

Volume 1, Issue 7

April 2007

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Activism, Education and Community, oh my!

It's been almost impossible to turn the television or radio on without hearing about the firing of Largo's City Manager Steve Stanton. It's a shame isn't it? People not understanding what transgender is, let alone, what it means. The difference between sexual orientation and gender identification (*and there are many definitions, so let's have a quick review!*):

Sexual orientation (*n*) the preference for sexual activity with people of the opposite, same (*or for that matter*), both sexes.

Gender identity (*n*) the totality of physical and behavioral traits that are designated by a culture as masculine or feminine, a person's inner sense of being male or female.

Ok, so let's think about this for a moment shall we? Let's fire a guy who's worked for us for 14 years, who we have given good reviews to and who has received several annual raises for his good work. But, we are only now going to say he is really not-such-a-good manager after all. Let's fire him. But the city board says it's not because he's transgender and going to have SRS. Ok, so, really, what's the issue here? Ignorance? Blatant inability to honor their own non-discrimination policy?

It's not really Denmark where something is smelling rotten is it?

Things like this make me take stock in my transition. I feel lucky. Very lucky. But that doesn't mean I haven't hit rough times. It makes me thankful that my employers see beyond gender identity and sexual orientation; that it's a non-issue. It makes me thankful that I have friends and family who have been supportive, caring and loving (*did I mention rough patches?*). As thankful and lucky as I feel about my transition, it hasn't come without the occasional consequences or disappointment. It happens to everybody, we're all human. Right?

But, it's people like Stanton that make transgender activists, writers, educators and allies so important within the community-at-large. They've become a necessity— they've become part of the foundation which is going to continue to pave the path and bridge communities together. It's people like Les Feinberg, Kate Bornstein, Bear Bergman, Jennifer Finney Boylan, Helen Boyd, Scott Turner Schofield, Loren Cameron, Christine Jorgensen, Einar Wegener and Brandon Teena who provide the fire for some to get involved and keep the existing Transgender roads paved. And they are only a handful of some writers, educators and activists who continue to be catalyst for those who step up and get involved.

Don't let there be other Stanton's or other Brandon's.

Get involved. Educate. Motivate. Mentor. Be an ally. A friend. Don't tread lightly. Leave your mark. Make a difference.

You Can *Still* Be Counted!

2007 GLBT Census of Central Ohio

<http://www.glbtcensus.com>

Open through Sunday, April 15th, 2007



Local & National Calendar of Events

April 2007

- Sixth Annual Trans-Health Conference, Philadelphia, PA. April 5-7, 2007. For info: <http://www.trans-health.org>
- Transgender 2007: The Annual Conference of the International Foundation for Gender Education. April 11-14, 2007. Philadelphia, PA. For more info: <http://www.transeventsusa.org/ifge>
- The 15th Annual Houston Transgender Unity Banquet. Saturday, April 14, 2007. Houston, Texas. For more info: <http://houstontransgenderunity.org>
- GLSEN Cincinnati's GLSEN Cincinnati's 7th Annual Prom. Friday, April 13, 2007. Cincinnati, Ohio. For more information, visit: <http://www.glsencincinnati.or> or email glsenprom@gmail.com
- Qualia Weekend: A festival of gay folklife. April 13 - 15, 2007. Columbus, Ohio. For more info: <http://www.qualiaweekend.com>
- Premier of documentary: Almost Myself (Director Tom Murray). Saturday, April 14, 2007. Stonewall Columbus. 1160 N. High Street. 7pm-9pm. Columbus, Ohio. Tom Murray will be available for questions.

May 2007

- NCTE Lobby Day. May 14 & 15, 2007. Washington D.C. For more info: www.nctequality.org
- Lobby Day for Equality, Statehouse. Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Columbus, Ohio. All day. www.equalityohio.org
- Special screening of *Call Me Malcolm*. Friday, May 11, 2007. St. John United Church of Christ located at 520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, KY. Call (859)261-2066 for more information.

