000 Political Campaign in San Francisco

It has been said that "all politics are local." The Transgender Political Caucus was created out of a desire for transgender people to finally have a voice in the local political process here in San Francisco. The Charter Committee of the TPC was established to provide leadership to what has always been a very fractured transgender community in the City. The Charter Committee was comprised of individuals who had been recognized advocates for transgender issues in their respective ethnic, economic, racial and sexual communities. No celebrities were asked to become members because we wanted the Committee to be faceless and nameless, merely a group of concerned individuals who wanted only to make a difference. The Charter Committee provided the leadership and our voice was indeed heard.

During the general election, we forwarded four pre-determined questions to 57 of 89 candidates running for supervisor in the eleven districts. Only those with e-mail addresses received the questionnaire. Of the 57 candidates receiving the questions, 29 responded. In nearly every case, the responses were positive. Both of the candidates who won the general election outright, Gavin Newsome (District 2) and Tom Ammiano (District 9) were very supportive of our issues in their questionnaire responses.

After the general election was completed and the runoff candidates had been determined in the remaining nine districts, we attempted to schedule interviews with runoff candidates in the districts where the greatest population of transgender individuals lived or worked. We contacted candidates in Districts 3, 5, 6 and 10. In District 8, Castro, Noe Valley and the Outer Mission, we chose not to schedule interviews because both campaigns had transsexuals on staff and both candidates, Mark Leno and Eileen Hansen, had strong records of support for the transgender community.

In District 3, Russian Hill and North Beach, we met with Aaron Peskin and Lawrence Wong. In District 5, Haight and Western Addition, we met with Matt Gonzales and were told by Juanita Owens' staff that she didn't have the time to meet with us. In District 6, Tenderloin, SOMA, Hayes Valley and the Inner Mission, we met with Chris Daly and Chris Dittenhafer. In District 10, Bayview and Hunters Point, we met with Linda Richardson and Sophia Maxwell. Each interview was conducted by at least two members of the Charter Committee over approximately a two week period. Upon completion of the interviews, we met and discussed endorsements in each of districts 3, 5, 6, 8 and 10.

After significant discussion about all of the candidates, their published positions on citywide issues, relative chances of success, questionnaire responses and interviews, we chose to endorse individuals in Districts 3, 5, 6 and 8. Both candidates in District 10 were supportive but, to conserve our limited resources, we decided not to endorse either. We chose Aaron Peskin, Matt Gonzales, Chris Dittenhafer and Mark Leno to endorse in Districts 3, 5, 6 and 8

TPC Questionnaire

Dear Candidate:

The Transgender Political Caucus (TPC) is an organization comprised of individuals who self-identify as transgender; family members, domestic partners or friends of transgenders; as well as all others who are sympathetic to transgender issues. We have members living in every district in the City, including your district. The organization is lead by a Charter Committee made up of individuals from nearly every economic, geographic, racial, ethnic, social, sexual and gender element of what is commonly known as the San Francisco transgender community.

The individuals living in your district are interested in your response to the following questions:

1. Given the current practice of (trans)gender profiling by the SFPD, and that nearly half of all violence against transgenders is committed by the SFPD or the Sheriff's Department, **would you support** mandatory transgender sensitivity training for all law enforcement employees, as well as transgender ride-alongs, roll-call training or other programs designed to stop transgender discrimination by the SFPD and Sheriff's Department?

2. Given that many non-profits, private agencies and outside contractors who are funded through City or County programs openly discriminate against transgenders, **would you support** transgender non-discrimination language, consistent with the current Gender Discrimination Ordinance, as a contract provision in all Agreements between the City and County of San Francisco and outside service providers, or as a stipulation for obtaining a license to do business in San Francisco?

3. Given that transgenders represent approximately 2% of the population of San Francisco, account for less than 20 of the 26,000 public employees, hold no positions as department or agency heads and are only one of the more than 400 City and County Commissioners, **would you support** an aggressive educational, recruiting and hiring campaign to seek out qualified transgenders for positions within agencies, departments and commissions of the City and County of San Francisco?

4. Given current estimates that upwards of 70% of openly transgender individuals are unemployed and that transgender employment, hiring and promotion discrimination is openly practiced by many businesses in the private sector in San Francisco, **would you support** publicly funded educational, public relations, outreach or other programs designed to de-mystify the transgender condition and help integrate qualified transgenders into the mainstream workforce?

