



GIRL TALK

Powder Puffs of California — Serving the California Gender Community Since 1987

Inside This Issue ...

- 1
Next Meeting — **November In December !**
- 2
Help Needed for Transgender Collection
- 3
Teen Crossdresser Attacked in Madison
- 4
Queenspeak
by Joan Goodnight
- 5
Miscellaneous News
- 6

California Dreamin '99

AirTel Plaza Hotel

Van Nuys, CA

April 22 - 25 !

NOVEMBER MEETING? — Yes, in December !!!

There were those who were complaining about the fact that we were not having a December meeting. So, the Board decided to hold one! The Board simply **MOVED THE NOVEMBER 21ST MEETING TO DECEMBER 5TH**. Actually, the meeting was moved because the Holiday Inn had rented our room to another party offering more \$\$\$.

Yes, they can do this, it's in the contract. However, we did manage to get the December 5th date and have the January 16th, 1999 date confirmed.

So, **DO NOT** go to the Placentia Holiday Inn on **November 21st**. Go watch the Bruins whomp USC instead. **DO GO** to the Placentia Holiday Inn on **December 5th!**

Thus, OUR NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE ON **DECEMBER 5TH AT THE PLACENTIA HOLIDAY INN AT 7:30 PM.**

Date: Sat, Dec 5th

Time: 7:30 pm PST

Place: Placentia Holiday Inn, 118 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA. Take 57 Fwy to Orangethorpe exit. Head east.

Calendar of Events

Dec 5

TBA

Jan 16 Christmas Party
* Meeting begins at 8:00 pm

Christmas Dinner

Feeling the Winter blues because you have no place to wear that killer outfit you just bought. Holiday cheer is on the way! Alpha Chapter, along with PPOC is hosting a Christmas dinner at the Burbank Holiday Inn in (where else) beautiful downtown Burbank.

The buffet dinner will include prime sirloin, chicken breasts, veggies, salads, rice, dessert, and much more for those who are really hungry!

Shop 'Till You Drop

Looking for that special holiday outfit. Channel 7 ABC REal Deals lists the following establishments. Transgender friendly? I don't know. Be sure to make sure your money is green enough.

Discount Shoes
House of Shoes
10951 Sherman Way, Sun Valley

Designer Clothes
Rock Bottom Clothes
2903 Washington Blvd.
Venice / Also in Hawthorne and San Pedro

Check out the website yourself at www.abc7.com

Powder Puffs' Officers

1998-1999 Officers

President
Diane D.

Vice-President
Dee G.

Secretary/Treasurer
Joan G.

Board of Directors
Diane D., *Chairperson*
Lisa R., *Member-at-Large*
Cyndi S., *Member-at-Large*
Jeri T., *Member-at-Large*
Linda W., *Member-at-Large*

Social and Outreach Director
Diane D.
Jeri T.

Newsletter
Cyndi Silk (editor), Diane D.

Librarian
Dee G.

California Dreamin '98

Powder Puffs of California
Educational TV Channel (ETVC)
The Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)
Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)
FtM International

Girl Talk is distributed to all Powder Puffs members and is published twelve times annually by the Powder Puffs of California (PPOC). All material in *Girl Talk* is copyright 1996 by Powder Puffs. Permission is granted to reprint articles by gender organizations unless otherwise noted.

Powder Puffs of California (PPOC), P. O. Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92885. e-mail PPOC@AOL.COM. All rights reserved. Subscription to *Girl Talk*, \$25/yr

Membership rates. \$39/yr, \$15/meeting; \$180 covers dues & meetings for entire year. A Renaissance Education Affiliate.

PPOC:
<http://www.ren.org/ppoc.html>

CA Dreamin:
<http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>

Help Needed for Transgender Collection

SAVE OUR HERITAGE!

Your Physical and Financial Help is Needed! The National Transgender Library and Archive is a large collection of books, magazines, newsletters, papers, and ephemera on transgender and transsexual issues. It is the property of the community, with the American Educational Gender Information Service taking the role of caretaker.

