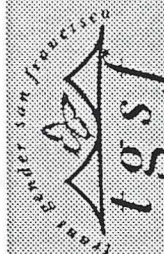


20th Cotillion - Wow!



The Channel



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 2002 - 2003 Officers

(Fiscal Year: May 1 - April 30)

President Rachael Janelle
 Vice President Rachael Hill
 Secretary Susan Laird
 Treasurer Stephanie Ann Blythe
 Education Ally Grillo and Kara Flynn
 Outreach Kalani Makanani
 Social Aiyana Eveningstar and Gia Luisa

Membership Report

Final 2001-2002 Membership as of:

May 24, 2002 230

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

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

Newsletter Staff

Editor Ayme Michelle Kantz
 Advertising Inquiries to TGSF Excom
 Contributing Photographers, this Issue: Kris Davidson
 Rachael Janelle & Telzey Adams

Ad Rates

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

Personal ads from TGSF members: \$10 for up to 40 words per issue. We will not accept ads with a sexual objective. Ad deadlines are the 15th of every month. Send ad copy and check or money order to TGSF, Advertising Dept., PO Box 426486, San Francisco, CA 94142-6486. Please support our advertisers, and tell them you saw their ad in *The Channel!*

WWW.TGSF.ORG
NEW SITE! GET ONLINE!

Hotline & Voice Mail
415-564-3246



FROM THE EDITOR...

20th Annual Event a Success!

Before I get on a roll here, heartiest congratulations to **Tyler**, our new Mr. TGSF 2003, and to **Rachel Hill**, our new Miss TGSF 2003. I want to begin by thanking **Rachael Janelle Light** (Producer) and **Laura Fitler** (Director) and **Susan Laird** (Technical Director) for an outstanding 20th Anniversary Cotillion 2003. The contestants were gorgeous, incredible, sometimes unbelievable, but always fabulous, the MC's **Lenny Broberg** and **Chablis** honored us with their dedicated skill and talent, efficient and funny as always; the **Island Groove Steel Drum Band** and **Golden State Gay Rodeo Association** were both terrific, (I've still got that silly song about Pina Colodas running in my head!), and everything about the show had the definite stamp of organization, care and class that only they could bring. These three wonderful trans women worked tireless hours to make it all flow seamlessly and that everyone involved was directed and accounted for. We couldn't ask for better leadership, and the fact that TGSF is an organization piloted entirely by volunteers makes it all the more noteworthy and impressive. Twenty years of Cotillions...I stand amazed. Truly, an incredible and personal triumph for all three ladies.

Mark Leno was there, not only to present the distinguished Joanna Caron Award, but to live up to the words of immortal Harvey Milk. He gave us some hope, announcing new legislation he'll introduce this year to have "gender identity" written into California State's anti-discrimination code (go Mark!). **Sandy 'Mama' Reinhardt** ("In Leather We are Family!") and other Daddies and Dommies were there, as well as luminescent Emperors and Emperresses from the Imperial Court System, both past and present, (and the same for the Gay Asian-Pacific Alliance) - all there building bridges from their communities to ours, giving us their encouragement and support. A very crisp and polished **Gloria Allred** was there, giving us a sense of confidence and determination and a better feeling that justice will prevail.

But clearly, the night was enhanced for everybody by the loving grace and presence of **Sylvia Guerrero**, whose story about her beautiful child, murdered last October, we've all had indelibly imprinted in our minds and hearts forever. There she was during the Debutante Walk, handing out roses and hugs to every person on that stage, and I, for one, admire her greatly for her courage and strength to continue giving her love and support so freely, openly, honestly and without reservation. Truly, the loss of her daughter, Gwen Araujo, was a blow to all of us - as there is no doubt in my mind that, had she lived, Gwen would have grown up to be a warm, vivacious and purposeful woman, filled with the light of life and blessed with incomparable beauty - just like her mom. In an evening filled with many emotional highlights, the one that struck deepest in my memory was the poignant moment, when the winner of the Miss Congeniality Award (**Roxanne**) announced that the contestants had unanimously voted to donate their prize money to the Araujo Memorial Fund. When Sylvia came back up to the stage to take the gently proffered envelope, clearly overcome by her emotions, I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

Sylvia is loathe to ask for our help, but her struggles in the aftermath of her daughter's death and subsequent prosecution of the accused, have left her and her family in severe financial straits. Please see the section devoted to news coverage of Gwen's story beginning on Page 20, where the bank address, phone and account number is listed should you wish to make a contribution to help this incredible and beautiful woman, who has allowed us in to her life to help heal her heart, and has touched so many of our lives in return. Sylvia, thank you so much for being with us that night. We love you dearly and we'll be there for you during the rough weeks ahead.

Continued on Page 3

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Rachael Janelle

Right now I got both printer going almost full time printing material for the Cotillion, which is only 9 days away. My phone has been ringing about every ten minutes with people asking for tickets and questions about the event. The Contestants this Sunday will be meeting the judges to for their interview with the judges that are worth 40 points out of 100 points. Which is a big deal for the contestants and the judges also.



So by the time you read this, you will know who the new Mr./Miss TGSF 2003 is. But all the contestants could have made a great Miss TGSF. They all were wonderful individuals and worked hard on being the best contestant there could and I'm very proud to have the chance to work with all of them. And this year we have a Mr. TGSF. Which I can guarantee will be Tyler. He is an awesome person and I hope you get the chance to meet him. Tyler will bring more involvement of our brothers from the F to M community and other communities. I'm going to stop about Cotillion 2003 because it still in the future and if you went to Cotillion 2003, you know how awesome the event was.

It's the beginning of 2003, but the end is near for the ex-com 2002-2003 in two months and we are staring to but together individuals to run for positions on ex-com for the next term. We need all the help we can get in any way we can. If you want to organize and put on a social or even educational seminar let me know.

I like to wish all of you a Happy Valentine day and thank you for all of your kindness and love

From the Editor...

Continued from Page 2

Blatant Discrimination?

I picked up a thread from a leather discussion list concerning what some consider to be the ultimate decadent San Francisco experience, found nowhere else but in the "sleazy gross atmosphere" at the **Power Exchange**. But also implied in the gentlemen's statement is that he'd heard the "...PE decided that couples night did not include a Man and a TS." I mean seriously folks...for those of you who like to frequent the PE, what does that say to you? That TS's are incapable of forming meaningful relationships with men? Does it mean a *Woman* and a TS would be admitted? If they want to set up shop specifically for a Straight Oriented Traditional Binary Genetic Man/Woman Couples Night, then don't you think they should just come right out and say so? Yeah yeah TS's are allowed into the PE on other nights, but if they're going to denigrate and degrade us for the sake of being specific about what they mean by "couples," then I think the Power Exchange deserves nothing but our contempt. Raise a fuss! Tell them what you think!

Jam Packed...

There was so much going on since last month's issue that I again felt compelled to expand our paper beyond the traditional 18-page format, probably setting a new record in doing so. Thirty pages, my dear Reader - may ExCom please forgive me in pushing the budget to the edge so soon after one of its Big Ticket items. Within this lengthy tome you'll find a plethora of Community Commentary, Calendar items, Announcements, News, not one but two columns from Jamison Green, some great behind-the-scenes photos from the Cotillion, and of course our section dedicated to keeping the memory of Gwen Araujo alive.

Yet still there were a couple of lengthy pieces I didn't have column space with which to share them with you. One of them in particular was riveting, entitled *Making the Lives of TS People Visible - An Interview With Viviane Namast*. In it, Viviane talks at length how the term "transgender" is currently quite popular, and how it needs to be noted at this point in history that increasingly transsexuals object to being included under the catchall phrase of "transgender." They argue that the health care and social service needs of transsexuals are quite specific, and that this specificity is lost when people use a vague term like "transgender." Furthermore, she goes on to say that the popularity of the term emerges from the Anglo-American lesbian and gay community. While she concedes that this discourse may have meaning for some transsexuals who understand their lives in these terms, it does not speak to the transsexuals who do not make sense of their lives, and their political struggles, within the confines of a lesbian/gay framework. If you want a copy of the complete article, which is well worth the read, drop me a note. I'll try to publish it next month, space and relevance permitting, but in the meantime I'll see if Susan Laird would post it in the new Members-Only section of the website.

Hopefully there will be some communication forthcoming about how Members are supposed to access that area. Now all we need to do is hook in with PayPal (or some such service) and we can accept annual memberships online, and reach even more people with *The Channel*. I've predicted for years that once that happens, our membership base will explode into dizzying numbers, and our force as a social and instructional organization will exponentially increase. A nice side effect is that the same effect will occur with regards to the organization's coffers, which would no doubt be most welcome considering last year's Halloween Event wasn't as profitable as originally hoped. By allowing anyone the security and privacy of joining TGSF online, and access to the newsletter without having to rent a Post Office Box, will go a long way towards getting the group faced in the right direction for the next fiscal year.

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



**Five Pillar
Oriental Medicine**

2071 10th Ave. SF CA
Acupuncture • Tui Na • Herbs
Diet • Qigong

Message for
Appointment:

(415) 753-6475

(415) 661-3712

KIM HRACA, M.A. MFCC
PSYCHOTHERAPY • CONSULTATION

*Helping you find the path
that's right for you.*

MFC #27252

Berkeley
(510) 601-1859

January 2003

TGSF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 4:20 p.m. on January 5, 2003

Present: Rachael Janelle, Rachel Hill, Susan Laird, Kara Flynn, and Kalani. Absent: Aiyanna Eveningstar and Allison Grillo. Guests: Roxy and Linda

Old minutes are presented. No changes are proposed and minutes are approved; Introduction of the agenda.

President: Rachael Janelle

Cotillion: Partial payment should be made to the Design Center pending the show. Contract is mailed with \$2000 to secure the facilities. It is noted that TGSF funds are low. Reviewed Cotillion budget. Discussion of the various departments and their allotted expenses for the Cotillion. Every effort should be made to hold to the budget or further reduce expenses wherever possible as the sales of tickets are uncertain at this time. Lib insurance quote \$1229 for-\$1 million coverage—paid binder mailed to TGSF PO Box Communications: Discussion of additional advertising of the Cotillion. More flyers are distributed.

MAC / Bloomingdale's: Mac personnel will be at the Holiday Inn for the purpose of make-overs for those contestants and show personnel who wish to use their services. Prior arrangements must be made before Saturday.

Vice President: Rachel Hill

No report this month.

Secretary: Susan Laird

Website has once again been updated as this is an ongoing process. It is expected that the Addition of a "members only" sec-



tion will be instituted by the end of the month. This Section will allow TGSF to properly protect the copyrights of other publications that will be posted to this section for the benefit of TGSF membership. Also The Channel will be placed in the members only section with only the Gwen Araujo issue to be left for the general public to view.

Mail is being received and new members will be added to the database shortly. Next year pride committee: The theme for the Pride parade is "Give them hope" from a passage of a speech by former Supervisor Harvey Milk. Following Cotillion, registration of TGSF will be initiated and plans for the float Will commence.

Treasury: Stephanie Ann Blythe

Current balance is very very low due to the expenses incurred for the Design Center and Liability Insurance. New members – about 15 – account for some revenue. Channel advertisers have been billed, but no money has been received as of this meeting. Approximately \$1200 in outstanding accounts receivable are noted.

Education:

The rescheduling of Dr. Kaplan's presentation on SRS has been done. It is to be held on February 8th at the LGBT Center.

Outreach: Kalani

No current speaking engagements are planned until semester breaks are over. Additional Seminars are planned for the upcoming semester.

Social:

End of the month event for January —We will not have one due to the Cotillion. February event is scheduled for Thursday the 27th, 2003 at the Blue Muse

Old Business

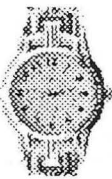
Transition committee – will spend more time working on the upcoming election for the new ExCom after Cotillion 2003. Dates for ExCom meetings are February 2, 2003, March 2, 2003 and April 6, 2003. New 2003-2004 ExCom will meet May 4, 2003 with outgoing ExCom members.

New Business

No new business is proposed. Meeting is adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

XLentJewelry.com

Your source for quality women's fashion jewelry **in hard to find extended sizes!**



Rings (sizes 10 to 13),
Large-size Watches & Bracelets,
Necklaces and More!



by **Connie** ELECTROLYSIS •

Safe • Gentle • Effective
Connie Place RE: Owner

call 408•286•7228 for free consultation

128 Race St. • San Jose CA 95126

TRANSGENDER SUPPORT GROUP

Safe ongoing group
All gender queers welcome
Transitioning NOT required
Monday eves * East Bay near BART
FREE interview * Sliding scale \$20-45/wk



Valerie Igl, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist
<http://members.aol.com/valigl/page/feministtherapy.htm>
valigl@aol.com 510-527-5662

HEY!

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

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

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

Hart To Heart

THE JOURNEY TO OZ

By Roxy Carmichael-Hart

In the January *Channel*, Kalani discussed her journey. I believe that, in many ways, we all are on a journey. I liken my journey as my trip to Oz. I want to get home but I know it is a long road and filled with unknown. There may not be wicked witches or winged monkeys but I am not naïve to think that it's all going to be smooth. However, like Dorothy Gale, I have lot of people who have helped me get this far. I thought I would take this opportunity to mention them, and again express my love and thanks to them. As you will see, it is very hard for this journey to be successful without the help of some extraordinary people. And as a caveat, I want to apologize for anyone I omit to mention. Everyone I have met has been helpful to me and for that I thank you deeply.

Near the top of my list, I would have to place the incomparable Rachael Janelle. The trouble is, in this short space, I don't know how to express my love of, admiration of, and gratitude to this incredible woman. I knew she was special from the first day I met her, when she invited this scared and confused little girl in the out-of-place black dress to have the honor of riding on the Pride Parade float, with beauties such as Kalani and Stephanie Ann. And when, after knowing me only a couple of months, she asked me to serve a leader in TGSF, which I would be honored to do. From the beginning, Rachael opened her heart and the door for me and has made me feel like I belonged.

Rachel Hill has been another inspiration to me. As I have heard about and have read about her transition, I have been touched and impressed by her courage and determination. She has obviously gone through a lot of pain and heartache, yet whenever you see her, she has this gorgeous smile and enthusiastic expression. If she can have a smile on her face after all she's been through, then it gives me hope that so might I. And it was Rachel that uttered words that will stay with me always when she told me "we help each other".

Since RGA is close to my home in Fremont, it was the first group I sought out. After I left a message on the Warmline, Gelsey called me and we spoke for an hour. She made me feel very at ease and eager to participate, and from that call, I decided to attend RGA, which I have been doing regularly since August. I love Gelsey's wry sense of humor and her love of sports metaphors. We shared in the heartbreak of the 2002 World Series and with Gelsey's encouragement; I am planning on attending 2003 Opening Day at Pac Bell Park as Roxy.

When I arrived at RGA, the first person I met was Jackie. As she always is, she was busy unloading her car with the evening's refreshments. However, she took the time to pull me aside and talk to me. Although I don't think I said a word during that first meeting, Jackie made me feel very comfortable. Jackie and I have shared a lot of personal triumphs and low points. She has impressed me with her style and class, and has been a loyal and inspirational big sister.

I also decided to inquire about DVG. Donna Freeman wrote me a very nice letter about DVG and invited me to attend a meeting. I have enjoyed the Monday socials and through DVG, I have met not only wonderful people like Donna, but have made great friends like Sara and Jodie. And I already have the 2003 Annual Dinner on my calendar!

Stephanie Ann Blythe has also been one who has encouraged me. She suggested that I write the article about I LOVE IT, which you saw in last month's *Channel* (and *Devil Woman*). And,

after I complimented her on her presentation at the 2002 Cotillion, she stated that "now I've set the bar high for when you become a contestant." I asked in total shock, "me?" And she replied "Why not you?" Why not me indeed? I never would have fathomed becoming a contestant for the 2004 Cotillion if she hadn't believed that I could.

Linda Edwards, my fellow (?) I LOVE IT shopper has given me lots of tips about makeup, jewelry, nails, clothes, and turned me on to Denae Doyle and Rebeca Auge, who I plan to see in this upcoming year. Linda has also become a good friend and a girlfriend I can confide in. Spending Christmas Day at "The Lion King" was a special day (my first movie as Roxy). I hope that Linda knows that her physical beauty is exceeded only by her inner beauty.

Speaking of I LOVE IT where would I be without Jo-An Torres? I won't repeat everything from last month's article, but suffice to say that I owe most of what I am to Jo-An in terms of my wardrobe. She has been truly a good friend and supporter. If you liked my "Leather and Lace Event" and Halloween outfits, you'll love my Cotillion dress. I wouldn't have found them without Jo-An. You have your work cut out for you in 2003 dear because it is going to be a landmark year.

Everyone knows about Carla Blair so again, I won't repeat the fact her tireless and selfless dedication to the support of T-girls is very much appreciated and she is loved very much in the community (to which her award at the 2002 Cotillion will attest). Her salon, and her monthly dinners at CATS, gives us places to go where we feel safe and accepted and loved. And her Thanksgiving dinner at Pajaro was an event I will always remember.

My therapist, Pat Stryd has been invaluable in helping me understand Roxy as a person and how she came to be, which is important for my future transition. I came to Pat schizophrenic and confused, and thanks to her, I have seen the growth in my confidence, as the person who is Roxy has emerged.

I have been fortunate to have the support of many of my G-girl friends. However, Wendy Schultz stands out as being the one who has stood by me and who has encouraged me. With her help, I attended my first outing in the mainstream world as Roxy (a day at the Hillsdale Mall).

There are so many others who have helped, but these are the main people who have assisted me on my journey. They have become my friends and my support network. This is typical of the support that you receive from TGSF and the other gender groups I have come to know and to love. I know with the help of these wonderful ladies, I will make it to Oz and to my destiny. For all of the new girls, who might be reading the *Channel* for the first time, I hope that you realize that you will not have to make that journey to Oz alone.

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

Counseling, Psychotherapy & Consulting
Individuals, Couples, Families, Groups

1838 El Camino Real, Suite 203
Burlingame, CA 94010
(650) 343-4554

Sunday / February 2 / 4:00pm

TGSF EXCOM MEETING

The meeting of the TGSF Executive Committee will be held at Susan Laird's house in Santa Clara, [REDACTED]. All TGSF members in good standing are invited to attend. Call 408-430-2196 x1230. Please attend! There's Cotillion debriefing and upcoming **Elections** to begin planning!

Saturday / February 8 / 3-5pm

TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR: DR. KAPLAN ON MTF GRS

OK, let's try this again. We've been able to reschedule Dr. Kaplan for an education seminar discussing male to female sex reassignment surgery. Included in the discussion will be surgical options and techniques, and post-op care.

Dr. Kaplan graduated from the Loyola University Ob/Gyn residency program, and has spent time training in Russia and the Graduate Hospital at Allegheny University in Philadelphia.

He has had the opportunity to learn gender reassignment surgery techniques from Dr. Donald Laub, Dr. Neal Wilson, and Dr. Annette Cholon. He is currently seeing patients at the Center for Advanced Gynecologic Surgery and Pelvic Floor Medicine in San Ramon and San Francisco locations. He has privileges in most of the Bay Area hospitals.

There is limited street parking available near the LGBT Center, so public transportation is recommended. The Center is accessible by MUNI J, K, L, M, N, or F, or bus lines 6, 7, 61, or 71. A suggested donation of \$4 is recommended to help defray the costs of the room rental. The LGBT Center is located at 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. Check the activity board at the entrance of the LGBT Center for room location. For more information contact Kara Flynn at [REDACTED]@aol.com.