Please respond via e-mail to TransgenderPC@aol.com prior to October 24, 2000. Your responses will then be distributed to all members of the TPC, as well as to the media. TPC members will be encouraged to actively work to elect those candidates who support the transgender community.

Editor's Note: The response issued by Supervisor Mark Leno is reprinted on Page 16.

respectively. All except Chris Dittenhafer, in District 6, won in the runoff election. For each of our endorsed candidates we published our endorsement, produced 2,500 flyers for distribution in the candidates district, encouraged supporters to contribute to the candidates campaigns and solicited volunteers to work the phone banks and perform literature drops. We even had the flyers delivered to each campaign headquarters by taxi (a small touch of class).

During the general and runoff elections we had transsexuals in paid staff position in three campaigns, Dittenhafer, Leno and Hansen. We forwarded our questionnaire to fifty-seven candidates and received responses from twenty-nine. We met, or worked with, nine candidates and officially endorsed four. We designed, produced and delivered 10,000 endorsement flyers, 2,500 to each of the endorsed candidates. We provided more than thirty-five volunteers, spread throughout various campaigns, worked phone banks, walked precincts and donated money.

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NEW YORK TRANSGENDER ATTACKED

Melissa Hart, 20, a transgendered sex worker, was beaten and robbed in the early morning hours of January 25, 2000 in Queens. Ms. Hart had just left a local hotel when eight Spanish speaking men threw her to the ground and attacked her.

One assailant held Ms. Hart by her throat and beat her head against the sidewalk, while other assailants beat with their fists. The attackers stripped her of her coat, and stole her cell phone and approximately \$350 from her purse. Other passing motorists and nearby taxis ignored or paid no attention to the incident. After beating her for several minutes, Ms. Hart was left crying in pain on the sidewalk.

This latest of a series of attacks spotlights the grim and potentially deadly conditions most transgendered sex-workers face. Stonewall veteran Sylvia Rivera, Head of the Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries (STAR) said Ms. Hart should "be glad they didn't cut or rape her." The attack was reported to PONY (Prostitutes Of New York).

Jamie Hunter, Outreach Coordinator for the Metropolitan Gender Network, commented on the case that "this is yet another example of men preying on transgendered sex workers, who have no recourse except the support of their own friends in the transgendered community."

The attack is a significant result of the glaring lack of employment opportunities for transgenders - especially transsexuals. With the recent push for an Omnibus Equal Rights bill supported by the Democratic Party, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) looks hopefully for congressional support and passage of employment rights which include transgenders and intersexuals.

Please join NTAC in calling for Congress to enact true equal rights for all its citizens. Until then, the lives of many transgenders, such as Melissa Hart, hang in the balance.

DEFENDANT IN DEATH OF TRANSGENDERED TEEN TAKES STAND

A man charged with killing a 19-year-old transgendered man has testified in his defense that he was trying to protect himself during a struggle with the victim, The [San Jose, Calif.] Mercury News reports.

Kozi Scott, 22, is charged with strangling Manuel Reyes Eredia to death in Scott's home last January. Scott said he never intended to kill Eredia, who dressed as a woman, but was only defending himself in a struggle with Eredia. Authorities say that Scott had been drinking copiously and was upset to find that Eredia was a man. The pair had met and returned to Scott's place to have sex. They fought after arguing about Eredia's gender.

"She was pretty strong," Scott testified. "By now, it was my opinion she was a man. He was way too strong to be a woman." Eredia weighed 260 pounds, and Scott weighs 170 pounds. Scott says he used an armlock with the intention of rendering Eredia unconscious. "It didn't seem like a long time," Scott said. "I never thought she could die from a 'sleeper hold.'"

Scott said he panicked when he realized Eredia was dead and didn't call authorities because he was afraid of being outed as bisexual. During cross-examination, deputy district attorney Michael Fletcher pointed out that Scott received just a few scratches from his struggle with Eredia, while the victim endured cuts and bruises, including five blunt trauma injuries to the head. Scott stuffed Eredia's body in his father's car, where it was found by police. Scott is also charged with a hate crime in connection with the attack, but several witnesses testified that he seemed comfortable with gay men and transgendered people and never expressed any bias against them. If convicted, Scott faces a prison term of 15 years to life.

Continued from Page 14

In addition, there were two transsexual women as candidates for supervisor in District 6, Joan Roughgarden and Denise D'Anne.

All in all, I believe we accomplished what we set out to do. We helped get supportive candidates elected to the Board, made our issues known to a great many more and personified the term "transgender" to hundreds (if not thousands) of ordinary citizens of San Francisco.