June 2007

- Dayton Pride, Saturday, June 2, 2007.
- Cincinnati Pride, Saturday, June 9, 2007. <http://prideisalive.com>
- Cleveland Pride, Saturday, June 16, 2007. <http://www.clevelandpride.org>
- Call Me Malcolm, OutReels film screening, Sunday, June 17, 2007. 6:00pm, St. John UCC, 520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, KY. For more information, visit: <http://www.OutReels.com>
- Columbus Pride, Saturday, June 23, 2007. <http://www.stonewallcolumbus.org>
- Houston Pride, Saturday, June 23, 2007. <http://www.pridehouston.org/>

July 2007

- CampOUT, July 26 - 29, 2007, Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary, Bloomington, IN. http://www.lagarou.org/campout_2007

August 2007

- FTM2007, Gender Odyssey, August 21– September 3, 2007 (Labor Day Weekend), Seattle, Washington. <http://www.transconference.org/index.htm>
- Family conference for parents of gender variant and transgender children: Gender Odyssey, August 21– September 3, 2007 (Labor Day Weekend), Seattle, Washington. <http://www.transconference.org/family/index.htm>

September 2007

- Southern Comfort Conference, September 11-16, 2007, Atlanta, GA. <http://www.sccatl.org>
- Out & Equal Workplace Summit, September 27 - 29, 2007, Washington D.C. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.outandequal.org/summit/2007/OutEqual-2007Summit.asp>

Would you like to add your event to our calendar? Email event information to transobio@wowway.com

Open Letter to Governor Strickland

Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-6108

March 30, 2007

Re: Gender Marker problem

Dear Governor Strickland,

I am encouraged to write to you both because our Ohio citizen concerns are invited by you and because I believe the quote on your page on the Internet can be true given the right leadership:

“The Ohio character is one that seeks to find practical solutions to mankind’s most complicated problems.”

I have been a Marriage and Family Therapist since 1973. My work with families has included dealing with sexuality related concerns as well as dealing with human relationship concerns. One diverse population I also work with includes transgender people. In fact, I founded and I have been the clinical director of the Gender Dysphoria Program of Central Ohio since the late 70s. I have thus been acutely aware of how difficult it is for transgender people to live in a state that does not allow them to change the Gender Marker in their Birth Certificate even after all the grueling stages they go through in the process of transitioning. Most of us take our gender for granted but transgender people have to fight for theirs. I have witnessed many lives of quiet desperation which in some cases has lead to suicide. Ohio is one of only 3 states that are still so backward. It would be a great service to look into this matter so that Ohio’s transgender citizens who have gone through the process of transitioning so that they can live full time in the gender they always felt they belong in, do not have to worry anymore about the wrong gender identification in their Birth Certificate.

Similarly, it would also be greatly appreciated if Transgender people can have an easier time changing their Gender Marker on the Driver's License, once they have been established living full time in the gender they feel they belong in. The gender reassignment surgeries are very expensive so that some can just not afford them, and in some cases people have illnesses such as heart problems, or diabetes, to mention a few, which sometimes makes it dangerous for them to readily have all the needed surgeries. As it is now, since the BMV requires a letter from a surgeon regarding the surgery having been completed, many are stuck for one reason or another with the gender marker they were identified with at birth. As you know, such designation is done solely upon the observable structure between an infant’s legs and does not take the brain development and other realities into account. It should be noted that 4% of live births are Intersexual, and many more individuals are identified as Transgender in childhood or as they reach puberty or adolescence. Many fight it by getting married, having children or joining the military service but, often, they need to address their problem as it usually catches up with them and when they are quite old when they finally have the opportunity, they can be heard saying, “I can at least die in the gender I belong in.”

(continued on page 4)

Open Letter to Governor Strickland

(continued from page 3)

The inability to change the gender marker causes many problems. For instance, when a transgender individual may have managed to be employed in the wanted gender, he or she then lives in fear that he/she will be "outed" as a result of the "for them wrong" gender marker still on their birth certificate or driver's license. Often enough they have lost a job they were otherwise promised when they went to the HR with contradicting documents. I will quote here a very successful transgender engineer, outstanding enough to have been one of the engineers the last Governor consulted and traveled abroad with in the effort to bring businesses to Ohio. The engineer said that transgender people should be given a chance to succeed while they work on becoming who they know they are and that "Transition is a generally temporary metamorphosis towards a productive life in society." It should not become an issue that they have to deal with time and time again throughout their life.

