



Sorry Young Man; It's a Girl Dear **Part 2, by Andrew Seeber**

I am keenly aware that given the challenges I faced early in life, things could have gone significantly worse for me than they did. People find ways of coping with the difficulties presented in life, but in the long run, some ways of coping are more constructive than others. I am not sure how I managed to settle on the strategy I did, but focusing on school became my way to avoid thinking about what was going wrong in my life. Granted, my ability to keep getting A's in school was hardly a measure of my mental health, but it did open up opportunities I would never have had if I had chosen a different method for avoiding my problems. My grades got me a scholarship at a school in San Francisco and a much-needed move to a city with far more options around bodies and behaviors at the time than provided in my hometown. I also think there was something advantageous in moving to a place where no one knew me in that I could experiment with a variety of ways of being and create the me that I wanted without worrying about the judgments of others I cared about.

I have been extremely fortunate in having a family that supports and loves me for the oddity that I am and with such good humor. Just before my chest surgery my younger sister called to chat with me and asked if there was any way they could maybe pack them on ice and ship them north or something because she could, "use a little help in that department." Humor can be a great way to know you are loved and supported. Still, I think it was important for me to be out on my own where people were not likely to pay too close attention while I figured out what I wanted for my body and how I wished to make that work with behavioral, gender preferences. I am also thankful that my avoidance mechanism helped land me in academia. Sure, it has plenty of challenges, but I also think there is far more leeway for being ambiguous in a more ongoing sense within the academy than in many possible professions outside of it. I get the feeling that I would have to do a lot more compartmentalization between my work and personal life in terms of ambiguity—being much more binary at work and reserving the ambiguous behaviors for personal time—if I were working in a different atmosphere. Of course I am still a student. I will have to wait and see if this holds true once I am out on the job market.

Childhood was not the only time I encountered challenges and they remain, even in the space of academia. Because I have always just been me, what I do and say has a history that makes sense to me. I often forget that others do not have the privilege of this historical frame of reference, and it seems even if someone knows I am trans and non-binary, because I appear completely male, it is easy to forget that interpreting my behavior or what I say as coming from a male perspective is not necessarily accurate. I was never a particularly conventional female, but I did spend the first 24 years of my life being socialized as not male. So I find myself often in both work and social settings wondering how I am being interpreted in the world. After all, the same behaviors mean something different whether they are enacted by someone seen as male versus female, and the meaning of words are understood (or misunderstood) differently along the same lines. This becomes particularly problematic when thinking or talking about power and privilege. For example, it can be extremely frustrating trying to participate in an equal exchange of ideas when I come from the learned position of not feeling entitled to be heard as female and still as non-binary. Working to overcome my sense of being always out of place in order to participate and having others assume I contribute from a sense of male entitlement (and even say as much) can be incredibly demoralizing. For the most part I have simply had to

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Transgenderscope is published by Transgender Tallahassee. Check our Facebook page and website at transgendertallahassee.com for back issues and other info about the Tallahassee Trans community.

Ask Margeaux



Margeaux Mutz

Founder of Transgender Tallahassee, Margeaux facilitates its gender chat group and administers both its Facebook page and website (transgendertallahassee.com) which bear the Transgender Tallahassee name. She currently is a board member of Transaction Florida, an initiative of Equality Florida and works with MAACA, Inc. on minority care issues. Margeaux also has served as a board member of the Tallahassee LGBT organization The Family Tree for whom she has written the monthly articles "Transgenderscope" and "Ask Margeaux" published in The Family Tree newspaper Branching Out and its website at familytreecenter.org. She has a B.A. in Political Science, is a parent and the owner of Hairvoyance, A Salon de Beaute through which she has had the opportunity to work with the aged at Tallahassee Memory Care, a local Alzheimer's facility. Margeaux is a transgender transsexual female who through public acknowledgement of her transness hopes to de-mystify the transgender experience and promote the non-discrimination of all.

Q: Can you give an example in your life of an experience that has made you feel more comfortable as an out transperson?

Many folks in the United States consider serving on a jury as a duty that they would just as soon avoid. Some go to great lengths to make themselves unacceptable to the judge or the attorneys involved in the case. Each state and its many counties have different rules regarding jury selection and the number of jurors used in cases both criminal and civil, but there are ways of appearing so unacceptable that no attorney or judge in their right mind would ever pick you. Obvious signs of judgment or prejudice would be one of them.