Sunday / February 9 / 1:00pm-3:00pm*

PRE-VALENTINE'S MAKEUP EVENT.

The MAC event at Bloomingdale's was such a success last time, we are doing it again. Professional makeup artists on hand to help you with your look. To attend, you have to guarantee \$50 in purchases. *There will be two sessions: one from 1 - 3pm for 10 people, and the second will be from 4pm to 6pm. For appointments call Rachael at 408 [REDACTED]

Saturday February 15

CARLA'S VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

Carla's first party in her new building will be a Valentine's Day party held in the spacious second floor ballroom. The doors open at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15, and includes dinner and drinks. Put on your red dress and join us for dinner and dancing! Please RSVP to Carla at (408) 298-6900 or carla@carlas.com.

Thursday / February 27 / 7:30pm

TGSF END OF MONTH EVENT

The Blue Muse 409 Gough Street, San Francisco. For more information contact Rachael Janelle.

Coming in March!

Saturday / March 1 / 1:30pm - 4:00pm.

TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR: SELF DEFENSE TAUGHT BY TRIANGLE TAI KWON DO CLUB.

In light of recent violence against transgender individuals, this seminar will teach you the basics of how to defend yourself and how to avoid possibly devastating circumstances. TTKDC (Triangle Tai Kwon Do Club) will be instructing this seminar at the Eureka Valley Rec Center on Saturday,

EVRC is at 18th & Collingwood, one block west of Castro St, next to CalMart. One of their black belts will be leading the seminar, as well as a couple of other TTKDC members to assist. Participants are usually paired up to work with each other on these drills. Everyone should wear comfortable clothing and (sensible) shoes. This means no heels!!

The seminar will focus on self-defense concepts, recognition of potential danger, conflict assessment and de-escalation techniques, and legal responsibilities of the defender. Techniques will include basic moves to evade and defend oneself, as well as elements of hapkido, which uses pressure points to disable the attacker.

Parking could be an issue, so please arrive early for the seminar. There will always be time for stretching and socializing if you are too early. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kara Flynn at 650 [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]@aol.com.

Thursday / March 6 / 7-9pm

SFSI LECTURE ON TRANSGENDER THERAPY - WITH VALERIE IGL

Topics to be addressed include: What's required to get hormones and/or surgery? How can therapy help? What themes or problems might come up in therapy? Bring your questions!

Valerie Igl is a psychotherapist in private practice in the East Bay with over 23 years of experience in the mental health field. She has facilitated a Transgender Support Group for over 2 years. Her specialties include sexual minorities (lesbian, trans, bi, S/M, poly, gay), abuse survivors, sexual concerns, recovery from addictions, disability/chronic illness, and relationship problems. RSVP is required and you can do so at [REDACTED]@sfsi.org. First come, first served and seating is limited. To allow access by those with chemical sensitivities (including the facilitator), please do not wear scented products like perfume and cologne. Thank you! Hope to see you there!

Friday March 14, 2002

3RD ANNUAL BREAST CANCER EMERGENCY FUND DINNER - WILD AND WONDERFUL FUTURE AHEAD

The Breast Cancer Emergency Fund is a Charity established to provide financial assistance to low income individual's fighting Breast Cancer for basic necessities, rent, medication, etc.

This year's BCEF Dinner will be held at The San Francisco Zoo located at: 1 Zoo Rd. (off Sloat Blvd. in the Sunset). Parking is free in the SF Zoo lot. SF MUNI - L Taraval line will drop you off 1 block from the entrance. Event is at the Leaping Lemur Center (near the flamingo exhibit). \$75.00 per person. Doors Open at 7:30. WINE WITH DINNER & ENTERTAINMENT INCLUDED - produced by: Mark Paladini. ONLINE TICKETS (Available after January 27th) at

Calendar Continues on Page 8

Calendar of Events - February 2003

OTHER BAY AREA GROUPS

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

Pacific Center for Human Growth (PacCtr)

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

Rainbow Gender Association (RGA)

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

Sacramento Gender Association (SGA)

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

Diablo Valley Girls (DVG)

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

DVG Rap Group (RCC)

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

FTM International

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

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.

Transcendence Gospel Choir (TGC)

Ashley Moore 510-██████████ <http://tgchoir.home.attbi.com/>

							1
2 4:00 PM TGSF: ExCom Meeting	3 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	4	5 7:30 PM MPTG	6 7:00 PM DVG RCC 7:30 PM SCT	7 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	8 3:00 PM TGSF: Education Seminar 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA	
9	10 5:00 PM CCHH	11	12	13	14 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr	15 8:00 PM Carla's Valentines Party	
16	17 5:00 PM CCHH 8:00 PM DVG	18	19	20 7:00 PM DVG RCC 7:30 PM SCT	21 8:00 PM PacCtr 8:00 PM RGA	22 8:00 PM FWW 8:00 PM SGA	
23	24 5:00 PM CCHH	25	26	27 7:30 PM TGSF: End of Month Event	28 7:00 PM SVGA 8:00 PM PacCtr		

TGSF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Please Print / Check all that apply:

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

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

Mailing Name: _____

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

Address: _____

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

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

Your Email address: _____ Website URL: _____

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

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

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

Special Events & Announcements!

Two Announcements for the TG/TS Community In Monterey!

DEAR TRANS COMMUNITY MEMBERS,

1) **The Monterey Transgender Support Group**, for both FtM's and MtF's/Pre-op and Post-op, will be having it's next meeting on Saturday, February 8th, from 10 a.m. to noon. We will be welcoming post-op FtM, Jamison Green, known around the world for his advocacy of trans rights and education, as our special guest speaker!

For those who do not know, this is a closed (see note regarding guest below), confidential therapy support group run by gender specialists Stephen L. Braveman, and Maren Martin. The group meets at Stephen's office in Monterey. There is a \$25.00 fee per group and a free, one-hour intake is required to be a regular part of this group. There are currently a couple openings for new members available.

Guests in the trans community (no providers please unless you are also trans), who are not part of this group, are welcome on special occasions, such as the one coming up in February. However, this is by reservation only. Sorry, no drop-ins are allowed. Call or write Stephen at the number/e-mail address below if you are interested in joining the group, being a guest at a special meeting and/or both.

2) If you are interested in helping get a gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender center started here in Monterey, then be sure to attend this meeting on February 8th... This special event below is on the same day we are having our next, very special, group meeting. I've spoken with Wayne and he assured me you can head right over to MCAP for lunch as soon as our group meeting is over (or go directly there if you are NOT attending our special group meeting), have a free lunch and participate in this event!

The Monterey County AIDS Project will sponsor and convene discussions relevant to the establishment of a Monterey County GLBT Diversity Center. MCAP administration feels secure that it can address fund development and sponsorships. An initial meeting of interested parties will take place, to include an MCAP provided lunch on Saturday, February 8th at 12 noon. Should interested parties exceed our space we will provide an alternate site. We estimate the initial meeting will last up to 3 hours. The lofty goal that MCAP initially will set is the opening a center no later than July 1st of this year. The Diversity Center we propose to sponsor will include that safe place for the GLBT residents and visitors of Monterey County.

Initial activities could include advocacy, print, meeting space, etc. etc.... you know the drill !!! MCAP is excited about the establishment of a Center, small or large, to serve Monterey County. Please join us on the 8th. RSVP's will be requested so that we provide the right of amount of food and beverages. Please contact Wayne Johnson at wayne@mcap.org or by phone at 831-394-4747 X18.

Hope to see you all on the 8th!

Stephen L. Braveman, M.A., L.M.F.T., D.S.T.
494 Alvarado Street, Suite A
Monterey, CA 93940
Phone: (831) 375-7553
Fax: (831) 375-7553
www.bravemantherapy.com
stephen@bravemantherapy.com

Calendar of Events...

Continued from Page 6

WWW.FRANTIX.NET Tickets will go fast like last year so please order now! Thank you for your support for this amazing organization. This can't happen without your help and support.

- **Sandy 'Mama' Reinhardt**

Saturday / March 15 / 4:00pm

TALK THE TALK A TGSF EDUCATION SEMINAR ON VOICE THERAPY

Practice, practice, practice!

It's the way to Broadway, and it's the way you can develop a new voice, one that matches your new look and attitude. Here in the Bay Area we have voice coaches who can help. One such expert is Carol Freidenberg, M.S., who will be speaking to us about the therapy she offers to transgender clients. Come and learn how you can sound like the gender of your choice.

Location: The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center, 1800 Market Street @ Octavia in San Francisco. Parking is limited; please take public transportation, such as the Muni F, J, K, L, or M lines. For more information call Alison Grillo, 415-██████████

And Keep Your Eyes Out For...

Monday, May 12th — Sunday, May 18th

ESPRIT 2003 IN PORT ANGELES, WASHINGTON

The Esprit Gala is the premier transgender event in the Pacific Northwest, with something for everyone: classes, vendors, shopping and casino excursions, a fashion show, a talent show, special programs for significant others, and more! For more information visit www.espritconf.com.

Friday ./ May 30 / 5:00pm (Dinner); 7:15pm (Game)

FIFTH FRIDAY - GIRLS AND GUYS NIGHT OUT - DINNER AND A BALLGAME!

The Giants host the Rockies, 7:15 p.m. at Pac Bell Park, and Gelsey hosts the RGA Fifth Friday dinner, 5 p.m. at MoMo's. Gelsey: "Peninsula attendees can ride CalTrain and East Bay girls can use BART. View Box tickets are \$25. We would like to see a good pre-season sign up for this event, so we can get an improved seating location and set the dinner arrangements. Another angle we will pursue is nominating the TG Gospel Choir to sing the National Anthem that night." Momo's is at 760 2nd Street (2nd and King), San Francisco, 94107. If you'd like to attend, please RSVP to the RGA Warm Line at (408) 984-4044.

Transcending Transgende:

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

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

Special Events & Announcements!

COLORADO



Living Your Dream Starts March 6th!

GOLD RUSH 2003

The Gender Identity Center of Colorado is hosting our fifth annual conference, **Colorado Gold Rush 2003: Living Your Dream.** This exciting event is taking place **March 6 - 9, 2003.** We will be at the Red Lion Hotel in Denver again this year. The hotel management urged us to return. Since The Red Lion fit our needs so well, we gladly accepted. Our exciting program is filled with great workshops, galas, tours, and vendors.

This year the G.I.C. marks our 25th anniversary. Saturday evening is a *Celebration in Silver!* Join us for a glamorous night with dining and dancing. Phyllis Frye keynotes the evening after dinner. Thursday evening also features the G.I.C.'s Fund Raising Dinner. Dana Rivers is the featured speaker, followed by some very energetic Drag Kings.

To register go to the conference web site: www.ColoGoldRush.org, and print the registration form. There is a \$40 discount for those who register for the full conference before January 31, 2003.

If you are arriving early, check out the all day seminar on Thursday. Take an in-depth look at two important subjects: "Relationships" and "Life Skills."

Check our web site for the latest information and registration. Thank you!

**Susan Conder
Conference Coordinator**

1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100 Lakewood, CO 80214-4093
(303) 202-6466 / Fax: (303) 202-2050
www.GICofColo.org, or www.ColoGoldRush.org
info@GICofColo.org
ColoGoldRush@GICofColo.org

Coming in May - 5th Fridays!

We are planning our Girls and Guys Night out in May (5th Friday) for **Friday, May 30.** We are planning on having dinner at Dinner at 5 pm at MoMos, near Pac Bell Park, then will go to the Giants-Rockies game afterwards at Pac Bell Park, 7:15 pm., 2nd and King.

Now this idea has kind of ballooned into the idea of a Transgender Night at the Ballpark and we thought that we could ask the Giants if the Transcendence Gospel Choir could do the National Anthem. We are also hopeful of getting enough people to attend the game so that we can get our names on the scoreboard. Heck we might even see if we can get Mr. & Miss TGSF to throw out the first pitch!

Peninsula attendees can ride CalTrain and East Bay girls can use BART. View Box tickets are \$25.

We would like to see an good pre-season sign up for this event, so we can get an improved seating location and set the dinner arrangements. For more information call 408-984-4044.

Gelsey Wong

Significant Other Support - East Bay

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

February's Birthdays

2/00	Suzan Reed	2/14	Gia Luisa Cancio
2/01	Thea Homer	2/16	Tamara Hinds
2/01	Francis Vavra	2/16	Vicki Gray
2/04	Michelle Hoffman	2/16	Gloria Mitchell
2/05	Karen Clark	2/17	Carla Blair
2/05	Carol Anderson	2/19	Jill Jansen
2/05	Robin Barrett	2/20	Linda
2/05	Anne Russell	2/20	Debra Darling
2/07	Richelle	2/22	Willow Hills
2/08	Laura Butler	2/23	Audrey Jackson
2/10	Alexis Haines	2/23	Lauren Hotchkiss
2/11	Bree Wood	2/23	Brenda Altman
2/11	Diane Hutchinson	2/25	Kate Goldman
2/12	Vanessa Schaefer	2/25	Hilary Howes
2/12	Sara Warren	2/28	Gabrielle Marshall
		2/28	Christine Miche Ricci

Many Happy Returns of the Day!



"CONGRATULATIONS!"

Transgender, San Francisco

On a Rockin' Year!

It has been a pleasure to work with your organization

Good Luck to the candidates for

Miss TGSF

We hope your fantasies come true tonight!

Please join Rockstars

Emperor Berlin & Empress Barbie LaChoy

and the Imperial Court of San Francisco
at Coronation 2003

"Carnivalé - Rockstars In Rio"

February 22, 2003

GiftCenter Pavilion

As we celebrate 38 years of Community Service through Charitable Fundraisers for those in need.



Readers Respond

DEAR TGSF,

Hi there! My name is Luxy Chan, a young adult transgender, and I wanted to tell you how much I respect your organization. Although I live in LA and have not yet had the opportunity to participate in any of TGSF's events, I frequent your website and print off several copies of the newsletter (for myself and for friends). I find the newsletter to be very educational and professional, two of the most important qualities us transgenders must exhibit if we are to ever break through into mainstream society.

And that is part of the second reason I am writing to you. I moved from my home state of Virginia last Spring 2002, after I had graduated from college (with a Bachelor's of Science degree in mass communications from Virginia Commonwealth University). Although I completely "passed" (not crazy about that term), and I was an upstanding, mature adult with a good education, I was universally dismissed from every job opportunity when would-be employers saw my given name on the app.

So I moved to Los Angeles to get away from what I thought was simply backwater conservatism. Plus, I had always planned since I was a child to live in sunny California, and get into the entertainment business as a model or actress anyway. But I was misinformed. LA has turned out to be every bit as unaccepting as Virginia ever was. My sister (g.g.) and I moved here with our meager savings in March and she found a job almost right away. On the other hand, I have applied for over 200 jobs and have been accepted for exactly none. Yes, none. In over nine months of life here, I have not earned a single cent. I have had to rely on my little sister, three years younger than me, to pay rent. Meanwhile, we are both incurring numerous debts, and I have enormous student loans that I now owe back and have nothing to give. It is humiliating, it is embarrassing, it is wrong. Even the LGBT organizations here in LA that you would think would help have been of no help; it's like they don't care.

I have heard a lot about San Francisco being the best place for LGBTs in the world. I truly hope that will be the case; I plan on moving as soon as I can. And that is what I am requesting help for; I need a job, and I need a place to live. I would most prefer a college degree-level paying job, but at this point I would be grateful for anything that wasn't demeaning. I need help in acquiring both of these. I don't know a single person in San Francisco, and I've never been there in my life. I need assistance, and I am asking you because I think you have an idea of what this feels like. I have so much to offer, and so much to give the world, and can do so much good. But before I can do any of that, I need to be able to provide for my very own needs, just like any other normal adult needs to.

Thank you for taking the time to read my long letter, and I look forward with the greatest anticipation at hearing back from you (at your earliest convenience!).

Sincerely,
Luxy Chan
[redacted]@msn.com

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

DEAR TGSF:

Hi to all... and Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and New Year.

My name is Deirdre and I am a transgendered person in NY who has closely monitored the recent civil rights issues and vote in New York State. My information, sadly and most interestingly (maybe due to my own ignorance perhaps) has come from disparate sites... and I thought perhaps it might be a good and prescient idea to start another central yahoo group that might have a more recognizable name and thus perhaps a larger base of membership and forum. As a supplement and central gathering spot for transgenders countrywide.

To this end, I have created this group entitled "tgusarights" to approach and try to organize opinion and forum for the battle for transgendered civil rights and equal recognition by law and mores in this society. Visit <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tgusarights/>>

I am also a health editor and writer closely involved in new and naturopathic treatments, so another goal of this group is to announce and compile in a centralized location information on health matters pertaining to our gender, and on general non gender-oriented health. I still see a lot of young transgenders dying from unprescribed hormones, going into the sex business because this is their only option for employment, and confused about the ability and options to recognize, defend against or avoid the violence that society enacts upon us.

If we can get ANY "alternative" rights passed in NY state, I have been suddenly given a BIG breath of hope that things could change ALL over very quickly. But I have no real faith yet that this could happen in Washington...

Won't you please join me here and help get the conversations started countrywide... tell your friends, post, discuss... let us move into the 21st century as a unit, to upgrade and redefine our health, morals, mores and de facto personal rights? To join, point your browser to: <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tgusarights/join>>

Thank you, and I hope to see you here...

Deirdre Elizabeth

ONLINE SO LIST!

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

Attorney

Merrisa L. Coleman

Family Law, Domestic Violence, Estate & Financial Planning And Transgender Issues

Tel (408) 265-9681 • Fax (408) 265-9681
E-Mail: Merrisasjc@aol.com

4960 Almaden Expressway #317, San Jose, CA 95118

Readers Respond

FOLLOWUP ON DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

First off, let me apologize for this being such a late note. Post-Day of Remembrance I was simply drained, and issues surrounding the holidays and my family, coupled with an insistent client that still managed to avoid paying me for the job have left my energies elsewhere.

First off, I wanted to make sure to thank, yet again, each of the speakers and performers at the last DOR event in SF. Each of you made the event what it was. Thanks also to those who attended, and a special thanks to those who read a name at the event. That is typically some of the hardest work to do at the event.

I wanted also to acknowledge every organization that stepped in to help. Day of Remembrance is a project of Gender Education & Advocacy, inc., and was heavily helped on the international scale by the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, and the National Consortium of LGBT Educators in Higher Education. There was also support shown through the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, the Human Rights Campaign, and the Metropolitan Community Churches.

Locally, the event was sponsored by Female to Male International, as well as TransGender San Francisco, the Youth Gender Project, the SF Chapter of the National Organization of Women, the LGBT Community Center, FTMInfo.net, and TransBay.

And the event would have never happened without the hard work of Dion Manley and Sailor Holladay, and others who helped out, volunteered, and made the night work. It is a quite the undertaking to put on something like this.

I named all the sponsors and others above because I did not want anyone to get the mistaken belief that another individual locally — that opted to self-promote during the event — had actually had a hand in the organizing or sponsoring of the event. Enough said on that.

I also wanted to take this opportunity to make a quick correction, just to clarify a point of history with the Day of Remembrance. Last year was indeed the fourth year that there was a Day of Remembrance event held. Yet, in March of 1999, there was also another event related to anti-transgender violence which I was a speaker at, but was not the main coordinator of. That was done by a small activist group called TG Rage, started by Christine Smith and JoEllen Fisher. Also involved with the production of the event were Theresa Sparks, Heather Brown, Rosalyn Montgomery, myself, and others. It is my hope that folks did not conflate the two events as a single unit, or assume that I was the main instigator of the TG Rage action.