OUR HERITAGE

The library is our heritage. It contains a wealth of material ranging from books autographed by Christine Jorgensen and Dr. Harry Benjamin, to sheet music from the 1920s featuring female impersonators Julian Eltinge and Carole Norman, to a full set of Virginia Prince's Transvestia, to community newsletters, unpublished manuscripts, and publisher's page proofs. It is the largest publicly available collection of transgender material, and perhaps the largest collection anywhere. And it is your collection.

THE LIBRARY IS IN TROUBLE.

It must find a new home, and immediately! Until now, the library has resided in a house rented by AEGIS' Executive Director, Dallas Denny. Now Dallas has bought a house of her own, one that does not have room for the library, which currently fills two rooms. Upon its launch, AEGIS' successor organization, Gender Education and Advocacy, will make long-term plans for the library. Until then, with GEA not yet born and AEGIS inactive, it is necessary to move the collection from its current location in suburban Atlanta to a rented storage cubicle. We need to mobilize the community to help us with this task! WE WILL BE MOVING THE LIBRARY ON SATURDAY, 11/22/98! We are in desperate need of VOLUNTEERS to help us move the collection approximately six miles to storage. We are also in need of

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE to pay storage costs and rent a truck to transport the library. We anticipate storage costs for one year + truck rental will be \$1200 +/- \$100.

If you are able to assist with storage costs, please send your check or money order to AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Please indicate funds are to be used for the library.



Just For Fun
From the Internet

The Washington Post's "Style Invitational" asks readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some recent winners (1998):

Doltergeist: a spirit that decides to haunt someplace stupid, such as your septic tank.

Tatyr: a lecherous Mr. Potato Head.

Sarchasm: the gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the recipient who doesn't get it.

Reintarnation: coming back to life as a hillbilly.

Inoculatte: to take coffee intravenously when you are running late.

Hipatitis: terminal coolness.

Guillozine: a magazine for executioners.

Burglesque: a poorly planned break-in. (See: Watergate)

Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like a serious bummer.

Glibido: all talk and no action.

Deifenestration: to throw all talk of God out the window.

Dopeler effect: the tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.

Intaxication: euphoria at getting a refund from the Internal Revenue Service, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

Teen cross-dresser attacked in Madison

By Meg Jones, of the Journal Sentinel staff

An 18-year-old cross-dresser was attacked by a man wielding a broken beer bottle in Madison Tuesday evening, shortly after hundreds of people attended a vigil for a gay University of Wyoming student who was beaten to death. Madison police tentatively labeled the attack a hate crime because the victim was a man dressed in women's clothing. Police said they don't think the victim attended the rally.

The Madison man was hit on the back of the head with a full 40-ounce bottle of beer and then stabbed in the abdomen with the broken glass bottle, Madison police spokesman Dave Gouran said. He was wearing women's clothing, including a padded bra, when he was attacked in a south side neighborhood as he walked with two friends. He apparently crossed paths with the suspect while walking across a convenience store parking lot, and the suspect followed him, yelling obscenities.

"Because he is a cross-dresser, the suspect referred to him as something like a 'he-she,'" Gouran said Wednesday. The comments from the suspect "didn't address his sexual orientation or the perceived sexual orientation."

"Police were called to St. Mary's Hospital about 9:45 p.m. with a report of a female patient who had been stabbed. Hospital officials later discovered the victim was a man. Between 50 and 60 stitches were required to close his wounds, officials said. After giving police a fake name, the man gave his real name and later fled the hospital when officers discovered there was a warrant for his arrest on a traffic violation, Gouran said. Police were searching Wednesday for the victim and attacker involved in the 9:30 p.m. incident, which occurred minutes after a rally ended for slain Wyoming student Matthew Shepard.

A candlelight vigil in Shepard's honor drew 750 people to the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus. Shepard died Monday from the injuries he suffered after he was lured from a campus hangout, beaten and lashed to a split-rail fence near Laramie, Wyo. The attack has spurred calls nationwide for hate crime legislation protecting gays. Police said robbery was the main motive but that Shepard apparently was chosen because he was gay.

