

Pro Makeovers All Smiles!

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



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

The Channel

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

ExCom 2000 - 2001 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

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

Membership Report

As of October 15, 2000

Membership 205
 Total Fiscal Year 1999-2000 Membership 279
 New Memberships This Year 24

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Newsletter Staff

Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Debbie Cook / Ayme Kantz
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Telzey Adams,
 Nicole and Debbie Cook

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...

Not one week after the October issue of *The Channel* hit the streets, than I got the lucky break I was looking for. I was on a waiting list for a very nice apartment at a complex called Bridgecourt located in Emeryville, close to the Marina. Management had informed me that an apartment would probably become available in December, which was unacceptable to me in terms of my immediate timeline, but I thought what the hell, worth a shot. So when I got a call late in the afternoon after the Folsom Street Fair saying a cancellation had opened the door for me, I jumped right on it!

It's gotta be some kind of record for this part of the world - after my return to the Bay Area on September 15th, I walked right back into a job and moved in to my new apartment in 22 days. After languishing for four months in Minnesota, three weeks in California was all it took to finally get my life back. Hollywood couldn't have written a better script.

It's not the romantic and elaborate Victorian I had my heart set on, but it couldn't be more perfect: 788 square feet of thoughtfully designed space, 18 feet vaulted ceilings, a big girl oval bathtub, a fireplace; I get to have my cat and a place to securely park the tuna boat; I've got the easiest commute to SF on the planet and the weather's better over here. I am extremely happy with the way it all worked out. Somehow I knew it would.

Good Karma I guess. And I've started dating again! Back in August I talked a bit about running into that Non-Op Wall. While I am determined to complete my reassignment now, my outlook on the meaning of Life, the Universe and Everything has allowed me to meet some really great people that obliterate many of the social barriers I grew up with - color, race, gender and weight. Not only am I getting back into the swing of things at work and having real impact on my group, but I'm also having some fun. And why not, I have to ask myself. I find myself living with real joy and passion, reuniting with old friends (the dinner dates are flying!), and it's been the best 30 day period I've had in a long time.

I have a dear friend, David - a 30-year AIDS survivor who puzzles the hell out of his doctors - who was recently diagnosed with cancer on top of it. Chemotherapy has wiped his immune system and yet he still baffles his medical team at his body's abnormal reaction to this harsh treatment. He hasn't gotten ill with the usual side effects, has kept all his hair, eats well, looks healthy. The hospital staff encourages him to visit with the other patients undergoing the same procedures, and although he's self-conscious about it, he acts as an inspiration to the others. I think it's due to his positive outlook and his willingness to tackle each challenge as it comes, always focusing on achieving a desired positive objective. When his doctors told him that if he didn't take the Chemo, he'd be dead inside of six months, he just laughed and said, "I wish I had a dollar for every time I've been told that." Just last night I got a quick email from him. All he said was, "You're not old. You've just lived a long time."

I'm *ahem* 44 years old, reasonably well preserved for a white girl, done quite a bit of traveling and could qualify for having lived one's life to the fullest. But I had to reflect a while on those words. Here he is fighting for his life and yet he continues to exude this good-natured confidence. I've got it easy by comparison. I'm just trying to express a preferred gender opposite to the one I was assigned at birth. Piece of cake. Perspective is everything. Guided by Faith and Hope, how can you not live your life fully, no matter what it throws at you? Certainly Despair rears its ugly head now and then, but what is it inside people like David that keeps them

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ExCom MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of TGSF's Executive Committee was held in Berkeley at the Pacific Center on October 1, 2000 at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were President Nicole Cook, Secretary Debbie Cook, Treasurer Deborah, Outreach Co-Chair Kalani Makalani, Outreach Co-Chair Telzey Adams, and Education Co-Chair Stephanie Ann Blythe. Vice President Aiyana Eveningstar, Education Co-Chair Jennifer Antoinette, Social Co-Chair Tianna DeVil and Social Co-Chair Serena Anderson were absent. There were no guests.



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

President Nicole indicated that we needed a 3rd person to join Renaissance before we can become an affiliate of their organization. The requirements were that 3 members of TGSF be members of Renaissance and there was a \$25 per year fee. Stephanie Ann will look into becoming a member so we can proceed. Nicole makes a motion to become an affiliate of Renaissance after the 3rd person we need joins. The motion passes.

Nicole received information in the mail about the next California Dreamin' conference after talking with Joan Goodnight. It looks like the dates have been moved to November 2001 to resolve the conflict with the Cotillion. Nicole mentioned that if anyone was interested in participating in Cal Dreamin' to contact her.

Theresa Sparks is part of the TG Political Caucus. She has initiated a worthy effort. Nicole has volunteered some time to it. Almost 200 people have responded to the concept that has been brought forth which is to coalesce individuals, leaders and groups from all factions of the transgendered community in the region into one voice. They will focus on addressing transgender-specific issues and help elect political candidates who are supportive of our basic rights as human beings. Nicole mentioned that if anyone was interested in volunteering for this group to please contact her. The letter about the caucus will be run in our next newsletter.

Theresa has also mentioned that the city of San Francisco may be in the position of letting an RFP (request for proposal) to do a large scale outreach provider of TG issues. No one organization at this time could probably respond to that in an appropriate way. CUAV will likely jump at the chance, but what Theresa has proposed is that if TGSF were to do the coordination effort of all the outreach centers in the area we would then be in a position to perhaps bid on the RFP and have a paying position. That could be controversial, but it would be discussed in the special topics meeting.

We are supposed to register once a year with the California Corporations Commission. The last paperwork received show Erin Souza as the president. We will modify the information on record so it is updated. There is a service that does this for us. For \$80 they will take care of all the paperwork. What it does require is that real names need to be placed on the form. Most of the ExCom members (besides president, vice president, secretary and treasurer) will be listed on the form as Directors of the group.

The ExCom spoke about changing the reimbursement rules for Miss TGSF at the last ExCom. Following along what SGA (Sacramento Gender Association) uses, covered events limited to the lesser of \$500 or 20% of the SGA budget. What this allows Miss SGA to do, which would be nice for Miss TGSF to have the same ability, is to attend a large number of events up until \$500 or 20% of the budget and could adjust that number, it lets Miss SGA get reimbursed for many events. This works in our advantage. What

Tianna has been doing is going to events that we have never been to before and they now know our name. It's expected to have attendance from each of these groups at our Cotillion this year. Nicole made a proposal that we make that the way we are covering reimbursement for things which Miss TGSF goes to - limited to the lesser of \$500 or 20% of the TGSF budget. Nicole calls for any discussion. Stephanie Ann asked what Miss SGA's reimbursement has been like and with Nicole being Miss SGA, she mentioned that she is no where close to the \$500 limit and she has been to many different events. The motion passes.

The auction of Sandra Brewer's items brought in \$100 to the club.

Vice President: In Aiyana's absence, Nicole touched on some of the Cotillion planning meeting discussion as well as the flyers that went with 3 members to Southern Comfort. Rachael Janelle put together a packet for potential advertisers. Stephanie Ann is doing the volunteer coordination and anyone who is interested in volunteering to help with the Cotillion should be contacting Stephanie Ann.