Out of eleven supervisors on the new Board, we have Gavin Newsome and Tom Ammiano who won re-election in the general; Aaron Peskin, Matt Gonzales and Mark Leno who we endorsed in the runoff; and Jake McGoldrick, Chris Daly and Sophia Maxwell who returned very positive responses to our questionnaire. Out of the eleven supervisors to be sworn in on January 8th, eight are now very aware, and supportive of, our issues and have demonstrated so in their responses to the questionnaire, public statements or press releases to the media. I think it can be said that we now have one of the best educated (about our issues) and the most transgender-sensitive Board of Supervisors ever in the history of this City.

Phyllabuster...

Continued from Page 12

A number of legislators said they could not support bills, but that they could help in other ways. One way was to take a walk, meaning that they would be absent when voting occurred, thus neither voting for nor against. Others said that they would not block votes for a bill to leave committee to get on the floor. All in all, it was terrific. These were the people who made and changed the laws in the state. It was a treat to get to meet them and to get a sense of what makes them tick. It'll make us that much more effective the next time around.

The Highlights

Of course, there were some truly spectacular moments, moments that I will never forget. One of them was eating lunch. We all met in the cafeteria, collecting into groups of three or four to fill the tables. What a sight a half dozen tables of crossdressers and transsexuals sitting among the states finest. I remember seeing a few extra-tall gals standing in line among some rather short and uncomfortable staffers. I had lunch with a friend and two FTM crossdressers. It was an inspiration to meet these brave boys and hear their stories. (cont., page 13) (ms. smith, cont.) They were both married, and had supportive spouses. Their children didn't know (sound familiar?) and they, too, had taken vacation time to be there. For all the torture we endure, they also have a very tough road to hoe, and I was glad to know my brothers and speak with them.

I was also glad, very glad, once during the day. I saw a pair of sisters getting out of the elevator, followed by two rather hungry-eyed gents. Suddenly, they realized at just WHOM they were looking. I must say, I found their discomfort rather tasty. I left that day at 4:30 to beat the traffic. I was overwhelmed with feeling and satisfaction. Can one girl really make a difference? Maybe. Can thirty girls? You betcha. Best of all, I dressed in my best all day long and felt wonderful for it, and would never feel quite as uncomfortable in public again. That was worth the price of admission alone.

MARK LENO

District 8

TG Questionnaire

- 1) I not only support mandatory transgender sensitivity training for all law enforcement employees, but I called for a hearing on this subject which drew media attention to the problem and I have requested that both the Sheriff's and Police Departments implement training for all of their employees. I support development of transgender Q2's and ride-alongs, roll call training, and I have asked the Departments to draft policy protocols which would define proper procedures for officers who work with the TG community. I have secured a commitment from the Police Department to implement these protocols.
- 2) Yes I would support this and have been working on legislation which would require City contractors to have non-discrimination policies on their books that include gender identity in order to attain a contract with the City. This legislation is on hold, however, due to advice from the City Attorney that this legislation should not move forward while our similar domestic partnership legislation is pending. The passage of new legislation which restricts City contractors could have an adverse effect on the domestic partnership case and could jeopardize the City's ability to place restrictions on contractors.
- 3) Absolutely. I am currently working to secure funding for a TG specific position at the Human Rights Commission, working with the Chamber of Commerce and leading a city-wide small business forum to promote hiring from the TG community, and I will be meeting with the Department of Human Services over the coming year to promote hiring directly from the Department.
- 4) Yes, and I have already requested that the City Attorney draft legislation which would require all businesses to post the City's educational notice about our non-discrimination law. Every business owner in the City would be required to post notification that it is illegal to discriminate against anyone in employment on the basis of gender-identity. My office is currently working to identify funding for the distribution of this notification, and after that is identified I will introduce the legislation.
- 5) I have had years of personal experience with many people from the TG community, and this experience has helped to shape my ongoing advocacy for their community. On the Board of Supervisors, I have taken the lead in addressing issues of importance to the community and have made history with the creation of the Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force. I will spend the next two years working with the Task Force to develop new policies that will make San Francisco a model city for transgender rights. I want to among other things work to remove the state law that nullifies local civil rights legislation for TG people; to hold transgender health and employment summits geared towards changing insurance policies and promoting hiring from the community; to draft language for the Police Department a general order that outlines proper conduct for interactions with the community; to hire a transgender sensitivity trainer at the Human Rights Commission which will expand training to all City departments; and to work with the Mayor to recruit members of the community for high profile positions within the City's leadership.

