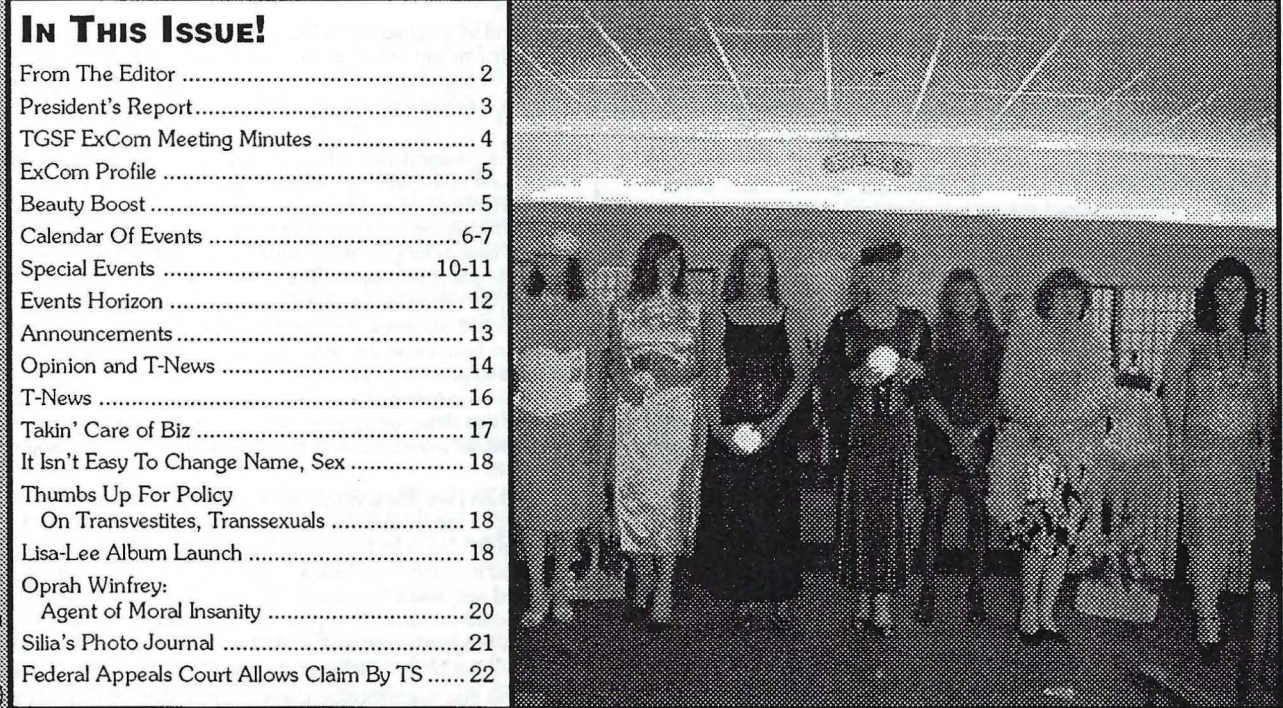


A Day of Beauty for TGSF!

The Channel
TGSF TRANS GENDER SAN FRANCISCO



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TGSF TransGender San Francisco is a group for all members of the Transgender 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 2004 - 2005 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President	Roxy Carmichael-Hart
Vice President	Laura Marlowe
Secretary	Siobhán Ellis
Treasurer	Pamela Gray
Education	Damon Helton
	Dawnne Woodie
Outreach	Kara Flynn
	Allison D Laureano
Social	Anne Louise Mortenson
	Tommie Watson
Miss TGSF 2004	Anne Louise Mortenson
Mr. TGSF 2004	Bobbie Cheung
TGSF Outreach Ambassador	Kelly Anne Marsh

Fine Print

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

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

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Contributing Photographers, this Issue:	Roxy Carmichael-Hart and Silia Hurst

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!*

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246

FROM THE EDITOR...



It's been over 40 years since I was last on an ocean-going passenger liner, traveling with my family to follow Father across the Atlantic for a one-year Sabbatical in London. Since I was only 7 at the time, I only have vague memories and flashback images as mementos of that voyage.

But now in this day of digital photography, I have more concrete proof of our most recent adventure to the mysterious, wild and rugged Northwest, to what the locals up there call the "Panhandle," the southeast piece of Alaska - the land of such marvels as the Inside Passage, the Tongas National Forest, the Misty Fjords, the Mendenhall and Hubbard Glaciers, and the historic narrow gauge railway up the Yukon River to the White Pass summit, gateway to Klondike Gold.

Now if you want to be absolutely spoiled rotten and pampered to the extreme, then take a cruise. I am totally sold on cruises as my vacation of choice from here on out. You don't have to drive anywhere, don't have to worry about hotel rooms or where to eat. Just get on board and leave your brain behind. You need do nothing but what they tell you. Hungry? Just eat. Doesn't matter what time of day it is, there's always something to eat on a cruise ship. Though I have to confess, there truly is a limit to the number of 5-course dinners one can eat in a row. Beyond the 5-star white glove service, our ship (Celebrity's *Mercury*) had 110 chefs churning out 9,000 hand-made French nouvelle cuisine masterpieces a day. And that didn't include the 24-hour room service, the all-day and late-night buffet troughs, the hamburger and hot dog grill poolside, the sushi bar and the midnight pizza and pasta bar.

It was probably the best vacation I've ever had in my life. Nine glorious nights of incredible cuisine, fascinating glimpses at the wildlife (Humpback and Orca whales, Eagles everywhere!), breathtaking scenery, interesting offshore excursions, plenty of onboard activities including a hoity toidy "aqua spa" and a swingin' casino, a fine assortment of duty-free shopping, and pretty good live entertainment. I was never bored, and with 14 decks there was always plenty of space for everyone. Besides, if you're a clothes horse like me, the "formal" dining evenings were a real treat (and consequently, lends itself very nicely to overpacking for the occasion).

Treat yourself. Take a cruise - doesn't matter where: Alaska, Caribbean, Mediterranean, Europe, South America, Hawaii - just go once in your life. But do your homework. We learned that Frommer's puts out an excellent book that compares cruise lines, what ports they service, what itineraries they follow, passenger loads, cruise speed, tonnage and stability ratings. Depending on the route, smaller ships (1,300 passengers or so) get tossed about more on an open sea, but there's a lot to be said about having fewer people on board. Different lines cater to different crowds. Carnival, for instance, targets the 20- to 30-year old party animals, whereas Celebrity or Holland will attract elder retirees and a smattering of families with small children.

And while I had a fabulous time in Alaska, that wasn't what I wanted to write about. It was my ordeal at the San Francisco Federal Passport Office where my adventure truly began. For there it was that our lovely government, in its infinite wisdom, granted me full status as female without the necessity of my having a vagina.

The passport was a necessity as our itinerary began in Vancouver, BC and had as one of its ports of call, the beautiful capital of Victoria. Now I went in to the passport office with a mind to just be legal so I could travel unhindered, and if that meant having my new name with an "a.k.a." and a gender marker of "M" on it, then so be it as long as everyone was satisfied as to my identity. And at first, that's what was going to happen. The supervisor we were assigned to asked me if I'd had surgery, and since I haven't, told me my new passport would be as I expected. She then wanted my name change documentation, but since I never got a court order and have been using the common-usage method here in California (since 1991), I was told to provide three original documents with my new name and dated at least five years ago (paystub, gas bill, etc.). After a frantic drive back to Walnut Creek to retrieve this data, we were assigned to a different supervisor who didn't ask the crucial surgery question and proceeded to process my application assuming that I'd had it.

When I see this is what's taking place, I nudged Sappho in the ribs slyly when he stepped away from the window and whispered out of the side of my mouth, "keep quiet! Don't let him know he's fucking up!" Ba da bing, ba da boom there it was in all it's glory - no "a.k.a." - just my new name, and there enshrined next to the word sex, was a little black "F." Now how cool is that? I no longer need to get a court ordered name change as my new Passport is the supreme identifying document in this land of ours. Nor do I need any genital reconstruction to prove I'm female. If the United States government says so, then who am I to argue?

And that was probably the best thing about the whole experience. Knowing that I had full rights and passage as an American citizen, and a female U.S. citizen at that. I tell 'ya, after 13 years of a personal journey filled with its share of trials, tribulations, and triumphs, it's always nice to be validated. Know what I mean?

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

October Sky

I think that was a Kevin Costner movie. Or was it "Vanilla Sky" with Tom Cruise? Anyway, no one saw them.

Today is 9-11. Remember the victims and support the police officers, firefighters, service men and women and those who put their lives on the line every day for us.

We had our End of Summer BBQ today. As usual, thanks are in order to those members of the ExCom who time and time again rise up to and surpass the level of expectations. Laura, Pam, Alli, Dawnne and Kara all contributed greatly to this fun event, though it was witnessed by far too few people. It was also good to see some people I had not seen in a while, like Gia and Donna, as well as Bobby, who bought a couple of his compadres, just as we were asking "where are the boys?"

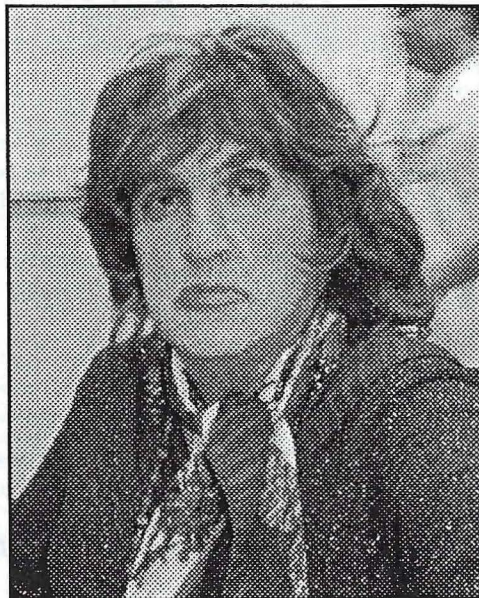
A couple of weeks ago, I attended a non-TGSF event, the Gypsy Hijinks, and IRLM benefit held at Carla's. Check out my picture. Kind of a new look but don't get used to it. I will have another new do by the next time you see me, courtesy of Carla. It was a wonderful event, organized by Tameva (aka Tommy the doll collector), who put his total heart and soul into the effort. I went because I had to stay true to my gypsy roots. I love the bangles I got from Jo-An Torres. I was also pleased to see that she brought so many of her girls. I wanted to give a special thanks to Lisa H who I believe is Jo-An's webmistress. Lisa and I were both fortune tellers and she honored me by visiting my booth, and saying some very kind things when I visited hers. Many of you may not realize this but she lives on the East Coast and quite frankly is more involved in our community than many who live in this area. Her dedication should make us strive to do better. I will have a word to say about the end of the event in a bit. Anyway, we anointed Cookie Princess #4 - Lisa Dummer and she took to the job like a bee to honey.

I am doubly excited today. Yesterday I received our allotment of Cotillion tickets and I am going to be distributing them this week to Carla, Jo-An, and Donna Freeman. So by the time you receive this, you should be able to get your tickets. If you can't make it to their shops or events, you can get them from most of the ExCom members or direct from the Fort Mason Box Office - (415) 345-7575 (phone); (415) 292-4639 (fax) or by mail as follows: Fort Mason Box Office, Landmark Building A, San Francisco, CA 94123. The Fort Mason Box Office accepts Visa and MasterCard and there is a very nominal charge for handling, certainly NOT the \$7 "convenience" fees we see from others. The box office also accepts American Express, which we did not have last year. If you go to the Fort Mason website at www.fortmason.org, you can find directions, a seating chart and other information about the Cowell Theater where our Cotillion will be held. As I have noted previously, we are offering tickets from \$15-45 depending on location so if you would like a "cheap" seat (all seats are really good - Dawnne, Alli and I checked them out personally) act fast.

We have 7-8 Miss TGSF contestants who have expressed an interest in competing for the title. No guys yet, we are working on it. The deadline is November 7. I am very pleased with all of the ladies that have stepped forward. Each of them would do an excellent job and you will meet them as time goes on. I strongly urge you to give each of them your enthusiastic and wholehearted support. They are going to be working very hard to represent you.

Jo-An is going to be acting both as contestant coordinator and costume creator for the Cotillion. She and I discussed some ideas and I was very pleased to hear her say that even my most elaborate ideas were workable and that she had some ideas on ways these ideas could be presented. I feel very fortunate to be able to call on her to help us out and that she was ready willing and able to do whatever she can. She is also getting some of her girls to help as performers and again - there are lots of parts to be had in the show. As I noted - nothing other than some lip-synching and maybe reciting a few lines from movies will be needed. So please write or call if you would like to help.

