

Monthly Columns:

- Local & National Calendar of Events
- Book & Movie Reviews & Recommendations
- Transitioning in Ohio: The Legal Process
- Local & National Resources
- Classifieds
- SOFFA Voices
- The local transsexual experience
- Identities in the trans-world

Inside this issue:

Calendar of Events	2
It Only Hurts When I Try	3
OpenMic @ TransOhio	4
Thoughts On Being Transgender, Part 2	5
Local & National Resources	6

## National Center for Transgender Equality Transgender Lobby Days Washington D.C. May 14 & 15, 2007

This is it. This year we have a very real chance to pass a transgender-inclusive Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). NCTE is calling on transgender people and allies to come to Washington, DC, on May 14 -15, 2007, for what is shaping up to be the largest lobby day in trans history. Will you be there? Will your friends?

For decades advocates have fought hard to write federal anti-discrimination and hate crime legislation that includes transgender people. Now is our shot. Please try to be here. Your voice is vital.

Protections for transgender people—for all LGBT people—are within reach and could become the law of the land this year. But it won't happen without your voice. So save your pennies. Bank your gas money. Schedule your vacation days.

Book your flight. This is the mother of all Transgender Lobby Days.

*(Press release from NCTE)*

If you'd like additional information about Transgender Lobby Days, please visit: <http://www.nctequality.org>.

NCTE is also asking you to share your stories about workplace discrimination. To share your story with NCTE, please visit them at:

The National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, ACLU and HRC are also interested in your workplace discrimination stories for the push on ENDA. To share your story with them, or see their work on this, please visit: <http://www.hrc.org/shareyourstory/share.asp>

## You Count! The Central Ohio GLBT Census

In a collaborative effort between CATF, Stonewall Columbus and United Way of Central Ohio (with additional support from The Legacy Fund of the Columbus Foundation and Abercrombie & Fitch), a 2007 GLBT Census of Central Ohio was launched at the end of January 2007. The census will be accessible online through April 15th, 2007.

The 2007 GLBT Census of Central Ohio can be taken online at [www.glbtcensus.com](http://www.glbtcensus.com). Also, if you don't have access to a computer, there are computers available for your use at the Stonewall Community Center. Stonewall is located at 1160 North High Street in the Short North.

Groups involved in this effort are asking that only residents of the Columbus metro area resp

ond to this census. Keep in mind that if you live out of the area and you submit your information in this count, it's very possible that the numbers of GLBT people who actually live in Central Ohio will be skewed. Skewing these results could have an adverse affect on monies and services made available to the Central Ohio community!

If you're interested in the questions asked on the census, a pdf version is available at [www.glbtcensus.com](http://www.glbtcensus.com).

Don't forget: Everyone Counts!  
[www.glbtcensus.com](http://www.glbtcensus.com)



---

# Local & National Calendar of Events

## March 2007

- ACLU of Ohio, 2007 LGBT College Campus Connection Conference, Saturday, March 3, 2007. 10am - 5pm. University of Akron Student Union. Akron, Ohio. For more information, visit: <http://www.acluohio.org/sga/CampusConnection.asp>
- Bowl for Equality. Saturday, March 10, 2007. 1pm-4pm. AMF Main Lanes, 4071 E. Main Street, Columbus, Ohio. More info: <http://www.equalityohio.org>
- First Midwest GLBT Conference. March 16 - 18, 2007. Columbus, Ohio. Call 614-370-1493 (conference line) for more information.
- The FORGE Forward 2007 Conference, March 29 – April 1, 2007, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. <http://www.forge-forward.org/conference/>

## 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>

## May 2007

- NCTE Lobby Day. May 14 & 15, 2007. Washington D.C. For more info: [www.nctequality.org](http://www.nctequality.org)
- Lobby Day for Equality, Statehouse. Wednesday, May 16, 2007. Columbus, Ohio. All day. Info: <http://www.equalityohio.org>

## July 2007

- CampOUT, July 26 - 29, 2007, Lothlorien Nature Sanctuary, Bloomington, IN. [http://www.lagarou.org/campout\\_2007](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](mailto:transobio@wowway.com)*

**What do YOU know about the READ ID Act?**  
Find out more at  
<http://www.nctequality.org/realid.asp>

---

## It Only Hurts When I try by Lee Harrington

So today I didn't try.

Today I just put on a bra and tank top and tried not to care at all. I discouraged myself from looking in the mirror and made lots of jokes at the bazaar along the lines of "Why do they assume that if I own breast I want silver jewelry?" I bought myself a pair of brass knuckles and avoided going near toilets anywhere in public. Today I went body numb, but at least I didn't go violent again.