Finally, just a quick note on one of my favorite targets, the local straight media. Only one local media outlet actually covered the local Day of Remembrance. The others virtually ignored the event. To paraphrase a friend of mine, it is shocking that that many people could march down the main street in this city, and not raise an eyebrow.

To close this missive, I want to make sure and note that there have been other murders since the Day of Remembrance. Three murders (that I am aware of) were reported after 2002, and there are some others I am still investigating. There has already been a murder in 2003, as well — in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

This is still a problem, and I will still be here, fighting against this issue. I hope I can call upon all of you to stand as well, to fight against anti-transgender murder in the future.

**Cheers,
Gwen Smith
Founder, Remembering Our Dead**

DEAR TGSF:

Just a minor FYI. I was elected to the board of **New Leaf** this past week. Want to make sure people in the community know that there is now trans representation there.

Of course, my role is to represent the whole Queer alphabet soup, but it is clear part of my function is to help facilitate better communication between the trans (and bi) community and the New Leaf (as well as help education the board about our community).

Please feel free to let folks know they can always contact me if they have any comments or suggestions about the agency, now or in the future. Email is always good: gayle@gayleroberts.com.

Many thanks.

**Peace,
Gayle**

P.S. If you don't know about New Leaf, they're SF's leading LGBTQQ nonprofit outpatient counseling center. For more info: <http://www.newleafservices.org/>

Nails Wigs Lingerie



**CARLA'S
Salon & Boutique**
124 Race Street
San Jose, CA 95126
(408) 298-6900
www.carlas.com

*Serving the Cross Gender
Community's needs with sensitive help
and understanding.*

**The Current Location of the
TGSF Library!!**

Cosmetics Fem Fashions Shoes

Cosmetics
Shoes
Nails
Wigs
Fem Fashions
Lingerie
Cosmetics

Announcements!

SF CHRONICLE AND MERCURY NEWS STYLE GUIDE CHANGES

Just a note on the style guide progress. I'm forwarding you a letter from Kelly St. John. She was the Chronicle's representative at the "Gender matters" meeting we had at San Jose State. She reports that the Chronicle has adopted essentially the same policy as the AP. It wasn't clear to me what pronoun they would use for Gwen. The AP has this style guide and had no problem using male pronouns. I sent her a follow up letter and asked her just that. I also sent her some information from the GLAAD on gender terminology, because nothing in the style guide changes prevent the blame the victim style reporting the papers originally started with.

As for the Merc, I got another update from David Yarnold, executive editor, that they are still working on the style guide and were aware of the Chronicle's change. The said they would have something in Jan.

Hope you all had a good holiday season.

**Shelly
SVTGC**

Dear Shelly,

We met at the panel discussion a few weeks ago at San Jose State. I thought you might be interested to know that the Chronicle powers that be recently updated the paper's style regarding the use of pronouns for transgender-related stories. Here's the text of how it stands now. I hope this is helpful to you. It was great to meet you and best wishes in the new year!

**Sincerely,
Kelly St. John
Reporter, San Francisco Chronicle**

The following changes to the Chronicle Stylebook have been made. Here's how the process works: Proposals are considered by the Style Council, then the stylebook editor forwards recommendations to the managing editor, who has to sign off on any changes. If you have a suggestion for the stylebook, contact David Steinberg, stylebook editor, or a member of the Style Council.

Amend Entry: Sex Changes (Also Changed In TRANSGENDER Rule)

"Use the pronoun preferred by the individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics (by hormone therapy, body modification, surgery or other means) of the opposite sex and present themselves in a way that does not correspond with their sex at birth.

If that preference is not expressed, use the pronoun consistent with the way the individual lives publicly.

If the reference is to an action or event before the individual acquired the new characteristics, use the name and sex of the individual at that time. If the reference is to an action after the change, use the new proper name and sex. Example: JoAnne was sometimes teased at school because she didn't like to wear dresses. Now, 20 years later, John meets with teachers to discuss his gender-reassignment surgery and share information about transgender issues."

New CA Court Forms - Petition For Name And Gender Marker Change

Just passing on the info that California has developed standard court forms for anyone who is petitioning for a name and gender marker change order. They took effect last week.

If you are only applying for a name change, you should still use the same forms as last year (NC-100, NC-110, NC-120, and NC-130). However, if you are petitioning to change both your name and gender marker on your birth certificate, you should now file NC- 200, NC-110, NC-220, NC-230 (note that you still file NC-110, there is no NC-210 as far as I know).

If you have already gotten a court order for your name change and now want one for changing the gender marker on your birth certificate, you might want to consider filing the a home-made petition for this (I have a model that I can snail mail to you). The reason for this is that the NC-200s are specifically for someone who wants to change both name and gender marker at the same time. Therefore, they include an order to show cause (which is the thing you have to publish for four weeks) and from my reading of the gender marker statute this isn't necessary if you are only requesting a court order to change the gender marker on your birth certificate.

And, as with most court documents, don't forget that you need to file most of these forms in triplicate and must include a civil cover sheet (982.2(b)(1)). Also if the petition is being made on behalf of someone under 18, additional forms are needed. All of the forms listed in this email (except for the homemade gender marker petition) are available on-line at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/cgi-bin/forms.cgi.

Much thanks for Tim for the heads up about the new forms.

**Best,
Chris Daley
Transgender Law Center**

San Francisco's newest and best Transformation Service:

ADAM TO EVE TRANSFORMATIONS

You've marked your calendar and bought your ticket, but now comes the hard part: figuring out makeup, styling your wig, and getting dressed as the girl of your dreams. Now you can leave all the worries to us!

About us: Adam to Eve Transformations is located conveniently in San Francisco's Lower Haight neighborhood. Our team is dedicated to helping members of the transgender community gain confidence in their appearance through makeovers, dressing, shopping and photo sessions; providing a safe, discreet, comfortable space for gender exploration; and helping clients step out into the real world. Through our services, we seek to empower our clients and increase the overall visibility of the transgender community. Our service is also unique in that it is owned and operated by a crossdresser, who has an insider's understanding of our clients' needs.

Our regular services include: makeovers, makeup lessons, dressing services, wig and hair styling, professional photo shoots, personal shopping trips, escorted nights out to clubs, bars & restaurants, including the , option of limo service, day tours of San Francisco, clothing & wig storage, a safe & discreet changing room.

For more information, pricing, and references, contact Eve/Jeffrey at (415) [REDACTED] or adamtoevesf@yahoo.com Watch for our website coming soon at www.adamtoeve.com

Announcements!

A TS MEDI-CAL VICTORY!

Thought I'd share this letter below from one of my TS (transsexual FtM - female to male) patients with you. This is a major victory for TS clients here in California. Of course, a major victory for this one in particular. While there is much more to this patient's story, and this is a bit long, I think you'll get a clear picture by reading it why I'm sharing this with you.

**All my best,
Stephen L. Braveman**

Maybe this is actually going to happen! my mind whispered as the pen danced and twirled across the page, signing my life away, okaying the removal of two offending lumps of flesh and constructing a male appearing chest. In short: top surgery.

It has been a long a twisted battle. I keep expecting someone to tell me there was a mistake of some sort, a mix-up in the paperwork. It really didn't 'hit home' that I was finally to be freed of my pendulous curses until I saw my name jotted down on that line. And I was glad.

I was so shocked when Stephen (Braveman), my board certified sex therapist and marriage and family therapist, mentioned that I was a 'pioneer.' My mind immediately seized up as I frantically tried to figure out what I had bungled this time. Turns out, I am one of the first people in this state to have MediCal, my insurance, approve funding this surgery. Whoa. Tre` kewl.

Stephen first referred me to Dr. Edward Falces, my surgeon, at the beginning of 2001, stating that he had heard Dr. Falces did good work and accepted MediCal. Definitely a winning combination in my eyes!

After an appointment where pictures of me in the buff from the waist up (and embarrassing as hell, I might add!), the battle with MediCal ensued. Dr. Falces sent in a request for funding from MediCal for bilateral breast reduction and reconstruction surgery based on the fact that I had severe skin problems on the underside of my 'pendulous' breasts and was experiencing severe back discomfort. (Later, the fact was added after extensive testing that my arms were 'abnormal'...I.E. numb. Initially, we had no proof). MediCal promptly said no.

The fight was on!

I retained Dylan Vade, a lawyer from a not-for-profit organization in San Francisco called the Transgender Law Center. Never met the guy face-to-face or got the honor of shaking his hand. Still haven't. We communicated through email, 'snail' mail (US Postal), and telephone. I had found out about the center through the email group tgfsf@yahoo.com, which targets the transgendered community and is a damned good source of information and a way to email questions of your own and keep tabs on TG issues as well as events and junk of interest (mainly in and around San Francisco) to the trans community. Definably helped me out!

Dylan was kewl and very respectful, considering the delicacy of the situation. He has experience in the area, which was so kewl.

The initial TAR (Treatment Request Form) submitted by Dr. Falces had been denied already, so Dylan had me request an appeal hearing, about which the results he was dubious. Something to do with having to find the specific, elusive diagnostic code and citing transgender issues rather than medical ones as the reason for the surgery.

MediCal and Central Coast Alliance, the regulating HMO, sent me a paper informing me they would let me know 10 days in advance of when and where the hearing would be held. This totally pissed me off because, since I dependent on my Mom (who works) for transportation, if the hearing wasn't on Monday or Tuesday—her days off—I was screwed. Ten days isn't enough to prepare for something like a hearing.

CCA was always pulling crap like that. Forms and documents, like their position statement for example, were always arriving at the latest possible moment, usually 3 days or so before I had to do something crucial. It was so frustrating to me! I'm sure it was to all those on this roller coaster ride with me!

After months of research, information digging, sickness, vacations, and a postponement, Dr. Ventura—my general practitioner who submitted a letter with the initial TAR—received a phone call from CCA saying they had to grant my request. I heard nothing from CCA for a few weeks after she got the call. Weeks of panic and scurrying about for nothing. Valuable time in my life I will never see again. Their call, from a lady stumbling through 'politically correct' wording, letting me know there was a recent policy change that was resulting in my request for surgery being granted had just occurred and to call off the impending hearing coming up in a couple of days. I felt a mixture of anger and elation. It simply wasn't right that I was always the last to know anything, good or bad news.

I called the surgeon and received two dates: January 13, 2003 at 11am for the pre-surge visit with Dr. Falces and January 20th (which was changed to the 21st) for the actual surgery. Yikes! It was only November. I thought it would take much longer for me to go 'under the knife'. Very pleasant surprise!

Now, the day after the pre-surge with purple felt tip pen marks still fading on my chest, it is finally sinking in: they are coming off! Hot damn!

My only reservations are about the surgery because I have never had any. It is fear of the unknown. The idea of being knocked out while someone whittles on me isn't a comfortable thought, but is a small price to pay for the overall deal. Otherwise, I have no qualms about the whole ball of wax.

I have no attachment to these boobs. They are simply an aberration, like a mole, and no more a part of me. These 'moles' have just grown to the size that they are not only bothersome but causing physical problems that rival the mental discomfort their presence saddles me with. Therefore, off they must come.

In my mind, I am preparing for the worst, battering down the hatched so to speak. That way, even if (God forbid) the worst happens, it won't devastate me as much. I have kinda found that works well for me.

The pre-surge was no biggie. Stripped again to the waist, Dr. Falces listened to my heart and lungs, then took a series of Polaroid pictures of my chest area, pausing only to tickle me as he made purple marks within a felt tipped pen and measured stuff. I felt no nervousness like I had the time before about this. Mentally, the boobs are already gone. can't wait till they physically part company with me as well. I know for a few days after the 21st, I won't even care. The pain promises to be substantial. Thank God for morphine! (Amen)

I did freak when I heard that at midnight the day before the surgery, no drinking or eating. Shit! I am a total water hound in the morning! I also can't take my vitamin C or E and the herb Echinacia, catch a cold or have an infection from now till the surgery. I also can't apply my ManGel (testosterone/AndroGel) the night before. Crap! I so enjoy slathering that on!

I feel as prepared as I can be under the circumstance, though I know that isn't enough. I have found that I am never as prepared as I wish. I wonder if anybody else experiences that?

Butterflies ping off the walls of my stomach as I feel both elated and kinda nervous. It has been a long road to this point, dotted with monstrous pot holes and water hazards. I hope that, after this, that road will get smoother but still have a few potholes. Without some sort of trials, I am afraid I wouldn't appreciate the ride. I sure hope that motherfucker is a long and fun one!

Raiders will rule it all!

Announcements!

DAN SAVAGE ON CROSSDRESSERS

Dan is a Seattle-based writer and nationally syndicated sex advice columnist, offers his column weekly in *sfweekly.com*. Dan's advice is unedited and untamed. Savage Love addresses everything you've always wanted to know about sex, but now you don't have to ask. Proceed with curiosity.

Dear Dan:

I was watching Dr. Phil on television the other day with my wife. He was talking to a woman who discovered, after marrying her husband, that he was a cross-dresser, or at least, had cross-dressing tendencies. Dr. Phil counseled the woman to leave the man because of his "perversion," and told her that no one could ever be sexually satisfied with a cross-dresser for a husband because he would always be masturbating while wearing her underwear, and so on, instead of sexually pleasing her. Mind you, the woman had three kids with this guy so obviously they got it on occasionally, and she actually didn't say that they didn't have sex, only that he had brought up the idea of wearing her clothes and she was repulsed. Then he got the husband on the phone and yelled at him for being dishonest.

From reading your column for a long time, I was under the impression that lots of people with fetishes live happy, productive, sexually fulfilling lives. Just because something turns someone on doesn't mean that nothing else turns them on, does it? If I like blow jobs and my wife doesn't, does that mean we are sexually incompatible? How is this different? Or is Dr. Phil just projecting?

Perverts and Nylon Tights

Dear PANT:

As the mental image of a cross-dressed Dr. Phil is too horrible to contemplate, let's assume he isn't projecting. Besides, it's more likely Dr. Phil is simply doing what daytime TV talk show hosts are paid the big bucks to do: tell women in the audience exactly what they want to hear. In this case, he's telling the wife of a cross-dresser and, by extension, all the wives of all the cross-dressers watching at home that their husbands are dishonest perverts, that the wives are wronged innocents, and that their husbands' ho-hum sexual fetish is grounds for divorce.

Yes, yes: In an ideal world people would make a full disclosure of their secret sexual fetishes before getting married and making babies. But most straight people with "shameful" sexual fetishes deny and suppress them for years in what almost always proves to be a futile attempt to control their sexual desires and live "normal" lives. (Out gay people, as a rule, don't suppress their kinks. Compared to a desire for same-sex sex and love, a desire for leather, dress socks, stuffed animals, spankings, piss, Ashton Kutcher, etc., just isn't that scary.) Eventually straight guys with fetishes realize that it's impossible to suppress their sexual fantasies and then make the difficult decision to tell the wife.

And why do straight guys with bizarre sexual fantasies and fetishes try to keep them secret? Why do they suppress them? Hide them from their potential mates? Because of people like Dr. Phil.

It's the Dr. Phils of this world who run around telling people that anyone with a sexual fantasy wilder than whipped cream on the wife's nipples is a freak. It's the Dr. Phils who spread the lie that people with wild sexual fantasies are not interested in "normal" sexual activity, no matter how much "normal" sexual activity they've had in their long lives. It's the Dr. Phils who tell women with small children that the discovery of a run-of-the-mill sexual fetish is grounds for divorce.

Gee, color me Bill Bennett, but it seems to me that the damage of divorce for all involved (especially kids!) is so great that the wife of a cross-dresser might want to take a stab at accepting or accommodating her husband's fetish before filing for divorce. And perhaps the woman on Dr. Phil's show might have gone there if the not-so-good doctor took the trouble to do a little research before he stuck his big, bald head up his big, white ass. (Which he did right there on television, which is kinda perverse, don't you think?) Then Dr. Phil could've told her that cross-dressing is a common fetish among straight men, and that most cross-dressers are only interested in indulging themselves from time to time. Dr. Phil could've told her that most cross-dressers are capable of having normal sexual relations with their wives. He also could've told her that there are numerous support groups for the wives of cross-dressers, as well as books and Internet chat rooms.

And he could've told her that while it may not be pleasant to contemplate her husband in women's clothes (where is it written that he has to wear her clothes?), there's no reason she has to contemplate it all the time. If she can give her husband permission to indulge on his own during solo masturbation sessions, and if his occasional indulgence takes nothing away from their shared sex life, she should be encouraged not to dwell on the whole husband-in-panties issue.

[Editor's Note: Obviously this article wasn't written with our community in mind, but it is useful information for those of us taking estrogens.]

ESTROGEN DRUGS MUST HAVE WARNING LABELS

Gina Kolata, New York Times

The Food and Drug Administration announced Wednesday (1-9-03) that companies making drugs that contain estrogen or estrogen and progesterin for menopausal women must include a boxed warning on labels stating that the drugs may slightly increase the risk of heart attacks, strokes, blood clots and breast cancer.

The agency said that since a large federal study concluded last summer that Prempro, a drug made by Wyeth, slightly increases those risks, it must be assumed that all other products containing estrogen, including patches, creams and pills, have similar problems unless proved otherwise.

Until now, only Prempro's label mentioned the risks, which were stated in boldface type on the label but were not in a box. The company changed its label in August to include the risks after findings from the federal study, the Women's Health Initiative. The company also sent letters to a half-million doctors informing them of the results.

With 10 million women in the United States still taking estrogen products, the agency's decision sends a strong message, medical experts said. Putting a black box on a drug's label is a regulatory action, and it is not taken lightly.

"Having a black box on the label is a big deal," said Dr. Susan Hendrix, a gynecologist at Wayne State University in Detroit who was an investigator in the federal study. "It's pretty astounding to go from a year ago, thinking this is one of the most benign drugs, to a 180-degree turn in the opposite direction."

The Women's Health Initiative study found that the risks from the drugs were not outweighed by their only demonstrable benefits — a slight reduction in bone fractures and colon cancer. Prempro's warning will now also be in a black box, and the company is mailing additional letters to doctors informing them of the drug agency's action.

The study's findings shocked many women and their doctors, who had assumed that Prempro, which was the most popular estrogen drug used by menopausal women, was simply replacing the lost hormones of youth. Prempro's sales have since dropped by 50 percent, said Doug Petkus, a Wyeth spokesman.

But many women want to continue taking estrogen because it is the most effective treatment for symptoms of menopause, such as hot flashes, night sweats and vaginal dryness. Others have wanted estrogen because they believe, in the absence of rigorous evidence to show it, that it improves memory and smoothes the skin. So, after the risks of Prempro became known, many switched to other estrogen products.

But the drug agency's commissioner, Dr. Mark McClellan, said on Wednesday that "there is no reason to believe that any other drug is safer than Prempro." He added, "We want similar labeling on all these products. At the moment, we don't have the information to say that one or the other is different."

20 Products On The Market

There are five products on the market that contain estrogen and progesterin and 15 that contain estrogen alone, the agency said. Kim Schillace, a spokeswoman for Berlex Laboratories, a Montville, N.J., company that makes an estrogen patch, said the company would work with the agency on revising its label. "We will have to make changes, but we have to determine what those changes will be," Schillace said.

McClellan said women should consult their doctors about whether to take estrogen for the symptoms of menopause. But, he said, "estrogen and progesterin should be used at the lowest doses for the shortest time."