I told you I was excited for a couple of reasons. The second reason is that I received my copy of Renaissance News and TGSF is featured on the cover with our Pride Parade float. There are a few pictures of some of us inside as well (not my topless picture, thankfully). I am happy to see the national recognition given our organization and this shows that we are indeed an important player on the TG scene. There is also another picture



of the NTAC's lobbying efforts in Washington which includes Silia Hurst, one of our Miss TGSF contestants last year. She has gotten very involved in TG issues and has started a Renaissance chapter in Stockton. To think it was only about a year ago that we met at the BBQ at Ayme's. I want to thank Lisa Larson for the fine photography work. I have known her for some time and the other night she attended her first RGA meeting. She too has come a long way and looked great. I am very proud of her.

I want to thank Joe Caruso, Theresa Sparks and Cecelia Chung for attending our August end of month and enlightening us on the TG perspective from the mayor's office. I think we are fortunate to have these individuals carrying the banner for our rights which are just to be able to live and work and play and function in peace without threats, fear or violence. Certainly, we are not asking for more than anyone else, just to be treated the way everyone else is treated. I have one thought about this which I will save for my column. I also want to thank Trans Central Station (Kari, Kelly, Ari) for the fine acoustic set they presented during dinner. We are planning on keeping the End of Months interesting, and

September (which will have happened by the time you get this) will bring you Drs. Luana Rogers and Annette Cholon. October will be our traditional leather and lace event.

Yes, Halloween will soon be here and as usual our party will be at Carla's. We haven't yet worked out all of the details but it will be Saturday October 30. Last year we had 125 people attend so I guarantee it is going to be a great time. It always is.

Lastly, as many of you know, the Gypsy event was my friend Rachael Janelle's last as Empress as she formally resigned a couple of days later. No need to get into details but I bring it up for this - when our friends are going through bad times, it is up to us to support them, particularly those who have helped us and guided us and supported us. It is easy to be friends when the times are good - but the true test of a friendship is how well it survives the bad times.

Until next time,

Yours truly

Roxy "Madame Lucretia" Hart-Woods-Griffin

(for those that did not read my "autobiography", "Lucretia" is my "real name", "Woods" is a derivation of my "mother's" maiden name and "Griffin" is the family name of my "Stepfamily". For those that did read it, you haven't been paying attention.)

Postscript

I read the news today, oh boy. I found out that my friend Sharon in Florida has an inoperable malignant brain tumor. She is only 58 years old. She may not be with us by the time you read this. If she, please pray that the pain for her and her family is not too difficult. If she has gone to a better place, please pray that she finds peace.

Life is short. Cherish each day as if it were your last. Realize that the mountains are molehills, that today's drama is tomorrow's forgotten incident, that life is too precious to just piss away over nothing. There is no time for fussing and fighting my friends. We can (and we will and we freakin' better) work it out.



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PHONE: (415) 621-4434
FAX: (415) 431-7054

August 29, 2004

TGSF ExCom MEETING MINUTES

Present: Roxy Carmichael-Hart, Laura Marlowe, Pamela Gray, Allison Laureano, Dawnne Woodie, Kara Flynn, Anne-Louise Mortensen, Tommi Watson. Guest: Tyler Fong. Absent: Siobhan Ellis, Damon Helton. Meeting Minutes of August 1 were approved as submitted.

President's Report

Roxy stated that she would like Mr. and Miss TGSF to participate in the upcoming events including Hayward Pride (9/18), Folsom Street Fair (9/25), and Castro Street Fair (10/3). Roxy was also concerned about recent emails on the Yahoo group "tgsf", and because of the liability of those emails, prefers that the link on the tgsf.org webpage be removed. Kara stated that she could set up a different Yahoo group and would have the ExCom trial the new group to see if it was ok.

Vice President's Report

Laura reported that TGSF had a fabulous Cotillion Planning Meeting. She reported that we're still working on contracts, contestant and ad packages, and that she is working with Ally on food items.

Treasurer's Report

Pamela stated that there was about \$6000 in the account. We still owe Tyler \$300, as well as Susan, with Roxy looking up the final numbers on financial information. Pamela stated that the Federal tax form is fine and she is checking the return with the California State Franchise Tax Board. Dawnne is to arrange an updated list of advertisers (from Ayme).

Secretary's Report

The PDF for the September Channel was received and 150 copies of the Channel were produced this week. Dawnne and Tommie are preparing and distributing the Channels. Ally was appointed to write the next profile by September 15 for the October Channel. A picture will also be needed to accompany the profile.

Education

Dawnne stated that Luana Rogers and Dr. Cholon will be at the next End of Month Social. She is also communicating with Willie Wilkenson for a Health Law Event. The TGSF Beauty Magic Day is planned for 9/18 with speakers lined up and confirmed.

Outreach

Kara went over some of the calls from the hotline and reported that she has sent out all of the flyers except for the "Am I A Transsexual". Roxy asked for the calendar to be regularly updated. Allison and Bobby participated in the International Students Panel and said that they received most of the questions. Allison is arranging the logistics for a booth at Folsom Street Fair, Castro Street Fair, and Hayward Pride. She has the applications and needs the 501c3 information. She has the insurance papers but needs to clear up the Folsom Street Fair insurance information. Folsom will cost \$175, Castro \$200, and she hasn't heard back from Hayward. A group discussion was held proposing a PG-13 presence at the Fairs, but no formal protocol was established. Only those working the booth or those on the Ex-Com would be allowed to work outreach during the events. The theme-catching ideas for the fairs included "Get Spanked by a Tranny" for Folsom and "Get Whipped by a Tranny" (whip cream) for Castro.



Social

It was reported that the MAC event had 12 people. Roxy reported that the Wedding Party was a nice event and had great decorations. The party netted about \$150. Kara has reserved a picnic spot, but a flyer was still needed. Dawnne would be the person to barbecue. Carla will be hosting a Halloween Party on October 30th. Eddie Tavares will be supplying decorations. TGSF is not a sponsor. The current planned price for the event is \$25. Roxy reported that there had been no response from anyone to run a Mid-Month Social. Dawnne was talking to Oui Three Queens about events.

Anne Louise presented different ideas for activities including Transcendence Gospel Choir, Trans Central Station, and the Red & White Ball 2005/Butterfly Carnival.

Old Business

None

Future Business

Next time a policy will be discussed and established for people volunteering at the street fairs. The possibility of forming a sub-committee to look at the demographics of TGSF's members was discussed and tabled for the future.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be [was] held Saturday, September 25 at 1:00pm in the San Mateo Marriott restaurant.

ONLINE SO LIST!

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

MID-MONTH SOCIAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

TGSF is looking for some enthusiastic and motivated people to help plan our mid-month socials. TGSF used to hold these events but, due to a lack of staff, has not been able to continue these events. So, since all of our current ExCom members are overwhelmed with other projects, we are asking our members and our community for assistance.

The Mid-Month is a social that is held during the first two weeks of the month at a venue in San Francisco or Berkeley. Previous mid-months were held at the Thirsty Bear, San Francisco Brewing Company, and the Whitehorse Tavern. Unlike the monthly End of Month events, the Mid Months are much more social oriented.

All it takes to plan these events again is for someone to call a venue that is hopefully very TG friendly and see if they would be willing to host our event. Mid-months can expect anywhere from 10-20 people. If you would like to help with these events, please contact [redacted] and she will present it to the Executive Committee for discussion and action. Thank you in advance for your help.

ExCom Profile

OUTREACH CO-CHAIR, ALLISON D LAUREANO

Did you ever notice that short Filipina chick sitting in front corner of the Blue Muse during the TGSF End of Month Socials? She's the one that usually has a laptop with her as she eats ravioli and tries to track down vases or jars for donation collection. Yup, you guessed it, that's me. My name is Alli and I'm one of your fabulous Outreach Co-chairs and it's my turn to give you all a little insight about me.

Okay, briefly about me. I was born in the Philippines in 1972, but moved to rural Arkansas when I was four months old. Okay, I didn't move, but my parents moved me. I really didn't have any say in the matter so I went. I grew up for the first 15 years of my life in this little town, where I experienced the joys of hiking through woods and enjoying nature, to the sorrows of racial and ethnic prejudice - some of you have heard my story of walking in on a white supremacist gathering in the sticks. To this day, loud bangs like car backfires and balloons popping cause me to instinctively duck. And yes, I did have a thick Southern accent. I became very fluent in Southern, saying "Ya'll" and even adopting Gomer Pyle's "Gollilly". Yet I had to persevere, doing twice as well in school and other activities to prove myself half as good to my peers. The upshot to that is it instilled in me the deep conviction of learning and education, gathering knowledge to better oneself. This deep-seated passion carries through with me today. As I stated in my candidate statement earlier this year, I believe that only through education can we transcend tolerance for our community and achieve genuine acceptance that we are a part of this global community.

Okay okay, I know, you want to hear about the TG stuff. After all, this is TGSF. I transitioned in 1996, of all days on April Fool's Day. I don't know why I chose that day, it just sort of worked out like that. New Month, new life, etc. I did a transition education presentation at my work and found out that the entire office kinda already had a feeling, and they had absolutely no problem with it. It also just so happened that we had another person in the office who was also transitioning from female to male, so we made a morning session of it. It was perhaps the smoothest transition I have heard of, although I'm not bragging...not yet anyway, heh. Suffice it to say, I have been full time since then, and have even been stealth for the better part of 7 years, the last five of those in San Diego, where my job moved me. That was a tremendous experience as no one there knew my status, and I pretty much was just accepted as another business woman in our little corporate community... okay, well that sounds a little braggish, but oh well, we all must be somewhat proud of what little accomplishments we make in our life.

After having been laid off due to corporate cutbacks, I moved back to my adoptive home of San Francisco. I re-entered the TG community as I thought it was time to help others as I have been helped, and to facilitate the acceptance we all desperately need in our little "Mecca for transgender". To that end, I am extremely grateful for your faith in me to be a leader in TGSF. Your confidence in voting me to be amongst the many talented and dedicated leaders of your community has inspired me to commit an energetic effort in reaching out to not just our TG community, but to the entire Bay Area community at large. As many of you know, I have been pushing hard to give awareness and sensitivity talks and presentations in our local colleges. We have plans of expanding that community educational outreach to the police departments and health care service providers of the entire Bay Area.

I am also involved in a new start-up non-profit in which we hope to provide crisis outreach and intervention services to transgenders in some sort of dilemma, be it dealing with the actual gender identity, difficult living conditions, lack of care services, or imposed violence or abuse. Please stay tuned to this newsletter and other announcements in meetings and online for more upcoming information on this exciting new endeavor.

I am hopeful that with your help and support we can make TGSF the marquee organization for Social and Community outreach - with the mission of providing the education we need to the communities we live in. I am excited about our direction, and hope that ya'll (there's that word again) are too.

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!

Beauty Boost

by Wendy R. Schultz

THE POWER OF FRAGRANCE

Years ago, a coworker gave me a bottle of perfume as a gift for my birthday. I was touched by the thoughtfulness of the gift, yet when I tried the fragrance on, I was immediately uncomfortable. It wasn't a scent I'd wear. Fragrance is powerful. It can evoke feelings of relaxation, comfort, and safety, but can also cause discomfort or irritability. It stimulates our olfactory nerve, and can transport us back to our youth, bring back memories of past loves, or take us back to a less happy time, simply with one whiff.

Fragrance is a personal thing. Sometimes the same fabulous scent you smelled on someone else won't necessarily smell great on you. Your own body chemistry is what makes the scent "work" for you or not. Also, scent is not one-dimensional, but made up of three very distinct layers.

Taking Notes

The top note is the part of the fragrance you smell when you first spray it on. The top notes are what usually draw you to a fragrance. You'll know immediately whether you like a specific scent by the top notes. If they turn you off, then you're more likely to not enjoy wearing the scent.

The middle note is the layer of the fragrance that sticks with you during the day. It creates an aura of fragrance, and is usually the part that others around you can smell. If you've ever been complimented on a scent you're wearing, it's usually because those around you are enjoying the middle notes.

The base note is what you're left with after wearing the scent for several hours. It is present at the end of the day, and is usually the faintest hint of the scent you applied first thing in the morning.

What to Buy?

Fragrance is available in many forms such as Perfume, Eau de parfum, Eau de toilette, Eau de cologne, and scented body creams. Perfumes have the highest concentration of oils, and therefore last the longest. They are more expensive yet require fewer applications. Colognes and body splashes have a higher alcohol content, so they don't last long, and require more applications.

Tips

Layer fragrance with shower gel, body lotion or cream, and cologne or splash in this order.

Don't apply fragrance to clothes or hair. The oil or alcohol in the fragrance can discolor clothing. You want the fragrance to react with your skin anyway. Applying a fragrance with high alcohol content can be drying to hair.

The more we wear a fragrance, the more our noses get used to it, until we don't smell it as well anymore. Don't over apply fragrance; remember that others experience our scent, too.

Questions? Feedback? Need help finding products? Send me an email - BeautyBoost@hotmail.com.