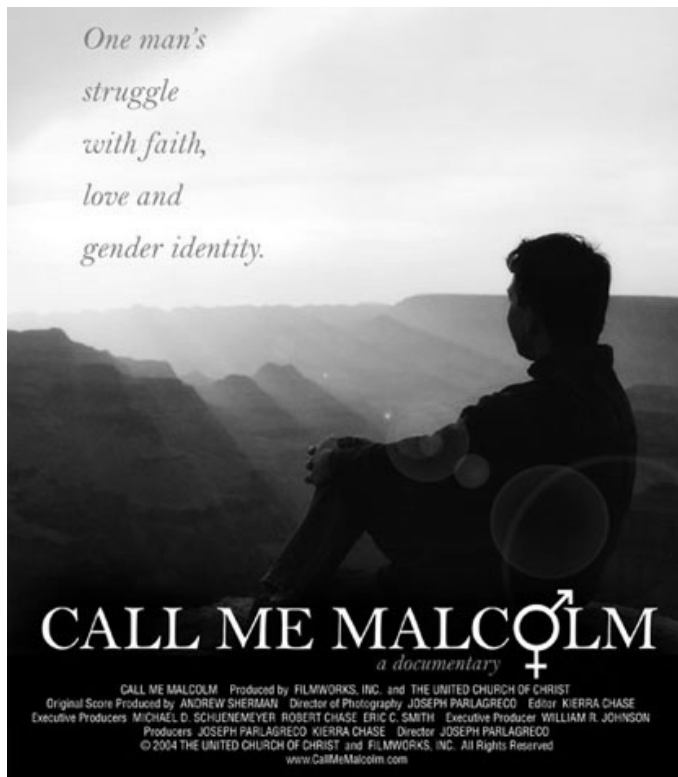
Finally, all of these concerns are especially worrisome for transgender individuals in light of the "Real ID Act" measure that is to be required in the near future. I do hope that you could be instrumental in simplifying the gender marker change process, in an affirming and respectful way for these people who have for too long suffered due to the inhumane and archaic practice so far used in the State of Ohio. I think this is important not only because it would be convenient for these individuals, but it is also a fact that our state suffers brain drain when many of these otherwise educated and creative people leave this state so that they can have a better life in other parts of the country. I can recount many such examples of loss to our State, one recent example being a physician who moved to another state upon being rejected in her job when she started showing signs of transitioning.

Many years ago Governor Celeste helped the cause of gay and lesbian people by the ordinance he established, when in fact, I, among other professionals, was asked during those years to help educate State Workers regarding equal rights for gay and lesbian as well as other citizens of this State. At this time, I would be more than willing to volunteer my professional time to further help educate our citizens regarding the Transgender reality. The absence of knowledge and empathy often leads to hate crimes. Sadly, every fall I attend a service to remember the past year's hate crime victims. Currently, I am periodically invited by churches, clinics, some businesses and schools to help pave the way for the "coming out/gender transition" of an individual in that particular setting. Not surprisingly, when well informed, most people seem to have the capacity to have more empathy for such individuals instead of laughing at them or scorning them as if they just decide to change their gender on a whim. You and I know that it is not so. Finally, I do hope that our great State of Ohio under your enlightened leadership can also respect this reality, and thus really serve all the people of Ohio.

Regards,

Meral G.Crane, M.A., L.P.C.C., I.M.F.T.
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor
Marriage and Family Therapist
Sex Therapist and Gender Specialist
Founder and Clinical Director
Gender Dysphoria Program of Central Ohio

Special Screening of *Call Me Malcolm*



Call Me Malcolm is a 90 minute documentary about a young seminary student who happens to be in transition from female to male. It was produced by Filmworks and the United Church of Christ.