The agency has also revised two of the three indications for the use of estrogen. The drugs were suggested for vaginal dryness and irritation, even if there were no symptoms and the condition was noticed only in a medical exam. Now, the drugs' labels will state that the condition must be moderate to severe and that women should consider using topical products, like vaginal creams.

Although estrogen can slow bone loss that occurs with menopause, the new labels must state that when the hormone is used only for prevention of osteoporosis, it should be restricted to women who are at the highest risk. Even then, the new labels will say, other osteoporosis drugs that do not contain estrogen should be considered.

Takin' Care of Biz...

TGSF BALANCE SHEET

(December 23, 2002 through January 21, 2003)

Assets

Cash	\$2,322.79
Event Equipment	
Decorations	\$1,000.00
Food Service	\$200.00
Office Supplies	\$50.00
Total Assets	\$3,572.79

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$0.00
Educational Fund	\$0.00
Taxes	\$0.00
Insurance	\$0.00
Utilities	\$0.00
Operations	\$0.00
Total Liabilities	\$0.00
Equity	\$3,572.79
Total Liabilities & Equity	\$3,572.79

Monthly Income Statement

Revenue

Membership	\$203.83
Advertising	\$475.00
Cotillion	\$5,905.00
Donations Received	\$508.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$0.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Halloween Party	\$0.00
.....	\$7,091.83

Expenses

Cotillion	\$6,914.35
Halloween Party	\$0.00
Big Shew	\$0.00
Pride Parade	\$0.00
Social	\$0.00
Education	\$80.00
Outreach	\$0.00
Newsletter	\$216.46
Operations	\$48.78
Donations Paid	\$0.00
.....	\$7,259.59

Net Income (Loss) (\$167.76)

TGSF DONATIONS

**Our Friends Who Give
as of January 21, 2003**

Cheryl Eichstaedt	\$100.00
Susan Powell and Dawn Hartman	\$500.00
Stephanie Ann Blythe, Roshelle Cunning, and Georgette Freeman	\$100.00

Bless You and Thank You for Caring!

CONTACT TGSF!

ExCom Members

President

Rachael Janelle [redacted]@hotmail.com

Vice President

Rachel Hill [redacted]@aol.com

Secretary

Susan Laird [redacted]@hairzapper.com

Treasurer

Stephanie Ann Blythe [redacted]@tgforum.com

Education

Ally Grillo [redacted]@msn.com

Kara Flynn [redacted]@aol.com

Outreach

Kalani Makanani [redacted]@tgforum.com

Social

Aiyana Eveningstar [redacted]@earthlink.net

Gia Luisa [redacted]@pacbell.net

Other Email Addresses

Editor, The Channel

Ayme Kantz [redacted]@aol.com

Or tgsfeditor@yahoo.com

Webmistress

Susan Laird [redacted]@hairzapper.com

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

Information

Rachael Janelle [redacted]@hotmail.com

..... or 408 [redacted]

Requests for information concerning TGSF and
upcoming events

Calendar www.tgsf.org

Submissions can be made online directly. Cancel-
ling mistakes or for other problems, please contact
the Webmistress.

The Good TG News!

Pro TG Ruling in NY

JUDGE: ANATOMY DOESN'T ALWAYS REFLECT GENDER

by Gay.com / PlanetOut.com Network

In a legal dispute in which a landlord objected to a tenant agency's clients using the "wrong" restrooms, a New York Supreme Court judge ruled on Thursday that a transgender person's anatomy is not relevant to gender identity.

The ruling also declared that the agency, the Hispanic AIDS Forum (HAF) of New York City, did not have to turn over the names of clients or proof of birth genders, as such action would violate the confidentiality rights of many of the clients.

The case, Hispanic AIDS Forum v. Estate of Joseph Bruno, is still in the information-gathering phase. Depositions will continue into February, according to the ACLU.

HAF, represented by the ACLU, filed suit in June 2001 after the landlord refused to renew the agency's lease because of complaints from other tenants that transgender HAF clients were using restrooms not associated with their physical anatomy. The landlord reportedly refused to negotiate a way to accommodate such clients, and the agency was forced to relocate.

The lawsuit contends that the owner of the Bruson Building in Jackson Heights violated state and local laws against discrimination based on sex, gender and disability. The plaintiff seeks unspecified damages, citing the financial and practical impact of the agency's relocation.

"The landlord's tactics of trying to degrade our clients by forcing them to disclose what their genitals look like and their HIV status demonstrates the contempt they have for transgendered people suffering from HIV and AIDS," said James Esseks, litigation director for the ACLU's AIDS Project.

"These rulings are a positive step in helping us correct the wrongs done to a community that has already gone through enough," he said.

NEW LEGISLATION IN UK TO PROTECT TG WORKERS

by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

(London) The British government is preparing to remove a ban on the transgendered marrying in their intended sex and with their new names. The legislation would also give the transgendered job protection. Currently they can be refused employment in fields, deemed "sensitive" such as those involving intimate contact - carrying out body searches of suspects, or working as for elderly people in their homes.

Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt said the new legislation should be ready to submit to parliament later this year. The announcement was welcomed by transgender civil rights groups. Claire McNab, vice-president of Press for Change, called the existing laws "repressive".

"The legislation suggests that trans people should not in general be working with vulnerable people, and I find that actually grossly offensive," said McNab.

TG RIGHTS CASE GOES TO LORDS

by Peter Moore
365Gay.com Newscenter, London Bureau

(London) The House of Lords, the final appeal process in the UK, has begun hearing a case involving the rights of the transgendered to marry in their corrected sex.

The case involves Elizabeth Belliner whose marriage was ruled illegal when the courts discovered she had been born male. British law currently does not allow birth records to be altered.

She went through a sex change operation in 1981 and married John Bellinger in the same year. The High Court and Court of Appeal have previously refused to recognize the marriage.

The Lords agreed to hear the case at a time when Britain is under pressure to reform its laws regarding the transgendered. The case could have major implications for other transsexuals throughout the UK. The European Court has already ruled that the transgendered have the right to have their birth records altered.

AUSSIE TEEN TO BEGIN TG THERAPY

by Peter Hacker
365Gay.com Newscenter, Sydney Bureau

(Brisbane, Queensland) A Brisbane student has become the youngest person in Australia to embark on gender reassignment. The youth, whose name is being withheld has begun taking hormones in the second phase of the male-to-female transition. The hormones will that will stop facial hair growth and allow her to eventually develop breasts.

She has chosen a new female first name and has the support of her parents and school. Last year, in the first part of her transition, she began letting her hair grow long and wearing girl's clothing. But, even with the support of the school administration, her fellow students have not been so understanding.

The 17 year old suffered months of verbal taunts, abuse and assault and has dropped out. Her parents are now considering other options such as home schooling. "It's not like I have chosen this for myself, I have lived my whole life feeling that something is not right and all I want is to live a normal life," s he said.

"The entire process has been painful and difficult . . . I wouldn't want to put anyone through what I'm going through. "Life would be so much easier if I didn't have to do this." In addition to the hormone therapy, she is undergoing physiological testing a prerequisite for the gender altering surgery she hopes to have in about three years.

Her mother said the family has received understanding and support from the local Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. "We love our child and we want to do what's right, we want her to have a happy life," she said. "The suicide rate amongst transgendered is so high (43 per cent of transgendered in Australia have committed suicide or have made an attempt) and I don't want a dead child."

[Editor's Note: I'd say Gwen Araujo's death meant a lot to this family, even half way across the world.]

Dr.Preecha Announces His New Official Website! www.pai.co.th

DEAR TGSF,

Greeting from Thailand and Happy New Year, I hope this letter finds you in good health. I am writing this letter to announce the launch of our new official website for Preecha Aesthetic Institute. As acting director of the Preecha Aesthetic Institute, I have handpicked and trained all doctors and stuffs here.

As I mentioned earlier, I would like to announce the launch of www.pai.co.th is only official website for my institute. In addition, you will see pai.co.th contains in-depth information on the procedure offer and has a section where you can schedule an appointment for surgery directly with me. Moreover, Pai.co.th also has a reliable online consulting team to response quickly to answer your questions about the institute and cosmetic surgery in-depth to general.

Therefore, I hope you will have the chance to visit my official website www.pai.co.th and please email me your comments and criticisms. In addition, if you would like to support the institute by enriching the website content, then please volunteer to be a mentor, I would be appreciating.

Finally, I wish you continued happiness and self-fulfillment in life and also looking forward to see you again in Thailand.

Best wishes,
Dr. Preecha Tiewtranon

The Not-so-Good TG News...

VATICAN DECLARES TG'S DO NOT EXIST

by Jon ben Asher

365Gay.com Newscenter, European Bureau Chief

(Vatican City) The Vatican has ruled that sex-change procedures do not change a person's gender in the eyes of the church. The decision, made by the department in charge of doctrine, is contained in a confidential document obtained by the Catholic News Service.

CNS, quoting a source familiar with the text, says the document instructs bishops never to alter the sex listed in parish baptismal records and says Catholics who have undergone "sex-change" procedures are not eligible to marry, be ordained to the priesthood or enter religious life.

"The key point is that the [gender reassignment] surgical operation is so superficial and external that it does not change the personality. If the person was male, he remains male. If she was female, she remains female," said the source.

In essence it says the transgendered do not exist in the Catholic faith. The document was sent "sub secretum" (under secrecy) to the papal representatives in each country to provide guidance on a case-by-case basis to bishops.

INDONESIAN TV DIES AFTER INJECTING HIMSELF WITH SILICON

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) _ An Indonesian transvestite died after he injected himself with silicon that he hoped would enlarge his breasts, media reports said Monday.

The victim, identified only as Sugrabrata, 35, was found dead in a rented room in a poor district of central Jakarta late Friday, Koran Tempo daily reported. He had a substance that police suspected was silicon leaking from a puncture hole in his chest, the report said.

The paper quoted Sugrabrata's brother as saying that he had injected himself three times with silicon before his death. He obtained the chemical from a friend, the report said. Police were not immediately available to confirm the report.

Transvestites are a common sight on the city streets of Indonesia, where many of them work as prostitutes. They also frequently appear on television variety and quiz shows.

JUDGE SAYS TRANVESTITE WILL DRESS AS A MAN DESPITE APPEARANCE

VENTURA, Calif. (AP) _ A transvestite facing a murder trial wants to appear in court dressed as a woman: He looks like a woman, acts like a woman and considers himself a woman.

But Superior Court Judge Roland Purnell ruled Jamie Cid will dress as a man because he is a man. That decision led Cid's attorneys to file a motion Thursday that challenges their client's mental competency.

The reason for the motion was sealed by the judge, but Cid's attorneys said it argues his mental competency and whether the defendant can assist in his own defense. Last week, the judge said Cid must dress like a man while in the courtroom.

Cid's lead attorney, Robert Sheahen, declined to comment after a brief hearing Thursday in Ventura County Superior Court, during which Purnell assigned a psychologist to evaluate Cid. A hearing was set for Jan. 14. Deputy District Attorney John West called the motion another stall tactic. "The people wish to move this on as quickly as possible," West told Purnell. "The people also express some skepticism regarding this motion."

Cid, 31, is charged with murder and robbery in the March 2000 beating death of Jack Jamar, 78, inside the victim's Varsity Street home. Jamar was known to frequent Thompson Boulevard looking for prostitutes and apparently knew Cid, investigators said. Cid has claimed he attacked in self-defense, but prosecutors believe he beat Jamar during a robbery, then took his wallet and fled to San Diego where he was arrested.

If Purnell rules he is incompetent, Cid will be transferred from Ventura County Jail to a mental hospital for treatment until he is ready for trial. If the judge rules Cid is competent, jury selection could begin within a few days.

TG WOMAN DEAD IN POLICE SHOOTING

by Mark Worrall

365Gay.com Newscenter in San Francisco

(Yakima, Washington) A scuffle with a Kittitas County, Washington, sheriff's deputy after a minor traffic accident has left a transgendered Portland woman dead.

Police say that 49 year old Sarah Mayhugh assaulted Deputy Tom Gow who was investigating the accident on I-82 about 12 miles south of Ellensburg. The official police report says Mayhugh sprayed the deputy with pepper spray and then attempted to [hit] him with a hammer. The report says Gow shot [Mayhugh] in self defense.

Undersheriff Rob DeGroot said Mayhugh had been struck by five shots and was declared dead at the scene. An internal investigation is underway, but DeGroot said it appears Gow was justified in firing. DeGroot said it was the first fatal shooting by a Kittitas deputy in 15 years.

Mayhugh was undergoing hormone therapy in preparation for sex reassignment surgery. She had received breast implants and was living as a woman. Nevertheless, police reports continually described her as a man.

[Editor's Note: 5 Shots?! Jesus H. Christ!]

HATE CRIME CHARGES IN SHOOTING OF TG WOMAN

by Fidel Ortega

365Gay.com Newscenter, Miami Bureau

(Miami Beach, Florida) Police have laid hate crime charges against two men in the shooting of a transgendered woman in Miami Beach. Police say the woman, whose name is being withheld, was shot when the men learned she had been born a male.

Investigators say the woman, who works in the sex trade, had propositioned the men. Before getting into their car she allegedly told the men: "I think you know what you're getting into. I'm a man." At that point one of the men pulled a gun and shouted anti-gay slurs as he fired, hitting her in the shoulder. The woman was taken to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. She was listed Friday night in fair condition.

Based on a description of the men and the car, police later charged Adrian Miller, 19, of Long Branch, N.J. and Billy Ledan, 19, of Miami with attempted murder with a hate crime enhancement. They remain in jail without bond.

SUIT AGAINST WINN-DIXIE DROPPED

by Fidel Ortega

365Gay.com Newscenter, Miami Bureau

(New Orleans) A man fired because he sometimes dressed in women's clothing on his own time, in his own home has dropped his lawsuit against the company, saying he did not think he could win in the nation's conservative political environment.

Peter Oiler, a trucker driver for supermarket giant Winn-Dixie was told that if word "leaked out" that he was a cross-dresser, it could hurt the company's reputation and result in a loss of business. The 23-year employee of the company has been battling Winn-Dixie for more than two years.

A federal judge ruled against Peter Oiler last September and refused to reconsider the case in November. Oiler said further defeats might have set back anti-discrimination efforts for gays and the transgendered. "I'm afraid I would have done more harm to the cause than good," he told The AP in an interview.

Among the reasons Oiler cited for his concern that the judicial landscape is turning more conservative was the Republican sweep in the November elections and President Bush's re-nomination of conservative Mississippi Judge Charles Pickering to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Oiler's appeal would have gone to the 5th Circuit. However, there would be no way of knowing whether Pickering, should he be confirmed by the Senate, would be assigned to hear the case.

In his September ruling U.S. District Judge Lance Africk ruled that Oiler is not protected by the federal law against sex discrimination. Congress has refused 31 times to amend the law to ban discrimination because of gender or sexual identity, and it is not the federal court's job to dictate policy, Africk ruled.

Meanwhile, Oiler may end up back in court, this time as the defendant. Winn-Dixie is demanding Oiler pay its costs to defend itself. Court records show the amount is more than \$9,000. A Feb. 5 hearing date has been set on the issue.

But There's More Good TG News!

GLAAD ENCOURAGED BY ASSOCIATED PRESS COVERAGE REGARDING TG ISSUES

The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation today lauded the Associated Press for two December 22, 2002 articles regarding the murder of transgender teen Gwen Araujo. Araujo, whose body was discovered on October 16, 2002 in Newark, Calif., was the victim of an apparent hate motivated crime.

"We are very encouraged that the Associated Press is reporting on the aftermath of Gwen's death," said Monica Taher, GLAAD's Northwest Regional Media Manager, who has worked closely with regional media and community activists in Newark, Calif., for the past few months. "Initially, we were challenged by journalists unfamiliar with transgender issues, but we are now finding a receptivity to look at a spectrum of issues, from proper pronoun usage to the impact Gwen's death has had on her family, her community and the nation," Taher continued.

"The sidebar story about terminology challenges that accompanied Michelle Locke's piece is exactly the kind of thoughtful discussion we hope journalists are having — and will continue to have — in their newsrooms," said Cathy Renna, GLAAD News Media Director, who met with Associated Press staff in 1999 and 2001 regarding the Stylebook and its inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender related terminology. "The Associated Press has been receptive to evolving terminology issues in the past and continues to make changes that reflect more fair, accurate and inclusive coverage of transgender issues. The transgender community has increasingly become the focus of media attention, and the Stylebook needs to reflect that, especially given its position as the terminology 'gold standard' for journalists," Renna continued. "Our hope is that even more inclusive changes — such as the addition of the now standard term 'transgender' — be considered by the AP in the next edition of the Stylebook," Renna concluded.

Since Gwen's death, GLAAD has worked with media outlets on local and national levels to ensure fair, accurate and inclusive coverage. Gwen's murder was part of a larger discussion about anti-transgender hate crimes on The John Walsh Show and will be the focus of a segment of NBC's Dateline in 2003.

SF SUP'S COULD SETTLE TG LAWSUIT

San Francisco — Robert Haaland, an activist in San Francisco's progressive political movement and a female-to-male transgender person, could receive a \$107,500 legal settlement from the city after he accused a police officer of improperly "groping" him during an in-custody search four years ago. Haaland sued the city, seeking damages for assault, pain and suffering and emotional distress. City Attorney Dennis Herrera recommended that the case be settled, spokesman Matt Dorsey said.

The Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee on Tuesday sent the proposal to the full board for consideration next week without recommendation, and suggested that the supervisors discuss the case in closed session.

Haaland's lawsuit, filed in San Francisco Superior Court, claims the wrongdoing took place at the Park police station in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury neighborhood after he was arrested for trespassing in connection with a housing dispute. He was locked up for 30 hours before he was released. The district attorney declined to press criminal charges.

While in custody, the lawsuit states, Haaland was "subjected to an unjustifiable groping of his private parts by a San Francisco police officer who characterized it as a 'search.'" He said the incident lasted three to five minutes and that he also was asked degrading questions about his gender.

In recent years the San Francisco Police Department has stepped up sensitivity training for officers who interact with members of the transgender community. Others besides Haaland have complained of being mistreated by police officers.

The city attorney's office would not comment on the Haaland case, pending final settlement. Haaland and his attorney also declined to comment at this time.

SOUTH BAY TRANSMEN

Come and hang out with other FTM/questioning guys at our social and support group. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 7:30-9:00pm at the Billy DeFrank Lesbian & Gay Community Center, 938 the Alameda, in San Jose. For more info: Contact Marianne at (408) 293-3040 ext. 116 or supportedu@defrank.org or Lance at lance@onebox.com.

NTAC Press Release

SPRINGFIELD, IL & KEY WEST ENACT TG RIGHTS

Tuesday night, January 7, 2003, Key West became the first jurisdiction in Florida to enact legislation protecting the human rights of transgender and intersexed people. By a unanimous vote, the Key West City Council amended the city's Human Rights to include 'gender identity or expression.' At about the same time, the Springfield, IL city council passed a similar ordinance covering both sexual orientation and gender identity. The Springfield vote was 8-1 in favor of the ordinance, with one abstention.

The ordinance in Key West protects people from discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and lending. By including those whose gender identity or gender expression is different from the expectations of some parts of society, the Key West ordinance becomes the most inclusive civil rights legislation in the state.

The measure in Springfield includes gender identity under the definition of sexual orientation as "having or being perceived as having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness." The ordinance passed following a long debate in which opponents raised objections based on religious grounds and on the alleged health menace posed by homosexuals. Proponents argued that discrimination against anyone is unacceptable and that the legislation merely promotes equal treatment for all.