It's the 30<sup>th</sup> of December, 2006, and I find myself in Peru. Mi padre had convinced me to go with him out of the country for new years when my gig as the super-high-fetish-fashion-diva host for a fetish ball fell through. I figured, why not, and packed my bags. It was going to be my first trip with my father since I've come out a second time as identifying as male (I did so when I was 14-17 before, but decided at that time I couldn't do surgeries if they couldn't give me the cock I wanted), but I felt good about how my binders fit, the cut of my clothes, how I was being seen as the me I wanted a fair amount. It was being hard to overcome 12 years of being "The" Bridgett Harrington, reclaiming myself again as Lee, but it'd been going ok, comparatively. Mi Padre was calling me Lee, it was all ok.

But then I landed in Lima. Within 24 hours I'd gone nearly suicidal, obsessive phone calls to my partner in Australia saying that I hate myself and what the hell was I thinking- no one would ever see me as a guy. It's amazingly challenging to be in a country where everything in the language has a gender- el tigre (male, any tiger), la revista (female, any magazine). When your chair has a gender, your shirt, your shoes, even your book has a gender, trying to explain a body that does not match your identity ideally, or worse yet, being in any way a gender radical, feels nearly impossible.

After three days, in Lima and Cuzco, I was going crazy. I was binding and packing, hell, at one point I shaved my face and at another time, I put on a bit of fake stubble and none of it mattered. I looked in the mirror each morning and saw the dapper yuppy gent that I am and I felt good about myself. But then I'd walk out into the outside world. Señora? Señorita? Would you like to buy Señora? What would you like for breakfast Señorita?

I started getting angry. Furious. Day in and day out the constant reminder that I am not what I want to be. The rational voice in my head kept arguing- with 27 years living as a woman in the world at large, why did this bother me? With 12 years of being active in group sexual identity dynamics, with 7 years of being an adult film actress, why did being seen as female hurt so badly all of a sudden?

Then it hit me.

It Hurt Because I Tried.

When I'm out in public in lipstick, corsets, heels, I am purposefully messing with self perception and gender identity and enjoy being a gender fucker. When I spent years not caring and going partially numb, I would let it fall off me like water off a duck's back, I'd wear whatever and be happy hearing whatever. It told me how people perceived me, and often times that was as a woman, no matter how neutral I looked, because I have a 38D rack.

But I had TRIED. I had bound down until I had, from my eye, gotten rid of most of my breasts that confuse and confound me so often. I had my packy down the front of my men's 501 jeans. I wore a button down shirt, heavy boots, masculine jewelry, a very short masculine haircut, shaved face, square edged glasses... and none of it mattered. It hurt so badly because I had spent SO MUCH time and energy creating an image that would not only be pleasing to my eye, but would get the world at large to see me as me.

And none of it mattered. I was in South America, and none of it mattered.

Binders are not comfortable after many days of wearing them. They mess up my hips as mine falls over them and compresses them forward, and my lower back complains after a while. Hot sweaty days in Peru with a silicone soft cock down my y-fronts meant sweat and more sweat, adding to the sweat I had already. Shaving is a pain, even if it's just to get rid of my peach fuzz... and I was doing it all for nothing. No one saw, noticed, or cared.

*(continued on page 4)*

# It Only Hurts When I try by Lee Harrington

(continued from page 3)

No one saw me as *the me* I wanted to be- I was just another Señora to get their tourist dollar out of. After 24 hours mi padre even forgot, as I'm standing there with a flat chest clad in tight spandex and a noticeable bulge, getting changed into a fresh over shirt, he just stopped noticing me as me after he too had heard all of the Señoras.

So today I didn't try. Today I just put on a bra and tank top and tried not to care at all. I discouraged myself from looking in the mirror and made lots of jokes at the bazaar along the lines of "Why do they assume that if I own breast I want silver jewelry?" I bought myself a pair of brass knuckles and avoided going near toilets anywhere in public. Today I went body numb, but at least I didn't go violent again. I didn't try to walk in front of a car again, like I had my first night in Lima.

I don't know what the new year will hold. I have my first consultations for my chest surgery, with two different doctors, all by April. I can't afford the surgery just yet, but I need to talk with each and figure out who I actually want to use so I can have a goal to work towards. I've chosen not to go on hormones until post-surgery, to maybe reduce scarring, keep my skin elastic, and because aesthetically the idea of body hair and breasts turns me off. I want to make every last penny of these breasts that offend and confound me before I get rid of them.

I don't know what the new year hold, but I long to be back in a world where my magazines, chairs, and tennis shoes don't have genders, and where I can be seen as the gender I am.

## Open Mic @ TransOhio

### Night and Day

Caught between night and day,  
I feel trapped and unable to find a way--  
a path--  
through the quarters of my own experience.  
Mirrors shatter around me as I wander the halls of my soul--  
shards of reflected faces that are not my own glare back at me.

Or are they my own?