Secretary: Membership has been up over the last three months. We currently have 202 members.

Last month's meeting minutes were approved.

The Pacific Center sent TGSF a nice thank-you letter for our \$250 donation.

Editor: Ayme has returned from back east. The current newsletter has not been sent yet. It was picked up from the printer 2 days before the meeting and will be sent out by Oct. 2nd. We are currently close to or just above our budget for the newsletter.

Publicist: 2 advertising renewals, but no new.

Treasurer: Deborah shows a balance on TGSF's account as \$7,5393.17. Nicole wondered if Deborah had been asked for last years Cotillion budget. Deborah had not. Nicole suggested that Deborah get in contact with Janis (last years Treasurer) to see if she has it. The TGSF computer came back to the President.

Social Chair: In Tianna's absence, Nicole covered these topics. Nicole, Debbie and Tianna attended the RGA dinner at Bella in Redwood City. 11 people showed up and it turned out really nice. Tianna did some really good outreach.

September EOM turned out good. Nicole asked whether or not Deborah received any money from the basket that was passed around. She did not. Nicole with talk with Alexis and Jennifer about the basket.

The Halloween party will be at Divas on the 21st. We are working with DVG, since their Dinner/Dance is on the same night. TGSF will be doing the costume contest later in the night so that those who want to go to dinner in Walnut Creek can do that and then attend the Halloween party.

Nicole is trying to get Serena to set up a theater event.

Outreach Chair 1: Kalani mentioned that she is still working on the schedule for outreach. There are about 50% more speaking engagements this year than last. The Lavender Seniors requested speakers for their group. TGSF had never spoken there before. They may also be willing to help with the Cotillion.

Nicole and Debbie will be doing outreach in Sacramento for 5 classes as well speaking at SFSU on the 17th of October and at Humboldt State on the 19th of October.

November 19th is being looked at for TGSF's Speaker Orientation class.

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Meeting Minutes...

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Outreach Chair 2: A gal called on the hotline that was agitated about the program that was shown on CNN. Nicole suggested that Telzey give her our phone number and Nicole could get information to her about GenderPac – those who have more information about the issue.

Nicole mentioned that we received a letter from Anne and Dianne Giles about their outreach participation. Nicole mentioned that she called them as soon as she received the letter and went to their home the next day to talk with them for about an hour and a half. What seemed to be at the root of the issue is that they were expecting more recognition than we were giving. That may be something we need to address. A form letter may be something to think about sending out to those speakers. This could lead to why we occasionally lose some of our speakers. Dianne had sent Nicole their list of speakers for the North Bay area, which in turn was sent to Kalani for her records.

Education Chair 1: The seminar with Dr. Preecha collected about \$284 all together. We lost about \$90 on the event. There were about 80 people there.

A tape was made of the event which Stephanie Ann will transfer to VHS.

A letter to Dr. Preecha will be drawn up and sent to him thanking him for the event.

For the post-op panel on Oct. 14th, there are enough speakers to fill the panel for most of the Dr's, but there has not been any request to speak for the Canadian Dr's. Stephanie Ann wondered about TGSF's liability insurance for the room rental at the Women's Building. Nicole mentioned that it is \$1,000,000. We can send Stephanie Ann a copy of the page that show that if she needs for renting the room.

There are no November education events scheduled. This is ok with the Cotillion coming up.

Education Chair 2: In Jennifer's absence, Nicole reports that there were at least 4 people who were made over at the Makeup/Hairstyle session at Diva's. A couple of others received hairstyles and other little things after that.

Adjournment: At 5:25 p.m., Nicole makes a motion to close the meeting, Stephanie Ann seconded the motion, the motion was passed.

Next ExCom Meeting is on Sunday, November 5th, at 3:30 p.m. at the Pacific Center in Berkeley.

Special Topics Meeting: Nicole introduced four topics for discussion in the special topics meeting.

The first topic Nicole discussed was the possibility of being part of the 2001 California Dreamin' which will take place in November. Nicole mentioned that if we do it, we should do it right and assist in making it a successful event.

The second topic Nicole discussed is the master outreach database and any discussion about the possible RFP that TGSF may be able to apply for.

The third topic Nicole discussed again is the possibility of having 2 new positions on the ExCom as voting positions. The Editor, which would back up the Secretary in case of any problems and the Publicist, who would back up the Treasurer, in case of any problems. There was some discussion about requiring 2 other people to attend the ExCom meetings, but there seemed to be no negative response to having backup of officers.

The last topic Nicole discussed is if anyone on the board wanted to use the TGSF computer. There were no takers. The computer will be put up for sale on Ebay with the proceeds going to the club.



Theresa Sparks (left) confers with Nicole Cook

EXPANDED HOTLINE HOURS!

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

ARE YOU A VETERAN?

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

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

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

THERAPY GROUP - STARTING SEPT. 2000

For trans folks. A safe place to receive support from peers and explore a variety of issues. Can fulfill the therapy requirement of the current standards of care.



Open to MTF, FTM, undecided, at any stage of transition

Scent-free • Convenient East Bay location
Co-facilitators: VALERIE IGL, licensed Marriage and Family Therapist,
and REID VANDERBURGH, MA in Counseling Psychology student and female-to-male transman.

Sunday / November 5th / 4:00pm

EXCOM MEETING

The monthly meeting of the ExCom will be held at the Pacific Center. The Cotillion is just around the corner (can you believe it?!?!?) and volunteers will still be needed for that upcoming event. If you are interested, please contact your Secretary or come to a meeting!! The Pacific Center is located at 2712 Telegraph Avenue in Berkeley. If you need more information, please feel free to contact your Secretary Debbie Cook at (707) [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]@yahoo.com.

Wednesday / November 8th / 7:00pm

TRANSBAY SOCIAL

Don't forget that 2nd Wednesday of the month is the day that the TransBay group meets at Quetzals. Quetzals is located at 1234 Polk, between Sutter and Bush (right down the street from Kimo's). Park in the large parking structure and walk around the corner to where the coffee shop is located. This event starts at 7:00 pm.

Wednesday / November 15th / 8:00pm

TGSF MID-MONTH SOCIAL

There's been a request to return to Cafe Mars! So we will once again grace 'Mars' with our presence for our November Mid-month. This has been a favorite in the past and apparently is still a pleasing rendezvous to some. It's a good place to have a meal and a few cocktails with friends. The conversation is what you make of it. You'll also find it an opportunity to mingle with some of the local clientele. Do some outreach girls! If you've been there before, I need tell you no more. **If it's your first time there, 'The Diva' says 'check it out!'**

Thursday / November 30th / 8:00pm

TGSF END OF MONTH SOCIAL

The End of Month social will be held at one of our hangouts we haven't visited for awhile, The Blue Muse. We've now had the chance to meet in a restaurant setting (The Blue Muse) and in a bar/club setting (Diva's) and so it would be a good time to give us feedback on which setting you, the members, like the most. If you have an opinion on where you would like to see the end-of-month's held, stop by and let us know!! The Blue Muse is located at 409 Gough Street in San Francisco. Park in any of the local parking lots on either side of the restaurant.