I personally have served on four juries. Each one has been an experience to remember with one being most memorable. Not surprisingly that would be my last foray into the judicial system and my first as a gendered female. Before I appeared in the Leon County Courthouse on my date assigned I wasn't too worried about it, surely I wouldn't get picked again. I mean up until that point I was 3 for 3, meaning I had been called 3 times and picked 3 times. It couldn't happen again, could it? First I would have to get picked for a case, all prospective jurors called do not get chosen for a case, and then I would have to get chosen by the attorney's from both sides. For the goddess sake no attorney in their right mind would pick a transsexual, would they; especially one with multi-colored braids in her hair, tattoos, a nose ring and an eyebrow piercing.

I've already given away the answer to that so I won't belabor the point, but the fact that they had 32 options and I was one of 6 jurors chosen should certainly help me deal with my feelings of rejection and exclusion within society, shouldn't it! Even after disclosing, when questioned by both attorneys' that I knew the defense attorney (he wrote up the divorce document for my ex-wife and I) they still deemed me as one of the six most capable to deal with making the decision on a man's life.

Well I can say truthfully that the opportunity to be on that jury did give me a feeling of being included. I could never have imagined as I cowered under brain images of being unacceptable within society's parameters that I would be chosen for such a duty of responsibility. Add to that being respected by the judge, fellow jurors, bailiff's etc. It is really mind blowing to think how far I have come from the days when just leaving my house wearing women's sandals brought on waves of anxiety; days fraught with fear of embarrassment and ridicule; nights spent sleeplessly wondering how I could ever get up the nerve to live as the women that I knew I was. What more wondrous things could possibly happen? Well, maybe being allowed to use the ladies room without ID scrutinization! Hello Florida Legislature and your ludicrous consideration of bathroom bill HB 583. Really, I and people like me are ok to make decisions on people's lives in a court of law but we don't have the right to choose the bathroom that aligns with our identity. Sounds like some of our legislators have too much time on their hands. How about possibly doing some work on our healthcare system! Or maybe some work on our educational system! It definitely is broke if it is producing minds like theirs.

Thankfully more sensible heads prevailed in the bathroom debacle. With each positive experience like my time spent on jury duty I grow stronger in my belief that I belong. A belief that makes it possible to do more valuable things for myself and my fellow planet mates, trans or non-trans!

Who Would Love A Man

By Kane Barr



Kane Barr attends Florida A&M University and is an e-board member of the FAMU LGBT Student Pride Union and the FAMUB Anime Club. Kane also can be found participating in meetings and events with the Inclusive LGBTQA Task Force. Kane has accepted that he is trans* and is starting his journey in becoming the person who he sees on the other side of the mirror.

*With breasts size D of shame
mistreated
compressed
and bound up
in various fabrics
and duct tape*

*With ambiguous genitals
a 2 to 3 inch penis like clit
difficult to penetrate
that cannot aim straight
lacking sperm to give
but eggs to birth*

*With a family who she's him
who cannot accept his deepened voice
his facial hair
the muscles that outline his body
because he will forever be
a daughter, sister, and niece to them*

*With society shunning men
who wears nail polish
maybe sport a bit of make up
has a bit of a swing at the hips
and maybe talks with an effeminate twang
a variant to the classic stereotype*

*With a lack of protection
the arm of the law hold injustice
employers reply back with discrimination
healthcare serve malpractice
a daily dish of street harassment
where safe spaces are limited edition*

*Who would love a man
with D size breasts
ambiguous genitals
a family who she's him
society shuns
and a lack of protection?*