Although I'm a licensed Esthetician, I'm not a healthcare professional. As such, please consult with your doctor prior to beginning any new skin care regimen.





TGSF Events in October

Friday / October 1st

IRLM FORMAL COCKTAIL PARTY.

Contact Siobhan for more details. 408 431 6997,
[REDACTED]

Saturday / October 2nd

IRLM CROWN BALL

Bankers Club Events Center (www.bceventcenter.com), 8 1st Street, San Jose. \$15 to enter. Contact Siobhan for more details. 408 [REDACTED]

Sunday / Oct 3rd

CASTRO STREET FAIR

TGSF will have a booth - come visit!

Wednesday / Oct 6th

MID PENINSULA SUPPORT GROUP

Please note new location - see notice in this issue for details.

Saturday / October 16th

DVG FALL DINNER

No host cocktails at 6:30, Dinner 7:30. Blake's at Boundary Oaks, 3800 Valley Vista Road, Walnut Creek. Call 925-937-8432 to RSVP and for more information.

Thursday / Oct 28th

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

Annual Leather and Lace Party. Dinner begins around 7:30pm. For more information, please contact Roxy at [REDACTED]

Friday / Oct 29th

RGA FIFTH FRIDAY GIRLS & GUYS NIGHT OUT

Contact RGA at 408-984-4044 for information.

Saturday / October 30

CARLA PRESENTS THE TGSF/IRLM HALLOWEEN PARTY

This will be a joint event with the Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy in San Jose. Details in this issue!

In November:

Sunday / Nov 7th

TGSF EXCOM MEETING AND MR./MISS TGSF CONTESTANT MEETING

At the San Mateo Marriott, California Grille Restaurant, 1770 S. Amphlett Blvd., San Mateo, CA. A busy agenda is planned and volunteers and extra hands are always needed! The regular lunch menu will be served. Please join your ExCom for lunch and help us out! Also a Mandatory Meeting for all Cotillion Contestants and the deadline for Entry.

October's Birthdays

10/00	Chrys Salt	10/09	Carolayn Hughes
10/00	Jessica Connor	10/09	Val Shoaps
10/00	Michelle Amber	10/12	Jaime Mcconnell
10/00	Star	10/13	Scott Smith
10/00	Constance	10/16	Jean Darien
10/03	Rachel Hill	10/18	Ronald Gray
10/03	Erin Brush	10/20	Cassi Anderson
10/04	Bobbi Marotz	10/21	Tricia Paskell
10/05	Anne Giles	10/22	Marilyn Thurau
10/06	Joan Thurau	10/26	Rachael Janelle
10/07	Katrina Bugar	10/26	Janet Bowman
10/08	Shamrock P Hall	10/28	Janet Smiley

Happy Birthday To All!

Cosmetics
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Calendar - October 2004

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

288 Turk Street, SF. 415-749-2167. Facilitated TG discussion group every Monday, 5:00pm - 6:30pm.

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM International

A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 160 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

I Love It Girl Socials

Every Wednesday night at I Love It Boutique, 45979 Warm Springs Blvd., #7 in Fremont. Call Jo-An at 510- for directions and more information.

Mid-Peninsula TG Group (MPTG)

TGSF-sponsored support group for the TG community that meets at 7:00pm, First Wednesday of each month at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel, Nob Hill Room in San Mateo. For more details please contact Roxy at (510) Debuts May 5th!

Pacific Ctr for Human Growth (PacCtr)

A counseling oriented growth center sponsors all-inclusive gender support groups on every Friday at 8:00pm, 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley. 510-548-8283.

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

Bi-weekly social/support group for gender-gifted persons serving Santa Cruz and Central Coast. 1st and 3rd Tuesdays every month at The Diversity Center, 177 Walnut Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; (831) 425-5422; 7:00pm

SCOUT (SCOUT)

Santa Cruz Organization for Uniting Transmen, meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month at the Diversity Center (listed above); 7:30pm

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.

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-

T.R.A.N.S

MTF support groups meet every Wednesday afternoon 2:00 - 3:30pm at 1145 Bush Street in San Francisco.

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA IRLM Formal Cocktail Party	2 IRLM Crown Ball
3 Castro Street Faire	4 5:00 PM CCHH 7:00 PM PISSR General Meeting 8:00 PM DVG	5 7:00 PM SCT	6 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social 7:30 PM MPTG	7 7:00 PM DVG RCC	8 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	9 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
10	11 5:00 PM CCHH	12	13 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	14	15 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	16 DVG Fall Dinner
17	18 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	19 7:00 PM SCT	20 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	21 7:00 PM DVG RCC TG Legal Clinic	22 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	23 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA
24	25 5:00 PM CCHH	26 7:30 PM SCOUT	27 2:00 PM T.R.A.N.S 7:00 PM I Love It Social	28 7:30 PM TGSF: EOM @ Blue Muse	29 8:00 PM PacCtr RGA 5th Friday	30 Carla's TGSF/IRLM Halloween Party
31						

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership is billed annually upon enrollment: \$40 Single / \$45 Family

Special \$35 Single Membership w/ Email-Only* Delivery of CHANNEL

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? _____

*Email: _____ 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

Support Your Organization!

TGSF Sustaining Memberships

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Designated Sustaining Membership Giving Levels & Recognition

GUARDIAN LEVEL: \$2500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Original Signed Photo of Ms / Mr TGSF
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

PATRON LEVEL: \$1000

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in all TGSF Programs / Channel / Website
Two complimentary tickets to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Ride on the Pride Day Parade Float
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

ANGEL LEVEL: \$500

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
One complimentary ticket to the Cotillion
Framed Recognition Certificate
Paid Annual Membership in TGSF

CENTURY LEVEL: \$250


Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Framed Recognition Certificate

MERIT LEVEL: \$100

Recognition & Benefits:

Recognition in Cotillion Program
Recognition Certificate

 *Clip & Mail Today!*

Make your CONTRIBUTION to TGSF Today!

Your Sustaining Membership contribution will be used to support the educational and social activities for TGSF.
Please make your contribution now!

Please indicate your level of giving:

Guardian - \$2500 Patron - \$1000 Angel - \$500 Century - \$250 Merit - \$100

Your Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____ Zip: _____

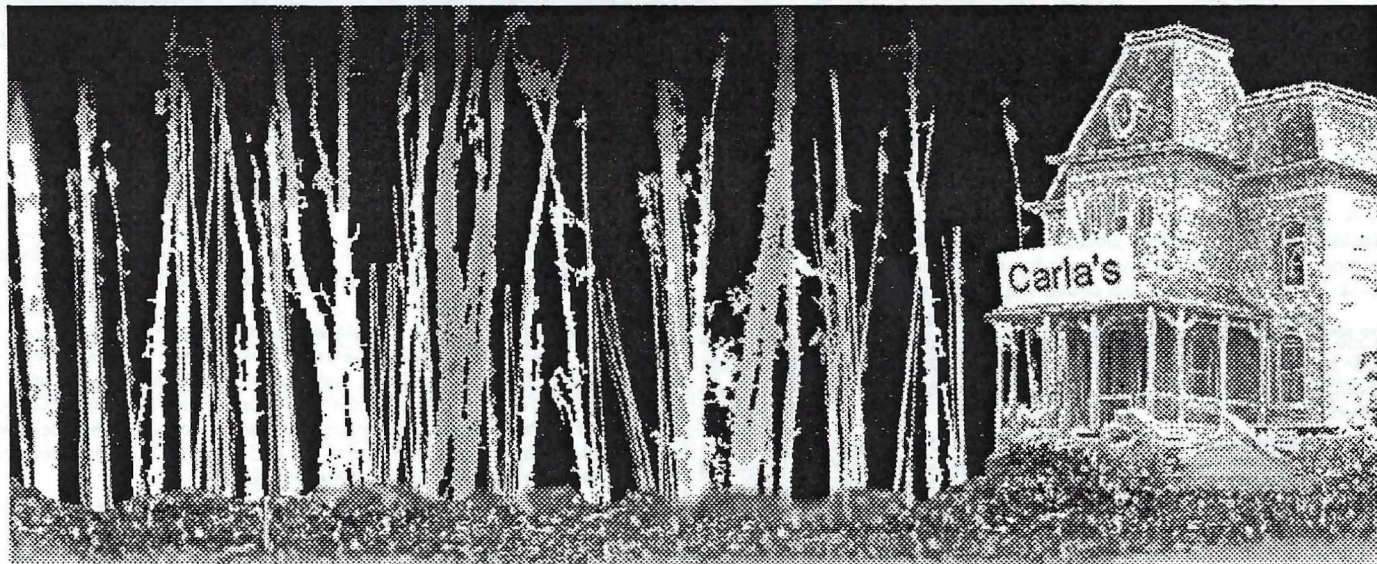
Check if you DO NOT want TGSF to acknowledge you as a Sustaining Member

Please mail this Tax Deductible Sustaining Membership Contribution Form along with your Check payable to TGSF to:

TGSF P.O. Box 426486 San Francisco, CA 94142-6486

Thank you for your support of TGSF!

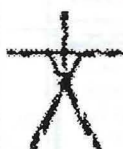
Halloween 2004!



On October 30th, the transgender community will gather at Carla's to celebrate Halloween.

They will never be seen again.

But before they vanish forever, they will have one hell of a time.



THE BLAIR WITCH PARTY

A CARLA'S/TGSF CO-PRODUCTION

8:00 P.M.—1:30 A.M., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30th, 2004

\$25 ADMISSION (INCLUDES DINNER AND ONE DRINK)

DANCING, GAMES, FUN AND PRIZES FOR:

SCARIEST, SEXIEST, FUNNIEST, MOST OUTRAGEOUS AND BEST COSTUMES

CARLA'S SALON & BOUTIQUE, 124 RACE ST., SAN JOSE, CA 95126

RSVP REQUESTED: (408) 298-6900 WWW.CARLAS.COM

Special Events in October!

Coming in October!

IRLM ANNOUNCES THE CROWN BALL

The Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy, Inc, a 501c3 non-profit company announces the Crown Ball weekend. The 1st & 2nd October 2004. Friday night, **1st October**, from 8pm is **Rhinestones under the Stars Cocktail Party**.

Join the IRLM at a Hollywood style home in the Cupertino Hills overlooking Silicon Valley with fabulous views. Give those rhinestones a dusting off, and give them a dry run. Entry will be free, and drinks will be low cost. RSVP is requested, and details will be given out.

Saturday night, **2nd October**, is the **Crown Ball** at the Bankers Club in San Jose (<http://www.bceventcenter.com/>). This fabulous location set in an old bank in downtown San Jose is just right for a Crown Ball. Bring your crowns and tiaras, and if you don't have one, one will be provided.

Entertainment, Dancing and Food included in the price of only \$15. Drinks, alcoholic, soda and water can be purchased. Entry can be gained at the door, but you can also purchase tickets in advance to make sure you can get in.

Siobhán Ellis

PISSR RETREAT!

During the weekend of **October 15th - 16th**, People In Search of Safe Restrooms (PISSR) will be having it's first ever annual retreat at the Dead Cow Retreat Center in Half Moon Bay. This is an exciting chance to get out of the city for a weekend, spend time with some amazing folks, and help determine what type of work PISSR will do over the next year.

Everyone is invited! Please no later than September 15th if you are interested in attending. I'll start to figure out the logistics (rides, food, additional lodgings) when I have a better idea of how many folks are going. Thanks!

Bryan

TRANSGENDER SPECIAL ON ROMANTASY'S CORSETS

To celebrate ROMANTASY's first-ever visit to exhibit corsets and lecture on "The Corset Diet" at the Atlanta Southern Comfort Conference Sept. 28-Oct 3, we offer our transgendered web visitors and email clients who mention this page, a special **through the month of October**: A 10% discount on any corset, or a 20% discount on our new rib-shaping "Elaine" vest. We will provide free shipping within the US by priority mail (an additional \$15 savings). Orders must be paid fully upon placement. Thank you! See you in Atlanta!

— Ann Grogan (415) [REDACTED]

Transcending Transgender

**Sponsored by
City of Refuge UCC Outreach Ministries**

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

TransNewOrleans & O.W.L. - the Order of Wild Ladies

"TRANS-MISSION 2004"

NEW ORLEANS PRIDE FEST, ARMSTRONG PARK

October 9 & 10, 2004

This year the first fundraiser for the TransNewOrleans "Trans-Mission" shall be the start of establishing a Trans-friendly shelter/transitional/healing housing for New Orleans and the Central Gulf Coast. We are asking for donations to help our fledgling/pending non-profit to purchase a booth at Pride Fest, 2004 in New Orleans.

This booth will sell food to raise money for "Trans-Mission's" filing and start-up fees, provide a space for outreach/donations for the Transgender American Veterans Association, HRCWatch.org, Gulf Coast Trans organizations, and others. We will provide literature on TG/TS/IS/DES issues for the public, and we shall also have folks from the Trans community to answer any questions by those people who take an interest in what "Trans" is, and what it is not. Volunteers and literature donations are also appreciated.