In testimony before the Springfield city council, Rick Garcia, Political Director of Equality Illinois, challenged the morality of those who invoked religion to oppose the ordinance. "Let me remind you that people invoked God and the Holy Scriptures to oppose the abolition of slavery, to oppose the vote for women, and to oppose integration — positions people of goodwill find morally repugnant today. The basic foundation of our Judeo-Christian tradition is justice and mercy, not intolerance and bigotry."

Following the Key West vote, Janice Carney, Executive Director of the Florida Gender Equality project (FORGE) stated, "I am delighted that Key West is starting the new year with a strong stand on transgender civil rights." Carney, who is also a member of NTAC, added, "the Key West City Council was very courageous in recognizing the humanity of transgender people."

"For people who've felt a lifelong sense of personal isolation brought on by biological occurrences beyond their control, unanimous passage of this human rights ordinance was in essence saying we acknowledge and accept you as fellow human beings" Scott Fraser, Administrator of the Gay & Lesbian Community Center of Key West, said immediately following the Key West Council's unanimous vote. "Although this sounds so very basic to most of us, it's been a long-time-coming" for gender distinctive individuals.

FORGE and Key West Community Center were part of a coalition, including Equality Florida, a statewide social justice organization, the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition (NTAC), and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), who also provided assistance to local activists.

"It was a great coalition," said NTAC Chair Vanessa Edwards Foster who contributed to the effort. Foster, who also worked on the first transgender-inclusive legislation in Texas, added, "Enactment of the first trans-inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance in another conservative southern state — another of those initial footholds — is indescribably gratifying. Especially in Bush country!"

Key West and Springfield become the 55th and 56th jurisdictions in the United States to enact transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination laws.

Introduction of GLBT nondiscrimination legislation is currently under consideration in Rockford and Peoria, IL and is expected to come before the Illinois state legislature this year. Carney noted that the transgender coalition is carrying the Key West victory forward to other Florida jurisdictions, including Miami / Dade County, St. Petersburg, Orlando, and Seminole.

"I pray from deep in my soul," Carney added, "that this action will open other hearts and minds to transgender inclusion."

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: lhall@aol.com or call 510 [441-1111](tel:510-441-1111).

And Even More TG News!

TRANSGENDER AGING INSTITUTE ANNOUNCED

Queery.com

For the first time, service providers and advocates will be able to devote a full day to lectures, exercises, and small group discussions of transgender and SOFFA (significant others, friends, family and allies) aging issues at the Transgender Aging Institute to be held in Washington, D.C., on **February 14, 2003**. The Institute is sponsored by the Transgender Aging Network (TAN), since 1998 the only international organization devoted solely to trans/SOFFA aging issues. TAN exists to improve the lives of current and future trans/SOFFA elders by:

- Identifying, promoting communication among, and enhancing the work of researchers, service providers, educators, advocates, elders and others who are interested in trans/SOFFA aging issues;
- Promoting awareness of concerns, issues, and realities of trans/SOFFA aging among service providers, researchers, advocates, health care professionals, the lesbian/gay/bisexual and trans communities, and other relevant audiences;
- Advocating for policy changes in public and private institutions, services, organizations, programs, etc. to provide better access for and respectful and appropriate treatment of trans/SOFFA elders; and
- Providing communication channels through which trans/SOFFA elders can give and receive support and information.

The registration fee of \$95 includes the all-day intensive, take-home reference binder, break refreshments, and a follow-up mailing that will include any new information generated or resources identified during the intensive. Pre-registration is required, and seating is limited. For further information or to obtain the registration form, go to the TAN website at www.forge-forward.org/TAN, or contact TAN's director **Lorze Cook-Daniels**, via phone (414 [redacted]) or email [redacted]@aol.com.

TS SUES UNM HOSPITAL

Queery.com

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A woman has filed a lawsuit alleging she was bleeding heavily but that University of New Mexico Hospital ignored her for two hours because she is a transsexual. The hospital, in a response to Christine Anders' lawsuit, denied the allegations. Spokeswoman Jennifer Riordan said UNM Hospital cannot comment on pending litigation.

Anders, 54, of Albuquerque alleges negligence or medical malpractice and violation of a federal law that governs when and how hospitals may refuse treatment. The law requires hospitals to do a screening exam to determine whether a medical emergency exists and if so, treat the emergency or transfer the patient to another hospital.

Anders, in the lawsuit filed in federal court, is seeking unspecified damages. "Actually, what I really want from (UNM Hospital) is to make a policy change to make sure they treat transsexuals like anyone else, with dignity and respect," Anders said this week.

She alleges she went to the hospital in June 2000 because of vaginal bleeding. She was rated as a B-level patient, with A being the highest priority and D being the lowest, the lawsuit said. "They put me in a room and literally forgot about me," Anders said. She said she was not given anything to control bleeding and was told the doctor would see her "when he can." After 21 1/2 hours, she drove herself to another emergency room, where she was seen within minutes, Anders' lawsuit said.

Anders had a sex change operation in 1975 and has had several reconstructive surgeries since. She retired from General Electric in 1993 due to health problems and said she gets some disability income but cannot afford hospital copayments.

She said she relies on UNM Hospital for care and that the problems she alleges occurred in June 2000 visit are consistent with visits there before and since. She also said she wrote to hospital administrators twice about her emergency room experience but never received an answer or acknowledgment. Anders, who is representing herself, also said she cannot find an attorney to take her case because she is a transsexual.

NTAC Press Release

'SHAME ON WINN-DIXIE' ANNIVERSARY

Three years after the southern grocery chain Winn-Dixie fired Peter Oiler for cross-dressing on his own time and four months after a federal court ruled that such discrimination is legal, transgendered people remember the Shame on Winn-Dixie protest campaign. Employment discrimination strikes at a core American value. Many Americans believe that qualified, hardworking individuals should not be denied job opportunities, fired or otherwise discriminated against for reasons that have nothing to do with their job performance and abilities.

Laws have been enacted to remedy workplace violations and many view such discrimination as reprehensible. An employer today rarely admits workplace discrimination. But Winn-Dixie showed the nation that such discrimination does occur when they admitted firing Oiler for no reason other than clothes he wore at home. A federal district judge ruled that — while morally questionable — this is permissible under current U.S. law.

Oiler had worked 23 years for Winn-Dixie. While attempting to resolve workplace rumors that he was gay, he told his supervisor that he sometimes wore women's clothing away from the job. This information was passed on to Michael Istre, president of Louisiana Winn-Dixie, who decided that Peter Oiler should resign. Oiler, who had been regularly promoted and who had excellent performance evaluations, repeatedly refused and was subsequently fired.

Oiler sued Winn-Dixie in U.S. District Court, alleging employment discrimination on the basis of sex, under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. "This case is about whether someone can be fired because he doesn't look or act the way his employer thinks a man should," said Eric Ferrero, Public Education Director of the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights/AIDS Project. In court testimony, Istre admitted that Oiler was fired for no other reason than that, "I was concerned about my business and what kind of impact and effect that this - this type of behavior would have on my business and my customer base if my customers saw him..."

Oiler's argument was denied in a September 2002 District Court decision, but Judge Lance Africk was almost apologetic. The "Defendant's rationale for plaintiff's discharge may strike many as morally wrong," he wrote, "however, the function of this court is not to raise the social conscience of defendant's upper-level management, but to construe the law in accordance with proper statutory construction and judicial precedent." He went on to say, "The repeated failure of Congress to amend Title VII supports the argument that Congress did not intend Title VII to prohibit discrimination on the basis of a gender identity disorder. In reaching this decision, this Court defers to Congress who, as the author of Title VII, has defined the scope of its protection. Neither Title VII nor the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Price Waterhouse* affords plaintiff the protection that he seeks." In its decision, the U.S. District Court upheld the right of an employer to fire a worker simply for legal off-duty behavior. In doing so the Court highlighted the gaps in existing employment anti-discrimination laws and indicated the need for additional legislation that would better protect against workplace discrimination.

Although Peter Oiler has found new employment and the quality of his work is undiminished, the job discrimination that he faced three years ago not only still exists but also has been strengthened. Oiler's firing by Winn-Dixie — while unjust — has been ruled legal under existing federal law. His case is strong evidence of the need for revised federal laws protecting against employment discrimination.

Courtney Sharp, a Louisiana activist who helped organize the Winn-Dixie protest campaign recommends that people continue to call Winn-Dixie management to remind them that the GLBT community has not forgotten this issue. "The transgender community had demanded that Winn-Dixie institute a non-discrimination policy for gender identity and expression and sexual orientation. We also asked them to institute sensitivity training. Those demands have not been withdrawn and were not dependent upon the legal case."



You Want It? We'll Find It!

510-661-9464

Fremont, California

- Designer, Ready to Wear & Vintage Clothing
- Leather, Spandex & Vinyl
- Costumes & Theatrical
- Personalized Service
- Evening Appointments / Minor Alterations Available
- Wardrobe Coordination

Let us help you be all the things you dream!



Remember Gwen Araujo!



PLANETOUT NAMES GWEN ARAUJO THEIR PERSON OF THE YEAR 2002

On October 3, 2002, 17 year-old Gwen Araujo was beaten and strangled to death at a house party in the small Silicon Valley town of Newark after it was learned that she was biologically male. Investigators found her body in a shallow grave between Sacramento and Lake Tahoe.

Gwen's murder instantly became a lightning rod for the transgender community in the Bay Area and across the nation. The circumstances surrounding the crime are strikingly similar to the 1993 murder of Brandon Teena, which was the basis for the award-winning film "Boys Don't Cry." Both had taken bold steps — with great pains — to live their lives in the ways that seemed natural to them, and both were murdered as a result of others finding out they were actually transgendered. But the differences between the two cases are almost equally as striking.

First, partially due to heightened awareness of transgender issues in the wake of the Teena case and the more recent murders of Fred "FC" Martinez in Colorado and Alina Barrigan in San Jose, the media has been noticeably more responsive than in the past. Both local and national media took notice of the crime right away, even though the majority of crimes against transgender people tend to go unnoticed. In a couple of cases, reporters have made attempts to refer to Gwen using female pronouns, in respect of the way she lived her life publicly, while others have at least tried to raise the question of which pronoun is most appropriate, and to become clearer about what "transgender" means.

Second, authorities acknowledged right off the bat that this was a hate-motivated crime, and that Gwen was murdered because she was transgendered. Newark police worked quickly and professionally to apprehend the suspects, and four men ranging in age from 19-25 are currently in custody in connection with the crime. Cathy Renna, GLAAD News Media Director says, "GLAAD has worked with many local communities in the aftermath of a hate crime to help shed light on individual incidents as well as the larger issue of anti-GLBT violence", and adds, "we see this as a sign of real progress."

Third, last, and most notable is the outspoken love and understanding that has been continually demonstrated toward Gwen by her family throughout the whole ordeal. Gwen's aunt, Imelda Guerrero, says that it was always clear that she wasn't gay, but Gwen felt that "God gave her the wrong body." Her family recognized that "you can't change the way people feel inside. It didn't matter to us, we loved each other unconditionally." Gwen's seven uncles, who had no experience with transgender issues, nonetheless respected her and treated her "just like the rest of the nieces." The family was still getting used to Gwen's transgender identity — they knew she lived as a young woman named Gwen, or sometimes Lida, but often still refer to her as Eddie. Mostly, they just saw her as a teenaged kid. "It was a process," says Imelda Guerrero, "we were all learning together."

Vanessa Foster of NTAC, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, is clear that it's the example of Gwen's family that has made the difference in the way this crime is being treated. "Often, transgendered victims' families don't support their trans children, or are embarrassed to show support and end up brushing the crime by as 'unfortunate', and wishing not to dwell on it in order to get on with their lives as soon as possible." In public, with the police and with the press, "they took initiative and demanded justice. They stood up and said 'this is My Eddie, My Gwen, we love her, and what happened to her was wrong!' They were the ones who would not let this tragedy fall silent, and go unnoticed or unremembered." Gwen's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, told USA Today, "I'm going to bury him in the prettiest dress I can find. With make-up. His tombstone will say 'Gwen'."

Gwen didn't get a chance to make as big a difference in the world alive as she has done now that she's gone. Her family remembers her as an unfailingly positive person who was loath to badmouth anyone, even those who made fun of her and drove her from school. Her friends remember her as fashionable and funny, a regular teenager. Most of us will only get the chance to remember her not as an individual we knew, but through the eyes of others, or as a powerful example of the real perils facing transgender people everywhere. In honor of her courage, in honor of the love and understanding she's inspired, and in honor of the very real individual who didn't get a chance to tell us her story in her own words, Gwen Araujo is PlanetOut's Person of the Year for 2002.

Gwen's family has set up a fund in her name. Contributions can be sent to the **Eddie/Gwen Araujo Memorial Fund, San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023-5578, PH: 831-637-2265.**

A PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE

Howdy folks,

I want to put out a small request. I know the holidays are over, but I'd like for ya'll to consider one last gift.

The family of Gwen Araujo, from what I have heard, is still facing some hard times in the wake of Gwen's murder, and could use some additional funds to help out. They did not have much of a holiday this year, and I think it would be great if we, as a community, could lend a hand.

If you can donate, you can do so by sending your contribution to the following address:

Eddie Araujo Jr. Memorial Fund [Checks made payable to the "Gwen Araujo Fund" or "Araujo Family Fund" are equally and as gratefully accepted.]

San Benito Bank, 300 Tres Pinos Road, Hollister, CA 95023-5578. Account number [REDACTED]

This directly helps the family.



Gwen Smith

Why did it take a murder for the people of Newark to wake up to the harassment of one of their own?

SEE NO EVIL

Julian Guthrie (SF Chronicle Magazine)
Sunday, December 22, 2002

The grim rumors were passed from person to person, during "Monday Night Football," over the phone, in front yards. As many as a dozen people were buzzing with news of the beating and killing of a cross-dressing male on the night of Oct. 3. But no one went to the police. No one called the victim's mother. From Newark, where century-old railroad tracks divide the 13-square-mile working-class town of 43,500 into new subdivisions and old tract homes, the family of the slain teen, Eddie Araujo Jr., is struggling to honor his young life and understand his horrific death.

They are plagued by something else, too: How to live in a community where hate was met with indifference - even after it became too brutal to ignore. Four men have been charged with killing 17-year-old Eddie, who identified and dressed as a female. The murder reportedly occurred after it was discovered at a party that the bubbly 100-pound girl in the denim skirt, peasant blouse and flip-flops, was a he.

On Oct. 16, Eddie's body was recovered from a shallow grave in the El Dorado National Forest near Placerville. The body was wrapped in a sheet, hands and feet bound. The official cause of death is asphyxia due to strangulation, associated with blunt trauma to the head.

The crime scene is a faded yellow house with blue trim that sits on a corner lot. Grimy beige curtains are pulled tightly shut. A spindly dead tree stands in the middle of the small, square front yard. The garage, which juts out past the front of the house, is where Eddie was said to have been bound, beaten, hit in the face with a shovel, slashed with a knife and strangled. Police recovered empty Corona bottles from a shelf next to the shovel. On Oct. 25, the day of Eddie's funeral, the driver of the hearse inadvertently led the procession past the yellow wood-frame house on Saint Matthew Drive. "There were a bunch of people standing in the yard drinking beer, as if they were having a party," said David Guerrero, Eddie's uncle. "We were going slow. It was torture." David said that before the media descended on Newark, "People were making statements about how Eddie contributed to his own death, that he shouldn't have tricked people. We've dealt with a lot of negative treatment for a long time because of the way Eddie was."

Eddie's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, who is 38 and has four children - three now, she reminds herself - is taking time off from her job as a legal assistant. She has given interviews reluctantly and somewhat impatiently. She is doing it for Eddie, she says. "I was proud to be his mother. He won't die in vain."

She never expected to be a leader, except in her own family. Ten of her 13 siblings - six girls and seven boys - are younger and were often left in her care. Since the gripping details of the case emerged, she has been approached by major networks, talk shows, newspapers, magazines and gay rights groups to speak out

Continued on Page 22



Remember Gwen Araujo!



JAILHOUSE LETTER WILL NOT BE MADE PUBLIC

By Yomi S. Wronge, Mercury News

An Alameda County judge ruled today that the public will not — at least for the time being — get to see a potentially damaging piece of evidence that implicates a Fremont man in the killing of 17-year-old Edward “Gwen” Araujo, a transgender teen from Newark.

Judge Dennis J. McLaughlin said that the defense team representing 22-year-old Jason Cazares had not followed proper court procedures in submitting for possible evidence a letter written by co-defendant Jaron Nabors, in which Nabors details Cazares’ alleged role in the Oct. 4 slaying of Araujo.

Instead of releasing the letter to the public, McLaughlin returned the evidence to attorney J. Tony Serra and gave him until 5 p.m. Tuesday to submit an edited version of his motion to have the letter sealed. His motion — which also hasn’t been released to the public — made several references to the contents of the letter. An edited version would black-out any damaging information Serra deems could jeopardize his client’s right to fair trial.

“The exhibit was created to defer culpability from the defendant, and infer culpability of my client,” Serra said of the jailhouse letter intercepted by prison officials. Deputy District Attorney Connie Campbell called the ruling fair. “I thought it was a very wise decision,” she said, “It complied with the law and equity.”

Cazares is charged with first degree murder with a hate crime enhancement along with Nabors, 19, of Newark, Jose Merel, 23, of Newark and Michael Magidson, 22, of Fremont. The young men all knew Araujo, whom they called “Lida,” and at least one defendant — Magidson — had sexual relations with the victim. According to police reports and court documents, the defendants had discussed Araujo’s gender among themselves days prior to the murder.

Police say they beat and strangled the teen when, at a party, Araujo was proven to be anatomically male. They then drove a bound Araujo 150 miles to a campsite near Placerville to dispose of the body. It was Nabors who eventually lead detectives to the makeshift grave. All four men have pleaded not guilty.

Campbell, today, said she had no plans of using the “explosive information” in the letter during preliminary hearings, which are set to begin Jan. 29. But she may use it during the trial.

The case has garnered widespread media attention and earned prosecutors some public criticism for not seeking the death penalty. Although Campbell herself has said the murder was premeditated, because a hate crime is not considered a special circumstance, she said the case is not eligible for the death penalty.

“We’re hoping during through the course of the trial, with further discovery and witnesses, that charges will be upgraded,” said Araujo’s uncle, David Guerrero. “But if that doesn’t happen our focus will continue to be to make hate crimes a special circumstance.”

BAIL MOTION IN ARAUJO CASE CONTINUED

By Robert Airoidi, Oakland Tribune STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — A Tuesday bail hearing for a Fremont man charged with murder in the death of Eddie “Gwen” Araujo is being continued for at least a week. Superior Court Judge Dennis McLaughlin had set bail for Michael Magidson, 22, at \$1.21 million on Jan. 7. But Magidson’s parents could not come up with the \$2.4 million needed in equity for the property they own. So their son remains in custody at Santa Rita county jail in Dublin without bail.

Magidson, along with Fremont resident Jason Cazares, 22, and Newark residents Jaron Nabors, 19, and Jose Merel, 23, are charged with murder in the slaying of Araujo, 17. All four have pleaded innocent. Araujo’s body — bound with ropes — was found Oct. 16 in a shallow grave east of Placerville in the El Dorado County wilderness.

Deputy District Attorney Connie Campbell was in the middle of cross-examining Michael Magidson’s paternal grandfather when Tuesday’s session ended.