DeEtte Tomlinson, executive director of OutReach, a Madison gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender center, said crimes against gays are increasing. "It is very distressing to see it happen in Madison," Tomlinson said. "Unfortunately, this year an atmosphere has been created where this is happening more often, not only in Madison but across the country. "Madison police statistics reflect this. Complaints of crimes against gays and lesbians have jumped from 12 in 1996, to 16 last year, to 43 this year.

Gouran said most of the hate crime complaints concerning gays and lesbians involve vandalism and disorderly conduct. An

attack as serious as the one Tuesday is rare, Gouran said. "A lot of people were shocked," Tomlinson said. "They were very upset that this incident happened on the heels of such a tragedy" like the Shepard slaying.

Casting Spell Sends Student Home

The Associated Press By GREG TOPPO (AP) --

Baltimore

The official referral form lists the reason for Jamie Schoonover's suspension from school as "Casting a spell on a student. "The 15-year-old freshman admits she practices witchcraft, as does her mother. But she knows better that to cast a spell. "Casting a spell isn't something that just any novice is going to know how to do," said Colleen Harper, a transsexual who was Jamie's biological father but now calls herself the girl's mother. "If she ever were to cast any spells, it would be along the lines of wishing prosperity on someone or healing someone," Ms. Harper said.

Miss Schoonover and Jennifer Rassen, who broke down in hysterics Tuesday when she thought she had been "hexed," met Wednesday with Southwestern High School's principal to try to sort things out. According to Miss Schoonover, she and some friends were sitting beneath a tree on school grounds Tuesday when they noticed the names of other girls scrawled on a wall. One of the friends wanted to cross out the names, so Jamie lent her a correction fluid pen. The friend crossed out the names, then wrote, "Is life a virtue of death?" When Miss Rassen saw her name crossed out and the question, she ran to Principal Earl L. Lee saying the other girl had cast a spell on her.

"She was hysterical," said schools spokeswoman Vanessa Pyatt. "She was distraught and crying violently." Miss Schoonover was sent home because school officials considered the alleged spell a verbal threat that violates the student discipline code. She was allowed back to school after the meeting. "We do not believe that anyone was threatened," Ms. Pyatt said. "Everyone emerged from the meeting, I think, satisfied that the issue had been resolved."

Ms. Harper called it all a misunderstanding -- and a perfect example of misconceptions about witchcraft, or Wicca, the modern form of paganism that she and her daughter practice. Wicca is more like a folklore-tinged herbalism that dictates that "whatever you do comes back to you threefold," she said. Ms. Harper wished the girls could have resolved the dispute themselves. "I really feel sorry that it didn't happen, because my daughter was so upset with the fact that this girl was upset," she said.



QUEENSPEAK

by Joan Goodnight

DUES TIME

Yeah, I know you're sick and tired of reading about it again. I am too and hate to remind you. But guess what? It ain't going to go away. I'll be sitting at the registration desk at the November 21st meeting eagerly awaiting the influx of cash and checks that I know are going to come pouring in. Don't take any of the previous statements that seriously; it's just my subtle attempt to be humorous at a necessary subject. The annual dues are \$39 per year. If you're paying by check please make it payable to PPOC.

TRANSGENDER TAPESTRY'S FALL/WINTER ISSUE

The fall issue underwent a dramatic and much needed change in presentation. This issue is an absolutely striking magazine. Don't worry, however, if you should leave your copy of this issue on the coffee table and some unexpected company that doesn't know of your transgender status drops by, notices it, and picks it up to scan. When they see the article on how to tie a bow tie they'll think it's just another men's magazine even though it has a funny sounding name.

This issue is full of neat men-things and I know we can't wait for the next issue to read about the right and wrong way to select a pair of wing tip shoes. As it now stands, TG Tapestry is giving that other men's magazine, Gentlemen's Quarterly (GQ), a heck of a run for the money.

POST ELECTION BLUES

It's the day after election day. Just think, we only have one more year until the whole extravaganza and nonsense associated with our national elections takes place again. Next time around it'll be for the biggie - President and Vice-President. One question that has been plaguing me is what effect yesterday's elections had on our status as transgendered persons.

It seems that the party that should be more sympathetic to us scored some amazing upsets and is a force to be reckoned with in both houses of Congress. While this is all well and good how do we take advantage of this and get the attention of our elected officials. Writing well thought out and respectful letters will certainly help but how do we do some one-on-one interfacing with these people?