This form of shelter/transitional/healing housing is very much needed for the members of the Trans community, not just here on the Gulf Coast, but throughout North America. Many of our people die due to violence and desperation. Providing a safe, warm, helpful living space to help our people out during crisis times will make a difference in their lives and safety.

Please help support this effort to make a real difference! Be Blessed!

Morwen Madrigal,

Trans-Mission@bellsouth.net

919 Rue Spain, New Orleans, LA 70117

(504) 943-7037

Community United Against Violence Volunteers Needed!

YOU CAN HELP STOP THE VIOLENCE AGAINST AND WITHIN QUEER COMMUNITIES!

Hey Folks, Community United Against Violence (CUAV) is currently looking for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, & questioning folks and their allies who are:

- * Compassionate people willing to listen to others
- * Folks who are committed to the struggle to end racism, sexism, classism, heterosexism, and all other oppressions

You can do something about hate violence and domestic violence in our communities. Volunteer as a CUAV support line counselor! (no prior experience necessary. Bilingual stipends offered.)

Fall 2004 Training Dates:

Saturday October 9 & Sunday October 10; Sunday October 17; Saturday October 23 & Sunday October 24.

All sessions run from 9:30 AM-6:00 PM. Full attendance at the training is mandatory. For more information, contact Vanissar at CUAV, 415-777-5500, ext. 323 / vanissar@cuav.org. Folks of color, transgender folks, women, and survivors of violence strongly encouraged to volunteer.

Community United Against Violence is a multicultural, multi-lingual anti-oppression organization that prevents and responds to violence against and within our diverse LGBTQQ communities.

Community United Against Violence, 160 14th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone 415-777-5500 Fax 415-777-5565 CrisisLine 415-333-HELP. Vanissar Tarakali, Support Line Director, (415) 777-5500, ext. 323 / vanissar@cuav.org

Special Events in October!



Mid-Peninsula Support Group

WEDNESDAY, October 6, 2004

and continuing on the first Wednesday of each month

NEW LOCATION!

Full Circle Books

1538 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002, (650) 508-9546

7:30 - 9:30 P.M.

All welcome regardless of race, age, gender, gender identification, etc.

\$1 donation will be requested but no one will be turned away.

For more details please contact Laura Patterson at [REDACTED]

Please note: This is a support group.

The views expressed in this group are reflective of the attendees and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the ExCom and members of TGSF.

You are encouraged to speak to your personal physician and/or therapist regarding your specific treatment and care.

City College of SF Health Science

Exciting New Course!

TRANSGENDER HEALTH: PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGIES

4-Day Course - Saturday October 2, 9, 16 & 23 / 10 AM - 6 PM / Cloud Hall 232, Ocean Avenue Campus, 50 Phelan Avenue, San Francisco

Course Description

This new 4-day interactive course provides a critical analysis of the health status of transgender people, and designed to enhance knowledge, resources, and skills necessary to working effectively in the health, public health and allied helping professions with transgender clients and communities.

The course will address various transgender identities, current health needs of transgender clients (including access to health care, hormones, silicone injections, surgeries, substance use, mental health, and HIV/STDs), the experience of transgender youth, discrimination and legal concerns, and skills-building in working with transgender clients.

Instructor: Lydia A. Sausa, Ph.D., M.S.Ed., C.S.E. received a Master of Science in Education degree in Human Sexuality Education, and a Ph.D. degree in Education, Culture, and Society with an emphasis in Transgender Adolescent Health and HIV Prevention Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

As a National Educator, Trainer, and Consultant, Lydia has 9 years experience providing comprehensive trainings for health professionals, and is a Behavioral Intervention Trainer at the California STD/HIV Prevention Training Center. Lydia is also an Adjunct Professor at San Francisco State University in the Human Sexuality Studies Program, an AASECT Certified Sexuality Educator, and a Certified HIV Counselor.

For more information, please contact the Health Science Department at (415) 239-3220 or visit us in Cloud Hall 363 (Ocean Avenue Campus). Please go to www.ccsf.edu to register for the course/enroll as a student at CCSF.

TG/TS Pride Event Oct 17th

COME JOIN THE COMMUNITY AT CBS STUDIOS

Hi everyone,

Don't forget to put **October 17th** on your calendar, an LBGTTV EVENT THAT is also especially for the TG communities. THIS IS AN ALL DAY EVENT AND WILL END AT 6:30 PM. This will be at CBS Studio center in Studio City, California in the San Fernando Valley. It's going to be the biggest event the SF Valley ever had, many booths for all communities, and also great food and lots of fun things to do and see. We will be taking over the CBS Studio center for this fun and festive and truly dignified and fun event for the community. Bring the family and friends. This is a great way to introduce those that are shy, alone or in search of information on the TG communities. We welcome all to this dignified and fun as well as informative and entertaining TG and Gay pride event!

It's time to show the world our dignity and our intelligence. So please do join us and help us to educate the world and those that wish to understand and respect our communities. This is going to be a most fun and festive day and day to remember for a lifetime! You will also meet and chat with Countessa and Her world famous TG models from Countessa's Closet Along with our city councilman, Mr. Paul Waters, a kind and caring man that is also a deeply dedicated supporter of the TG communities, You will see and get to personally meet and chat with many famous TG performers, entertainers, actors, models and artists as we enjoy and educate and have a blast at this fun and enormous festive event.

We welcome with open arms our precious new sisters in the community this is an event to finally open many doors and also help many that are closeted, scared, alone and confused. There will be many from the TG community that are both Crossdressers, transsexual, pre op, post op and Non op.

No need to be shy. You are welcome En Femme or in Drab. Your questions will finally be answered with dignity and with much knowledge from those that are in the community From those that live and work in the community and also those that have transitioned and are now living their lives as wonderful productive Transsexual humans. This is a celebration of our TG and TS communities!

We will also be offering a great Nite out to all who attend. It's our very first TG and gay Los Angeles, Valley Pride Festival right here in very gender friendly Studio City. If you wish a hotel room, we have a most wonderful upscale TG friendly hotel that is offering great accommodations for a fraction of the regular costs. Just call Countessa's Closet and we will set it all up for you. Or just visit the LA/Valley pride web site. Our talented TG sister Julie Z will be here to sing songs from her new TG CD, along with many other wonderful performers you will be able to see many from the TG communities, performing and showing the world their fantastic talent.

Countessa's closet will also have a booth just for anyone in the TG community who feels they wish to show their singing, dancing, art or other talents. And this in this way, we will finally show the world, the true intelligence, dignity, beauty and Talent in our gracious and wonderful community. Countessa's closet will be here with booths for information, what's new in the communities, also a booth that will offer the latest in Countessa's New private label and designs and also a booth that will feature many of the top names in entertainment. Yup, there will be five areas for your fun and pleasure to dance, hear and see your favorite music and entertainers...and its all going to be here in Studio City, Just for you! Come on and join the fun!

If you wish more info, Please contact The L.A. valley pride site at <http://www.lavalleypride.org/> or Contact Countessa's closet for any and all info. Just call us at 818 763 9806 after 2:30pm, any Tuesday through Saturday. We have a special phone staff just to answer any and all questions on our communities TG pride festival. We will be happy to answer any and all your questions. Come and join us as we support our proud, dignified and caring TG communities. This October 17th starting at 11 a.m. at CBS Studio center in Very gender friendly Studio City, California.

[http://www.countessascloset@aol.com/](mailto:countessascloset@aol.com)
Countessa's Closet
11386 Ventura Boulevard
Studio city, California
USA. 91604

On the Horizon!

On The Horizon...

IFGE ANNUAL CONVENTION.

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE, the publisher of "Tapestry" magazine) will hold its 19th Annual Convention in Austin on **April 26-30, 2005**, at the Red Lion Inn (near 290 and I-35). This is a short cab ride from the Austin Airport.

IFGE is currently soliciting presenters. I am submitting several proposals, and I hope that Christie Lee Littleton and Vanessa Foster and others of my Texas friends will do the same. Deadline for presentation proposals is September 30th. Contact alng@mindspring.com for information on being a presenter.

You are encouraged to mark this date and make plans to attend. For more information, send a request to S. Kristine James, PO Box 61, Easton, PA 18044, phone 610-██████████

NTAC Sets Lobby Days for May 2005

Transgender activists will converge on Capitol Hill on **May 18 - 20, 2005** to lobby Congress once again for passage of transgender-inclusive hate crimes and employment nondiscrimination legislation. Lobby Days 2005 is sponsored by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), the country's largest and most active organization advocating for the rights of transgender Americans at federal, state, and local levels.

Participants are expected from all over the country and will likely include victims of anti-transgender hate crimes and those who have personal experience with employment and other types of transgender bias and discrimination. NTAC and the National Center for Transgender Equality will help attendees arrange meetings with their senators and representatives and staff members.

Marisa Richmond, Chair of the NTAC Lobbying Committee, noted that 30 lobbyists from around the country visited 81 Senate offices and 236 House offices in April 2004 to discuss the need for transgender inclusion in pending civil rights legislation. "This effort played an important role in identifying potential supporters of transgender inclusion in ENDA and LLEEA," she said. "This information was vital to the coordinated effort by transactivists in getting HRC to adopt a new trans-inclusive policy towards ENDA. We look forward to maintaining the momentum in 2005."

One major difference in the 2005 lobbying effort is the recent decision of the Human Rights Campaign decision to support only a transgender-inclusive Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA). It is essential to have demonstrably significant numbers of concerned community activists and supporters working together to educate their elected representatives on these vital issues. The need has never been greater, and HRC support can improve our reception in Congress.

GenderQueer, Trans, & Gender Questioning Youth Group

Billy DeFrank LGBT Community Center
www.defrank.org

This youth program will provide space for discussion groups, workshops and activities, specifically for genderqueer youth and their allies. We are excited to be offering this new programming, for an underserved population, even in our own community. This new group is for young people 20 and under, who identify somewhere on the gender non-conforming spectrum, who are questioning their gender identity or who are considering transitioning.

This group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 5-6pm at the DeFrank Center, which is located at 938 The Alameda, in San Jose. For more information please contact T. Aaron Hans, Program Director at 408.293.3040 ext. 112 or at progdir@defrank.org.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

**6th Annual Event will be held
November 20, 2004**

SAN FRANCISCO, June 16, 2004 - The 6th Annual Transgender Day of Remembrance has been set for November 20th, 2004, with over 100 separate observances expected world-wide. "Since last year's event, nine more people have died due to anti-transgender violence," said Ethan St. Pierre of the Remembering Our Dead project. "So yet again, we will be making it known that such killings are unacceptable.

The most recent reported case of anti-transgender violence leading to death is that of Cedric Thomas of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, who was shot multiple times on May 18th. Thomas died from those wounds on June 5th.

The Day of Remembrance began in 1999 as a way to draw attention to the issue of anti-transgender violence in the wake of unsolved murders such as that of Rita Hester. Hester was killed November 28th, 1995. Her death remains unsolved.

Unlike the murder of Rita Hester, many recent cases — including the rash of Washington, D.C. attacks that left two dead last August — show an increased vigilance on the part of law enforcement and the media to treat these crimes equally. "That we're seeing more stories about these cases, more arrests, and more convictions says that our actions are being taken seriously," said Transgender Day of Remembrance founder Gwen Smith. "yet there is still so much more to do."

Last year's event was honored in over one-hundred locations in eight countries.

The Remembering Our Dead project <www.rememberingourdead.org> exists to honor individuals murdered as a result of anti-transgender hatred and prejudice, and draw attention to the issue of anti-transgendered violence. Remembering Our Dead is a project of Gender Education and Advocacy, Inc.

"Since 1999, NTAC has been advocating in support of equality for the transgender community," said Vanessa Edwards Foster, chair and co-founder of NTAC. "We may well be on the edge of a new era for our community, an era of unfettered accomplishment in our fight for civil rights. It's essential that NTAC and the transgender community are distinctly visible and a key part of this effort towards our equality."

NTAC will hold a plenary session for training and assignments on May 18th. The plenary will consist of a brief lobbyist training session, review of handouts to be discussed and left at each office visited, and assignments for May 19th and 20th. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with many transgender and trans-supportive activists and representatives from organizations working toward fully inclusive federal hate crimes and civil rights protections and to participate in other Lobby Days events and actions to be announced.

Registration and hotel information will be linked to the NTAC website (<http://www.ntac.org>) when details become available. In the meanwhile, those with questions about joining this grassroots lobbying effort can write to lobbying@ntac.org.

As done in 2004, NTAC and the Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) are coordinating dates for their 2005 Washington, DC spring events. The second TAVA national gathering of transgender veterans, some of whom are also NTAC members, is scheduled to begin after NTAC lobbying ends on May 20. The TAVA event will include visits to veterans memorials on the National Mall and in Arlington, VA.