One of the defendants allegedly wrote note to ‘implicate the other three’

LETTER ALLEGEDLY DEPICTS KILLING OF TRANSGENDER TEEN

By Robert Airoidi, Oakland Tribune STAFF WRITER

FREMONT — A letter, purportedly written by a defendant charged with murdering Eddie “Gwen” Araujo, describes in detail what took place the night the transgender teen was killed, according to court records.

The letter — which led to the arrest of Jason Cazares, according to his attorney — has not been made public. But an edited version of a motion to seal the letter says its “graphic and disturbing” content was written by one of four defendants “who manages to extricate himself from wrongdoing, while implicating the other three.”

It purportedly was written by 19-year-old Newark resident Jaron Nabors to his girlfriend about a month after he and Fremont resident Michael Magidson, 22, and Newark resident Jose Merel, 23, were arrested and charged in mid-October with beating and strangling Araujo, 17, according to court records. Cazares, 22, a Fremont resident, was arrested shortly after the letter was written.

All four have pleaded innocent.

Fair Trial

J. Tony Serra, Cazares’ attorney, argued that the release of the letter — intercepted by jailers at Santa Rita county jail in Dublin where all four are being held — would have prevented his client from getting a fair trial. Superior Court Judge Dennis McLaughlin disagreed, however. He returned the letter to Serra without releasing its contents to the public, but ruled if it is ever introduced as evidence, then it would be made public.

When Cazares was arrested in mid-November, police said he was one of the main participants in Araujo’s death. During a bail motion for Magidson last week, officials in the District Attorney’s Office also called Magidson a main participant in the crime.

Araujo, also known as “Lida,” was killed during a party at Merel’s Newark home the night of Oct. 3, after the four men discovered Araujo — who dressed as a woman — was biologically male, police said. Araujo’s body, bound with ropes, was found Oct. 16 in a shallow grave east of Placerville in the El Dorado County wilderness. It was Nabors who led police to the body.

Police would not elaborate on Cazares’ role in the slaying, but they confiscated his Chevy pickup. They also took a red pick ax, two shovels, a flat spade and a hoe from his parents’ Newark home.

‘The Laramie Project’

The killing — with eerie similarities to the Teena Brandon [sic] transgender murder portrayed in the movie “Boys Don’t Cry” — occurred as Newark Memorial High School students were rehearsing for November performances of “The Laramie Project,” a play about a Wyoming city’s reaction to the murder of a gay college student.

The Araujo case drew national media attention and became a rallying point for gay and transgender rights groups.

McLaughlin ordered Magidson to spend time awaiting trial in an alcohol rehabilitation facility in Berkeley and not to communicate with witnesses in the case, including Araujo’s family members — if he gets bailed out of jail.

Though the four defendants could face 25 years to life in prison if convicted of first-degree murder, the killing does not meet the “special circumstances” required to make it a capital case.

Judges are required to consider bail motions in noncapital





Remember Gwen Araujo!



See No Evil...

Continued from Page 20

against hate. A reporter from Spanish television told Sylvia that she owed it to the Latino community to do an interview. It's a Latino issue, the reporter insisted, to which Sylvia angrily replied, "No, it's a human issue," and politely but firmly hung up.

It's an issue, she says angrily, that had been simmering for years. In middle school, as a slight and effeminate boy with a bright smile and fine features, Eddie was called names - faggot being the epithet of choice. He was bullied and beat up on his way home from school. In ninth grade, when he had begun to dress as a girl, experiment with makeup and hair color and call himself Gwen, he got an early lesson in adult rejection. Job applications were tossed in the trash when potential employers looked at the pretty face of Gwen and read the birth name Edward.

And in church, there were whispers and stares. Last Easter, Eddie and his family, dressed in their Sunday best, left halfway through the service, vowing never to return.

So in November, a month after losing her son, Sylvia said she plans to leave Newark. The Guerrero family has retained high-profile Los Angeles attorney Gloria Allred. They have left open the possibility of filing a civil lawsuit. For now, Allred says, she is there to protect the victim's family's rights. "I'm so angry that he was taken from me," Sylvia said. "Everywhere I drive, around every corner, I see him and I'm reminded of how he suffered. I still feel disrespected, even in his death."

She has nightmares about his ending. Like the murders of many gay, lesbian or transgendered youth, she fears that Eddie saw rage in his final moments. Psychologists and specialists in the field of gender identity say such attacks often stem from a fear of what's inside of oneself. In many cases, victims of hate crimes are pummeled, as if there were something to be exorcised. In one telling account of what had happened, Newark resident Brian Seabrands, who was not at the party but had heard the rumors, told police that things went wrong after guys at a party "found out it (Eddie) wasn't a chick, beat the hell out of it, killed it and supposedly buried it in South Lake Tahoe."

The Overwhelming Majority of Hate Crimes Involve Men.

"There is a fear of the feminine hidden in the masculine self, and something that translates into violence," said Anne Fausto-Sterling, a Brown University professor who works with transgendered people and has written several books on human sexuality, including "Sexing the Body: Gender Politics and the Construction of Sexuality." She believes that such bias has less to do with class or race than education and familiarization with gender issues. "The more these other modes of existence become part of the familiar, the less threatening they seem."

Community's Shame

Newark Mayor Dave Smith said he has been stunned and saddened by the crime. It's been 2 1/2 years since there was a murder in Newark. He can't remember there ever being a hate crime. He has been the city's mayor for 25 years - the longest-serving mayor in the state.

Smith, whose day job is as vice president for a plumbing products company, said he was touched and provoked by a recent performance of "The Laramie Project," a play about gay college student Matthew Shepard, who was beaten and left to die in Laramie, Wyo. The play, which opened last month to standing ovations at Newark Memorial High School, had been in the works long before Eddie's slaying. "Just like the people of Laramie grappled with what happened there, we are doing the same," said Smith, who feels protective of the city he has grown to love. "I look at Newark and can't imagine this happened here. This is not representative of the city of Newark. It's a caring community."

He was never aware of Eddie's problems: the taunts; the awkward challenges of finding a job; the discomfort in church. He hadn't known, either, that community members shared details of Eddie's death but didn't alert the police. "I would say to those people, 'Shame on you,'" he said.

"We all wonder how something like this occurred. But it comes down to a mix of individuals and the variables of whatever else was going on that night." In retracing the labyrinthine spread of rumors, the police report reads like a high school diary. Eddie's aunt heard the rumor from her brother, "who heard it from a third party, who heard it from the host of a party, who heard it from the acquaintance at a party — who heard it from a girlfriend of a person who had been at the party" where the crime allegedly occurred.

The rumors finally reached the family on Oct. 9. Before calling Newark police - who had been investigating Eddie's disappearance as a runaway or missing juvenile - family members tracked down names, addresses and car license plate numbers of individuals who reportedly knew what had happened. Within a week, police had interviewed witnesses. Within days, suspects were taken into custody and charged with murder and a hate-crime enhancement. The suspects are Michael W. Magidson, 22; Jose A. Merel, 23; Jaron Chase Nabors, 19; and Jason Cazares, 22. Nabors, who led police to the shallow grave site, has pleaded not guilty. Attorney Robert Beles says his client Nabors "adamantly denies the allegations of a hate crime." The other suspects have not entered pleas. All are being held without bail.

The break in the case came from information provided by the family. They had heard that Nabors relayed parts of the story to a friend, Adam Hewson, while watching football on the evening of Oct. 7. Hewson later told his roommates, one of whom told a friend, who is related by marriage to a cousin of David Guerrero's. Police persuaded Hewson to wear a wire and record a conversation with Nabors. Hewson began the conversation by telling Nabors that he had been questioned by police. According to the police report, Nabors responded by saying, "You ain't gotta worry about s-, dude; no way do you gotta worry about s-. I gotta worry about s-, homie."

David Guerrero, a 32-year-old real estate agent who helped his sister raise Eddie, never expected an ending like this. Eddie had a group of close friends - all girls - who knew his gender. He had places in Newark where he was welcome. He had the support of most of the Guerrero clan, including his grandparents. But on the night of Oct. 3, his friends had declined to go to the party with him. He had only recently met the Merels, at whose house the party was held.

David's home is situated in a new, upscale section of town. A handful of blocks away, across the tracks, sits the Merel home. Imelda Guerrero, who lives with her brother and keeps her upstairs window open at night, wonders whether she could have heard Eddie's anguish. David finds himself driving by the Merel house at odd hours, slowing down or stopping. Sometimes he just stares in disbelief or anger; other times he cries.

On a recent Friday afternoon, Paul Merel, the older brother of suspect Jose Merel, answered the door but declined to be interviewed. "The story has been stretched in the media," he said, standing in the doorway with a red ski cap pulled low, just above his eyes. "I don't want to talk about it." Originally taken into custody, Paul, who is 25 and on probation, was later released. He has told police that he and his girlfriend left the party when the altercation began. It was his girlfriend, Nicole Brown, 22, who had discovered Eddie's gender in the bathroom and had announced "It's a man" to the others at the party, according to police records. Brown was questioned and released. Police say other arrests are possible.

A Gutsy Life

Eddie's mom seethes when she hears Brown's name. She believes that those who walked away from the party and did nothing to help her son are equally culpable. At the same time, she replays her own role that night, wondering if she could have done anything differently. Her family and friends remind her that she did her best to be protective while allowing her teenage son his freedom.

She is being lauded for loving her son like a mother should: unconditionally. It wasn't easy; it never is. Every family faces challenges, but her obstacles were a little more unconventional, she says now. She remembers the day, hour and setting when Eddie began to cry as he told her how he truly felt about himself. "Mom, you know how I feel?" he said on the weekend of July 4, 1999. The two were in her bedroom, in their pajamas. "I feel like a girl trapped in this body with a penis I don't identify with," Sylvia started to cry. She already knew, but "this was laying it out for me."

She told him, "It's time for you to be who you are." She would help him and try to protect him. She warned that it wasn't going to be easy, "that the world is not accepting, that people are mean, especially at school." She began to buy his makeup, clothing, purses, bras. After he'd dropped out of high school because he felt harassed, she told him she expected him to get a job, but that she would help pay his way through beauty school. He wanted to become a famous Hollywood makeup artist. "I was behind him all the way," Sylvia said. "I wanted him to go for it. It takes a lot of guts to come out as a freshman in high school."

Sitting in her brother's living room, which has served as ground zero since the slaying, Sylvia talked of how she was beginning to see Eddie as Gwen. He had tried out other names, including Wendy and Lida, but chose Gwen because of his love for rock star Gwen Stefani, front woman for the

Continued on Page 23



Remember Gwen Araujo!



See No Evil...

Continued from Page 22

band No Doubt and a fashion icon. His favorite songs, which he played over and over again, driving his mother crazy in a timeless teenage tradition, were "I'm Just a Girl," "Magic's in the Makeup" and "Underneath it All."

Sylvia believes she would have eventually seen Eddie as her second daughter and called her Gwen. They talked about the day when he would have a sex change. They even talked about the best breast size, considering he was a size 0. But she still called him Eddie, except when he was around his friends. "I told him that I loved him to pieces, but that he was still my Eddie," Sylvia said. "I knew he had this guy part, but I saw him becoming a beautiful girl. I was happy. I would have had two beautiful daughters." The family uses the pronoun he when speaking of Eddie. When people would call for Gwen - and men were calling "a million times a day" - Sylvia would roll her eyes, cover the phone and yell, "Eddie!" She didn't see her son changing so much as becoming who he truly was. The transformation had just begun.

She knew that he was using alcohol and had experimented with drugs, something she saw as an unfortunate rite of passage for many teenagers and all too common with youth who question their gender. Although Jaron Nabors told police that Eddie might have had a sexual relationship with Jose Merel and Michael Magidson, Sylvia believes her son was not sexually active. He had told her he planned to wait until he had his sex change.

The night of the fateful party, Sylvia had come home from work to find Eddie had cleaned the house and made dinner. Eddie told Sylvia that he was going to a party to "kick it" - hang out, drink and smoke blunts, which are marijuana cigars. She saw that he was wearing a denim skirt and had borrowed her black blouse and ankle bracelet, a gift from her boyfriend. As he was on the way out the door, she told him not to lose the bracelet.

Searching For Acceptance

Eddie's sister Pearl, who lives in Tracy, is trying to focus on the happy times. She sinks into depression when she thinks of how Eddie was treated. "He would tell me, 'Girl, you're goin' to see me on the red carpet one day,'" said Pearl, who is 20 and was "like glue" with her brother. "When I gained weight, he said, 'Oh, my gosh, girl - 1-800-JENNYCRAIG.' He joked and was bubbly, but I knew it was hard for him. I know he believed in God. At the same time, he questioned God and why he made him like that. No one would hire him, men would stare because he was beautiful, and other people would give him looks and call him names."

Sylvia divorced their father, Eddie Araujo Sr., when Eddie Jr. was 10 months old. There were other father figures in Eddie Jr.'s life. He had a full childhood and loved to camp, swim, play Little League, attend Bible study and enter slot car races. He had 44 cousins in the Newark area. "There were places in Newark that accepted him, but he used to tell my mom, 'We gotta move out of here,'" Pearl said. "He liked going to San Francisco because he felt normal there."

The slaying has drawn national attention because of its similarity to other high-profile murders of gay or transgendered youth. The National Coalition of Anti-Violence programs - a network of 26 organizations that monitor and respond to crimes against gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders - reports that between 1999 and 2000, the number of incidents increased by 8 percent, from 1,992 to 2,151.

Some experts say the increase in such crimes may stem from heightened awareness and better reporting. Fausto-Sterling, the Brown University professor, is seeing a slow but steady change in the awareness and acceptance of transgendered people, an umbrella term used to describe those whose sexuality is not readily characterized as definitely male or female.

"If you start with liberal college campuses, our university recently added the word 'transgender' to our nondiscrimination policy. The word 'transgender' is starting to roll off the tongues of people you'd never expect. Hopefully it will trickle down into more conservative areas of society. Obviously, it's a process."

At times, the process comes at an unspeakable price. In October 1998, in a case that struck a chord across America and spurred calls for the passage of hate-crime legislation, Matthew Shepard was lured from a local bar, robbed, beaten and left tied to a post on a wind-whipped prairie. Discovered 18 hours later, he died in a Colorado hospital, having never regained consciousness.

In December 1993, in another case that drew outrage and became a catalyst for awareness, Brandon Teena, born Teena Brandon and raised as a girl, was raped, beaten and later killed when two men in Falls City, Neb., learned that he was a she. The story of the murder was turned into the Acad-

emy Award-winning movie "Boys Don't Cry." In words that could have been uttered by Eddie, Brandon explains in the film, "Brandon is not quite a he. Brandon is more like a she."

Painful Lessons

Judy Shepard, Matthew's mother, believes hate is learned. It is something she has spent days and nights thinking about - and trying not to think about. "Hate is all around us, in our family living rooms, churches, schools, playgrounds, popular media - it is everywhere," Shepard said. "It is in different formats, presented in different ways - couched in 'God's word' or some other way to explain our lack of understanding - our lack of wanting to."

When she learned of what had happened to Eddie, she wondered whether the community had been accepting or rejecting. Since her son's death, she has become an advocate for teaching acceptance. "There is one word that covers all aspects of acceptance and compassion, and that is respect," she said. "Why is it so hard to simply respect everyone's right to be who they are? If parents, educators and society at large could convey the simple concept of respect and live by example, I think many of the problems of violence we deal with today could become moot."

Too often, Shepard said, it takes a tragedy before society does what's right. The communities that are supposed to help to raise children to become good citizens are "not living up to their responsibilities," Shepard said. "Silence and doing nothing is complicit in the torment Gwen suffered." There is no end to the tears that well in Sylvia's eyes as she thinks of her son's pain. He would have turned 18 on Feb. 4.

But slowly and thankfully, she is finding reasons to smile again. There has been a constant stream of letters and cards of condolence and support, from strangers and celebrities, from Gov. Gray Davis to church leaders across the state. The letters from the pastors have been of special significance.

Inexplicably, she has begun to feel forgiveness and a renewal of her faith. She said that she plans to return to church - albeit not the one that ostracized her Eddie. "Churches, schools and entire communities need to open their doors to kids like mine," she said, looking at photos of Eddie as a baby, toddler, child and young adult. "We need to teach tolerance. There are a lot of people like my Eddie out there."

EDITOR, SF CHRONICLE MAGAZINE

I was very disturbed by Julian Guthrie's article, "See No Evil", in the December 22, 2002, issue. While Ms. Guthrie presented a generally straight forward and factual summation of the murder of Gwen Araujo, her almost exclusive use of the name Eddie Araujo and male pronouns in the article seems to run counter to my perceptions since the story first broke.

Along with the sadness and anger that the transgender community in the Bay Area felt upon first hearing of this tragedy, we were also appalled at how Gwen Araujo was constantly referred to by the media as Eddie, a crossdressing boy, and with male pronouns. We sprung into action with letters to the media, principally the San Jose Mercury News and the Chronicle, to inform them that the proper respect for this victim of a hate crime was to identify her as she presented and identified herself, which was as Gwen and with female pronouns. This was an identity which she had for 3 years and which was apparently well known among her peers in Newark.

In the ensuing dialogue between the media and transgender community we found that the media were not using the latest Associated Press style guide regarding how transgendered persons should be identified. Under the older guidelines used by the Chronicle and the Mercury News, one only uses the person's chosen name and gender if they have had sex reassignment surgery or other body modification. The latest guidelines call for referring to a person according to the gender in which they present themselves. Clearly Gwen Araujo met that standard and should have been identified thusly.

Over time the news reports began to move in the proper direction, but seemed to settle on Eddie "Gwen" Araujo as a less offensive compromise. In the meantime, some members of the transgender community have met with Gwen's mother, Sylvia Guerrero, and it seemed that the Guerrero family had become more accepting toward referring to their slain child as Gwen.

So with the small progress that had been made in the past few months, to have an almost complete reversal in Ms. Guthrie's article is very chilling. It is a denial of Gwen Araujo's very existence. Her murder happened only because Gwen wanted and needed to live as her true self.

Stephanie Ann Blythe

More Community Responses Continued on Page 24



Remember Gwen Araujo!



Published Letters From SF Chron Magazine (Jan. 12, 2003)

Community Responses to SF Chron Magazine

LESSONS UNLEARNED

Julian Guthrie's article on the killing of Gwen Araujo ("See No Evil," Dec. 22) was excellent. At first, the opening paragraph concerning the dozen or so people who knew about the murder and yet did nothing about reporting it froze me in horror and anger.

After finishing the article, I began to reflect on why people react to hate crimes with opinions such as "they deserved it," or "they brought it on themselves." This may be a way that people simply justify murders of people they consider to be of little importance.

More than 10 years ago, an acquaintance, Cameron Mitchell, a.k.a. Tiny, was brutally beaten unconscious with a baseball bat, on South Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco. He eventually died from the injuries he sustained. He was a very big person and had recently been diagnosed with HIV. He told me he'd never die from AIDS. Whether he had a premonition, or it was simple bravado, I'll never know. As far as I know, no one has ever been charged with his murder. It was widely covered in the gay press, but I do not remember it being given any wider attention.

The German people denied any knowledge of concentration camps and the killing of more than 6 million people in Europe. The claim was they didn't know and even if they had known, what could they have done about it. The human condition never really changes. We stand shocked and angered when brutal hate crimes occur, then go back to watching "Monday Night Football" as though nothing ever happened. As a species, we don't seem to be able to improve ourselves.

JOHN MALIN
Concord

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Several weeks ago The Chronicle indicated that it would consider how best to handle stories about transgendered people.