Are the Transgendered the Mine Shaft Canaries of Urban Areas? Part 3

By Petra Doan



Dr. Petra L. Doan is Professor of Urban and Regional Planning in the College of Social Sciences and Public Policy at the Florida State University. After earning a B.A. in Philosophy at Haverford College, Dr. Doan completed a Master of Regional Planning and a Ph.D. from the Department of City and Regional Planning at Cornell University in the field of International Planning. In 1998 she began her transition from male to female, and completed that process in 2001. She has published numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters on international planning as well as planning for marginalized communities, with a special focus on lesbian, gay bisexual, and transgendered individuals. In 2011 her edited book, *Queering Planning: Challenging Heteronormative Assumptions and Reframing Planning Practice*, was published by Ashgate. She has served as the faculty advisor for the Pride Student Union and the steering committee member of the Safe Zone Program. She is a past Board Member for the Family Tree, Tallahassee's LGBT Community Center, and in 2010 was awarded the LGBT Educator of the Year award by the Family Tree. In 2012 she was selected as the John Bousfield Distinguished Planning Visitor for the Fall semester at the University of Toronto, where she taught a course, *Beyond Queer Space Planning for Non-Normative Populations*, and gave the Bousfield public lecture entitled "The Tyranny of Gendered Planning".

Because transgendered populations are widely dispersed, it is not likely that there would ever be enough trans people in one city to establish an enclave similar to established gay and lesbian areas such as in The Castro (San Francisco), Boys Town (Chicago), West Hollywood (California), or Northampton (Massachusetts). However, in the past ten years many doors have opened for trans people with the internet. Virtual neighborhoods have brought together trans people who might otherwise have never communicated with each other. Ensuring relatively easy access to the internet can thus be enormously helpful for trans people. While some transgendered people are doctors, lawyers, university professors, and even city planners, many are members of different social classes. The cost of sexual reassignment surgery alone is enough to wipe out all of someone's savings, leaving very little for the purchase of a computer and subscription to an internet server. Because of prejudice against even post-operative transsexuals, many find it difficult to find gainful employment, which further limits their ability to pay for internet services. Many other low-income urban residents face this situation, but because of their isolation trans people may have no community other than the on-line community with which to associate. Policies to ensure widespread, free access to the internet through libraries and other public facilities could be enormously beneficial to this community.

All the discrimination issues related to housing and other basic services apply to trans people. There are no legal protections for trans people. If someone does not wish to rent to a trans person, they can refuse to do so. If an employer wishes to fire a transgendered employee, they may do so with impunity. Because of their need to save for surgery, trans people often share apartments with others like themselves. In urban areas with limitations on the number of unrelated adults who can live in a single unit, trans people may be adversely affected.

Although there is a slowly increasing tolerance for more visibly identifiable gay and lesbian couples within many cities, acceptance of visible trans people is lagging far behind. If public spaces, parks, streets, and shopping areas do not feel safe to one segment of society how can that space be truly safe for other minorities?

The financial burden on trans people (primarily the cost of therapy, hormones, electrolysis, and surgery) may drive some less affluent trans people to seek positions as sex workers. People who have been so stigmatized and marginalized by society often feel that there is no other option for them than to sell their bodies for money. Areas like the Tenderloin in San Francisco often become a focal point for down and out trans folks, who often work as prostitutes. Policies intended to regulate or eradicate such sex districts may have a powerful and negative influence on these highly marginalized individuals, for whom other employment opportunities are limited.

Planners should not, however, fall into the common misconception that all trans people are sex workers. Transgendered people come in every shape and size and are drawn from nearly every segment of society. Because of their uniquely gendered position they are often highly vulnerable to the same kinds of discrimination that oppress other minorities, but because of their visibility they are likely to be like lightning rods for bigotry — or canaries in a mine shaft. Progressive planners should make extra efforts to understand this segment of the population. Ensuring their safety will make the city a safer place for all minorities.

Are We at WAR?

By Barbara Ann Myers

UPCOMING EVENTS

GENDER CHAT

2nd Tuesday of Every Month
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM
Waterworks, 1133 Thomasville
Rd
Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8,
(2016) Jan. 12, Feb. 9, March 8,
April 12, May 10

GENDER GROUP THERAPY with Lorin Brand, LMHC

Meets every other Wed. 5-6:30PM
at 109 W. 4th Ave. For more info
contact Lorin at
lorinbrand@gmail.com or 850-
308-5429

THE OUTLET TRANS YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

Every other Thurs. from 7:30-
8:30PM, at 1200 Stearns St. For
more info go to:
theoutlettallahassee@gmail.com

A CONVERSATION ON TRANS SEX AND SAFETY

November date TBA
Nov. 20(Fri.)