You can make a difference, for yourself, your family, and your community. Join your brother and sister transgender American activists, veterans, family, friends, and supporters in speaking truth to our leaders and working for a truly equal America for us all. Your support, your voice, and your active participation will make a difference.

Founded in 1999, NTAC - the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition - is a §501(c)(4) civil rights organization working to establish and maintain the right of all transgender, intersexed, and gender-variant people to live and work without fear of violence or discrimination.

Announcements!

SAVE THE DATE!

TGSF will once more be co-sponsoring the **Annual TG Holiday Dinner**. As always, this wonderful dinner, which is held in the spirit of togetherness and unity for the holidays will be held at the Tarragon Restaurant, 140 South Murphy in Sunnyvale on **Sunday, December 12**. Please watch future Channels for further information.



New Vendor in Sacramento!

ANNOUNCING ARIEL'S CLOSET

Ariel's Closet will be a discrete comfortable place in Sacramento where members of the transgender community can go to be themselves. Cross Dressers, Transsexuals, Transvestites and those who care for them can go to Ariel's, especially those who cannot dress at home or who cannot go out in public. You will be able to receive mail, keep your clothing, enjoy social activities like formal teas, get makeovers and use computers at Ariel's. Similar establishments are Carla's in San Jose and I Love It in Fremont. Now there will be one in Sacramento.

No more having to rent a hotel room just to dress for an evening to go out. No more fearing the family or kids will find your clothes, or your boss will see you when you need to be who you are.

We take confidentiality very seriously. All members will be screened. This is a SAFE PLACE. You can join an e-list at no cost and give Ariel's staff input right now on what you need and what you would like to have. Your input is invaluable as this new service is being created. Visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ArielsCloset/>

You can also use a website that is in the process of being created. It will be interactive for the community. There will be a calendar of events, chat rooms, galleries where you can post your pictures, and forums where you can discuss things you chose and decide are important. Free membership to the website keeps out Spam bots and porn spammers. It will be up and running as soon as the domain points to the servers in about 72 hours. Visit <http://www.ArielsCloset.com>.

BAY AREA AMERICAN INDIAN TWO-SPIRITS

Community Potlucks

Tentative Dates For 2004: **October 29** and December 3. Held from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street at Octavia. Check board upon entering for room number.

Please bring something to share — food, non-alcoholic drinks, song, poem, raffle item. Traditional food is especially welcome. Contact us to confirm each event. BAAITS potlucks are clean and sober. Those under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be asked to leave.

BAAITS has an office at 1800 Market Street #411 in San Francisco, CA 94102. 415-865-5616 / www.baaits.org. BAAITS is a community based volunteer organization creating forums for spiritual, cultural and artistic expression of Two-Spirit people.

COTILLION HOTELS NOW AVAILABLE!

TGSF is pleased to announce that this year, we are offering a choice of venues for our host hotels, designed to fit those with varying budgets. Rooms are available for both January 14 and 15, 2005. Our host hotels are:

Holiday Inn Fisherman's Wharf, 1300 Columbus Avenue, San Francisco, CA

Room rate is \$105/night, parking discounted at \$28/day. Must mention "Transgender San Francisco" to get the group rate (lower rate not available on line). For Reservations call 800-942-7348. Rooms must be reserved by Friday December 24, 2004 to guarantee the group rate

Cow Hollow Motor Suites and Inn, 2190 Lombard Street, San Francisco, CA

Room rate is \$86/night; parking is free (one car per room). Must mention "Group 1696, TGSF 2005 Cotillion" to get the group rate (lower rate not available on-line). For Reservations: www.cowhollowmotorinn.com, or call 415-921-5800. Rooms must be reserved by December 14, 2004 to guarantee the group rate

It's not too early to start making reservations! This is Martin Luther King weekend so rooms will fill up fast!

ROOMMATE WANTED!

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Entries must be recorded on tape or reproducible CD and accompanied by a written text. Please download rules from TGVoices.org

Deadline June 1, 2005

'TG Voices in 55 Words or less - 2005' is a charitable project of Transgendered Voices, Incorporated, a Wyoming not-for-profit corporation

Commentary and 7-News!

CONFESSIONS OF A DANGEROUS MIND

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

One Hand Doesn't Necessarily Wash the Other

When Rachael Janelle invited me to join her court of the Imperial Royal Lion Monarchy (IRLM), I was honored but also confused. See, I had no idea what the court was, nor did a lot of those who joined. I was pleased to see that Rachael's prestige resulted in a very large transgender community presence on the court. Many, including myself, joined in order to support her in the same way that she had helped us.

For the uninitiated, the court is, to over generalize, gay men and drag queens. I have found that the people in the court whom I have come to know, such as Kevin, Andy, Michael Healy and Madame Steele (definitely NOT a gay man or a drag queen) are very nice and friendly people, and some have been extremely supportive of the transgender community. I know that many of the cross dressing community are not wholly comfortable with the court, but if you look at the various events which have been held, you will see that the ones doing the organizing and cooking and planning and decorating and logistics and performing were the transgendered individuals. And of course, so was the Empress.

As I noted in my President's Report, I attended the Gypsy Hijinks party held at Carla's on August 28. I will have to say that most of the court events I have attended have been at Carla's where I and other TG's feel comfortable. And I would have to say that I have had a wonderful time at all of the events I have attended. I was surprised to see that the attendance was overwhelmingly TG - mainly Carla's and Jo-An's regulars. If there were more than a half dozen IRLM members present (other than those who pretty much had to be there), it certainly was not apparent. Quite disappointing that the IRLM does not support its own events when the attendance is mostly TG.

I have heard a rather disturbing story that I hope is not what it appears to be. A few months ago, an IRLM event was held at the Rainbow Room in Hayward. A number of girls had made the trip from Fremont, thanks to Jo-An. Many of Jo-An's girls love to perform (and I am looking forward to having them perform at the Cotillion). When one of them began to do her performance, the drag queens walked out en masse. How rude and heartbreaking for the young lady who must have worked long and hard hours on her performance and was volunteering her time to help the IRLM raise money. Why did this happen? Are we not fun people? Are we not nice people? Are the drag queens so in love with their own egos that they can't stand it when God forbid someone else takes center stage? I don't know. But if the last reason is THE reason, then that is sad and everyone who walked out of that performance owes the young lady a sincere and heart felt apology when she was doing this for the good of the community, not for herself.

I know that the recipients of the fundraising efforts, such as the Billy DeFrank Center, could care less about the gender identity or the sexual orientation of those raising the funds. I know from talking with many of them that they are very appreciative and grateful for the support.

I will continue to support the IRLM for reasons such as that. I will support the court's Crown Princess, Siobhan, who is the TGSF Secretary. I will support Kevin and Andy and Michael and Madame Steele and the others who have graciously helped TGSF in the past and are willing to do so again. I would like to see the IRLM step up and support its own events even if most of those doing the work are TGs. I would like to extend a formal invitation to the IRLM to attend TGSF's Halloween Party at Carla's on October 30. Let's work together for the good of our community because as our secretary at work Nancy says, "together we are more than we are alone".



Roxy and Cookie Princess 004 (and Miss TGSF 2005 Contestant) in training.



Roxy and Carla

TRANSGENDER WINNER IN ARIZONA

Just a note to let you all know that I received 57.5% of the vote in the primary on Tuesday. So, I am now the Democratic nominee for the Arizona State House of Representative in District 26.

Amanda Simpson

New Book!

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR SEX

Hi everybody!

I had the audacity to write a book called "How To Change Your Sex: A Lighthearted Look at the Hardest Thing You'll Ever Do." I did not have the audacity to try to find a publisher for it. Instead, I've made it available for FREE download at my website, here: <http://www.elainerose.freehomepage.com/Words/sexbook.htm>.

Please enjoy it if you like.

Lannie

Lannie Rose changed her sex and now she explains how you can too! *How To Change Your Sex: A Lighthearted Look at the Hardest Thing You'll Ever Do* is an amusing and practical guide that covers everything you need to know for your sex change, from how to tell if you are transsexual, through venturing out in public in your new gender presentation (including which restroom to use!), to hormones and surgeries, to what to expect afterwards.

Whether you are seriously considering changing your own sex, or if you have a friend or loved one who is going through the process, or even if you are just curious, you are bound to be entertained and informed by this little handy little manual.

Important TG Survey: Gender Recognition Act Gender Recognition - An Important Message For All Trans People (Wherever you are based in the world)

Dear All,

Over the past few months, since the Gender Recognition Act was given Royal Assent, Gender Trust, Press for Change and FtM Network have been in close discussions with The Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) about implementation of The Act.

The DCA are assessing the Gender Recognition process to ensure that it works as efficiently as possible. In particular, they have been mapping out how the applications are processed to see where potential delays in the system may occur due to a backlog of applications building up at any stage in the process.

One of the key decisions which need to be taken is how many staff will be needed to deal with applications and how long the anticipated early surge will last and what type of applications are likely to be received.

For example 3000 applications in the first month of which half are from overseas applicants would cause serious delays if the expected rate was only 1000 UK applicants.

We need your help to ensure that DCA can match the resources of the Panels and supporting Secretariat to the demand. We as community groups in conjunction with DCA have put together a simple online form which we request that as many of you as possible complete. THE FORM WILL REMAIN ONLINE UNTIL 10 OCTOBER. The Survey Form can be located at: http://www.gendertrust.org.uk/dca_survey.php

The first page of the form explains the background to the survey. Let me reassure you that no personal information will be collected or passed on to DCA - only the basic statistical summary of the eight questions asked will be provided to them.

Please participate if you can! Thank you!

Angela Clayton - Gender Trust
Claire McNab - Press for Change
Stephen Whittle - FtM Network

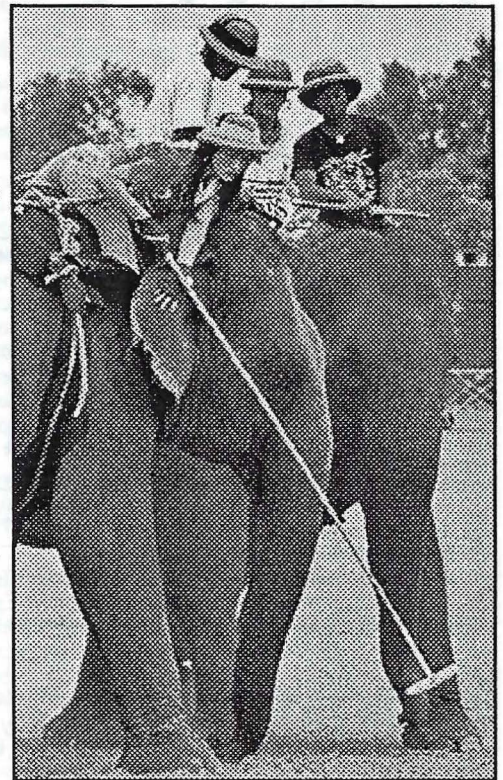
More 7-News!

TRANVESTITES GO DOWN FIGHTING IN ELEPHANT POLO MATCH

An elephant polo team made up of transvestites has competed in a prestigious tournament in Thailand. The Screwless Tuskers put up a brave show before going down 2-0 to the DBS Bank Ladies. They played on the final day of the 14-team round-robin tournament in the annual event.

Elephant polo - a slower, heavier game than the equine version - is a serious business in Thailand. "It is almost like horse polo but in a very slow motion. But I can tell you it is much more difficult," said Raj Kalaan, a member of the Chivas Regal elephant polo team.

Some 55 players, including three former All Blacks rugby players, gathered in the Thai beach resort town of Hua Hin for the tournament.



At Right: Thai transvestites from the team "Screwless Tuskers" (wearing pink) battle against the "DBS Bank Ladies" (wearing white) Sunday, Sept. 12, 2004, in a match at the King's Cup Elephant Polo tournament in Hua Hin, Thailand.

Sunday was the final day of the 14-team round-robin tournament in the annual event. The DBS Bank Ladies defeated the Screwless Tuskers 2-0 in the match.

(AP Photo by David Longstreath)

Abubakar Hamza Has Become A Big Celebrity In Northern Nigeria

From BBC (news.bbc.co.uk).

A transvestite faces trial in September in a case which has become a big talking point in the northern Nigerian city of Kano. The issue of sexual orientation is a controversial one in Africa and the existence of transvestites usually gets little attention. But 19-year-old Abubakar Hamza has become famous with posters of him dressed in women's clothes selling well among male admirers.

He is charged with living and dressing as a woman in the first case of its kind in this conservative city. But what is shocking for many Nigerians is that he lived as a young woman in the heart of a family for seven years, without his secret being suspected.

Betrayal

The Adamu family, who have now themselves become celebrities in Kano, were shocked when they discovered Hamza was a transvestite. Until his arrest they fondly called him Kawajo which in the Fulani language means friend.