The answer isn't easy but an article I recently read in Fortune Magazine hit the nail on the head. MONEY! Your elected representatives pay attention to the mail they receive from their constituents but access to them is not easy. If you are a contributor your chances of getting to bend one of their ears is significantly increased by the amount of money you donate. Ten grand will probably get you an audience with a legislative assistant. The more the contribution increases the greater your chance of access. When you get up to the hundred grand level then you get invited to some big political shindigs. A thumbnail sketch of what contributions will get you for both political parties is as follows:

AMOUNT	REPUBLICAN PARTY	DEMOCRAT PARTY
\$10,000	Qrtly Mtgs w/Senators	Monthly Breakfast w/key Senators
\$15,000	Lunch & Dinner w/Senators	Lunches & Dinners w/key Demos
\$25,000	Dinner w/Speaker	Dinner w/President or Vice-Prez
\$50,000	"Special Relationship" w/Party	Small Events w/President or VP
\$100,000	Meetings in Exclusive Locations Weekend Retreats w/Party Leaders (Camp David site for Dems only)	

It's a shame, but that's the way it is. Money talks, b-----t walks. What the transgender community needs is a way to get access to our elected officials other than letter writing. The Transgender Lobby Days in Washington, although well intentioned and attended, just aren't going to cut it. What we need, but I don't think we can afford, is a full time lobbyist who can gain access to the people that make the laws. If they can gain the confidence of the legislators and develop credibility with them we can go a long way towards getting transgender legislation presented and hopefully passed.

THE CONGRESS OF TRANSGENDER ORGANIZATIONS (CTO)

IFGE BofD members Alison Laing and S. Kristine James were given the go ahead to chair the 1999 Coming Together annual event. One of the tasks the co-chair's will attempt to do is reinstitute the CTO.

For those that aren't familiar with the CTO it was launched exactly ten years ago at the IFGE convention in San Francisco. It struggled to find independence from IFGE for several years going so far as to elect officers; but then it just disappeared for

lack of interest and apathy. The major problem associated with the original concept was then IFGE ExecD Merrissa Sherill Lynn wanted the CTO to be an extension of the parent foundation and for member organizations to come to IFGE for guidance and instruction.

I don't know why in the world the IFGE wants to resurrect the darn thing or what they think the purpose will be. If they see this new congress as an advisory group to the IFGE I believe they're wasting their own and the community's valuable time. If the CTO is ever to get off the ground and earn the trust and respect of the majority of the community organizations then the organizers should take it to the groups, not have the groups come to them. Besides, when did the IFGE board of directors ever take any advice or guidance from the rest of the community?

THE WINSLOW STREET FUND - ONE YEAR LATER

Last year the IFGE was taken to task over the use of moneys from the Winslow Street Fund (WSF) to bail them out of a financial jam despite their solemn promise that this would never happen.. The furor was caused when one of the fund trustees learned about the money transfer and made a public issue out of it.

After all of the dust settled the IFGE promised to pay the money back and to also launch an investigation in to the history of the fund and how its moneys were intended to be used. To make a long story short, the conclusion arrived at after this hefty internal investigation was the IFGE considered the WSF to be THEIR asset, to use as THEY see fit, plus there was no wrongdoing on the part of the fund trustees.

Now fast forward to November 3, 1998. The WSF is still being promoted on the Internet as being totally independent from IFGE. The exact wording in the plea for contributions is, "Remember that the WSF is independent from IFGE, and the funds that you contribute can only be used for the community."

In her February 20, 1998 letter reporting on the WSF, IFGE Chair Linda Buten states, "The word community is used in certain phrases, but remember, the forming of IFGE was a community effort, and the spoken word of the community, was IFGE."

We can conclude, therefore, that the IFGE defines that the terms "IFGE" and "community" are interchangeable which then obviously obviates them from any malpractice concerning WSF moneys.



Miscellaneous News

Day Window for TG Inclusion into ENDA.

