

Local & National Transgender & GLBT Resources

- **Southern Arizona Gender Alliance:** In addition to support, social, and discussion groups, SAGA provides educational forums and trainings for businesses, service providers, and community members to learn more about the issues facing transgender people and how our allies can be supportive and inclusive. The SAGA Speakers Bureau provides speakers and panelists for your class, event, business, or training. c/o Wingspan, 300 East Sixth St. Tucson, AZ 85705. (520) 867-0083 (<http://www.sagatucson.org>)
- **Wingspan:** Southern Arizona's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center. 300 E. 6th St., Tucson, AZ 85705. (520) 624-1779 (<http://www.wingspan.org>)
- **Gender Education and Advocacy (GEA):** National educational resource on gender diversity, focused on the needs, issues, and concerns of gender variant people. Home of the renowned "Remembering Our Dead" pages. (www.gender.org)
- **PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays):** Provides support and resources to the parents, families, and friends of GLBT people. 1726 M St., NW, STE. 400, Washington, DC 20036 (202) 467-8180. (www.pflag.org)
Tucson chapter: PFLAG Tucson, P.O. Box 36264, Tucson, AZ 8574 (www.pflagtucson.org)
- **Intersex Society of North America:** Education, advocacy, and support for intersex people. P.O. Box 3070, Ann Arbor MI, 48106-3070. (www.isna.org)
- **The International Journal of Transgenderism (IJT):** Multicultural, peer-reviewed journal of scholarly work in the area of transgenderism. Excellent source of medical, social, psychological documentation of the transgender issues. (www.symposium.com/ijt)
- **Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. (HBIGDA):** Professional organization devoted to understanding and treatment of gender identity disorders. 1300 S. 2nd St., Suite 180, Minneapolis, MN 55454 (612) 625-1500. (www.hbigda.org)

Local Media Contacts

The following local people and organizations can be contacted to answer questions (or make referrals) regarding transgenderism and gender identity issues.

- **Southern Arizona Gender Alliance**
C. Michael Woodward, Executive Director
Kevin Maxey, MD, President, Board of Directors
300 E. Sixth St.
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 867-0083
info@sagatucson.org
www.sagatucson.org
- **City of Tucson Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues**
c/o Equal Opportunity Office
P.O. Box 27210
Tucson AZ 85726-7210
(520) 791-4866
www.tucsonlgbtc.org
info@tucsonlgbtc.org
- **Wingspan Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Community Center**
Kent Burbank, Executive Director
300 E. 6th St., Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 624-1779
www.wingspan.org
wingspan@wingspan.org

Other Publications Available from SAGA

- *Gender Identity 101: A Transgender Primer* (brochure - abbreviated version of the full booklet)
- *Gender Identity 101: A Transgender Primer* (full version) Also available online at www.sagatucson.org
- *Trans In The Workplace: A Guide for Managers, Supervisors, and Human Resources Personnel* (brochure)
- *Trans In The Workplace: A Guide for the Transgendered, Transsexual and/or Gender-Variant Employee* (brochure)

TransMedia Resources for Journalists and Others in the Media

Southern Arizona Gender Alliance



300 E. Sixth Street
Tucson, AZ 85705
(520) 867-0083
info@sagatucson.org
www.sagatucson.org



©1998-2003 Alexander John Goodrum & Southern Arizona Gender Alliance. All rights reserved. For reprint information, please contact the address above.

As issues and information about transgender, transsexual and gender-variant (hereafter referred to as TG) people become more widely reported by the press, it is important to reflect the TG community accurately and fairly. The following are some suggested guidelines to journalists and others in the media which will hopefully better insure that the reporting on this diverse community is done fairly, accurately and inclusively.

The recently released *Associated Press Stylebook and Briefing on Media Law* – long the leader on proper terminology used by news organizations – contains specific reference to the reporting on transgendered people and issues. For example, *The 2000 AP Stylebook* now contains the following:

"Sex changes: Use the pronoun preferred by the individuals who have acquired the physical characteristics (by hormone therapy, body modification, or surgery) 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 individuals live."

Also included in the *Stylebook*: "Follow these guidelines in using proper names or personal pronouns when referring to an individual who has had a sex-change operation:

- If the reference is to an action before the operation, use the proper name and sex of the individual at that time.
- If the reference is to an action after the operation, use the new proper name and sex. For example: Dr. Richard Raskind was a first-rate amateur tennis player. He won several tournaments. Ten years later, when Dr. Renee Richards applied to play in tournaments, many women players objected on the ground that she was the former Richard Raskind, who had undergone a sex-change operation. Miss Richards said she was entitled to compete as a woman."

While such an evolution in the way transgendered people are represented in the media is heartening, it does not completely reflect the diversity WITHIN the transgender community. The above reflects a new focus only on those who have completed sexual reassignment surgery and all the various (and many times labyrinthine) court requirements for legal designation in the gender opposite one's birth. However, it does not account for the vast majority of TS, TG, and Gender-variant people who cannot, choose not, or have yet to be able to have sexual reassignment surgery. Yet, these "silent majorities" are many times the ones whom the media continues to represent in derogatory manner.

In order to represent all those within the transgender community, journalists must expand the limitations of media reporting – and confront and challenge the sometimes unavoidable bias that comes from attempting to report on issues and people with whom a reporter has little or no experience.

Journalists can do several things to present a more balanced view of transgender people in their features and interviews:

- Do not represent or interview only Male-to-Female (MTF) transgendered and transsexual people when you are doing a story on transgendered issues. There are just as many Female-to-Male (FTM) transgendered and transsexual people and while their ability to "blend in" may be better than some MTFs, FTMs do exist in equal numbers, they do have a voice, and many of them are respected and well-known leaders in the fight for transgendered rights.
- Avoid the tendency to photograph the most "masculine" looking MTF in the room, simply because it would make the most "interesting" picture. The prevailing visual image in the media of transgender people as "men in dresses" does a great disservice to subject of the photograph as well as giving your readership and/or audience the misleading impression that there is a lack of diversity among transgendered people.

Look for the diversity within the transgender community. Not all transgendered people are white, heterosexual and live in gated suburban communities. There are many voices within this dynamic community and much of the organizing and education about transgender issues is done by people involved in grassroots organizations that reflect the racial, economic and political diversity of our society as a whole.

- Do not assume that the only experts worth quoting on the subject of transgenderism and transsexualism are medical doctors or professional academics. Both fields have suffered from their share of bias and lack of vision when dealing with transgender people. Transgendered people are the best resources for their lives – they have had to be because of the bias and sometimes neglect of the medical, psychological and academic communities.

Do not render transgendered people invisible just for the sake of brevity. For example, the City of Tucson has a Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Issues. Yet most local news reports refer to this body (when they do at all) as the Gay and Lesbian Commission (sometimes Bisexual is added, sometimes not – the Bisexual community knows the burden of invisibility in the media all too well).

The addition of the term "Transgendered" to the name of this commission (*the only city level independent commission to have done so in the entire country*) is no small matter. To delete the word or truncate the name of the commission simply for convenience is to deliberately mislead the public about the existence of transgendered people and their role and participation in this important and groundbreaking city body.