NTAC Media Release - January, 2000

CALIFORNIA TO REVISIT TRANSSEXUAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE BILL

The National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC) salutes California Assemblyman John Longville (D-Rialto) who promises to reintroduce AB1851 this session in the new Assembly.

Existing California law provides for California-born transsexual residents to obtain a new birth certificate. Last year's State Assembly Bill AB1851 provided a means for those born in California but living elsewhere, and those new to the state to be able to also take advantage of that right. The bill easily passed through the California legislature. Governor Gray Davis, however, vetoed the bill.

The bill will be reintroduced this session and assigned a new number, but will remain true to its spirit. The bill will simply call for a clarification of the process by which transsexuals, other than those born and still living here, can access their right to legal documentation. "He wants to take another crack at it," Kristen Wingate, a spokeswoman for Longville said. "The assemblyman is a strong advocate of LGBT rights and believes he can guide this bill into law."

"This is a simple matter of correcting a technicality" began NTAC's Board Chair, Yoseñio Lewis, "that will allow transsexuals who are California residents, but born in other states - like me - to have the legal option to change our birth certificates to accurately reflect our gender."

Not much has been done to reword the bill yet, in part because many LGBT advocates felt that Davis' previous veto came not from opposing it, but rather from an apparent lack of comprehension. Longville's office has pledged to work with the governor to ensure that this time, the bill will be signed. "We are planning on working more closely with his office so he understands what the bill does," said Wingate. "And, if there are parts of it that remain a concern for him, we plan to come up with a resolution."

Continued on Page 17

Seahorse Medical Clinic Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



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PROJECT - NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

To Friends in Our Community:

You have probably noticed as you drive down Market Street that San Francisco's new L / G / B / T Community Center is emerging rapidly from the ground.

Your help is needed. We are seeking your suggestions of heroes and heroines from our community whose names will be memorialized as the names of meeting rooms and other spaces throughout the new Center.

We would like to ask if you, your friends or your organization would send us your suggestions for consideration. Please complete and return the questionnaire below by e-mail or regular mail. Please distribute the attached heroes / heroines nomination form to your staff, participants, clients, members, board and friends and urge them to make sure that their voice is heard. If you have any questions call the Center's office at 415-437-2257.

We truly appreciate your help and welcome your involvement in this special aspect of the our new Center.

**Most sincerely,
Randi Gerson
Building Committee Co-chair
L/G/B/T Community Center**

Who Are Our Heroes and Heroines?

The Community Center Project of San Francisco, Inc. is currently constructing the Center for the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) community. When the Center opens in the fall of 2001, we want it to be a welcoming space for the full diversity of the community. We plan on naming many of the rooms in the center after our community heroes and heroines. To that end, we invite individuals and organizations to submit a nomination of a community hero/heroine, leader, mentor, etc. Please use this form, as the information will help the review committee consider your recommendation.

You may submit as many nominations as you wish, but please put each one on a separate form. Nominations need to be submitted or postmarked by February 9, 2001 in order to be considered.

Submitted nominations will be reviewed by a panel of community representatives with the goal of selecting a pool of names that represent the rich diversity of San Francisco's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth and adults.

Nomination:

The following information will assist in consideration of this nomination:

Please tell us why this person or group would be an important name to see within the Center?

Please list any particular aspects of the LGBT community that you think will appreciate seeing or relate to this name being used within the Center.

Your contact information (optional): We request your name, address, phone and email in order to follow-up on your nomination, if we have questions. Also, this will allow us to keep you informed about the Center's construction and the process of naming opportunities.

Please submit this form to: The Community Center Project, 1748 Market Street, Suite 204, San Francisco, CA 94102; Or e mail: CCPMari@aol.com. If you have questions, please contact, Mari Cunningham, 415/ 437-2257 or CCPMari@aol.com.

Continued from Page 16

Members of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality (CAPE) and the Lambda Letters Project cheered Longville's perseverance and promised to immediately open a dialogue with Governor Davis, hoping to interpret his reasons for last year's veto so that the bill will be passed and signed into law this session.

"NTAC applauds Assemblyman Longville for his proactive vision and support of transgender and transsexual people by reintroducing AB1851," stated NTAC's Lewis. "Assemblyman Longville provides another example of what an ally can do to make a difference in many people's lives."