Transcending Transgender Support Group

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

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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COTILLION

Aiyana Eveningstar is looking for a few good girls (and boys!) to help with coordinating various aspects of running the cotillion event. Especially needed are people who can help with advertising, ticket distribution, and obtaining sponsors. But help in any fashion is greatly appreciated.

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

A NIGHT OUT FOR DINNER AND A SHOW

Wouldn't it be great to have dinner at a nice restaurant before going to see a play at one of our local theatres or even attend an opera as a group ?? Well, our social chairs have been just been pondering such an outing. But before a commitment can be made to such an event for discounted group tickets, we need to find out how many of you would be interested in attending.

We want to hear from you !! If you would be interested in going, please call our current co-Social chair, Serena Anderson, at 510 [REDACTED] and let her know. The number of responses received will determine whether or not we will pursue this event.

Barbara F. Anderson

Ph.D., L.C.S.W.

Clinical Sexologist
Certified Sex Therapist

1537 Franklin St., Suite 104
San Francisco, CA 94109

Ph (415) 776-0139
Fax (415) 441-0936



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Fremont, CA 94536

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Calendar of Events - November 2000

OTHER GROUPS

Pacific Center for Human Growth

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM

A support group for Female-to-Male CDs and TSs; Holds open Informational Meetings and closed Support Meetings. Write FTM International, Inc., 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or call 415-553-5987.

TGIF

A social group for transgenders. Meets one Saturday each month at a private home in Santa Rosa for a potluck social from 4:00pm until early evening. Space is limited - Reservations Recommended! Call Diane or Anne at 707-██████████

Silicon Valley Gender Association (SVGA)

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

Far West Women (FWW)

A support group for TGs affiliated with the GLBT Alliance in Humboldt County. Meets every 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month at 8:00pm in the GLBTA Center at Fourth and "D" Streets in Eureka. For information call the Center at 707-445-9760.

Santa Cruz Trans (SCT)

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

The Mid-Peninsula Transgender Group (MPTG)

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

Central City Hospitality House (CCHH)

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

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

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership Year runs from May 1st - April 30th; \$30 Single Membership; \$40 Family.

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Our Readers Respond

The First Gathering

KINDRED SPIRITS CIRCLE OF CHANGE

Since 1991, a few special people have celebrated the spiritual journey on which our trans-experience leads us. Many cultural traditions around the world and across time have honored trans-spirits as holy people, shamans, healers, and spiritual beings who added greatly to society. On this continent many pre-European Native American customs honored a Two-Spirit presence within their families and clans. Wiccan followers have done the same for centuries. These rich traditions added value to the Ancient's lives and offer us the same sense of place and purpose today.

Kindred Spirits is not a religion. We are a gathering of like-minded souls who want to celebrate and share our lives by rekindling ancient rituals, oral traditions, healing ceremonies, and joyful living. We draw on our collective powers of hope and love, and welcome anyone who wants to share in our belief that we trans-spirits have a just and rightful place in Nature. All faiths, practices, and customs which speak to a Loving Awareness will be cherished and nourished. This First Gathering Circle will be used to carry sacred energy from our East Coast sisters and brothers. No doubt, we will develop and add our own traditions over time. NOTE: We re-scheduled this time because of other happenings within our community. We hope you will be able to join us now as we enter the Winter Season.

Who: Trans-Spirited, differently-gendered persons, family and allies. When: November 11, 2000 from 12noon until 8:00pm (around sunset) Where: Big Basin Redwood State Park. (Camping on your own) Cost: Shared expenses of \$12 on sliding scale based on ability to pay. No one will be denied access to this gathering because of money.

RSVP: To help us plan for food and resources, please e-mail or call prior to November 1st. Contact Dana Rivers @foothill.net - 408. or Joy-Vaniella Hughes @yahoo.com - 831. Directions and details will be provided at that time. Let know also if you need or can help with a car pool.

I get energy from the earth itself, and I get optimism from the earth itself. I feel that as long as the earth can make a spring every year, I can. As long as the earth can flower and produce nurturing fruit, I can, because I'm the earth. I won't give up until the earth gives up.

- Alice Walker

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Call Natasha for a personal appointment.

Coming in December!

HOLIDAY PARTY DECEMBER 17

Hi everyone in the transgender community!

Put it on your calendar NOW so that you have enough time to get your dress and schedule your hair appointment for the second annual Christmas/Hannukkah/Great Mother renewal party (pick your holiday) for the T community, friends and relatives!! Last year we celebrated Millie's lifetime of achievement—this year why don't we celebrate our own re-births (Millie's coming too)?

The party will be held at La Hacienda restaurant on highway 9 between Saratoga and Los Gatos on Sunday, December 17 in the evening. I'm still tying down the details, but it looks like we'll have three choices for entree. Cost will be about \$30-\$35 each—anyone who feels they simply cannot afford it should come anyway and pay what they can—collections at the door; angels who will pick up the slack.

RSVP to Jenny Wolcott at @eldil.com or 408- and there will be sign up sheets at Connie's Lair. (Note that Carla is also having a party separately the night before). We have room for about 60 of us wonderful people.

Be there and celebrate!

:-)

Jenny

Get Out And
VOTE
November 7th!

NEW ONLINE SO LIST!

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

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

There were no donations for the period.

Won't you consider a tax deductible donation?

Special Events This Month!

GENDERBLAST II!

A Free Event For Trans, Genderqueer & Gender-Questioning Youth And Their Friends And Allies Of All Ages! **Saturday, November 4, 11:00AM - 4:00PM**, Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St @ Collingwood, San Francisco; FREE!

Come learn, network, and share your knowledge! Back by popular demand Genderblast II is a fun and educational event for trans, genderqueer and gender-questioning youth, and their friends and allies of all ages. **ALL AGES AND GENDERS ARE WELCOME!!!** This free, fun event will consist of over one dozen workshops including:

- "Trans Youth 101 From a Multicultural Perspective"
- "Being A Girl in A Boy-Centered World"
- "Know Your Rights With The Police"
- "Intersex Issues 101"
- "Medical Issues of Trans and Genderqueer Youth"
- "Femme Identity/Butch Identity From a Multigendered Perspective"
- "Genderqueer Youth and Mental Health"
- "Anti-Racism Training for Trans Youth"
- "Creative Writing Workshop"
- "Making Your Organization Friendly To Youth of All Genders"
- "SOFFA (Significant Others, Friends & Family) of Genderqueer Youth", AND MORE!

Co-produced by Youth Gender Project & The Harvey Milk Institute. Questions? Contact Youth Gender Project at 510-665-9234. Want to pre-register (preferred but not required)? Contact The Harvey Milk Institute at 415-552-7200, www.harveymilk.org

Event made possible thanks to The Horizons Foundation, The 3rd Wave Foundation, The Outfund at the Funding Exchange, The Vanguard Public Foundation & Others. ASL INTERPRETED, DISABLED ACCESSIBLE.

November 9-12

HOLIDAY EN-FEMME LA 2000

Hi Girls,

This year Alpha chapter of Tri-Ess will present Holiday En-Femme in Los Angeles **November 9-12**. The event will be at the Sportman's Lodge in Studio City (Los Angeles) and is open to the "T" community. Please visit our website: <http://geocities.com/Alphatriess/> and follow the links to Holiday En-Femme 2000.