I received a letter yesterday from Phyllis Frye, in which she has concluded that I have concluded that a ninety day "window of opportunity" is available for getting us into the next Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) version. ENDA is something that has been an ugly issue for some time now, with the Human Rights Campaign's continual efforts to keep us out of their proposal. Phyllis' note gets into some of the history, as well as providing contact information and some very important tips on getting your voice heard on this stuff.

And Now... New Orleans

In the last few months, we've seen TG legislation begin to finally move forward in some areas. An anti-tg-discrimination law went into effect in West Hollywood, CA, and Governor Wilson, also of CA, signed a statewide addition to the Hate Crime law in the state, including hate crimes against gender and gender presentation. Now added to that list is New Orleans, which now has an ordinance outlawing intimidation of cross-dressers, transsexuals or anyone else who identifies with a gender other than his or her biological one. The only 'drawback' to the New Orleans ordinance, unlike ones in other areas, is that it also permits employers to fire someone for cross-dressing in the workplace-unless the person has doctor-verified proof he or she has a gender-identification disorder. Note that people who violate the new ordinance face up to six months in prison and a \$500 fine, and must attend an anti-bias educational program.

Selling Trans-Phobia

Recently brought to my attention was an advertisement for Network Associates (makers of McAfee Virus Scan) that ran in PC Week, Oct 12, 98 (PP 40 & 41), and again on Oct 26, 98, (Pg 48). In it, were the hands of a bride and groom, in front of the minister. A third hand, placed as if it would be pointed to the eyes of the groom, says "She's A Man!" The headline over this says "It's nice to know about something before it becomes a problem," while body text states "because it's what you don't know that can hurt you" and that contacting them "might just save you from an embarrassing situation." This is very reminiscent of the Sauza Tequila ad of a couple of years back, where ex-model Tula was pictured with "She's A He" emblazoned across her chest. It seems inappropriate to sell networked PC applications through the use of this sort of ad. As the person who brought it to my attention said "It sounds to me as if T*'s would be out to get married without telling their grooms, and that it's embarrassing to get married to a T*. The undertone is kind of like that we are dishonest." If you would like to let the company in question know that you do not support transphobic advertising, contact them through one of the below methods. Network Associates, Inc. 3965 Freedom Circle Santa Clara, CA 95054 Main: 408-988-3832 Fax: 408-970-9727

McAfee Associates Spreads Hate Virus

Sarah Fox, Ph.D. QUILL, Columbus, Ohio, Oct. 28, 1998

Most computer users are familiar with McAfee Associates' virus protection software. McAfee has established a long history of leadership in data protection; however, Network Associates Inc., formed from the acquisition of Network General by McAfee Associates, has callously spread one of the most destructive viruses in recent history, called the "Hate Virus."

The Hate Virus differs from most viruses. It does not cause data loss, its host is not a computer, and it is not transmitted either via the Internet or any data storage medium. Rather, it causes loss of human life, its host is the human mind, and it is transmitted via printed material. While it poses no risk to data integrity, its effects on societal integrity are potentially catastrophic.

Network Associates released the Hate Virus on October 12 in a two-page ad conceived by the Think Inc. advertising agency. The ad, cleverly disguised as humor, shows the hand of a man and a woman in wedding attire, with a minister in the background. Another hand is displaying a note to the groom, reading, "She's a man!" Accompanying the photograph are the statements, "It's nice to know about something before it becomes a problem," "because it's what you don't know that can hurt you," and "It might just save you from an embarrassing situation."

Transgendered people have long been the subject of humor, and there is nothing wrong with that. Along with all the daily torment they must endure, there are indeed priceless moments of humor. However, NAI's advertisement clearly crosses the line from humor to hatred and ignorance by suggesting that transsexuals are out to dupe unsuspecting men, thereby causing them "hurt," "a problem," or "an embarrassing situation." It clearly portrays transsexuals as predators and their partners as victims, and it conveys the message that a marriage between a transsexual woman and a man are somehow improper. Imagine if the message on the note read, "She's a Jew!" The implication, of course, would be that the groom has been tricked by a clever Jewish woman posing as a Gentile and that he must be warned, so as to save him from making the embarrassing mistake of marrying this terrible person. The only people who would not call for heads to roll would be the "Aryan" supremacists. How is the ad about transsexuals any different?