The film follows Malcolm on a cross country journey where he meets with other transgender men, the mother of a teen-aged son who was murdered because she was transgender, a San Francisco police sergeant who transitioned on the force, Calpernia Addams--the subject of the Showtime film 'Soldier's Girl.'

The film will be part of OutReels Film Festival June 2007. A special screening will be held on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. especially for religious leaders in the community. Both screenings will be held at St. John United Church of Christ located at 520 Fairfield Ave. Bellevue, KY. Call (859)261-2066 for more information.

For more information you can contact Tom Miller at (859) 261-1568 or visit the St. John UCC website: www.StJohnChurch.net

Tom Miller - St. John GLBT Task Force Coordinator

<http://www.kentuckyfairness.org/>

<http://www.StJohnChurch.net>

Open Mic @ TransOhio

Friends

Someone who would listen,
to the words I spoke.
Smile at all my foibles,
laugh at every joke.

Someone to lend a shoulder,
wipe away the tears.
Help me up when I fall,
soothe away my fears.

Someone who asks no more,
than what I can give.
Won't tell me what to do,
or how I should live.

This is the kind of friend,
that I would like to be.
Like the beautiful friends,
who have been so kind to me

— Glynnis Eileen Clark

Is It a Savage World, Dan?

We came across this fun tidbit from Dan Savage's March, 29, 2007- Savage Love column. (It's also in print in this week's Outlook newspaper).

You always have to take 'Dear Abby'-like columns with a grain of salt and some are easier to read that way than others. But, this one struck a nerve for several of our staff.

We're interested in your thoughts and responses about this column from Dan and especially his response to the question: "Do you think we're doomed?" and Dan's response, "Yes."

Tell us what you think. Send us your opinions and thoughts by email to transohio@wowway.com. We'll publish your responses in the next issue of the TransOhio newsletter.

Email Us: transohio@wowway.com

My boyfriend and I are both trans men. Until me, he had only been with non-trans guys, that is, guys with erectable penises. I had been with other trans men, and women. I am used to cunts and like the ins and outs of them, the taste, the smell, and everything that comes with them. Especially ones enhanced with testosterone. I do not think my cunt is special in any regard, but he claims to smell a pungent funk. I have never had complaints from any other lovers. His distaste for my cunt means I never get oral, and barely ever get fucked by his hands and toys. I now wash before he touches me, but that doesn't seem to help much either. Do you think we are doomed?

Nothing's Wrong With Natural Scents

Yes.

mail@savagelove.net

Thoughts on Being Transgender by Robbi Cohen

Gender, Sexuality and the Future, Part 3 of 3

Part one of this series addressed some of the misnomers often created when we conflate gender and sexuality. Part two addressed the etiology of the misunderstanding. Part three will focus on what may lie ahead for us if we can move past a solely binary way of perception.

Imagine a world in which society is not fixated on the pejorative aspect of what make us different. Again... imagine a world wherein those things which establish commonality and which bind us together, are those that demand our focus. In this new world, openness to diversity will create a new model... one that embraces multiplicity yet is still capable of critical thinking. Variant modes of gender presentation and sexual preference will not only not be confused, one with the other, but will present a myriad of new possibilities. Of course, we must always bear in mind that engaging in any activity which is harmful to another is not to be tolerated. We certainly do not want to lend any credence to the Santorum postulate that sexual and gender diversity is just an open door to child predation, or to bestiality. We must keep a sense of perspective.

There are many advantages to a world that embraces diversity, not the least of which is a reduced sense of fear, hatred and violence. Tolerance, empathy and understanding are not only healthier emotional expressions but are the foundation of any real sense of "civilization". By discrediting a solely binary model of knowledge theory, we can hope to see a palpable reduction in the antagonism that leads to parochialism and isolation. By contrast, we may look towards a kind of society in which cultural bridges are built and groups of people work together to achieve common goals.