Last year four of us from Alpha attended the TGSF event in San Francisco, and we had a great time. We look forward to going again, and would love to return the favor by showing you what the City of the Angels has to offer.

Kathy St. John,
Alpha Web Mistress & Member at Large

Saturday, November 4

WOMEN'S EVENING AT THE MOVIES

7:30-10pm at the Pacific Center; Movie: "Beautiful Thing." This British movie is an intense, hard look at gay coming-of-age teenage love in lower-class London. The story is uplifting, a definite feel-good movie with wonderful characters.

Join a great group of lesbian, bi and trans women for our women's movies on the first Saturday of every month! We've got candy, chips, sodas and a good lesbian flick. Cost: we request a donation of \$5 or more and no one is turned away for lack of funds. Location: The Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. For directions, please see our website at www.pacificcenter.org

Amy Wooldridge, Program Director, Pacific Center, 510-
/ @pacificcenter.org

November 4, 2000

HEALTH AND WELL BEING FAIR

Message from Marianne Gallagher: "We are having a Health and Well-Being Fair 2000 on Nov.4th from 1-5pm, at the Billy DeFrank Center, with wonderful workshops, health screenings, music and Dr. Shaffer is presenting at 2:30-3:20PM! I am so delighted to have her here and her workshop is "Nutrition and Exercise for Optimum Fitness". The info on all the events for the Fair should be up and running on our website."

Provided by Jennifer Wolcott, @eldil.com

*Sacramento Gender Association
Presents:*

The 5th Annual Miss SGA Pageant



When: Saturday, November 11, 2000

*Where: Joseph's Bar and Showroom
1454 Del Paso Blvd.
Sacramento, CA*

Doors Open at 8:00 p.m.

Show Starts at 9:00 p.m.

Singing, Dancing, Live Music...

Door Prizes...

Price: Members: \$2.00

Non-Members: \$3.00

*Come join Miss SGA 2000, Nicole Cook as she performs
her final farewell and crowns the next Miss SGA 2001 !!*

More Events and Announcements!

"AIDS STOPS WITH ME" MEDIA CAMPAIGN STYMIED BY BIGOTRY

Provided by: Ray Paquette at
[redacted]@inetworld.net

Friends,

People have been asking us what they can do to help support the airing of the HIV STOPS WITH ME television commercial. As you know, KGO Channel 7 (the San Francisco ABC/Disney affiliate) has rejected the ad. Additionally, some of the other stations are getting cold feet:

KBHK (the UPN affiliate) doesn't want to air the spot during the Simpsons reruns at 6 pm. I don't know if they have watched the Simpsons lately, but they say that it's a kid's cartoon and that our spot is not appropriate.

KTVU Channel 2 (the Fox affiliate) has decided they will pull the spot from the upcoming first run new season of the Simpsons (which airs at 8 pm).

It's clear to me that the stations are just being homophobic. I really believe that is the bottom line. They think that just because they sponsor the AIDS WALK or do some other fundraising, that they don't have to risk upsetting their homophobic viewers by allowing their airways to be used in ways that deal honestly and directly with gay people, transgenders, and HIV.

I'm angry that thousands of calls and protests from our community are not sufficient to get "Dr. Laura" off the air, but a handful of calls from some bigoted homophobes gets our spot pulled immediately. So the TV stations defend hate mongers in spite of significant protest, but they won't defend our commercial which is all about promoting life, health, respect, love and compassion. It's homophobic.

The first thing to do is to make everyone aware of this situation - send this email to as many people as you can. People can go to the campaign website - www.hivstopswithme.org and read the press releases and other information about the project. They can also view the commercial and decide for themselves if there is anything that would harm or damage young people.

What we really need to do now is call and email the stations to counteract the anti-gay calls they are getting. So, here's our suggestion:

1) Call and email KGO and tell them to air the HIV STOPS WITH ME commercial. Tell them that there is nothing about the commercial that should offend Oprah or Rosie O'Donnell viewers. KGO TV Channel 7, 415-954-7777; email: generalmanager@abc7news.com, cc: noel.forrester@abc.com

2) Call and email KBHK and tell them to put the commercial back on the Simpsons at 6:00pm. Tell them anybody watching the Simpsons can deal with this commercial! KBHK TV 44, 415-249-4444; email: programdept@upn44.com, cc: yimirandilla@kbhktv.com

3) Call and email KTVU and tell them that you expect to see the HIV STOPS WITH ME commercial running when the new season of the Simpsons starts. KTVU TV Channel 2, 510-834-1212; email: generalmanager@ktvu.com, cc: karen.langston@ktvu.com.

Thanks for your help. We'll keep you posted via email and the website.

Les Pappas
Better World Advertising

A Message From Dear Diva

VESTAL VIRGINS NEEDED FOR THE WIDOW NORTON'S CEMETERY VISIT

The Widow Norton's cemetery visit is coming up in February and she requests the Vestal Virgins to dance as the corps de ballet for Dear Diva in the White Swan Pas De Deux. Diva is asking for 16 volunteers. No dance ability is required! We will have rehearsals starting this fall, most likely once a week or once every other week until after the cotillion. We will break from Swan Lake rehearsals during the entire period of preparation for the cotillion, so this early period is to get to know the choreography sufficiently to keep it during the cotillion time. Then after the cotillion, in the final weeks before the cemetery visit we will step up the rehearsal schedule.

Diva will be constructing costumes for each of you, and those measurements must be taken very soon. Each of you will be asked to chip in to pay for the materials for the costumes. Since they are all identical, everything can be purchased in bulk.

Let's knock them dead in the cemetery girls! Please email Dear Diva at [redacted]@pacbell.net, to participate in the Widow Norton event.

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October 2000

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

Assets

Cash	\$4,167.95
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Computers	\$100.00
Total Assets	<u>\$5,517.95</u>

Liabilities

Accounts Payable (Cotillion Expense)	\$1,000.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$52.64
Operations	\$80.00
Total Liabilities	\$1,052.64
Equity	\$4,465.31
Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$5,517.95</u>

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	\$30.00
Advertising	\$0.00
Cotillion	\$0.00
Donations	\$0.00
Social	\$76.00
Education	\$39.01
Outreach	\$0.00
.....	<u>\$145.01</u>

Expenses

Cotillion	\$177.72
Halloween Party	\$174.96
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$60.20
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$873.46
Operations	\$168.60
.....	<u>\$1,454.94</u>

Net Income (Loss) (\$1,309.93)

TRANSPeOPLE REMOVED FROM CALIFORNIA DISABILITY LAW EXCLUSIONS

Contact Shannon Minter
(415) [REDACTED]

Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl scored another win for transsexual and transgendered people in California when Governor Davis signed A.B. 2222 into law. A.B. 2222 strengthens protections for Californians against disability-related discrimination under the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA).

The bill is a response to recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions that significantly limited the protections under the federal Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Among other provisions, A.B. 2222 removes Transsexualism and Gender Identity Disorder (GID) from the list of conditions that are excluded from protections, and provides that the California law may provide greater protection than the ADA, which specifically excludes transsexual people and people diagnosed with GID.