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE (TDOR)

Nov. 20(Fri.)
Details TBA

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER

Dec. 24(Wed.)(7PM)
Essence of India
1105 Apalachee Pkwy

Not really but yes, it is a battle of sorts. As a Civil War Re-enactor, I have encountered many responses to my re-enacting. Last year, when I was at the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg along with about 12,000 other re-enactors, two reporters from the York (Pennsylvania) Daily Record found me and interviewed me for their Sunday paper. That Sunday afternoon, I went to some of the actual battlefields to pay homage to those that fought in this horrible war, still in period dress from head to toe. As I was walking back to my car after looking at the North Carolina monument, I heard a voice behind me. I turned around and a woman approached and asked if I was in today's paper. I asked her what paper and she told me the correct one. I then acknowledged that it was me. She then thanked me for such a great article. I then walked on to my car and drove to the Virginia monument. After standing at that monument for a while, I heard that same voice again. I responded, the woman then asked if she could have her picture taken with me. I responded with a yes. Before I could walk the seventy to eighty feet back to my car, several people asked if they could have their picture taken with me. It took me around thirty to forty-five minutes to get back to my car because so many people wanted to get their picture taken with a Civil War Lady. That night, when I got back to my motel room, another re-enactor, from Kentucky, had private messaged me and thanked me for the beautiful article in the paper. This nineteen-year-old person told me that she was a Transwoman also and that she had been afraid to tell the Sgt. in charge of her re-enacting troop that she was a Transwoman. She then stated that my article gave her the courage to come out to her troop and that she was looking forward to going to events as a woman of the period. We have not had a face-to-face meeting yet. I hope that soon, we will have that face-to-face meeting at an event.

In August, I traveled to just north of Akron, Ohio to participate in the Hale Farm & Village Civil War Event. Reilly's Artillery Brigade invited me to their group camp supper on Saturday night. Sunday morning, before I had even a chance to get up and dressed, a man who was camped across the "street" from me had already started building my fire so that I could cook my breakfast.

At the Battle of Marianna back in September, I was there participating in the Friday School Day talking about the differences between Northern wool and Southern wool and the types of cotton. An older man walked up and starting yelling at the top of his lungs that I "was a disgrace to those that served in the Civil War". The other re-enactors that were around me and talking about the importance of salt and explaining how to spin, all had to quit talking until this guy shut up and finally walked off. As he started his diatribe, I turned my back to him and looked at the woman that had asked several questions and just shrugged my shoulders. She understood what I meant. After he finally walked away, the woman that I was facing then asked me to continue since she wanted to know more about the different fibers.

At work, Dept. of Highway Safety & Motor Vehicles, I am on the phone a lots talking to law enforcement officers, the public and lawyers about what kind of data they want me to pull for them. As I was talking to one lawyer, he asked me to confirm my name, I repeated it to him and he said that I did not sound like a Barbara because I had too much bass in my voice. I jokingly told him it was from all of the years that I smoked. This is like one of the skits that Margeaux wrote about being on the phone and being mis-gendered. There have been way too many times when I tell the person on the other end of the phone conversation my full name and they say,

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I AM A POEM BY EMMA LEE CHATTIN

*I defied the gender binary.
I challenged the first pronouncement ever made about me.
I questioned the evidence my body presented to me,
and I took issue with the guidance of my parents,
who assumed,
and nudged my life down one path
without even asking me
if that's where I wanted to go.*

*I confounded my society and my culture,
and I ignored what I was told was the norm.*

*I lived on the edges
and I defied definitions.*

I am far more than the names I have been called.

*I have done many things and lived many lives.
I am the rule-breaker, the exception, the trickster,
the one who divides and multiplies the gender binary
until it becomes a string of infinite possibilities.*

*In ancient times I was celebrated
as one who walked in many worlds.
I was revered as the one who embodied transformation
and who showed the world
we can change*

*But ancient wisdom has long been forgotten
and now I pay the price for our forgetfulness.
We tend to behave badly toward
that which we do not understand,
and therein lies the pain.
Like all of creation, I am a mystery.*

*I don't seek to be understood.
I just seek to be accepted.*



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WWW.TRANSGENDERTALLAHASSEE.COM

Sorry Young Man; It's a Girl Dear *continued from page 1:*

accept that the best I can do is to continue to work toward sex and gender equality in a variety of ways in my daily life, build relationships with people working toward the same goal, and not worry too much about those who do not understand that sex and gender privilege do not always work the same way for all transpeople—the ability to grow a beard did not change the way I interact with others or my worldview overnight.