I have been called an idealist and a dreamer. Some may call me naïve. There may be some accuracy to each of these descriptions. Nevertheless, I feel that we are at a kind of crossroads. Yes... there have been many eras that historically have been called crossroads. What makes today different is that the world is figuratively smaller. Some action in one part of the world may have effects in many other places. There are actions that are so pervasive that they affect all parts of the world. We are ap-

proaching times that will demand the making of wise decisions... decisions that will affect an entire world. Do we allow bigotry, separatism and divisiveness to claim the day? Do we enliven the dogmas of marginality and disenfranchisement?

Do we choose to live with the fear that breeds misunderstanding and communication breakdown, leading to hatred and the inevitable violence that ensues? Or do we work for tolerance, understanding and inclusiveness? Do we embrace those who work for peace and coexistence?

Societies often learn their lessons from minorities. Teaching a culture to accept those within who express diversity is a move toward greater understanding. Our culture is still learning these hard lessons. Yet, today's world shows us that we are, perhaps, backsliding. We are becoming more judgmental, less accepting, and it has become evident that the entire world needs to take a step back and look at the direction in which it is going. Religious and cultural intolerance and genocide, factionalism and antipathy... these appear to be winning the day.

We, as members of a community that espouses diversity, have a place in this world to pass a sense of this diversity on to others. We shall refrain from cringing behind walls. We shall proclaim our unique and inviolable right to present a gender that reflects the person inside. We revel in the right to express our sexuality any way we choose, so long as we refrain from intentionally inflicting harm and from blatant recklessness regarding children. We are the bridge builders, the conflict menders and we can have a great effect in the fight against intolerance by expressing a sense of pride in who we are, not solely as members of the LGBTI community, but as members of a world family. Let us avail ourselves of the power our community really has and help society at large to embrace many of our ideals.

Imagine a world...



Don't forget to complete the 2007 GLBT Census of Central Ohio!

The census can be filled out online at

<http://www.glbtcensus.com>

Open through Sunday, April 15th, 2007

Local Resources

- BRAVO (Buckeye Regional Anti-Violence Organization): www.bravo-ohio.org
- Central Ohio CD Support: www.crossohio.org
- EqualityOhio.Org: www.equalityohio.org
- FTMI-Ohio: groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM-I_Ohio
- Gay People's Chronicle: www.gaypeopleschronicle.com
- Gender Dysphoria Program of Central Ohio: www.genderprogram.com
- Outlook News: www.outlooknews.com
- PFLAG Columbus: www.pflagcolumbus.org
- Stonewall Columbus: www.stonewallcolumbus.org
- The Alpha Omega Society: www.aosoc.org
- The Crystal Club: www.thecrystalclub.org
- TransFamily of Cleveland: www.transfamily.org



National Resources

- American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU): www.aclu.org/lgbt
- FTM International: www.ftmi.org
- Hudson's FTM Resource Guide: www.ftmguide.org
- Human Rights Campaign (HRC): www.hrc.org
- Out & Equal Workplace Advocates: www.outandequal.org
- National Center for Transgender Equality (NCTE): www.nctequality.org
- National Gay & Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF): www.theTaskForce.org
- PFLAG: www.pflag.org
- PFLAG's Transgender Network (TNET): www.pflag.org/tnet.html
- Tgcrossroads: www.tgcrossroads.org
- Transster.com: www.transster.com
- InterPride: www.interpride.org/12/2007_Events.htm



Local Trans-Friendly Shopping & Services

Dr. Timothy E. Moats, D.D.S
Family Practice
656 High Street
Worthington, Ohio 43085
Tel: (614) 885-6698

Alternative Auto Care
136 W. 5th Ave, Rear
Columbus, Ohio 43201
(614) 294-0580
Chris, Owner
www.alternativeautocare.com

Radiant Laser Hair Removal
11138 Kenwood Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242
Tel: (513) 489-1900
www.radiant-laser.com

Becca's Hair Studio
3700 Wilmington Pike
Kettering, Ohio 45429
Tel: (937) 298-9222
Becca - Owner

List your Trans-Friendly
business here!
Email TransOhio@wowway.com for info!

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