The new law requires employers to enter into good faith negotiations with employees regarding "reasonable accommodations" for a disability. This means that those transsexual people who are forced to rely on the law for protection in medically-supervised on-the-job transitions may claim the condition as a disability or a perceived disability and look to this statewide law for support. Also, transgendered people who may be perceived to suffer from GID, regardless of any medical intervention, could be protected from discrimination in employment and housing on the basis of that perception.

FTM International, Inc. and the West Coast office of Gender Education & Advocacy, Inc. hailed the announcement of A.B. 2222's enactment as a great step forward for transgender and transsexual civil rights.

"The trans community owes a huge debt of gratitude to Assemblymember Kuehl," said Jamison Green, Chairman of Gender Education & Advocacy. "Her efforts got us into the Hate Crimes legislation in California in 1998, and into the Equity in Education Act in 1999. Now this protection in the area of employment and housing makes California one of the most trans-inclusive states in the nation."

The new law goes into effect January 1, 2001. After that date, California transpeople who feel they have been discriminated against in employment or housing may file complaints with their local FEHA office anywhere in the state.

"This statewide effort strengthens the local ordinances that are in effect in several California cities," said Dion Manley, President of FTM International, Inc. "Now transsexual people don't have to live only in the cities to have some protection against discrimination."

"Disability laws are not the only area through which transsexual people should seek civil protections, however," Green cautioned. "Medicalization is not the answer when it comes to depathologizing gender variance and gender expression. There remains much work to do to establish full civil rights for all transpeople and to ensure that we are reasonably safe from abuse and aggression, and have equal access to employment, housing, and quality medical care.

For now, however, we can breathe a collective sigh of relief as one more barrier is removed, one more exclusion is struck down."

A THEORIST WITH PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF THE DIVIDE BETWEEN THE SEXES

By Carol Kaesuk Yoon
NY Times 10/19/00

SAN FRANCISCO — Speaking to a standing room only crowd at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America in Snowbird, Utah, Dr. Joan Roughgarden, one of the world's most influential theoretical ecologists, is methodically taking apart the way that biologists think about sex.

Providing details that make some titter and shift nervously in their seats, she is re-thinking orgasms and the architecture of female genitals, making arguments for the existence of more than two genders and presenting evidence for widespread homosexual copulation in the wild. "What's coming out now is to the rest of the species what the Kinsey Report was to humans," she says later, discussing recent research.

Described as a visionary and iconoclast who consistently ignores disciplinary and conceptual boundaries, Dr. Roughgarden always draws a good crowd. But on this August day the room is packed, in part because this is not just more talk about science, but the outgrowth of a personal experience that two years ago riveted this entire community of scientists.

That was when Dr. Roughgarden crossed the most rigidly enforced boundary of all, the divide between the sexes. Born Jonathan Roughgarden, she became Joan in the spring of 1998 — a profound transformation that has led her not only onto new paths in science but into San Francisco politics as well. "People are wrapping their minds around this," said Dr. Roughgarden of re-meeting colleagues. "They don't quite know what to say."

Whatever they may have been thinking about Dr. Roughgarden herself, the ecologists at the meeting seemed to welcome the new work, though it remains to be seen whether her radically different views of sex and mating will take hold, or be dismissed.

"This is the usual sort of mold-breaking creativity that she brings to a problem, not just this problem," said Dr. Steve Pacala, an ecologist at Princeton. "Just because she broke her own mold it's particularly applicable here, but the kind of thing she always does with a problem is think about it afresh."

For those who knew Dr. Jonathan Roughgarden well, and the many more who knew him only through his prolific production of scientific papers and books, it came as a much-discussed surprise when this Stanford professor, then 52, announced on his Web site that he was a transsexual, posting pictures of himself as Joan.

"It became clear to me that I wasn't ever going to figure out how to do the guy thing," Dr. Roughgarden said. She believes that gender is a matter of cognition, an instinctive ability and desire to learn a certain way of being, she said. "Imagine as a woman if you'd set out to be a man, to learn how to live as a man. Could you do it? I couldn't. It's like asking a fish to fly."

She said the light dawned on her one day as she sat in a department faculty meeting. "There were all these guys around this table, staking out their territories and going at one another," she said. "After a while I said, you know, this is not a battle you want to win. You don't want to be like them."

But as Jonathan, Dr. Roughgarden, who in her own mind has always identified herself as female, was universally regarded as the quintessential macho academic: aggressive, abrasive and competitive. "Aggressiveness is the easiest male trait to emulate," she ex-

plained in a recent interview at her apartment in San Francisco where she has taken the unusual step for a high-powered academic of running for a public office. "It's easy to duplicate."

Such behavior, along with the talent to back it up, can play well in the male-dominated world of theoretical ecology, in which scientists study ecology using mathematical models, and in which Jonathan Roughgarden was at the top of his game. "I don't think there are a lot of people who have been so influential or sweeping in their approach," said Dr. Ted Case, a theoretical ecologist at University of California at San Diego.

The transformation to Joan, Dr. Case said, appears not to have diminished Dr. Roughgarden's status in the field. Her gift, he said, is "to look at the natural world and convert it to math." He added, "I've looked forward to a new paper by Joan or Jon the way the world looks forward to the next Harry Potter book."

Known for her itinerant interests, Dr. Roughgarden has boiled down into mathematical expression complex ecological phenomena, including what drives some species to produce many offspring and others to produce just a few, and how predators decide which prey to chase and which to let scramble away.

And, unlike most theoreticians, Dr. Roughgarden has gotten her hands dirty doing field studies, looking, for example, at competition between lizards on the Caribbean islands. Even now, in addition to her work on sex and gender, she continues work on very different projects, including developing a theory on the relationship between economics and ecology.

In many ways, Dr. Roughgarden's transition to life as a woman mirrors that of other transsexuals. Tall, slender and somewhat androgynous looking, she has spent two years preoccupied with her physical appearance as she made the transition from one gender to another. Over the same period, she also settled into a softer, more traditionally feminine demeanor.

Moderating a discussion at the meetings in Snowbird, she operated as colleagues said Jonathan never would have: seeking out consensus, affirming others' opinions, welcoming dialogue.

Other scientists universally describe Joan as friendlier, more nurturing and significantly happier-seeming than Jon. "I've seen Joan smile more in two years than I saw Jon smile in the last 20," said Dr. Paul Ehrlich, an ecologist and longtime colleague of Dr. Roughgarden's at Stanford.

Dr. Roughgarden insists she is in many ways entirely unchanged. She acknowledges, however, that life as a woman is quite different. "At first I was amused," Dr. Roughgarden said, describing how she is now much more frequently interrupted, ignored and condescended to by men, particularly those who did not know her as Jonathan. "I thought, if women are discriminated against, then I'm darn well going to be discriminated against the same way. Well, the thrill of that's worn off, I can tell you."

Continued on Page 13

November's Birthdays...