Contrary to the message of NAI's ad campaign, transsexuals are worthwhile and loving human beings, just like everybody else. Normal, everyday people knowingly date them, fall in love with them, and, yes, often marry them. Indeed, they are remarkably intelligent and talented people with unusual strength of character -- probably the most highly educated group of people that one could identify -- a group in which doctoral degrees are almost commonplace. Transsexuals have no more interest in entering into deceptive relationships than anyone else. If anything, they value truth and honesty far more than most

people, usually having sacrificed almost everything (e.g. family, friends, money, dignity, social status, career, civil rights, and personal safety) in order to be true to themselves.

Besides being hateful, woefully ignorant, and insulting, NAI's ad campaign hurts real people in real ways. Transsexuals are without question the most relentlessly persecuted people in society. There is nothing they would like more than to be left alone to lead normal lives, but society will not let them. Anything and everything becomes an issue or an obstacle -- everything from cashing a check to using the toilet to driving one's car to keeping one's job to obtaining medical care to filing charges against one's attackers to having one's burial wishes observed. Not surprisingly, many transsexuals find life too painful to live, so it is no wonder that such a large percentage of the transsexual population is lost to suicide.

Every time ignorance is propagated by some company such as NAI, transsexuals have to contend with it. They must wince at it when they see it in PC Week. They must reply to the questions and comments of countless acquaintances -- over and over and over. They must deal with the prejudice and paranoia of those they wish to date. They must deal with the legal and political ramifications of thousands of cretins contacting their Congresspersons to demand that these abominations of humanity be herded into the sea. Each of these problems is but a single drop of water on the forehead. None by itself is unbearable. However, when the water drops do not stop or even slow down for days, years, even decades, we call that "Chinese water torture." The water drops may be different, but the effect is the same.

The Hate Virus has recently reached epidemic proportions, especially following the grotesque torture and murder of a gentle young soul from Wyoming, but I have faith that this virus can be conquered. This time the solution will not come from McAfee or from a medical research lab. The solution lies within all of us. We must all learn to cast off the shackles of bigotry and to respect our fellow human beings, or else we are doomed to lead miserable lives of hatred and bitterness, those same dark human qualities that lie behind the computer virus that keeps McAfee in business.

Dr. Fox is a transsexual woman, neurobiologist, and Communications Director for the transgender/bisexual/lesbian/gay education and advocacy organization, It's Time, Ohio!

Send your comments about the Hate Virus to: Jennifer Keaveney, Senior Public Relations Manager (jkeaveney@nai.com) or Srivats Sampath, Vice President of Worldwide Marketing (srivats_sampath@nai.com), Network Associates, Inc., 3965 Freedom Circle, Santa Clara, CA 95054, 408-988-3832 (voice), 408-970-9727 (FAX); Paul Simko (paul_simko@zd.com), Mgr. of Marketing, or Eric Lundquist (Eric_Lundquist@zd.com), Editor-in-chief, PC Week, 617-393-3802; Glenn Goldberg (glenn.goldberg@thinkinc.com), Think Inc. Ad Agency.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER
PRESENTED BY ALPHA CHAPTER
CO-HOSTED BY PPOC**

**DECEMBER 12, 1998
BURBANK HOLIDAY INN
150 E. ANGELENO ST., BURBANK, CA**

RECEPTION - 6:30 PM, LOWER LEVEL

DINNER - 7:30 PM, LOWER LEVEL

BUFFET DINNER WHICH WILL INCLUDE:

**SIRLOIN OF BEEF
APPLE STUFFED CHICKEN BREAST
VEGETABLES
RICE & POTATOES
SALADS
DESSERT**

COCKTAILS AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL LOUNGE

AFTER DINNER PARTY: 8:30 PM

PRICE: \$30 PER PERSON

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED

RESERVATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 8, 1998

PLEASE BRING A \$5 TO \$10 UNWRAPPED TOY FOR A NEEDY CHILD

PHONE FOR RESERVATIONS/INFORMATION:

***KATHY HELMS (818) [REDACTED] or
LINDA [REDACTED] (310) [REDACTED]***