NTAC, the nation's premier transgender civil rights organization, supports the efforts of Assemblyman Longville, CAPE, and the Lambda Letters Project. We recommend that everyone follow and support this bill by visiting www.lambdaletters.org where the bill can be tracked, and fought for, throughout its process.

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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CALL TO ACTION!

I'm posting my letter to Connie Skipitares (writer for SJ Mercury News) in the hope that you will be inspired to make contact with the paper within a day or two regarding the dismally poor coverage of Alina Barrigan's murder trial. Please write your own version and send it off. We need to do this.

**In Unity,
Dana Rivers**

Dear Connie:

This letter is not meant for publication, although you may do with it what you wish. I'm writing to ask you to consider that your coverage of the trial of Alina Barrigan's murderer was not factual, nor was it unbiased. If you are the professional I would assume you to be, then please consider:

- Alina Barrigan chose to change her name legally and live all of her hours as a woman. She deserves to have her choices honored without constant references to her prior identification as a male, or her weight.
- Alina's family was accepting of her decisions involving her gender identity. Respect their wishes. How disturbing for them to constantly be reminded of the most difficult part of their dead child's life. While some facts need to be reported, especially in a case where gender identity is an issue, you went far beyond those necessities in your writing. On their behalf, shame on you for exploiting gratuitous facts to inflate your word count.
- Being transsexual is not easy. It is, obviously, not always a safe life. Coverage of crimes against minorities should be tempered with a sense of social responsibility to remove as much as possible the pallor of hatred which remains among those who do not understand or care about people different from themselves. Your story did nothing to relieve social ignorance. You may well have perpetuated it, allowing someone to think it is all right to ridicule and condemn a transsexual by refusing to acknowledge their gender identification.
- Get over the penis and vagina determinants regarding gender identification. It is old news. If you say you are a woman, as Alina did, and you live your life as a woman, as Alina did, and have a woman's name, as Alina did, then that is who you are.
- Alina Barrigan died because she was a transsexual. You never reported this fact, nor did your story say why it was not considered relevant in the case.
- These were facts which you did find room for. You told me the murderer was bisexual. You told me he had no discernable wounds on his body while the victim had five blunt trauma wounds on hers. You told me this bisexual murderer became enraged upon the discovery that his victim had different genitalia than he imagined her to have. Yet, the jury discounted all this and determined that the murderer's fear of discovery over his bisexuality was reason enough to beat and strangle his victim to death before stuffing her body in the trunk of his car.

I would like to meet with you and your editor and publisher to discuss this matter further. You may want to see my web site (<http://www.danarivers.net>) to find out more about me. If we share objectivity and fair reporting as core journalistic values, then please consider my request and let me know when we can get together.

If your editor and publisher won't meet, then maybe you and I could. My only request is that we meet in a public place that is well lighted and safe. I hope you understand.

LAMBDA LETTERS HAILS NEW TRANSEXUAL RIGHTS BILL

Boyce Hinman, Chief Lobbyist of the Lambda Letters Project, announced today that Assembly Member John Longville has agreed to reintroduce his transsexual rights bill. This bill, (A.B. 1851) passed the California Legislature last year, but was then vetoed by Governor Davis. Hinman expressed his deep gratitude to Assembly Member Longville for his willingness to reintroduce this important bill. Lambda Letters was a sponsor of A.B. 1851 and will be a sponsor of this year's bill as well. A bill number will be assigned to the bill as soon as it is introduced.

The purpose of the bill is to clarify the court process used by transsexuals seeking legal recognition of their new sex. Current law outlines the process for transsexuals born in California who still live here. However the law is unclear as to the process to be used by the courts with people born elsewhere or who were born in California, but live elsewhere now.

A.B. 1851 was acceptable to a majority of the State Legislature and so the new bill will probably be very similar to it. Probably minor adjustments will be made to the new bill to respond to the Governor's concerns about A.B. 1851.

People who are interested in tracking the progress of this and other important civil rights and health legislation are invited to visit the Legislative Update list maintained by the Lambda Letters Project on its web page. To do so, direct your browser to; www.lambdaletters.org. Then click on the Legislative Update button.

The Lambda Letters Project is California's oldest statewide organization lobbying on behalf of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered community. It helps people write letters to elected officials on these issues and also on HIV/AIDS, issues of concern to people of color and women's issues. It delivers well over 100,000 such letters each year. People wishing further information on the project may visit the Project's web page at www.lambdaletters.org, send a request to LambdaLP@aol.com or call (916) 965-6851.

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