11/3	Tracey Jaquith	11/13	Debbie Cook
11/4	Susan Ann Meckley	11/15	Marcia Chapdelaine
11/5	Lorri Levy-Conner	11/19	Leah Christina Segmen
11/6	Andrea Drane	11/22	Angela Marie
11/6	Valerie Valeska	11/25	Glinda Corner
11/8	Heather Robertson	11/28	Randall Stone
11/11	Ann Grogan	11/30	Carol Alexander
11/12	Katie Kearney	11/30	Rom Birnbaum
		11/30	Esther Shaw

Many Happy Returns of the Day!

Dr. Roughgarden's transformation is leading toward what she hopes will be a change in how biologists think about gender, courtship and reproduction.

In the world view of nearly all biologists, there are males and there are females and they mate only with one another. Dr. Roughgarden likewise had not questioned these most basic of premises. But that began to change when, seeking to understand what science could tell her about herself as a transsexual, she began reviewing the literature. She presents her results in "Evolution's Rainbow," a book to be published by Princeton University Press.

What she found, she said, was that biologists have been unsuccessfully trying to cram the immense variation in nature — the rainbows, as she calls them, both in gender and mating — into overly simple, outdated categories. "There are two sexes," she said, meaning females that produce large reproductive cells like eggs and males that produce small ones, like sperm. "But how you package those sexes is all over the waterfront."

Hermaphrodites, for example, which can produce both eggs and sperm, do not fit the standard male or female definitions, yet they are widespread in nature. In some species, male-female lines are blurred where sexual identities are flexible.

In fish known as wrasses, for example, some large females change into males later in life and have harems of females, while small males remain male for life, mating with females under the large males' control. Some females remain female for life.

Curiously, Dr. Roughgarden noted, biologists consider females that turn into large males to be the standard males while the lifelong males are considered "sneakers" and are described as having an alternative mating strategy.

In Dr. Roughgarden's framework, rather than designate any type as the normal or alternative, scientists would recognize the fundamental difference between these three differently sexed, shaped, sized and behaving fish and designate them as different genders.

Dr. Roughgarden said scientists had also been shockingly blind to same-sex mating. "There are 303 published examples of species with same-sex courtship," she said of behaviors typically discounted as anomalies. "We know examples are suppressed. No one wants to say the organism they work on is gay."

Rather than view mating through the conventional lens of sexual selection, in which competing males vie for choosy females and in which same-sex courtship becomes invisible, she suggests biologists think instead in terms of the evolution of courtship and mating in general — between males, between females as well as between females and males. In fact, Dr. Roughgarden argues that same-sex copulation is so widespread that scientists must test the idea that, rather than being a mistake, homosexual behaviors may have some advantages in an evolutionary sense.

Just as she hopes the work of gay and transsexual scientists will improve the scientific understanding of sex and mating, Dr. Roughgarden said she believed a wide diversity of perspectives would lead to better governance. For that reason, she is running for the half-time, city council-like position of district supervisor for District 6, which includes some of the poorest parts of San Francisco.

"I got tired of people saying we need to convince the politicians," she said, referring to the common lament of scientists who feel their perspective is lost or misunderstood by politicians and the public. "Instead of trying to convince them, let's just do it."

Walking through the district with Dr. Roughgarden, one sees the beginnings of what is promised to be a upscale new development, called Mission Bay, which includes a new University of California campus. It sits alongside neighborhoods where homeless people sleep in doorways and others pick through the trash.

"Some ecological thinking could really help," said Dr. Roughgarden, who has promised to use her expertise in the analyses of complex systems to rethink the growth of District 6. She has already crunched the numbers.

"The displacement of people will be enormous," she said. "And they're not going to go quietly."

To create more of a sense of community between the new campus and the rest of the district, Dr. Roughgarden is proposing that two large piers extending into the bay near the university be developed as Diversity Plaza, home to a statue celebrating diversity. "I imagine it as the West Coast's equivalent to the Statue of Liberty," she said.

Hank Wilson, a longtime community activist and a friendly competitor running for the same office, said Dr. Roughgarden, a political novice, and Diversity Plaza had captured people's imagination. "Joan is on people's radar screen," he said.

Always mathematically minded, Dr. Roughgarden notes that with 17 candidates vying for the position and no incumbent, everyone theoretically has a chance. Still, considered a dark horse, she remains philosophical about where she has come from and where she is going.

"One thing I've learned is that almost all professional women have had a very nonlinear path to get where they are," said Dr. Roughgarden, who said she intended to pursue her science whatever the outcome on Nov. 7. "It's taken me a while to get here, but we've all got a story."

Seahorse Medical Clinic Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



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Alert! Aurora "Rori" Lipscomb: Transgender Child Held Hostage!

From: Amber at [REDACTED]@pacbell.net

Let's help break this chain of prejudice and hate and support a family in need. Support info is included after the story. Remember that overall it is easy to secure rights but it is very difficult to keep them. The rights of the many are always minimized when the rights of the few are "legally" restricted and teaching tolerance for only that which is "morally correct" and easy to swallow and intolerance for all else unfamiliar such the protests perpetrated upon our nation's libraries for carrying the children's books 'My Two Mommies' and 'My Two Daddies' only promotes prejudice and hate. Protecting the rights of others ensures your own.

Thanks to all, Amber

BEHAVIOR

By John Cloud/Westerville
September 25, 2000 Vol. 156 No. 13

His name is Aurora. When a boy is raised as a girl, an Ohio suburb is suddenly in the throes of transgender politics

Even before her son turned two, Sherry Lipscomb noticed that he wasn't like other boys. When she took him shopping, he would go gaga at sparkly dresses. He would toss his baby blanket around his head like a wig and prance on the balls of his feet. Around age 3, he announced one day that when he married his friend Emily, they would both wear red wedding gowns at the ceremony. Yet, says Mom, her child "was still a little boy to me at the time."

Not so anymore. After struggling with their six-year-old's nonconforming gender behavior for years, Sherry and Paul Lipscomb decided a few months ago to treat their little one like a girl, at least at home. In kindergarten last year, he was Zachary, but after school, she was Aurora—Rori for short—a name the Lipscombs say their child chose in honor of the princess in Sleeping Beauty. Over the summer, when the child asked to have pierced ears and announced to neighbors, "I'm a girl," the Lipscombs came to believe that it was wrong not to "let Aurora express her gender in public," as Paul says. So with the help of a Cleveland, Ohio, support group for transgendered people, they hired an attorney to seek a legal name change for their child. And last month they informed the school principal that it was Rori who would be enrolling, not Zach.

The Lipscombs' unusual decision has dumbfounded Westerville, Ohio, a homogeneous Columbus suburb. (And a Republican stronghold: on his way to the GOP Convention last month,

George W. Bush stopped to read to students at a school here. After the Lipscombs met with the principal, an anonymous tipster contacted the Franklin County Children Services agency, which swiftly asked a court to remove the minor from the home. A magistrate granted the agency temporary custody, citing "reasonable grounds to believe that the child is suffering from illness...and is not receiving proper care."

Thus a complicated family dynamic became a legal struggle. And a public event—the Lipscombs insisted on turning their child over to social workers before cameras at a local TV-news station. (The parents say the media scrutiny will keep the children's services office in check.) Gender PAC, a Washington-based group that lobbies for equality for transgendered people, has also helped publicize the case. Transgender activists around the world have contacted the county children's agency in protest. A growing media circus greets each court development. Last week the child's case was stalled while everyone argued for days over whether cameras should be in the courtroom.