There is a gentle calling in the distance—  
a whispered dream unrealized in an unopened room that I cannot reach.  
Stairs are missing—  
the way is blocked,  
but yet the voice still beckons.  
I know if I reach it I will stand face to face with my true reflection in a mirror undamaged.  
And in that reflection she too will be there,  
having waited with enduring resolve for me to become finally aware

of Truth,

of Compassion, and

of Self.

- Rainn MacPhail

TransOhio.Org

We Want You!

- √ Get involved in your community
- √ Get connected
- √ Build bridges to other communities
- √ Break-down old community silos
- √ Educate
- √ Mentor

Would you like to be a part of TransOhio.Org?

Email  
transohio@wowway.com

---

## Thoughts on Being Transgender by Robbi Cohen

Gender and Sexuality Misnomers and Their Patriarchal Roots, Part 2 of 3

Part one of this series addressed the confusion that exists regarding gender expression and sexual preference and the general predilection to use these as interchangeable terms. Part two will consider some of the possible roots of this confusion.

The prevailing mindset for most of “modernity” has been what might be called patriarchal or paternal. Men have dominated the major areas of life...medicine, politics, religion, administration of education, business... virtually every academic and mercantile pursuit has been directed and executed by those of the male gender. This is essentially an historic truism. With few exceptions...those societies that embraced a matriarchal perspective and those in which matrilineal descent prevailed...societies governed and dominated by men have been the rule.

Because of this, civilizations and societies have commonly viewed their culture through the prism of rationality, the most common way males perceive their surroundings. Men and women have different modalities of being in the world and of interpreting what they see and feel. The former tend towards what might be called a binary view, the latter towards a continuum or multiplicity model. Generally speaking, the male of the human species holds certainty to be a coveted truth...no ambiguity, no ambivalence. Within this binary structure, things are black and white, right or wrong, up or down, yes or no. The ability to see shades of difference, to accept and embrace the mystery of life, uncertainty, ambivalence and ambiguity is given to the female of the human species. She not only has the ability to perceive these fine gradations of difference, she revels in them.

None of the preceding is to say that these two ways of being in the world are mutually exclusive. No man thinks entirely rationally and no woman thinks entirely intuitively. But, these are singular modalities of cognitive ability and have a dominant mode of expression. Nor am I asserting that one modality of thinking is superior to the other. What I am asserting is that one modality of thinking that prevails to the detriment of the other is potentially fallacious, counter-productive and opens up many possibilities for inequities to develop.

When we turn the rational light of the binary model on the issues of gender and sexuality, we can better understand how they have become delimited and coextensive. For the sake of clarity, the binary approach would clearly seek a simple and unambiguous understanding of gender...male and female. And, because the rational mind is aiming for clarity, it immediately makes the assumption that sexuality and gender are essentially part and parcel, one and the same phenomenon. Male genitalia implies a sexual attraction to women, Female genitalia implies a sexual attraction to men. This formula is clear, simple and concise. No ambiguity, no ambivalence, no mistake.

Unfortunately, this model has never been correct and men have had to “fudge” to make facts fit reality. Obstetricians make carte blanche decisions regarding the gender of an intersex baby. Psychologists have historically diagnosed homosexuality and transgenderism as deviant behavior. Religious institutions immediately declaim against the sinful behavior of these deviants and perverts. Even in the modern world, there are those who assert that gay men are more likely to be sexual predators than straight men. The diatribes directed against the LGBTI community are no rarity in today’s world and much of the inability to comprehend can be laid on the doorstep of binary thinking. A mind, which embraces diversity, is not so readily persuaded to pass quick and arbitrary judgment upon something it does not understand.

Those who are able to abandon the binary model are able to perceive that both sexuality and gender are better understood through the prism of multiplicity and that the convenience of identifying gender presentation with sexual preference is not only misplaced, but also wholly inaccurate. A more encompassing model is better able to avoid the traps of myopic and monolithic thinking which completely misses the point in any discussion of gender and sexuality and their relationship, one to the other.

The last part of this series will look toward the future and what the possibilities hold if we do not restrict ourselves to one modality of perception, specifically as it relates to gender and sexuality issues.



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

The census can be filled out online at  
<http://www.glbtcensus.com>

---

## Local Resources

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



---

## National Resources

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



---

## Local Trans-Friendly Shopping & Services

Dr. Timothy E. Moats, D.D.S  
Family Practice

656 High Street  
Worthington, Ohio 43085  
Tel: (614) 885-6698  
Fax: (614) 433-7952

Radiant Laser Hair Removal

11138 Kenwood Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Tel: (513) 489-1900  
[www.radiant-laser.com](http://www.radiant-laser.com)

Becca's Hair Studio

3700 Wilmington Pike  
Kettering, Ohio 45429

Tel: (937) 298-9222  
Becca - Owner

© 2007 TransOhio.Org