The mother, Hajiya, says she treated him like her own teenage daughters. "In fact whenever they quarreled I always took his side because I never liked seeing him upset. I was so fond of him he was just like a daughter," she says.

During his stay with the family, Hamza spent a lot of time with her teenage daughters but they did not suspect he was not a girl, despite the fact that he always dressed and undressed in the bathroom. "He never allowed people to touch him in a playful manner," says teenager Umma.

Alhaji Adamu, whom I met sitting in front of his house, told me that even though Hamza had not engaged in any indecent behavior he still deserved to be punished "because he had broken Islamic laws".

Abubakar Hamza is currently in Kano Central Prison awaiting trial where he will answer charges under Section 9 of the Prostitution and Immoral Acts Law. If he is found guilty he will get either one-year in prison or be asked to pay a fine equivalent to \$80.

Many in Kano are talking about this story and are eagerly awaiting for the trial due on 16 September - if only to get a glimpse of the famous young transvestite.

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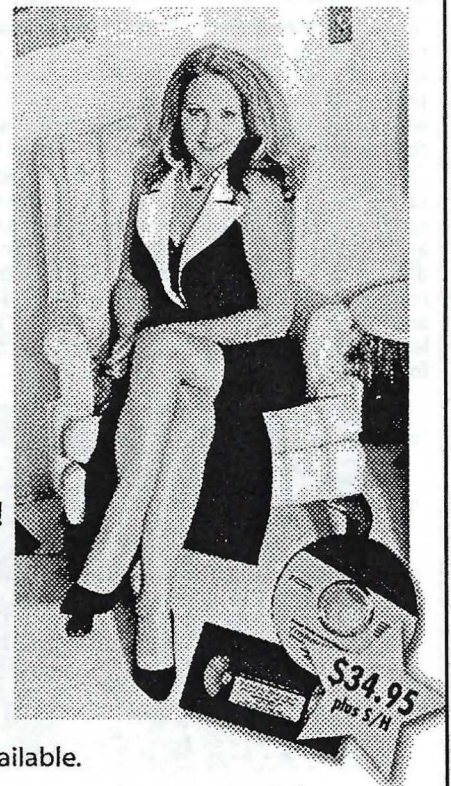
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And More 7-News!

POLICE TO RAIN ON DRAG QUEENS' PARADE

Riaan Wolmarans | Johannesburg, South Africa

The gay community is up in arms after a newspaper reported on Wednesday that drag queens will not be allowed to participate in this year's Gay and Lesbian Pride parade in Johannesburg. Furthermore, several businesspeople claim they are still owed money from last year's Pride festival, and a top advertising agency dropped the Pride publicity campaign for this year due to non-payment.

The parade, (which took place on September 25), forms part of a yearly week of celebrations — the biggest of its kind in South Africa. According to The Citizen, authorities are citing the Regulation of Gatherings Act, which prohibits any person participating in a gathering, march or protest from wearing a disguise or mask that obscures facial features and therefore prevents identification. The report quotes Johannesburg Metro Police spokesperson Wayne Minnaar as saying the decision was taken to ensure consistency and that no one in disguise or wearing a mask will be allowed to take part in the march. This includes drag queens, because of their wigs and make-up.

In a statement sent to the Mail & Guardian Online late on Wednesday, the Equality Project said this law would also allow police to arrest rugby supporters with painted faces.

The statement says the Lesbian and Gay Equality Project, Pretoria's OUT, Johannesburg's Forum for the Empowerment of Women, Cape Town's Triangle Project and the Durban Lesbian and Gay Health Centre have all stated that the interpretation by police of the Act is "blatantly unconstitutional as it unjustifiably limits a whole host of rights" and that the Act's "purpose is to prevent individuals in a protest action being involved in criminal activity by concealing their identity". "It is quite apparent that [the Act] should be interpreted in the light of a decade of democracy and when read with the Constitution," says the statement.

"The police are required to apply their mind when interpreting laws of this nature, as well as our Constitution, which is founded on fundamental values of human dignity, the achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms and which supersedes this Regulation of Gatherings Act, and was promulgated even before South Africans achieved their freedom in 1994," Knoesen added.

Drag Queens 'Pose No Threat'

"Drag queens are an intrinsic part of our subculture and are a more visible and vocal element, and it is for this reason that many spectators actually attend the Lesbian and Gay Pride march. They pose no threat to society, and in fact many of them are full-time entertainers and enjoy a large and loyal following," said Dawie Nel, director of OUT — a lesbian, gay and bisexual wellness organization.

Wendy Isaacks, legal adviser of the Equality Project, said: "The safety, security and fundamental human rights of members of our community will not be compromised or undermined in any way during this year's Pride march, or at any other time." Isaacks added that the Equality Project is "involved in dialogue with the mayor's office to highlight the futility and inherent attack on basic human rights such an action by the metro police would signify". "Discrimination against lesbian and gay people violates the principles of equality and respect for inherent human dignity," said Knoesen.



TGSF Members at Hayward Pride 2004

Appeals Court Overturns Deportation Order Of Tortured Transsexual

by Matt Johns

365Gay.com Newscenter
Los Angeles Bureau

(Los Angeles, California) A preoperative transsexual who fled El Salvador after she was beaten and raped was given a reprieve Tuesday from deportation. The Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the woman, identified only in court documents by her male birth name as Luis Reyes-Reyes, was wrongly denied relief under the Convention Against Torture by an immigration judge.

Reyes has dressed and acted as a woman for the past 16 years. In her application for asylum in the US she told the immigration hearing she had been kidnapped, raped and beaten by a group of men because of her sexuality when he was 13 and living with her family in San Salvador. The attackers, she said, threatened reprisal if she reported the incident, and she never told either the authorities or his family. At the age of 17, she fled to the United States.

At her deportation hearing the immigration judge ruled that because she had claimed the attacks against her were by agents of the El Salvador government she could not claim asylum. Judge M. Margaret McKeown said that the immigration judge erred in not applying the full standard of the convention, which includes acts committed "by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity." "By rejecting Reyes's petition because [she] had 'failed to state that anyone in the government or acting on behalf of the government tortured him,' the IJ effectively excised the phrase 'or with the consent or acquiescence of' from the regulation," she said in her ruling.

McKeown pointed to published reports of abuse throughout much of Latin America of abuse of the transgendered [sic] and gays. But, she also noted that Reyes had filed her application of asylum late, more than a year after her arrival in the country.

Judge Charles R. Breyer concurred, but Judge Jay S. Bybee agreed only with regard to the asylum claim and in the judgment. The case returns to immigration court, but because of the late filing in the asylum application, Reyes could still be deported.

National Center for Transgender Equality Alert

LLEGÓ EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH TRANSGENDER PEOPLE Adopts Policy of Supporting Only Inclusive Legislation

In a letter to NCTE, LLEGÓ, The National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Organization, announced its support for inclusion of transgender people in all future federal legislation. According to LLEGÓ Interim Executive Director Gloria Nieto, "we will not support any federal legislation that does not explicitly include protections for transgender people."

LLEGÓ becomes the 14th national organization to take this position, joining BiNet USA, DignityUSA, Family Pride Coalition, Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Lesbian Rights, National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, National Organization for Women, National Youth Advocacy Coalition, PFLAG, Pride at Work, National Stonewall Democrats and the United States Student Association. Many state and local LGBT organizations have also taken this important stand.

NCTE Executive Director Mara Keisling noted, "LLEGÓ has been a very important ally for NCTE and we are thrilled that they have taken this additional step of adopting an inclusion policy. LLEGÓ's support will help tremendously when we talk to Congress next year about introducing more comprehensive legislation."

Keisling added, "LLEGÓ's new Interim Executive Director, Gloria Nieto, has long been a personal supporter of transgender people. NCTE worked with Gloria on inclusive anti-discrimination and hate crime laws that passed in New Mexico in 2003. We are very excited to be working with her at the national level now."

Other LGBT organizations are currently considering taking this solidarity position and NCTE looks forward to this increased support.

Caeden Dempsey, Field Director

1325 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Suite 600,

Washington, DC 20005

202.639.6332 / cdempsey@nctequality.org

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF FINANCIAL REPORT

As of September 20, 2004

Assets

Cash	5417.86
Decorations	1000.00
Beverages	200.00
Total	6617.86

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	
Tyler Fong	200.00
Susan Laird	593.74
Total	793.74

Statement of TGSF Income

Revenues

TGSF Picnic in San Mateo	17.00
Beauty Magic Day	25.00
Total Revenues	42.00

Expenses

Channel	250.04
Folsom Street Fair Booth Rental	175.00
Castro Street Fair Booth Rental	200.00
Park Space Rental for TGSF picnic	40.00
Space Rental for Beauty Magic Day	125.00
Misc. (Refund)	100.00
Payment to Design Center	821.50
Payment to Tyler Fong	100.00
Total Expenses	1811.54

Net Income (Loss) (1769.54)

PISSR

People In Search of Safe Restrooms

PISSR is committed to establishing gender-neutral bathrooms. We believe that all people, regardless of their gender identification or presentation, have the right to access safe and dignified restroom facilities without fear of harassment, judgment, or violence. General meetings are always the first Monday of the month; 7 pm at 870 Market Street (Flood Building), 4th floor in San Francisco.

TGSF DONATIONS

Our Friends Who Give
as of September 20, 2004

*There were no donations
for the period.*

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Roxy Carmichael-Hart

Or

Vice President

Laura Marlowe

Secretary

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Education

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Anne Louise Mortenson

Mr. TGSF 2004

Bobby Cheung

TGSF Outreach Ambassador

Kelly Anne Marsh

TGSF.Org Webmistress

Siobhán Ellis

Calendar www.tgsf.org

*Submissions can be made online directly.
Cancelling mistakes or for other problems,
please contact the Webmistress.*

Transgender People Face Extra Security Hassles

IT ISN'T EASY TO CHANGE NAME, SEX

By Jean-Paul Renaud
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - Looking for the right name, Luca Brenna scoured baby books for months. Jennifer, Sandra, Vanessa. None of them fit. But with a few strokes of mascara and some dabs of blush, the choice of name became obvious. In the mirror, he saw a woman with flawless skin, blond hair, deep blue eyes and thin red lips.

Brenna knew it was time to change his name and sex on his driver's license. So on Dec. 26, 2002, he became Sonya. "It was hard to decide," the 33-year-old said. "How does a name match a person? It's just something about that name that's very connected to who you are."

To many transgender people — those men and women who, gay or straight, identify with the opposite sex — changing their name and gender on official records is as important to their identity as surgery or hormone therapy, advocates say. Since Brenna was a teenager, she knew she was not supposed to be a boy. The name change was a crucial part of a long journey to become what she felt she was meant to be — a woman.

Identity Theft Problem

"It meant the world to me," Brenna said of the license with her new name. "I'm somebody. I see myself in that printed ID and it's just the world."

But without an official name change, transgender people cannot use the new name on leases, credit cards, insurance records or college transcripts. And the steps required to change the basic documents — Social Security cards, driver's licenses and passports — can be confusing and sometimes unfair, advocates said.

The increasing concerns of identity theft have made name-change processes for transgender people even more difficult to undertake, attorneys said. "Identity theft is a very real and growing problem," said Michael Hernandez, an attorney who helps transgender people with name changes. "I don't think anybody really gave much thought about how it impacted the transgender community."

For transgender people, the process of changing one's name — which varies from agency to agency — is more complicated because they must change both their name and sex.

Advocates Say The Policies Are Insensitive.

"I don't think it's the confusion that frustrates people — it's the injustice that frustrates people," said Christopher Daley of the San Francisco-based Transgender Law Center. "It's complicated not because there are different policies, it's complicated because many policies are operating from a place of ignorance."

But government officials said their policies are in place to prevent identity theft. The California Department of Motor Vehicles allows transgender people to change their name and sex designation using a one-page form that must be signed by a physician. No sexual reassignment surgery is required. The federal Social Security Administration, however, requires proof of surgery before altering records. The State Department needs a court order before it will change a name and sex designation on a passport.

"It goes back to security," said Kelly Shannon, a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Consular Affairs, which is in charge of issuing passports. "We want some legal recognition that this person is the person who they say they are."

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THUMBS UP FOR POLICY ON TRANSVESTITES, TRANSEXUALS

KUALA LUMPUR Sept 15 - The move by the government to understand transsexuals and transvestites and draw up a policy on them is welcomed by the public and this "different" group in the community.

"They should be respected and acknowledged as normal human beings because despite the fact that they are physically and mentally different, underneath it all, they are the same, we are all human," said lecturer Adrian Yao told Bernama in a random survey of views from the people.

The lecturer in a private institution of higher learning here said transsexuals and transvestites are normally harmless and only a minority of them are involved in immoral activities. "I think they have a right to earn respect from society," he said. However, he admitted that Asian society, including Malaysia, is not as open to the concept of transsexuality and cross-gender issues compared with Western countries.