But underneath the layers of tabloid story lines and political opportunities lies a family that's struggling through a gray time. The children's services department had actually first encountered the Lipscombs in February, when the parents voluntarily began working with the agency to get help with a host of family problems: Paul and Sherry both have bipolar disorder; they have fought in the past, sometimes violently; Paul struggles with memories of being beaten as a child; Sherry told TIME she has never allowed her husband to be home alone with her child overnight. ("They are both too hotheaded," she explained.) She said she has occasionally become overwhelmed by the many physical and psychological needs of her child, who has been found to have Asperger's syndrome (which is related to autism), bipolar illness and obsessive-compulsive disorder, in addition to gender-identity disorder. And although he hadn't come out in public until an interview with TIME, Paul now says he believes he too has gender-identity disorder and that he intends to make the transition from male to female. For now, Sherry is supporting Paul as he writes this new chapter in his life. But both say their main focus is regaining custody of their child, who is living with a foster family.

In short, you might safely say the Lipscombs aren't the Cleavers. But the county, perhaps recognizing that it's not a crime for a family to be dysfunctional, never saw reason to break up the Lipscombs—until the parents began to refer to their youngster as a girl in public. Since then, some county officials have treated the Lipscombs, including the troubled child, as pariahs. Claims and counterclaims abound. The Lipscombs say the child told them the foster parents won't use the name Aurora and hid the dresses they bought for Aurora; they've also allegedly belittled the vegetarian diet Paul and Sherry follow. County officials do call the child Zachary but say the youth has access to the dresses and doesn't want them.

Both sides have alleged that the other hasn't provided proper medication for the child.

What's best for this youngster? Unfortunately, few experts study children with persistent gender variance, and the ones who do are in disagreement about what to do about it, if anything. "I think it's just the way they are born," says Catherine Tuerk, a mental-health nurse who runs a Washington support group for parents of kids who are gender-atypical. Her group has nine families at the moment, and Tuerk encourages them to support their children's unconventional gender expression "in a world where they will be stigmatized."

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TRANS-MARRIAGES AND THE LAW

PlanetOut News Staff (with thanks to GAIN)
Thursday, October 5, 2000

A Texas transwoman can't get the Supreme Court to hear her plea to uphold her marriage, while Britain sends a similar case to the EuroCourt.

The U.S. Supreme Court on October 4 declined to review a Texas ruling voiding a male-to-female transsexual's marriage to a male, while a UK appeals court that same day sent on to the European Court of Justice the question of whether a female-to-male transsexual can benefit from his wife's pension benefits.

Texas Trans-Wife's Marriage Erased

The U.S. Supreme Court generally does not give reasons for rejecting cases, but because marriage laws are almost entirely at the discretion of the states, their issues do not often arise in federal courts; therefore there are not currently conflicting views among federal appeals courts on the issue of transsexuals' marriages that the high court might be motivated to resolve. In the case of transwoman Christie Lee Littleton, there was nowhere else to turn after the Texas Supreme Court twice refused to take up her appeal, and now there is nowhere to turn at all. She is stuck with one state appeals court's erasure of her happy seven-year marriage, one which had been recognized by both the federal and state governments — including the state requiring her to make support payments for her husband's children when he became too ill to work.

It was when Littleton tried to sue her husband's physician for malpractice that the defendant successfully challenged her standing to sue on the grounds that her marriage was a prohibited "same-sex" marriage. Her legal marriage certificate and her legally revised birth certificate meant nothing in the eyes of a court which proclaimed that "chromosomes, not genitalia" forever determine gender in its jurisdiction. This ruling was contrary to the expert



Aiyana, Cheryl and Tianna strike a pose!

testimony the judges heard, and in fact no test was ever made of Littleton's chromosomes. Texas issues marriage certificates without reference to either chromosomes or genitalia, but only to drivers licenses and birth certificates, as has now been shown by two transwomen with female partners who obtained marriage licenses within the jurisdiction.

Littleton's Texas transsexual attorney Phyllis Frye and her Maryland co-counsel Alyson Meiselman were devastated by the high court's denial and its implications. Frye wrote that "everyone in the U.S. who is transsexual or who is intersexed, plus all of our spouses, future spouses, children and future children, have an attackable legal sex, an attackable marital status, and an attackable parental status." The number of people whose chromosomes may not match up with their appearance could run from 2 to 16 million in the U.S.

She warned heterosexual crossdressers that, "If the conservative legal gatekeepers can take a twenty-year vagina and make it male, then what legal craziness will they do next to you crossdressers who have children, spouses and jobs to protect? It is just a matter of time." She renewed her call for transmen with gay lovers and transwomen with lesbian lovers to come from all over the country to San Antonio and obtain legal marriage licenses.

There have been only a handful of related cases so far, one of the more notorious involving a transwoman's inheritance being challenged by her late husband's son in Kansas, but their numbers are bound to increase.

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LIBRARY EXHIBIT IN FREMONT

A display at the Fremont Central Library on transgender civil rights is reserved for January 2001. We are looking for photos of Transgenders of all types in every day and vocational situations. Only photos of modestly attired subjects will be accepted as the display will be open for view by minors. If you have such a photo you would like to contribute please send to: Lynnea c/o Wendy Stuart, [redacted] Fremont, CA 94536-4227, or e-mail for information at [redacted]@hotmail.com.

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Court Won't Hear Cases...

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sex sexual harassment, there have been very few — perhaps none — which have addressed the specific circumstances of the federal sex discrimination law as it pertains to bisexuals.

The refusals do amount to something, however. By refusing the transgender widow case, the high court leaves standing in the state of Texas a ruling that appears to constitute the first use of the federal Defense of Marriage Act to deny the validity of a marriage. A state appeals court in Texas said, and the Texas Supreme Court left standing, a ruling that said that DOMA gave Texas the right to consider invalid a marriage that Kentucky licensed between a man and a male-to-female transgendered person. The wife's attorneys had argued that the Constitution's full faith and credit clause required Texas to recognize the marriage licensed by Kentucky — the type of argument many expect will arise when a same-sex marriage case is challenged someday.

The Supreme Court's refusal to take the case also left standing — in Texas — the state court's determination in that case, *Littleton v. Prange*, that chromosomes "determine an individual's sex" and that neither hormones nor sex reassignment surgery can change a person's gender.

Interestingly, in making its ruling, the Texas courts referred to three other cases in the United States involving a similar situation but coming to different conclusions. One was a 1971 New York case in which a newlywed husband sought to nullify his marriage after he learned that his wife had male sex organs; the court nullified the marriage. The second was a 1976 case from New Jersey in which the husband sought to avoid paying alimony after his mate went through sex reassignment surgery; the court ruled the marriage valid. The third case was from Ohio in 1987, in which a court ruled that a male-to-female transgender who had the sex reassignment surgery could not obtain a marriage license to marry a male.