Last week, the Associated Press decided that there was evidence enough to present Gwen Araujo as a female in their articles. This is why I was upset to read what The Chronicle had to say about the Araujo murder.

In the eyes of a transgendered woman, this article is a primer of how not to write about us. The use of the victims' birth name and gender runs rampant, amid claims that it is being used based on the family's usage. Never mind the fact that the family has used both, and that Gwen Araujo's mother has become clearer and clearer about the use of the feminine pronoun in reference to her slain child.

The article says more about the bias of its writer and editor than it does about the community of Newark. I hope that The Chronicle will reflect upon this article, upon the desires of those in the transgender community, and upon the Associated Press decision. More than that, I hope The Chronicle will consider what Gwen Araujo would have preferred.

GWEN SMITH
Antioch

I was happy to see that The Chronicle Magazine provided such extensive coverage of the horrifying murder of Gwen Araujo, yet as I read the article I was dismayed to see the shallow level of reporting and the lack of serious delving into the issues from an educated perspective. First of all, Newark is holding a community forum to come together and deal with these issues. It would have been smart to refer to that forum as a model for other communities. We are beginning to discuss having such a forum in San Mateo County to be proactive.

Second, as an educator in the field of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues in our schools, I strive to teach school administrators and staff members that transgender youth need to be referred to by the gender with which they identify. The story states that Eddie was referred to as "he" by his mother because "the transformation had just begun." Gwen had been identifying as female all her life; The Chronicle has co-opted her perspective in favor of identifying with the family. It would have been more accurate and more respectful of Gwen to discuss this in terms of the issues these transitions raise for families, while referring to her the way she saw herself.

By mirroring the family's understandable ambivalence and struggle in this area The Chronicle lost its objectivity. This contributes to the general ignorance that most people have about transgender issues. It's tragic that such extensive coverage of this very important issue served only to perpetuate the problems that people in the transgender community face every day: the simple fact of their own names! Why couldn't The Chronicle honor Gwen by giving her her own name? As Judy Shepard states: "Why is it so hard to simply respect everyone's right to be who they are?" I might ask Julian Guthrie that same question.

ELLEN PRESS
Founder, Gay Lesbian Straight Education Network
San Mateo County

EDITOR, SF CHRONICLE MAGAZINE

I think it's fine to keep our local media honest, but personally I'd like to thank Julian Guthrie (and Penni Gladstone for the photography) for writing as well-rounded an article, and telling a difficult story as best she knows how. As to pronoun use, I think Julian was only following the family's lead.

When one considers the complex issues Gwen's story has raised, and views it in light of the intended target audience of the Chronicle's Magazine readership, Ms. Guthrie manages to pull together several different perspectives to give that demographic a good overview of why violence of this nature occurs and why a community like Newark should be ashamed.

I also think we should be targeting our most vocal and strident criticism for people like Rob Schneider, Adam Sandler and Jim Carey, for spending millions of dollars (and reaping the same) to encourage the transphobia of high schoolers to whom their films are aimed. Films like "The Hot Chick" and "Ace Ventura" do far greater damage with the way they portray people who are transgendered in their movies. [Editor's Note - Ellen's comment below refers to this paragraph.]

We should be encouraging people like Julian Guthrie to keep trying their best to present our stories, our lives, our tragedies and our triumphs. It is people like her who are trying to educate the Mr. & Mrs. Joe Schmoes out there, sipping contentedly on their lattes while reading the Sunday paper. It's all about teaching acceptance. And I think Ms. Guthrie's article is a good start.

Thank you,
Ayme Kantz

I believe this is somewhat like complaining about the portrayal of blacks by Hollywood during the segregation era. It's not that the target isn't fully deserving of wrath, but our chances of affecting it are like those of a mob of French peasants in the early-18th century, prematurely storming the Bastille armed with pitchforks.

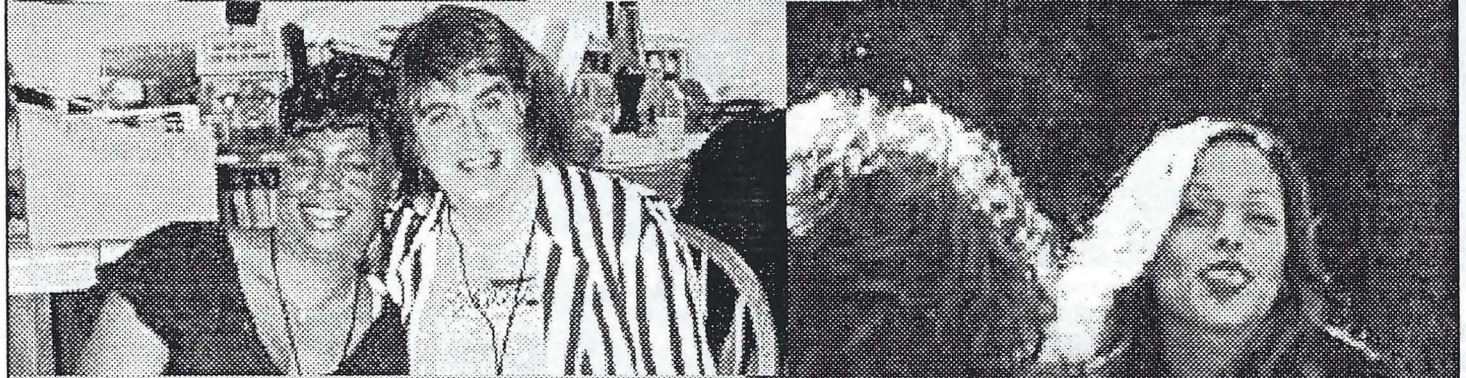
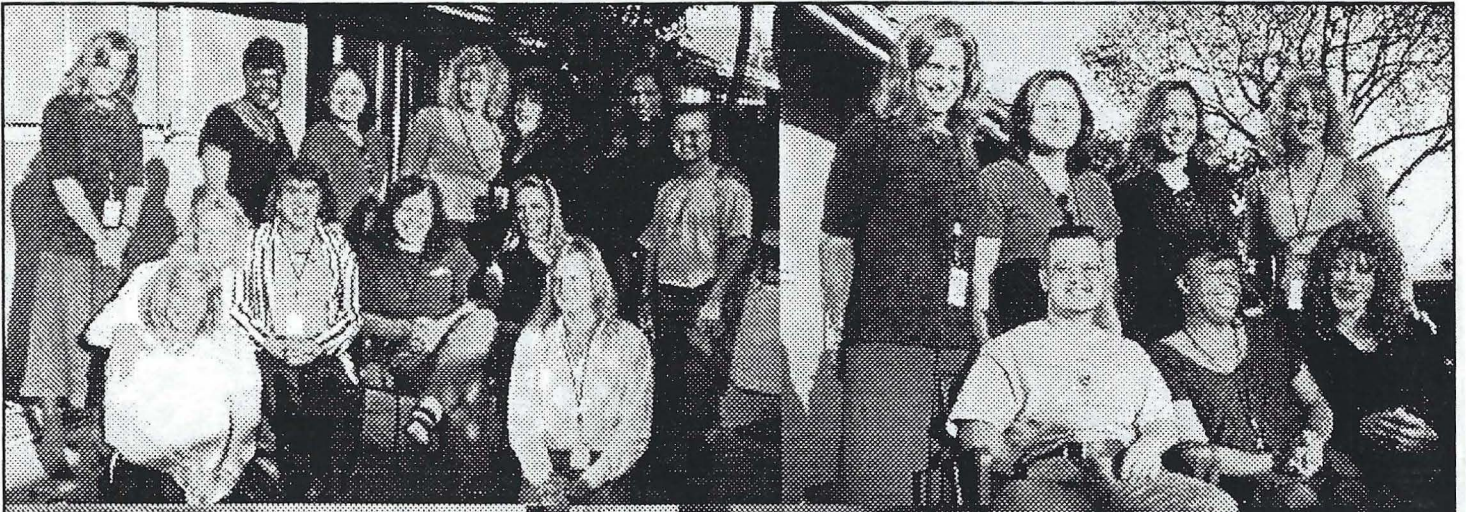
First, let us attain our rights to our names, our genders (including correct pronoun usage and basic marriage rights), our surgeries, even the right to go to the toilet. (Yes, folks, it's not all quite like the Bay Area out there in The Great Heartlessland). These are basic human rights and would be recognized as such at the European Court of Human Rights in The Hague, but are not much in evidence in plutocratic oligarchies, theocracies and dictatorships such the former South Africa, Iraq, Iran, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United States, etc.

Once we have these most basic of human rights, we can form an antidefamation league, as all other US minorities have had to do, to bring Enlightenment to Hollywood studios and producers: that Enlightenment which shines forth like the gleam of the morning sun from gilt statues of the Bodhisattvas, the Enlightenment that arises from huge damages settlements awarded by (accursed, liberal) courts.

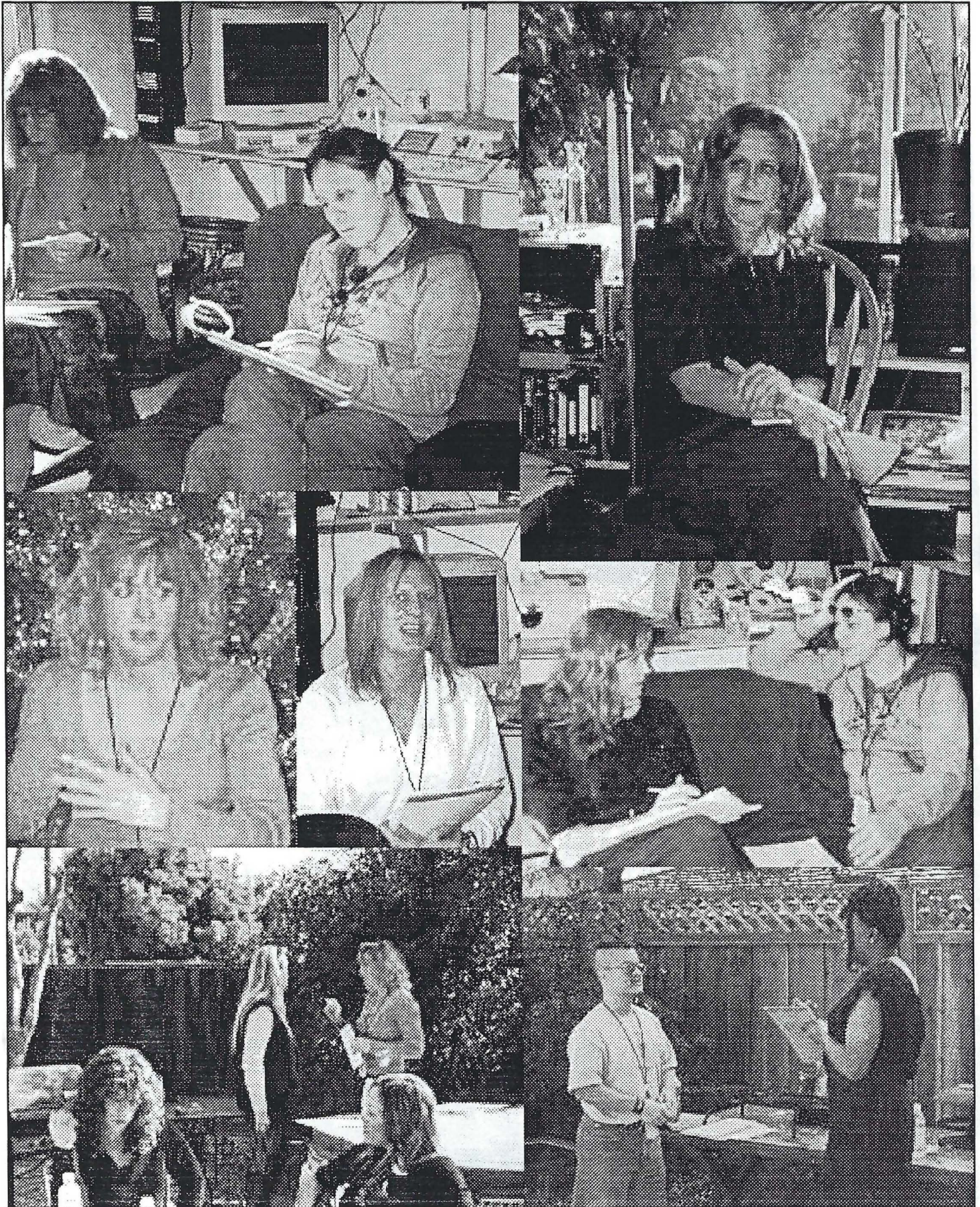
I side with the unreasonable carpers, the ones who want the pronouns right and who don't see "the big picture" and who won't shut up. Goddess preserve us from all "reasonable" compromises with the hydra-headed institutions of oppression. History does not remember the "reasonable" compromisers, for they were eaten when they accepted polite RSVPs to the tables of power. It is the extremists I admire, the "irrational" ones, the Mary Wollstonecrafts and Elizabeth Cady Stantons and Christabel Pankhursts and Shulamith Firestones. All figures of immense fun in the media of their days, prime targets of erasure by the academented. They are our honored foremothers, whom we owe what few scraps of decency separate us (a little) from the brutality of life under feudal warlords.

In the Name of the Mother,
Ellen McGowen

Pre-Cotillion Photos!



Pre-Cotillion Photos!



By Jamison Green

WHICH BATHROOM DO YOU USE?

Jamison Green offers a man's POV on life in the trans lane. Opinion, advice and information from an internationally respected leader of the FTM community.



I spent the first 40 years of my life being interpreted as one of those "masculine-appearing women" who tend to have social difficulty when attempting to use public toilet facilities. Women tended to scream, or at least do a double take, when they saw me walk into a public restroom designated "Ladies." Sometimes, if other women came in after me or were chatting as they repaired their faces in the mirror, I would hide in my stall until they were gone rather than risk a confrontation. Friends waiting for me outside would complain, "You take the longest time in there!"

Starting my transition to a male body in 1988, I retained some of that androgyny for several years, so I was not surprised when I would give classroom presentations in the early 1990s that people would ask me "Which bathroom do you use?" I thought they were simply reflecting their perception of me as "between" sexes. By 1992, that question was very infrequent. But in 1994, when I was sufficiently masculinized that no one ever indicated gender uncertainty about me, that question came up once more in a classroom situation. A young man asked first what my chromosomes were (I don't know: they've never been analyzed); then he asked what my given female name was (I don't share that, as a rule); and then he asked, "What bathroom do you use?" I gave him one of those "What could you possibly mean?" looks, and responded, "I use the men's room. Do you think women want to have someone who looks like me in the women's room with them?"

He nodded thoughtfully, and I realized that some people have a very difficult time letting go of the idea that we ARE our bodies only, and the original shape of the genitals on those bodies is our primary defining characteristic. Once this young man knew that I had changed my body, he kept looking for other markers (chromosomes, given name, bathroom selection) that would fix me in the camp of origin, as if the social convention that women use women's restrooms would compel me to continue to use women's restrooms because I had been "born a woman." I wasn't sure he knew clearly what he believed about transsexualism, or whether he could articulate how his beliefs were changing as a result of having his assumptions about appearance and bodies challenged (the way only trans and intersexed people can challenge them), but I was pretty sure he felt his world had been shaken up.

When he tacitly accepted my physical appearance as a man, combined with courtesy toward women, as good enough reasons to use the men's room, I surmised that he was trying very hard to find an essentialism-of-the-body rationale for social behavior. He was probably in the biology-is-destiny camp, as many people are, even if they aren't aware of it until those beliefs are challenged in a way they can experience viscerally, and he was struggling mentally to permit my changed body to replace my body of origin because the evidence of the body he saw before him was compellingly "really" male.

Bathrooms are the bane of our existence. All people must relieve themselves, and we have developed the convention of the bathroom to both acknowledge this fact and expedite the process. Bathrooms are ubiquitous. They are necessary and, where transpeople are concerned, bathrooms are contested territory.

For something we'd rather not discuss in polite society, bathrooms command a great deal of public attention. We expect quite a lot from public restrooms: running water, soap, paper products, sanitary conditions, privacy and safety. We are all vulnerable with our pants down, or with our zippers open and our backs to the room so we can't see who just walked in. At least inside a stall there is an approximation of privacy. Safety is highly desirable in women's rooms, which are often thought of as something like a "free zone" where women can escape from men. Women don't want their safety zone violated, and this is a problem for people, trans or not, who don't (for whatever reason) appear sufficiently feminine to pass the glance test. If one doesn't possess the right look or body language, it only takes a fraction of a second to be judged not woman enough.

Men's public restrooms do not always afford either privacy or safety, and it doesn't seem like men, as a group, want to deal with that. Men just want to get in, get out and forget about it. Never mind that there are often no doors on the stalls or that many men's rooms are notorious for pickups, drug deals, or muggings. In men's defense, though, it's also true that not all men's rooms are dirty or smelly, and not all men are in there to take advantage of each other. Most men just want to relieve themselves, but they also rarely complain about substandard public facilities on their own behalf. On the whole, men don't seem as worried about having their space invaded by transpeople as women do, and this is usually connected to the issue of women's safety and the presumption that the dangerous people are the ones with (or who used to have) penises.

I had a great experience several years ago in a museum in Sweden. I followed the graphic "male | female" signs looking for the men's room, went around a corner expecting to find the familiar two doors, but without going through any actual doors I abruptly found myself inside a restroom facility with a long row of sinks on one side and a long row of full-length doors on the other. There was a woman washing her hands at a sink, and I stopped short, wondering how I had stumbled into the "wrong" toilet. Then a man came from one of the cabinet (stall) doors and went to a sink. Neither of them flinched to see the other. They just washed their hands. I had to laugh at myself for my reaction. I went to one of the stalls, and was delighted to find there were no huge cracks that anyone could peer through. The walls were solid between stalls, so no one could climb over or under them. There was privacy by design, and safety by agreement.

Unisex restrooms! Nobody panics, nobody acts stupid: It's a public place to take care of particular, common business. A transperson's dream! Nobody judges you to see if you belong, if you're in the "right" place. You're a person; it's a public toilet facility. No big deal. When one thinks about such an arrangement being installed in the United States, one realizes just how much we need to grow up and learn about respectful public behavior before we could adjust to such acceptance of our common humanity. Next month I'll write about a new effort to establish unisex restrooms in San Francisco.

GENDER NEUTRAL

Marcus Arana spends a lot of time talking about bathrooms and genitals. He's a discrimination investigator for the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, and his workload is 100 percent dedicated to the transgender community. Transpeople, business owners, nonprofit agencies and representatives of governmental departments and educational institutions all call Mr. Arana. He's the resident expert.

"Bathrooms are by far the most common issue that comes up in complaints filed by transgendered people in this city," Arana says. "If they're not being kept out of them, they're being thrown out of them. People seem to have the most difficult time dealing with transpeople when the idea of public exposure of genitalia crosses their minds."

Arana spends at least 25 percent of his workweek dealing with bathroom issues, complaints and explanations. "These inquiries cause me to have to use the word genitals at least a half dozen times during a 10-minute conversation. Try that in the course of your business day! During my first year on the job, every time I had to mention genitals, I was really self-conscious, my voice would drop to a whisper. I had to train myself to not be apologetic when I would talk about genitals, and after a while I got over the sense of impropriety or embarrassment. It really is something we all have to deal with, so we might as well get over it."