On Tuesday, Women, Family and Community Development Minister, Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil told the Dewan Rakyat that her ministry was gathering information on transsexuals and transvestites before drawing up a policy and actions to be taken on the matter.

Azlan, otherwise called "Nina", a cross-dresser, applauded the proposal to gather information and consult transsexuals and transvestites in drawing up a policy on this matter. A psychology graduate from a local public university, he said it is high time for the country to acknowledge people like himself and conduct a comprehensive study on the matter. "This is a good step. It's better for people to know the statistics and that we are not all bad. It cannot be denied that there are some who spoiled our image but there are also those who hold degrees, are professionals and successful," he said.

He called for justice in keeping with human rights principles and hoped that the policy to be drawn up would open the people's mind and correct the derogatory views of the community towards people like him. "We are also human. I am surprised when prospective employers at job interviews I attended looked oddly at me. This is discrimination. We are not as open-minded as compared with other countries ... it's unfair if we look at a person without assessing their capabilities," he said.

From a religious point of view, a committee member of a local religious organization who preferred anonymity agreed with the minister that the problem is complex. The mother of two said while this group of people should exert their basic human rights, most mainstream religions opined that they should maintain their gender given from birth. "From a religious point of view, I think I would say yes and no (the justification of the nature of this group). Yes, because they are physically God-created, there is no such thing as man being a woman or woman being a man.

"I always believe the tendency to deviate to transsexuality or transvestism is caused by the environment factor, the way they were brought up. I don't believe it is part of genetics," she said. She however said the public should show compassion to such people as they were like everyone else; trying to find a place in society and, perhaps, gaining attention and acknowledgement by behaving the way they do.

LISA-LEE ALBUM LAUNCH

Daniel Davies, The Western Mail

A soprano who did not discover she was a woman until she was 19 is preparing to release her debut album. Because of a rare medical condition Lisa-Lee Dark, from Swansea, thought she was a boy. Despite being a pupil at an all-boys comprehensive school, she only discovered her true gender after she left and doctors diagnosed congenital adrenal hyperplasia (CAH). But her condition and singing may be related.

The testosterone-boosting treatment she took in her teens could be the reason her voice is able to span eight octaves, she said. Now 27, Lisa-Lee will launch her debut album *Breath of Life* next month.

"It's what I would class as an easy listening, classical chillout album," she said. "Two or three of the songs are really well know. The others are not as well known."

In females the excess of testosterone that people with CAH have can cause abnormal genital development before birth. CAH sufferers are often spotted through the low level of salt in the body, linked to a hormone called aldosterone.

"Nowadays most people are spotted, so if you've got a salt deficiency it's picked up early in life, but I didn't have that. But they don't screen for CAH so people still fall through the net. People are more aware of it, but even now you still come across doctors who are not familiar with it at all. It doesn't just affect female babies, it can happen the other way around.

"I went to see a specialist when I was about 15 who gave me the wrong diagnosis. He told me I had a rare hermaphrodite condition and said my body was trying to become female. So I took a lot of male hormones to try and make myself more male."

Lisa-Lee has now accepted the diagnosis of CAH and her true gender. Named Lee at birth, she changed her name in her twenties, choosing Lisa to prove she was not intimidated by bullies who taunted her with the name for being so feminine at school.



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QUEENS WILL GET CHANCE TO WALK WITH PRIDE

Drag queens were most welcome at Johannesburg's 15th gay pride march next weekend, despite media rumors to the contrary, the organizers said on Friday. "Pride 2004 is open to all who wish to attend. Drag queens are an intrinsic part of the gay community and we stand by our constitutional right of freedom of expression," said Sean Lucas, promoter of the event.

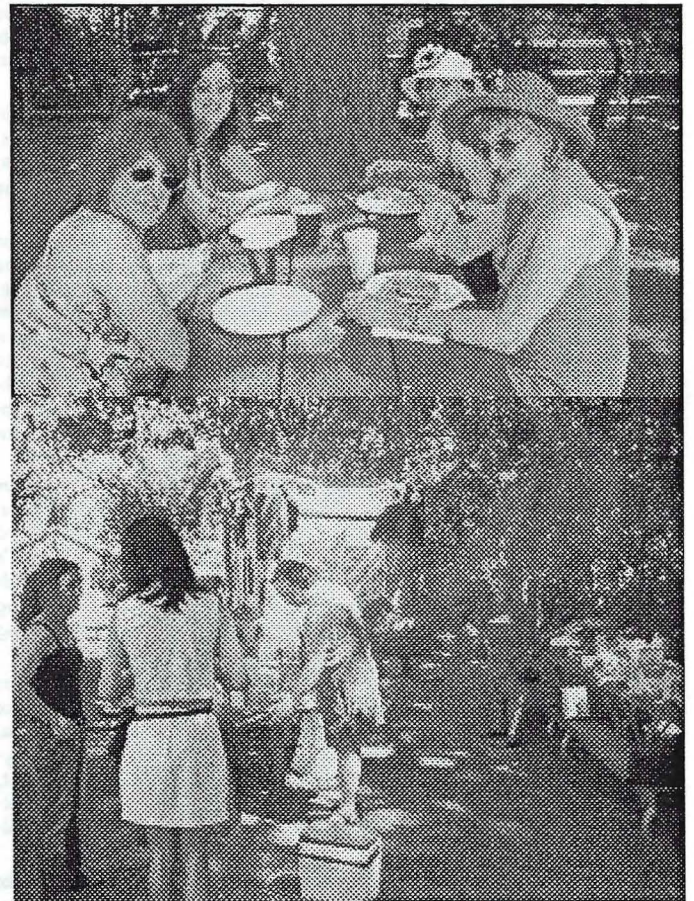
Pride 2004 would take place as scheduled on September 25 with the approval of the police, said event organizer Gary Bath. Metro police had earlier said that drag queens would be prevented from marching, because it is illegal to disguise one's appearance at a public gathering.

'Pride 2004 is open to all who wish to attend'

While Metro police spokesperson Wayne Minnaar would not confirm to Sapa that they had changed their attitude, he said there would be an "amicable solution so the march can go ahead". He said a meeting was scheduled for Monday to confirm all conditions of marching.

This week South Africa's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered [sic] and intersex community voiced its outrage at the news that drag queens at the event would be arrested.

It was not only the drag queens who were affected, said Dawie Nel, the director of Out, a health organization of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transsexuals. "Drag queens are the reason that many spectators actually attend the Lesbian and Gay Pride march. Many of them are full time entertainers and enjoy a large and loyal following."



Photos from
TGSF Picnic
September 2004

OPRAH WINFREY: AGENT OF MORAL INSANITY

Albert Mohler

Author, Speaker, President of the Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

[Editor's Note: I picked-up this insidiously slanted article from what's being published by the ultra-conservative religious right, in an attempt to expose you to what we're up against.]

Oprah Winfrey, widely cited as one of the most influential and admired women in America, showed herself to be an agent of moral insanity when she featured a program celebrating young children who are seeking sex-change procedures and transgender identities. In one episode of "The Oprah Winfrey Show," the true nature of our modern sexual confusion was made clear, and the broadcast should long be remembered as one of the most frightening hours in television history.

The program, broadcast on Tuesday, August 24, began with Oprah introducing the children seeking a sex change. "This is going to be a very fascinating show, OK?" Oprah began. She then introduced her first young guest: "He is an 11-year-old child. He likes skateboarding and PlayStation. He listens to rap, studies hard, gets good grades and wears those trendy baggy pants. He was also born a girl."

Oprah then moved to the broader theme of her program. "And right now according to experts, there are thousands of children who are living what appear to be very normal lives but deep inside they know something is terribly wrong or they feel that something is terribly wrong, and these children are saying that they were born in the wrong bodies. Their parents have to decide whether or not to let their children live as the opposite sex. Eleven-year-old Kayla lived for years with this secret."

According to a video broadcast on the program, Kayla was born a girl in 1992, but her mother reported that "Kayla never played with girls' toys, never played with dolls. About two years of age on, Kayla was more into dirt and bikes...she would pick out baggy pants, boxer underwear. She didn't like girls' underpants."

At some point, Kayla saw an episode of the Oprah show and was prompted to declare that she was now a boy. She told her mother that she believed she was a boy born into a girl's body. Her mother Angelina responded in a way that left Oprah nodding in approval. "My first reaction was basically blowing it off. A few days later, I said, 'OK, let's find out more about it.'" As the show unfolded, the audience was told that Kayla, now "Kaden," was facing struggles at school. Early puberty presented additional challenges, so Angelina put her 11-year-old daughter on Depo-Provera. Kaden told Oprah's audience, "When I'm old enough to, I want to get testosterone and my surgery."

The next child featured on Oprah was Dylan, a boy who at age four declared that he wanted to become a girl. Now, a couple of years later, Dylan is even more certain that he wants to be a girl. Dylan's mom shared that this has become something of a stress point in the family. "Dylan's dad has a real hard time accepting this. He'll reprimand him." As Oprah continued the questioning, it turned out that Dylan's mom has been buying him dolls and painting his fingernails. Dylan's dad, Derek, is indeed having "a real hard time accepting this."

After a conversation with a "transgender therapist," Winfrey then confronted Derek with his refusal to go along with his son's desire for a sex change. Coming out of a commercial break, Oprah told her audience: "And as I—I was saying to Derek during the commercial break, I was saying that this is your holiest hour. This will be your holiest hour as a parent, being able to allow your son to be himself and to love him as he is. Whatever that turns out to be, you know, that's where, where you will be challenged emotionally, spiritually and otherwise, I think."

Oprah's third young guest was Halle, a young girl who at age six announced that she wanted to be a boy. As Karen, the child's mother, explained, "When Halle turned three, she said she wanted to be a boy. My husband, Eric, and I thought Halle was just a tomboy, maybe she'd grow out of this, maybe she'd just be a lesbian. Then Halle began to act out. She

became verbally abusive and was extremely depressed. At one point, Halle said to me, 'I'm not meant to be here, Mama. It would be easier if I were in heaven.' Halle was six at the time. We started to see a therapist. She told us Halle was transgender. When we discovered what transgender meant, we were devastated. We felt like we were losing our little girl. Halle told us to call her Hal. When Halle turned seven, we began to let her live full-time as a boy. At school, he told his friends that he had a boy's heart and a girl's body. Even though I miss my daughter, I am so lucky to see my son happy." "Hal's" parents are very broad-minded about their child's sexual and gender exploration. Looking to the future, "Hal's" mother commented: "He knows his options. He knows about blockers and he knows about the hormones, but those are things that he absolutely has to come to terms with and he has to make those decisions. We support him whichever way he chooses to go. And we've always supported that. We've always said, you know, 'We understand you are a boy inside. You feel like a boy, but if you ever change your mind, you just tell us and we will support you,' because we don't want him to feel like he's got to be one way or the other."

After all this, Winfrey celebrated what she called an "evolution" in social tolerance and cultural acceptance of the idea of a sex change, even among children. "I have seen such a change in the way parents parent, you know," Oprah declared, "even in the years that we've been here, 18 years, seeing such a—a difference—this generation, your generation, is so much more open to accepting children as they are instead of trying to—forcing whatever your own idea was."

This isn't "evolution," this is insanity. Oprah and her guests were involved in an absurd and horrific exercise in moral inanity. What culture can survive such a rebellion against the moral order? What devastation and destruction will be brought into the lives of young children before some level of sanity is reestablished?

The ideology of the homosexual movement has been subverting the reality of gender for decades. The very fact that human beings are created as male and female flies in the face of the utter rebellion against and rejection of the moral order that stands at the very center of the homosexual agenda.

Instead of helping these young children to grow into maturity as the boys and girls they were meant to be, growing into womanhood and manhood with the assistance and moral direction of parents and other authorities in the society, these children are encouraged to "explore" their gender and sexuality in order to determine who they really are. The very idea that we "discover" our gender as a matter of interiority is itself an act of aggression against the moral order and a demonstration of human arrogance against the divine design of creation.

The postmodern enablers of the homosexual movement and its transgender wing have convinced the cultural elite that gender is merely a matter of social construction and biological accident. Sexual and gender "identity," we are now told, is simply a matter of coming to terms with the self and its own orientation. Gender is now a plastic reality, moldable and changeable throughout one's lifetime. Oprah, joining the insanity as an agent of moral revolution, brought on a guest introduced as a gender therapist to clarify the issues. Explaining Dylan's situation to his father, therapist Jana Ekdahl told Derek, "Dylan feels that he's in the wrong body. Dylan wants to be a little girl. And there's really nothing that you can do to change that nor is there anything that you've done to cause that. Frequently parents, especially mothers, feel that they've done something to cause it, but that's just not true." Oprah Winfrey, ever the scientific expert, asked, "It occurs in the womb, does it not?" Ekdahl responded with assurance that gender orientation "does occur in the womb." She went on to suggest, "The research so—so far shows that it occurs in the first trimester." As she explained, "Something happens, whereas the brain develops in one direction and the body develops in another. For instance, for Dylan, it might be that his body was developing as a boy, whereas his brain was developing as a girl. Then he comes out, and he looks like a boy. So it's much easier to change the body. We can't change the brain."