Andrew Seeber is a trans identified PhD Candidate in Sociology and Feminist Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He currently lives in Tallahassee with his fiancée while completing his dissertation. He has taught a course in gender theory and transpeople's experiences at UCSB and focuses his research on transpeople.

Are We at War? *continued from page 5:*

“thank you Mr. Myers”. When I was having some problems with my Comcast Internet service, I was on the phone with them almost every day and invariably, I was always called Mr. Myers and they asked to talk to Barbara whose name is on the account. I would ask them what name I gave them and they would repeat my name back and then immediately ask to speak with me. I would then respond that they were speaking to me. During the lengthy conversation, they would slip back to calling me sir, I would ask them what my name was and they would repeat it back and then apologize. Again, they would slip back to the wrong gender again and then I would start calling them by the opposite gender. They hardly ever noticed it.

So, as you can see, no matter what aspect of life we are in at the moment, it is a battle that we fight every day to be recognized as the person who we are. In addition, you never know when you are setting an example to others who may not have come out due to the large fear factor. The bottom line is that we should always be the best person that we can be because you never know who you might meet face to face or in a newspaper article, TV news clip, Facebook or in other media.

Barbara Ann Myers started questioning her gender before she was 8 years old. Her questioning led her to search the libraries in Washington, DC. during her six years in the Navy. There she found Christine Jorgensen's auto-biography. It answered so many questions! Only after many years of personal growth was she able to officially change her name and her gender marker on Dec. 7, 2011 to reflect the person that she really is.

**A STORY OF SURVIVAL
BY
ELLIOT SEBASTIAN JUDE**

My name is Elliot Sebastian Jude and I was born different. I am a female to male transgender.

I am almost 30 and my journey has been one that has been tough and rewarding. I live in a state where transgender individuals have a hard time finding ways of getting hormone therapy, money for surgery etc.

In the early twenties of my life I experienced severe depression and dysphoria. I attempted multiple ways to mask my pain. Battled a hard drug addiction and even tried to take my own life.

A year ago I was brutally attacked in a parking lot. My throat was slit. I was pronounced dead. 75 stitches or so later I awoke with a constant reminder on my throat of the hate transgender people face every day. The incident never made the paper and the two individuals are only facing 8 years in prison with early parole. I was informed that by making the choice to be who I am, as if it was a choice, I was just asking to be attacked.

Since then the injustice I have faced has made me fight for the rights that we deserve. I was told by my employer that I was not allowed to use the men's bathroom. I fought him about it. I educated him. I convinced him that his close minded opinion would not only set trans rights back, but he would lose his head chef of ten years. Now he has stood behind me in his disapproval of the Trans Bathroom Bill (HB 583).

Every day is a new day! We are not alone! My goal is to bring awareness to the world and show that we're not freaks. We want the same thing everyone desires. Love! Acceptance! No hiding! No Ridicule! We have as much a right to a happy life as anyone else. Nobody should ever go through what I did, but in reality people are being murdered and nothing is being done about it. So please fight back! Let's rally together and put an end to the hate!

**TRANSGENDER CREED
by TONIE DOZIER**

T is for truth. We are legitimate and believable, which confirms our authenticity!

R is for realistic. We are who we are, indicating an awareness of things as they really are!

A is for authentic. We are not counterfeit; we are actual, bona fide and genuine!

N is for never-ending. We are enduring for all times!

S is for style; which is our own distinctive way of expressing ourselves!

G is for glorious. We are marked by our extraordinary elegance, beauty and splendor!

E is for exuberance! Our spirits are without restraint!

N is for noticeable. We are bold and conspicuous!

D is for dynamic! We are forceful, vigorous and powerful, withstanding considerable stress and hardship!

E is for existence. We shall go unquestioned!

R is for respect. We serve as an example, symbolizing our best to humanity!!