Often the calls Arana fields are from business owners or managers who've been approached by a transgendered or transsexual client, employee or applicant. Usually business people want to know how to facilitate an employee's transition. When they call they're worried, confused or supportive, in that order. And their number one issue is how other employees feel about having transpeople in the bathroom when they either know the person is trans or knew who the person was prior to transition.

The most difficult concept to convey to employers is that a transgendered woman or man has a right to use a bathroom no matter what their body looks like (or what the nontrans people think the transperson's body looks like under their clothes). If coworkers are upset, they're going to have to learn to get over it. If they remain upset they will have to look for another bathroom to use. The transperson doesn't have to be the one to accommodate them. Arana explains that in San Francisco business owners are obligated to ensure the transperson's right to use the facility that is appropriate to her or his gender identity.

In spite of this simple axiom, many transpeople still don't feel safe accessing public restroom facilities in San Francisco. Perhaps it's because they still are not safe from self-appointed gender police who want to regulate transpeople's access to public space. The Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Advisory Committee to the Human Rights Commission held a panel presentation on bathrooms in September 2002 that was a big eye-opener for people who never thought about bathrooms as a safety issue for transpeople and others who don't fit stereotypes. The advisory committee heard quite a bit from butch dykes who have just as much difficulty as any transgender-identified person. The committee appointed a task force to study the issue, and the Human Rights Commission committed itself to further exploring how to resolve these concerns.

Community members and activists have come together to develop ideas for creating safe access to public restroom facilities for transgender and genderqueer people. One of their ideas is that all single-use bathrooms throughout San Francisco be designated gender neutral, serving both males and females. This practice is already quite common in business establishments throughout the city. The task force has proposed that all single-use bathrooms in city buildings be converted to gender-neutral facilities. Using city-owned buildings

Continued on Page 29

[Editor's Note: I was talking to Rachael one evening about this very thing - about how just the word 'transgender' has been so prevalent lately in the media. This is an archived article - David makes many references to events that have happened well in the past, but I hadn't seen it before. I thought synchronicity was at play and found this to be pertinent for this month's paper.]

From the Spectator Online Archives

ANOTHER RADICAL IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME?

David Steinberg

Maybe it's just me, but over the past few months, it seems that every time I turn around there's something new in the mainstream media about transsexuals. I'm not talking about transsexual hookers showing up on TV talk shows, set up so the audience can cluck their tongues about how awful and intriguing these freaky people are. I'm talking about newspaper articles, TV news features, and films addressing the real issues raised by transgendered people in serious, respectful, even positive ways.

At first I thought it was just a fluke, but since it keeps happening it's beginning to look like something significant is swimming around in the grand collective unconscious. How can it be that an issue as radical and provocative as the mutability of gender is gaining prominence and even favor in people's minds? I mean regular people's minds, and not just within twenty miles of Nob Hill, either.

Sympathetic awareness of transgendered people is not new among the sexual lifestyle explorers of kinky San Francisco, whether they be political sex radicals or hipper-than-thou poseurs. The complex and important issues about the nature of gender raised by the growing movement of transgender activists, issues whose relevance extends far beyond the transgendered community, have been widely discussed in radical and alternative media for some time. It was exciting and courageous, but not exactly surprising, when Cleis Press recently published Pat Califia's clear-headed and insightful historical overview of transgenderism, *Sex Changes*. You can count on Pat Califia to talk about whatever is currently challenging and provocative in the areas of sex and gender, and *Sex Changes* puts her calm, lucid mind out there on the edge one more time.

It's when thoughtful consideration of transgender issues starts to crop up as part of the scenery in what I think of as the regular world that my surprise meter starts jumping around. Consider the following: Helen and I are out at the movies (one of our favorite places to be), settling in and munching our popcorn, when what pops up on the screen but a trailer for a film, *Different for Girls*, a drama about a male-to-female transsexual. In the rapid-fire, sound-bite style of trailer essentialism, we are shown a woman who returns to her hometown for her high school reunion and encounters her old buddy from back in the days. Except that back in the days she was a boy not a girl, so we watch her old bud go through the predictable double take, and the "what-the-hell??" confusion, and the mind reordering, and the ohmigawd. As a matter of fact, in the space of a few quick seconds, we go through it with him. The point of view of the trailer, and presumably the film, is to enjoy a friendly chuckle at the poor boy's non-malicious confusion (which is, after all, our own), with the moral of the story apparently being that, hey, in the end, we're all just who we are, so why don't we all just drop the preconceptions and the judgments and just accept each other and get along anyway? Not a bad piece of political education for a couple minutes of film watching.

There's a kind of film that has become less than surprising, that centers on the theme of basic acceptance of gays and lesbians. We were about to see *In and Out*, a grand and delightful bit of gay-acceptance advocacy, the latest and most broadly effective film in that genre since *La Cage aux Folles*, that is currently raking in money at box offices around the country.) But extending the courtesy of acceptance and the influence of film advocacy to transsexuals is something else again. I had stopped eating my popcorn. I was totally amazed.

I was even more amazed when that Sunday, in the San Francisco Chronicle Datebook section, there was a feature on *Different for Girls* giving the Chron's Edward Guthmann an opportunity to ask actor Stephen Mackintosh intelligent, normalizing questions about what it was like to play a transsexual ("Transsexuals are often played as freaks, but you've made Kim seem downright average"), complete with a sidebar, "Boys Will Be Girls: A History of Transsexuals on Film" — a list of celluloid representations of transsexuals, ranging from *The Christine Jorgensen Story* (1970) through *The World According to Garp* to *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*. (Oddly, *The Crying Game* was missing.)

A couple weeks later we were out for Sunday breakfast — enjoying eggs, coffee, sunshine and the Sunday paper at a local outdoor café, and there on the cover of the Chronicle's Sunday section is an immense, half-page, nude-to-the-waist photo of James Green, his riveting face heralding a thoughtful, thorough, well-researched, distinctly positive feature about James by Chronicle staff writer David Tuller. Titled "A Self-Made Man," Tuller's piece — covering three full pages and complete with over a dozen photographs — includes intelligent, unsensationalized interviews with James, his accepting brother Eric, his romantic partner (Spectator contributor) Marcy Sheiner, surgeon Gail Lebovic of Palo Alto's Gender Dysphoria Program, and Larry Brinkin of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. The article gives, as well as one can expect from a single piece in your favorite family newspaper, a level-headed, judgment-free introduction to the issues — medical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and relational — involved in female-to-male gender reassignment.

Alex Myers Charms Prime Time

Then, just last week, we're curled up in bed watching the news, and there on ABC's Prime Time is an extended feature about a charming young man, Alex Myers, an undergraduate at Harvard who, we learn, happens to have a woman's genitals. The positively cherubic young man responds to the probing questions of reporter Elizabeth Vargas (who is doing her best to exude tolerance and sensitivity but is continuously being betrayed by her face and, particularly, her mouth which keep tightening into twitchy and twisted expressions of discomfort bordering on total revulsion) with an easy, relaxed innocence guaranteed to win the hearts and sympathies of all but the most rigidly entrenched of viewers.

"I knew my entire life I was not a woman," Myers explains as matter-of-factly as if he's talking about why he chose Harvard over Princeton. "I'm more comfortable being addressed as a man than I am as a woman, but my true identity is transgendered.... [Coming out] is the most natural thing in the world to do if it's who you are."

"Some people would wonder if you are the way you are because something traumatic happened to you as a child," Vargas suggests sincerely, her lip curling just a little. Myers shrugs the inference away. "I had a very normal, very happy childhood," he says simply.

Turning to Myers' distinctly regular-looking, bright-eyed girlfriend, Vargas asks if she's worried about her transgendered boyfriend who has the anatomy of a woman. The cheerful young woman is as undefended and forthcoming as Myers. "I have worried before," she smiles, "but now I mostly realize that he has such strength of character that, wherever he goes, he will make his own place there." The camera cuts to a long shot of the boy strolling around campus with his brightly colored backpack, the epitome of privileged undergraduate normalcy. What could be more natural?

Continued on Page 29

Seahorse Medical Clinic Joy Diane Shaffer, MD



2100 CURTNER AVENUE, SUITE A • SAN JOSE, CA 95124
(408) 879-9522

WAVE ELECTROLOGY Permanent Hair Removal



Local Anesthetic
Available in a
Clinical Environment

Guy E. Campo & Thu-Minh Ngo
1570 The Alameda, Suite 215
San Jose, CA 95126

(408) 292-1558
Email: wave1@flash.net
Web: www.WaveElectrology.com

Continued from Page 28

Now remember, we're talking national network news here, not some made-for-San-Francisco local news production. People in Ocala and Sioux City are being told in no uncertain terms that boys with vaginas can be charming, well-adjusted, bright, successful young men just like anyone else if they're given the room to define their identities and their life choices for themselves. Keep that in the back of your minds, ye willing absorbers of insidious media bias, when next you think about what it means to be a man or a woman. Or, for that matter, the next time you're shocked to discover that your teenage daughter wants to do something else that's unconventional, like write morbid poetry or fly airplanes or study Buddhism or have her eyebrow pierced or keep a vibrator in the drawer next to her bed. Kind of puts everything into perspective, don't it?

As Basic As It Gets

There's more going on that I won't even take the time to go into in detail. Like the fact that Ru Paul's TV talk show ("the girl with something extra") is such a hit that it's gone to every day. Or that Veronica Vera's School for Boys Who Want to Be Girls is so immensely popular in New York. Or that there's yet another new film out, *Bugis Street*, about life among the transsexual prostitutes of Singapore. Or that response to the Chronicle's story about James Green was positive enough that KPIX is about to make the story into a TV feature.

Maybe I'm naive to be amazed, but I can't get out of my mind that, of all the issues pertaining to society and the socially-defined nature of reality, gender identity is about as basic as things get — even more fundamental than the other stalwart institutionalizations of the Way It Spozed to Be, like marriage, work, and family.

The social order is already struggling to come to grips with the fact that marriage tends not to last until death do they part; that people need more to feel fulfilled in their lives than sacrificing forty hours a week, year after decade, to put bread on the table and a Lexus in the garage; that family, nuclear and extended, is as likely to destroy individuals as it is to be a nurturing source of stability, safety, and support.

But there has always been the immutability of gender to fall back on as an unmovable touchstone in these turbulent times — an easy-to-understand, boy or girl, blue or pink fundamental division of the world into he's and she's, odds and evens, ones and zeroes. The first question on everyone's lips after a baby is born — Is it a boy or a girl? — has always been easy to answer. Now, even that bit of residual certainty is being challenged and, along with the predictable (if depressing) reactions of extreme and even violent upset and resistance, damned if we aren't beginning to also hear influential voices suggesting that maybe we just ought to loosen up and welcome even this complexity into our everyday lives.

A Movement Reaches Critical Mass

How does this come to pass? And why is there now, all of a sudden, such a flood of positive perspective, even intrigued infatuation, with challenging traditional notions of gender?

Jamison Green, the leading advocate and educator on transgender issues who was the subject of the Chronicle's feature, sees the current positive tilt as the fruit of years of growing transgender frustration. Tired of suppressing their identities out of shame and fear, tired of being outcast and violently attacked for their difference, transgendered people have, in the last six or seven years, been refusing to remain silent and invisible in the face of traditional definitions of gender. They have begun talking to each other, creating support communities, and advocating for equal rights and respect.

"Gradually," says Green, "people decided to stop disappearing, to stop pretending that they were just like John Doe or Jane Doe." As transgendered people began speaking out and making their existence known, other people became aware that they, too, had personal issues relating to gender, important issues that they had been hiding from others, and often from themselves, for their entire lives. As these people also began to go public and to talk with each other about their feelings — and as transgender activists became more vocal and more politically skilled — some inevitably gained access to the media. Books began to be written, plays began to be performed, films began to be made that incorporated the real characters and concerns of transgendered people.

What is perhaps most interesting, and most potentially influential, is that something in these public expressions of gender rethinking seems to be ringing a resonant bell for many more people than the relatively small community of people who define themselves as transsexuals.

"Deep down, we all know what's right and wrong," says Green. "We all know that, if someone's not hurting us, it's wrong to trash them because of who they are. And I think, also, that deep down all sorts of people are realizing something very fundamental about the human condition when they start questioning traditional notions of gender."

Continued from Page 27

would allow us to create a "test case" to chart the effectiveness of such an arrangement in creating greater comfort and safety for people who need to relieve themselves. This is not a plan that's in process; it's just a suggestion so far, and if it were to come to pass it would not happen overnight. It would be implemented slowly over time, but the task force believes this is an attainable objective.

"We're examining the statutes about how many toilets a public building must have for males and for females. We have to be mindful of such constraints as we develop any new standards," Arana says.

What I have found interesting is the reaction to this from some quarters within the FTM community. Some men object to having gender-neutral restrooms available because they feel they have worked hard to become men, and they want to use that men's room, dammit. Using the men's room is a right of passage that transpeople often use to confirm their transitioned identity, just like the sex marker on a driver's license. It affirms us, and so we are reluctant to let go of it because we have so few affirmations available to us.

I think it's important to understand that if some gender-neutral bathrooms are available to people who are not otherwise safe in public space it does not threaten people's identity as men or women. Using a gender-neutral bathroom does not mean the person in the space is gender-neutral. If a man is in the gender-neutral bathroom, then it's a men's room for that period of time.

We must find better rights of passage than bathrooms to confirm our gender identity. Using bathrooms this way is about passing, not about who you are, or about addressing a common problem (how to provide for citizen relief!). Passing in a public restroom is about looking manly enough or womanly enough, and while we may have certain appearance standards as a personal goal, we have no more right to inflict those standards on other people than they have to inflict their own standards upon us. We can't be advocating a system that says, "If you're rich enough to afford surgery, hormones, electrolysis and everything else you need to convince people that you fit their stereotype, you'll have the privilege of using a gender-specific public bathroom." We need to ensure the safety of all people who need to relieve themselves, no matter what they look like.

Arana agrees. "I'll know that we have done our job at the commission, and that society has evolved, when I go to use a public bathroom and the sign simply says 'toilet.' We shouldn't be looking for that little sign on the door to tell us who we are. The separation between men's and women's rooms isn't about identity; it's about facilities and safety. If we can just get people to mind their own business, we'll be making huge progress."

For more information about transgender civil rights protections in San Francisco, visit the San Francisco Human Rights Commission's Web site at: <http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfhumanrights/lgbthiv.htm>

Breaking Free Of Gender Restrictions

There is indeed something immensely appealing and empowering about challenging the hegemony of any rigid, restrictive rules about who we are allowed to be as human beings. While gender, on the one hand, can be a supportive and comforting source of identity, rigid gender notions and roles are also commonly restrictive and limiting, often putting us at serious odds with fundamental things we know, or more vaguely sense, about who we really are and who we most want to be.

Maybe that's why the idea of breaking free of gender determinism — and breaking free, as well, from the binary notion that people must be either male or female, that there are only two gender choices available — seems to carry with it a sense of liberation, as well as the more predictable feeling of uncertainty. Maybe that's why people become exhilarated, more than they ever would have expected, at the idea of taking more control of their lives and daring to be, more fully, who they feel themselves to be with regard to their gender. Maybe, to cite an incidental example, that's why tens of thousands of people in Internet chat rooms are seizing a new opportunity to play at inhabiting a different gender from who they are in their off-line lives.

As the cover of Pat Califia's book *Sex Changes* asks, "If you could change your sex as effortlessly in reality as you can in virtual reality, and change it back again, wouldn't you like to try it at least once? What if we all helped each other to manifest our most beautiful, sexy, intelligent, creative, and adventurous inner selves, instead of cooperating to suppress them?"

MY SON DIVINE

by Robb Michaels
365Gay.com
Book Editor



With the popularity of *Hairspray* on Broadway, I decided this week to revisit the original full-figured Edna Turnblad, played in the film by Divine. Fierstein is brilliant in the stage version, but Divine broke new ground when she created the role. And, what better way to get an insight into the actor than Divine's own mother, Frances Milstead.

Milstead's book *My Son Divine* tells the amazing and moving story of how one chubby effeminate choirboy from Lutherville, MD became the outrageous poodle-poop eating underground film star.

It provides a never before seen look at the man behind the makeup, from his birth, to his performances in John Waters' now classic films "Eat Your Makeup", "Multiple Maniacs", "Pink Flamingos", "Female Trouble" and "Polyester" to his untimely death just as his career was achieving crossover success "Hairspray".

Written by Frances Milstead with Steve Yeager and Kevin Heffernan, the award-winning filmmakers whose documentary film on John Waters won the Filmmakers Trophy at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival, "My Son Divine" includes reminisces not only by Francis Milstead and other members of Divine's family, but also never before read interviews with John Waters, Ricki Lake, Mitch Whitehead, Mink Stole, Zandra Rhodes, and other celebrities, artists, friends, and fans who became Divine's extended family over the course of his career.

Also included are over one hundred rarely or never-before-seen photos, including childhood photos, the earliest picture of Glenn in drag (in high school as Elizabeth Taylor), photos from John Waters earliest films including Divine as Jackie Kennedy in the rarely seen *Eat Your Makeup*, amazing performance photos from Europe, and photos of Divine with his family after their reconciliation.

For the first time, and told as only a mother could, the story of Divine's journey from childhood through his troubled teen years to his rebirth as one of the world's most beloved and reviled performers, reconciles the "anything to shock" performer known to his fans with the gentle and loving man remembered by his family and friends.

You will learn that Glenn was once a choirboy, what his two favorite bible-hymns were, and get a unique interpretation of a favorite bible story.

You will also hear the moving story of how Glenn's doctor explains to Francis that her son is "different from other boys." One of the funniest sections deals with Divine's escape from the Baltimore city police while dressed in a gold-lame treader outfit, in a red 1959 Cadillac El Dorado with the top down, and a naked man in the front seat.



First Phyllabuster of 2003

Phyllis Randolph Frye
<http://transgenderlegal.com>

NEW ORGANIZATION FOR TG VETERANS

Contact: Monica F. Helms at monicahelms@prodigy.net
(Phyllabuster note: AVER, American Veterans for Equal Rights, is the LGBT vet organization that changed its name for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Veterans in an effort to be inclusive of TG folks and others. I have been a member of AVER for several years. I hope this new organization, below, will work closely with AVER and bring more TG vets into AVER's ranks as well.)

USA - A new organization called Transgender American Veterans Association (TAVA) has been formed to advocate for fair and equal treatment of transgender/transsexual veterans and active duty service members, both from the military and the Veterans Administration.

It is our hope that we can help to educate the US Military and the VA on gender-identity-related issues, of which they are seeing more and more of as time goes on. By doing so, this should foster a better understanding of who transgender and transsexual people are in this part of the US government.

Currently, TAVA exists as a Yahoo groups list, and we are hoping that anyone interested in working on issues that effect transgender and transsexual military personal and veterans please send in a request to join.

There are no membership fees at this time. Use the above contact E-mail address. We will work toward building this new organization from the ground up, so all skills are welcome.

TAVA wants you!

And remember, "We served, too."



Skin Enhancements

Miyrna Taiariol

Licensed Esthetician
Certified Massage Therapist

(925) 258-8111
www.skinenhancements.com

One Camino Sobrante, Suite 10 • Orinda, CA 94563

GIANNA E. ISRAEL

415-558-8058

Individual and
Relationship Counseling

Principal Author:
TRANSGENER CARE
Temple University Press

Nationwide Telephone Consultation
Evaluations and Recommendations
Custody, Legal, Forensic Case Mgmt.

E-mail: gianna@counselsuite.com - Library/Site: www.counselsuite.com
Gender & Self Acceptance Program - P.O.B. 424447, S.F., CA 94142