But this isn't medicine at all—it's more like therapeutic voodoo. Jana L. Ekdahl, the therapist featured on the Oprah program is, according to her own website, a psychotherapist who "welcomes the transgender population." As she explains, "The youth of today are indeed our future. I have had the rare privilege of meeting and working with gender-variant youth. They are changing the face of gender for us all. I sometimes view them as archetypal warriors on the cutting edge of that space between the two polarities that we hold onto so tightly. Perhaps it would serve us all to go to that place . . . that special space between genders . . . and see what we find there."

What we find there is an absolute moral meltdown. The very notion that we should see young children suffering this level of sexual confusion as "archetypal warriors on the cutting edge" of gender development is insidious, tragic, and should be scandalous. Ms. Ekdahl's agenda is made clear when she suggests that it would "serve us all to go to that place."

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Continued on Page 23

Photo Journal by Silia Hurst

HELLO,

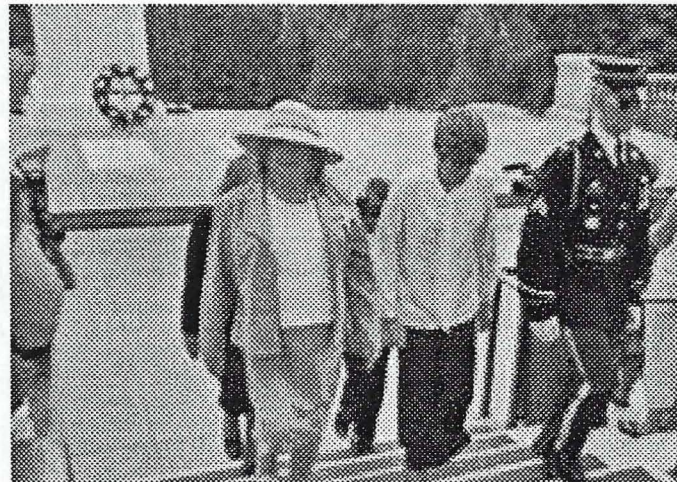
I would like to share my involvement with the transgender community across the nation. First, I started by participating in 2004 Lobby Days last April.



History made, National Transgender Advocacy Coalition 2004 lobbying at its best in Washington, D.C.



Silia Hurst, Vanessa Edwards Foster (NTAC Chair) and Gwen Smith



History was made when members of Transgender American Veterans Association placed the wreath in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier - May 1, 2004.



At the Esprit Dance: Friend, Angela Borges, Sarah Reavis, Karyn Hamilton and Silia Hurst



Attended and participated in the Utah Pride Parade on June 13, 2004 in Salt Lake City - Silia with Sandy Kelly from Clearfield, UT



Pulled on-stage by RuPaul to model in front of a huge crowd.



I arrived in Baltimore on the 6th of August and participated in the Transsexual Menace protest in front of the HRC building that Saturday morning, August 7, 2004.

Title VII Decision

FEDERAL APPEALS COURT ALLOWS SEX DISCRIMINATION CLAIM BY TRANSEXUAL

[Editor's Note: I gleaned this from the monthly California Employment Law Newsletter we subscribe to at my office.]

In a decision that's sure to send shock waves through human resources departments across the country, the Sixth Circuit has allowed a transsexual firefighter to pursue sex discrimination claims against his employer under Title VII. This is the first time a federal appeals court has recognized such a claim. Let's take a look at this fascinating court decision and what it may mean for you.

Facts

Jimmie Smith had been a lieutenant in the Salem, Ohio, Fire Department for seven years when he was diagnosed with gender identity disorder (GID), or transsexualism. That basically means he's biologically a man but his sexual identity is that of a woman. Part of the treatment for people with GID is that they start dressing and acting like the sex they believe they are. That often leads ultimately to a sex-change operation.

Smith's lawsuit alleged the following facts. When, after seven years with the department, he began dressing and acting more feminine at work, the other firefighters questioned him and commented on his waning masculinity. As a result, he decided to talk to his supervisor, Thomas Eastek, about his condition. He told Eastek that, eventually, he would probably undergo a sex-change operation. Smith's sole purpose in talking to Eastek was to explain the changes in his appearance and demeanor so that Eastek could address the matter with the other firefighters.

Eastek told the city's fire chief about Smith's condition and behavior after promising not to. The fire chief responded by, together with the city's attorney, devising a plan to get rid of Smith. Apparently afraid to fire him outright, they decided instead to require him to undergo three psychological evaluations with physicians of their choosing. They apparently hoped that Smith would either quit (rather than submit to the evaluations) or refuse to comply (in which case they could fire him for insubordination).

Smith found out about the plan, got a lawyer, and filed a complaint with the EEOC. A few days later, the city suspended him for allegedly violating a city regulation. That suspension was eventually overturned by a court because the regulation Smith supposedly violated wasn't in effect at the time. Smith apparently still worked for the fire department throughout the duration of his lawsuit and appeal.

Because GID is a recognized medical condition, you might wonder why Smith didn't sue for disability discrimination under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The answer is that the ADA specifically says that it doesn't apply to transsexualism. We assume that Smith didn't pursue a harassment claim because the comments of his fellow firefighters didn't rise to the level of a hostile work environment.

Legal Claims

To understand the court's decision, you need a little bit of background. As you know, Title VII prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of sex. What that means exactly has long been the subject of controversy and dispute. The U.S. Supreme Court hasn't issued all that many decisions on the subject of sex discrimination, but when it does, it tends to be a doozy.

Such was the case in 1989, when the Court issued its decision in *Price Waterhouse v. Hopkins*. In that case, one of the accounting firm's senior managers was turned down for partnership because, in part, she was considered "macho." She was told that if she wanted to improve her chances for partnership, she should go to charm school; walk, talk, and dress more femininely; and wear makeup and jewelry.

The Court said that denying a promotion to a woman because she's not "feminine enough" is sex discrimination. Since that decision, the courts have generally recognized federal law claims for "sex stereotyping" — or discrimination against a woman because she fails to "act like" a woman.

Smith argued that that's essentially what happened to him. The city discriminated against him because he failed to act like a man. In 1983, the Court recognized (in a case that didn't involve sex stereotyping) that Title VII prohibits sex discrimination against men. It follows, then, that if employers can't discriminate against women who aren't feminine enough, they can't discriminate against men who aren't masculine enough, either.

The trial judge basically thought that Smith was trying to disguise what was essentially a claim for transsexual discrimination as a claim for sex stereotyping. But the appellate court disagreed, saying that it could see no difference between Smith's situation and that of the "macho" female manager in the *Price Waterhouse* case.

But the Sixth Circuit went even further, concluding that Title VII prohibits discrimination not only on the basis of a person's actions (a man acting like a woman) but also on the mere fact that the person is a transsexual (even if the person doesn't "act like a member of the opposite sex). A man who professes to be a transsexual, the court explained, is inherently stating that he wants to be a woman, and that's the same thing as acting like a woman under the theory of "sex stereotyping." *Smith v. City of Salem, Ohio* (6th Cir. 2004).

Bottom Line

Perhaps the biggest question this case raises is what impact it will have on the ability of homosexual employees to sue in federal court for sex discrimination. It has long been acknowledged that Title VII doesn't prohibit harassment or discrimination on the basis of an employee's sexual orientation. Not all homosexuals exhibit behavior or mannerisms that resemble those of the opposite sex. In other words, not all gay men are effeminate, and not all lesbians are masculine. It seems clear, then, that employees who are discriminated against or harassed solely because of their homosexuality wouldn't be able to assert a claim under Title VII. But if a homosexual doesn't conform to society's rules regarding appropriate masculine or feminine behavior, it appears that he or she would be able to sue for sex discrimination under the theory espoused in this case.

The good news is that the chances that you will have a transsexual employee are pretty slim. The bad news is that if you do have a transsexual employee, it's no longer clear what your legal obligations are. Our best advice is to follow the golden rule of employment discrimination:

Evaluate employees on the basis of their job performance, not on irrelevant personal factors such as their sexual identity or orientation.

SIGNIFICANT OTHER SUPPORT EAST BAY

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

TRANS

(Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space)

TRANS is a program of the University of California, San Francisco which is entirely dedicated to the well-being of transgender people and we are staffed almost entirely by members of the transgender community. One of our staff members, **Damon Helton**, is also a TGSF Executive Committee officer, so I'm sure you have some familiarity with our organization.

Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space (TRANS) provides a community gathering place for MTF, FTM, genderqueer and emerging trans-identified communities. In our space we provide gender-appropriate and culturally-appropriate workshops, linkage to service providers, case management, support groups, events, guest speakers, substance use/abuse intervention and mental health services to the broad spectrum of transgender and gender variant people in San Francisco. Our workshops and support groups address issues of interest and concern to transgender people such as transgender health and health care policy, HIV awareness and substance use/abuse issues, transitioning and surgical procedures for both FTM and MTF transpeople, identity and self esteem, transgender law, commercial sex work, and general life skills.

Through our workshops, support groups and special events, TRANS hopes to offer the transgender community of the San Francisco Bay Area the means to address concerns both within and outside of our community. Staffed by caring and committed transgender and gender variant people, TRANS provides an informal drop-in center where MTF and FTM transgender people, gender queer and gender variant people can go to relax, socialize, take a shower, and join in the ongoing effort to foster the well-being of our community.

You may view our website at the following URL: <http://www.caps.ucsf.edu/TRANS/>. Please feel free to provide a link to our website if you wish.



Remember Gwen Araujo!



Gwen Amber Rose Araujo (1985 - 2002)

...A transgender teenager from Newark, CA was murdered at a party by a group of men upon discovery of her transgender status. Twenty months after Gwen Araujo's death the jury deadlocked on whether her attackers were guilty of first or second-degree murder. According to Alameda County District Attorney's Office, none of the jurors were willing to settle for the lesser offense of manslaughter — despite efforts by defense attorneys in the case to argue that Gwen's killers were somehow justified because she did not disclose her transgender identity to them. The prosecutor already has stated that he will re-try the three defendants, Michael Magidson, Jose Merel, and Jason Cazares, for murder.

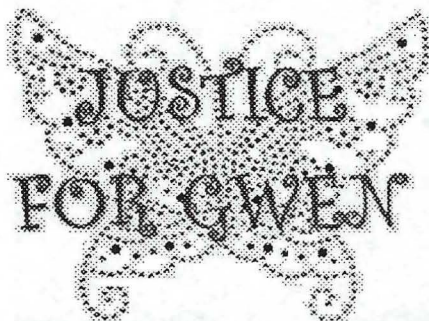
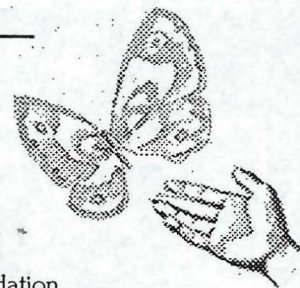


Make Your Money Count!

To contribute to Gwen's family directly: **Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund**, Bank Of America, Any BofA branch location, Acct# 10598-05854

To support transgender education work: **Gwen Araujo Transgender Education Fund** c/o Horizons Foundation, 870 Market St. Suite, 728 San Francisco, CA 94102 (415) 398 - 2333 / www.horizonsfoundation.org

Thank you!



Oprah Winfrey...

Continued from Page 20

Oprah interviewed Ms. Ekdahl as if she represented the medical establishment, but her own website identifies her education as including baccalaureate and master's degrees in psychology, and certification from the State of Washington as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and a Certified Sexual Minority Specialist—whatever that is. As she shares with her perspective clients, "I embrace the philosophy of Carl Jung and Depth Psychology. The union of East and West is essential to my work, as I have studied to learn about the modalities of each. Buddhist thought and Native American spirituality are interwoven into the fabric of my psyche. I have access to this wisdom to share with my clients, either directly or otherwise."

Is this where we are headed? Oprah Winfrey did not merely feature the subject of children struggling with their identities, she chided the parents who would not go along with this "evolution" in moral consciousness and, as she warned one parent, "And what do you think will happen if you remain as closed as you are? What damage will be done by you not opening up to who he really is?"

In reality, that father was the only adult to appear on that program with the slightest degree of common sense and moral wisdom. Yet, he was the one blamed for wanting to limit his child's self-exploration and gender transformation.

America learned a lot last Tuesday. We learned that we are in much deeper trouble than most Americans could ever have conceived. We learned that the moral revolution pushing a complete transformation of the sexual order has now progressed to the point that our children are being told they should explore their gender identity and, if inclined to do so, change genders. We also learned that Oprah Winfrey has taken sides in this revolution. After Tuesday's show there can remain little doubt that Oprah Winfrey is an agent of moral insanity.

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