The refusal of Christie Littleton's case means other things, too. It means her lawsuit against the doctor she believes gave her husband poor medical care was dismissed. "It's disappointing Christie Littleton isn't going to be able to vindicate her rights," says Minter, "but there just have not been enough state court decisions on the issue to create any realistic chance whatsoever that the U.S. Supreme Court would take on this issue."

But such cases are coming, says Minter. "They are definitely coming at a furious pace now," he says, "but it's a new phenomenon." Minter says that, as more cases are arising, the likelihood is increasing that the Supreme Court will weigh in. What Minter and other legal activists do not want, however, is for the Supreme Court to weigh in with a definition of "male" and "female," as the Texas courts did.

"There is no legal definition of male or female, though a lot of people have the reaction at first that, 'That's what we need, some clear-cut definition of who's a man and who's a woman'," says Minter. "But to me, that's the equivalent of ... saying we need a uniform national standard of what your race is. It might be helpful in the short run for people to know where they stand and, to a certain extent, it is necessary [to have some clarity about who is male and who is female]. But it can be dealt with by courts. We don't need legislation or statutory definitions of male and female. No matter what definition we come up with, it's going to hurt some people and leave some out.

"It's not chromosomal," adds Minter, "because four to five percent of the population have variations in the XX or XY chromosome [arrangement]. It can't be based on reproductive capac-

ity, because there are a lot of infertile people — either because of age or a medical condition. It can't be based on genitals, because some people's genitals are not clearly defined — some men have micropenises and there are women with enlarged clitorises. There are people who are genetically male but socially female. So many of us are not ever able to obtain transsexual surgery. It's the same as why there is no statutory definition of race — it's a social construct. It can't be defined in a clear coherent way."

The Supreme Court also refused this week to hear the appeal of a heterosexual married couple who said laws prohibiting sexual discrimination and sexual harassment should have protected them against a male supervisor who sexually harassed both of them.

In that case, *Holman v. Indiana*, a married couple working for the state of Indiana charged their supervisor, a man, with sexually harassing both of them. Sexual harassment is prohibited under a federal law prohibiting discrimination based on sex. The Supreme Court had ruled previously that federal law prohibits sexual harassment by men against women and by women against men; and it had ruled, just two years ago, that the law prohibits a man from sexually harassing another man.

In defending the supervisor, attorneys for Indiana argued that he did not discriminate against the two employees based on sex because one was a male and one was a female. The 7th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals agreed and, by refusing to hear the case, the Supreme Court allows that reasoning to stand in the three 7th Circuit states — Indiana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

Shannon Minter Follows-up

Dear Penni,

I read the Lisa Keen article about the Littleton case in the Washington, and while overall I think the article was good, I am concerned that people may fail to realize two very important things. (1) It was critically important for Phyllis Frye and Allyson Meiselman to petition the U.S. Supreme Court for review of the Littleton decision, and they both deserve the gratitude of our community for doing so. Even though the chances of the court accepting the case were small, it is only because Phyllis and Allyson submitted the petition that the gross injustice of the decision has continued to receive attention and discussion by the press and by legal scholars.

And in the long term, it is only by filing such petitions that we can educate the Supreme Court about transgender issues and thereby lay a foundation of awareness & understanding for the day when the court finally does take a transsexual marriage case. Bottom line: if not for Phyllis and Allyson, the wrong that was done to Christie Littleton would have sunk into oblivion, like so many of the other legal decisions that trample transgender people's basic human rights. Instead, Phyllis and Allyson have generated an unprecedented nationwide discussion about transgender marriage rights, in addition to drafting legal briefs that will be useful to countless other transsexual people in similar cases.

(2) Legally speaking, the Supreme Court's refusal to accept Littleton for review does NOT mean that the court endorses or approves of the decision in any way. The court receives literally thousands of petitions every session and can only accept a very small percentage to review. It is well known to lawyers and judges that the Court's refusal to hear a case does not indicate approval of the decision and cannot be interpreted to mean that the decision is necessarily constitutional. As bad as the Littleton decision is, the Supreme Court's refusal to review it does not in and of itself give it any more power or effect than it already had.

**Sincerely,
Shannon Minter**

Trans-Marriages...

Continued from Page 16

UK Sends Trans-Marriage Issue to EuroCourt

Britain's Human Rights Act went into effect this week, incorporating the European Convention on Human Rights into British law so that more human rights issues could be settled in British courts. But the issue of whether a marriage requirement for accessing a partner's pension plan survivor benefit is discriminatory — when UK transsexuals cannot amend their birth certificates and cannot legally marry someone of the sex shown on them — was something a three-judge appeals panel felt the European Court of Justice must decide.

Seeking the pension benefit for her husband in event of her death is a woman who has worked twenty years as a nurse for the National Health System. Their case maintains that her female-to-male partner is a male, that their marriage by a Church of England priest (with his bishop's knowledge) should be recognized as a marriage, and that the husband should have access to the benefit. Their position is supported by the Equal Opportunity Commission and by the human rights group Justice.

The named defendant in their lawsuit is Health Secretary Alan Milburn, alleged to have practiced sex discrimination and interfered with their right to family life by denying the benefit. Representing the government, Nicholas Paines, QC insisted that the marriage requirement complied with all human rights laws.

First an Employment Tribunal held simply that the legal marriage requirement for the pension benefit is appropriate, and that the couple are not married and therefore not qualified. The couple went on to an Employment Appeal Tribunal, which cited the Southwest Trains ruling of the European Court of Human Rights in the case of a lesbian employee seeking a spousal travel benefit for her partner; in that case the court found no sex discrimination because gay male couples were denied the benefit just as lesbian couples were. That precedent left the Employment Appeal Tribunal feeling it could not find for the nurse regarding the pension benefit, but the tribunal also saw the human rights issues in the particular limitations faced by British transsexuals regarding marriage. It was because of the human rights issues involved that the Employment Appeal Tribunal in turn sent the case on to the Court of Appeal to decide.

The inability of British transsexuals to revise their birth certificates has been considered in Europe, but Britain was not ordered to change its policy as a result. (The British government maintained that the birth certificate is an historical record of what occurred at the time of birth.) However, the couple's attorney Laura Cox, QC said that the European Court of Human Rights has expressly acknowledged how serious the resulting problems are for transsexuals. The Southwest Trains precedent would not apply if the husband were viewed as a man allowed to marry a woman, and there would be no problem accessing the death benefit. Cox said, "There is direct discrimination here. The decision to exclude him is unlawful and contrary to European law. The need for a marriage certificate to qualify for a pension has a disproportionate effect on transsexuals." With Cox detailing what the husband had gone through in gender reassignment and how he lives his life presenting as male, one appellate justice remarked aloud that, "In reality this person is a man."

The Court of Appeal declined to make a ruling, deciding instead to send both the facts of the case and their legal questions regarding it to the European Court of Justice, for its judgment.

Meanwhile, two retired nurses in a same-gender relationship have taken their first steps towards obtaining their pension benefits through the European Court of Human Rights, with the support of the human rights group Liberty and the Royal Colleges of Nursing. Britain has begun considering reforming its laws relating to transsexuals, publishing a discussion paper reviewing many legal issues of transsexuals (see PlanetOut News of July 27).

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