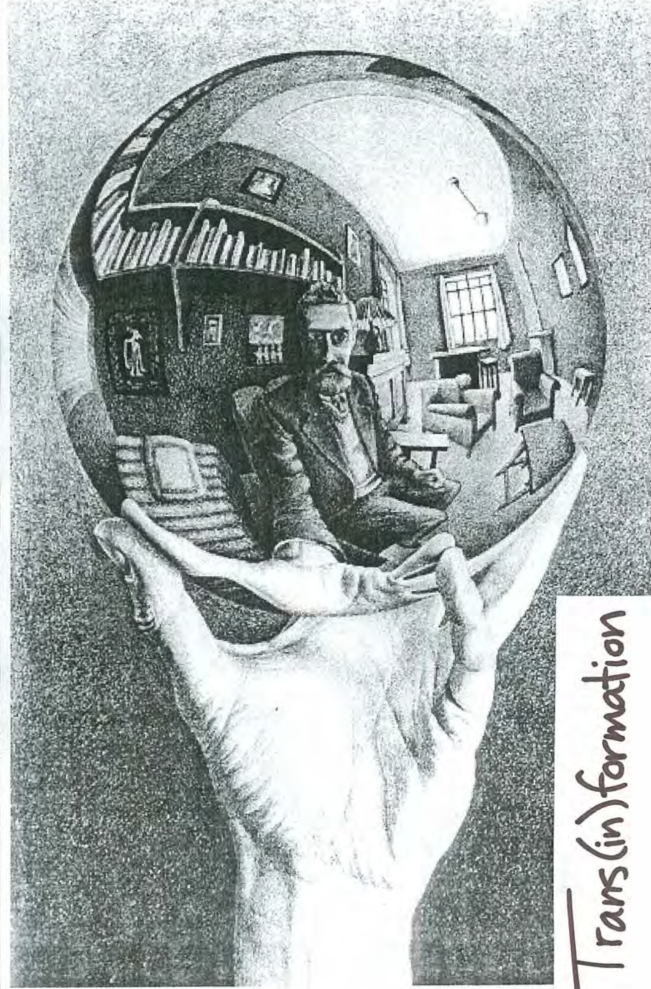




If you have any information or work that you'd like added to future editions of Trans(in)formation, please e-mail shortandqueer@yahoo.com



Trans(in)formation

The following information about zinesters and specific zines are current as of October 2004. They are listed in no particular order.

Publisher: veruska outlaw

Zine: Clit Rocket

E-mail: veruskaoutlaw@yahoo.it

Website: www.clitrocket.altervista.org

Description: Clit Rocket it's a homo art, gender fuck, queer feminist zine.

Publisher: Gina Kametsky

Zine: T-Gina

E-mail: ginak@pixeltoon.com

Website: <http://www.t-gina.com/> & <http://www.pixeltoon.com>

Mailing Address: 1 Fitchburg St. B353 / Somerville, MA 02143

Description: A professional-looking comic book telling "the tale of a fabulous Transgendered gal and her search for validation and a decent cup of coffee."

Publisher: Jamez Terry

Zine: Transcendence

E-mail: vermicious_knid_21@yahoo.com

Description: A collection of personal pieces, art, poetry and writing about safer sex by and for trans youth.

Publisher: izz barnavelt

Zine: the wicked which

E-mail: namesofthings@yahoo.com

Description: Issue four has writings on growing up first-generation middle class, no the aftermath of coming out to family and friends, and social anxiety disorder ally guidelines. Issue five is in the works.

Publisher: adrian elias

Zine: bitching does start a revolution

E-mail: tranny_train@yahoo.com



from T-Gina #1

The first edition of *Trans(in)formation* was created to be used in a workshop at the Madison Zine Fest on October 8, 2004. This zine was created in order to:

Provide a resource

The main purpose of this zine is to create a resource for folks who want more options when it comes to reading about gender. The zines listed and excerpted inside focus on the breakdown of the binary gender system and explore the varied personal experiences that people have with gender. Reading these zines have challenged the way I perceive gender and gendered politics. I have also been thrilled to see my experiences mirrored and validated in ways that do not happen often in other mainstream media.

Fill in gaps in the zine community

When looking for most genres of zines (food, skating, music, etc), you may find a wealth of information. However, when I started looking for zines that focus on genderqueer/transgender issues, I had some trouble. My question became, "Do these zines exist and I'm just having trouble finding them or do they simply not exist?" As word about this project spread, I was thrilled with the responses that I received, but I was hoping to find more zines and zinesters to add to these pages. I'm sure that over time, more relevant zines will find their ways to my hands. In the meantime, here is an attempt to fill in a gap in the zine community.

Promote Visibility

As a long-time queer/trans activist, I am always concerned with the issue of promoting visibility. Not the mainstream, degrading look-at-the-freaks kind of visibility. A healthy, this-is-what-we-really-look-and-act-like visibility. And if we identify as freaks, we're damn proud of it. Most of all, I wanted to illustrate the different ways that people relate to gender (if at all) and how they express this relationship in a zine format.



Special Thanks to everyone
who sent me zines and
information for the resource
pages, Jamez, Anna, Ruth, Sam,
Brid, Christopher & Alycia.

section seven.

advice for trans activists interested in working with incarcerated trans people

Ideas for Helping Trans Prisoners 11-2-03 (originally July 1999)

STEPH TURNER

- * Pen pal service. Mail forwarding service, in keeping with DOC policies.
- * Newsletter like TIP.
- * In newsletter, share history of TIP and past efforts to aid prisoners.
- * Provide section in newsletter for the readers to share their horror stories, survival stories, tips for coming out in prison, encouragement, etc.
- * In each issue of newsletter, have a feature that reports on the advances and reverses in proper gender care in the different prisons of the country and world. To help gather this information, include an invitation in the newsletter to report any pertinent changes in prison policy affecting the TG.
- * News briefs section in newsletter to update trans prisoners of the significant developments in genderland, especially those with no access to *Tapestry* or other trans journalism.
- * Exchange newsletter with prisoner/institutional press. (In package sent to Kia Eap, I had a sample letter for this purpose from when I worked on a prisoner newspaper.)
- * Exchange newsletter with the newsletters issued by prisoner support orgs. (Examples I sent to Kia Eap: CURE, MI-CURE, FANM, etc.)
- * Educate general prison population on gender issues through:
 - * articles sent to and published in prisoner support org newsletters;
 - * serving as a volunteer to seminars and/or monthly support groups;
 - * donation of IGPE or other trans literature to facility libraries.
- * Provide opportunity to donate stamps, where permissible by DOC. Likewise, provide opportunity to contribute cash where permissible by DOC.
- * Provide a referral list of TG friendly lawyers and counselors in each state. (Dr. Sheila Kirk was assembling such a list in mid 90s.)
- * Reach out to all gender variant prisoners.
- * Network with other prisoner support groups, such as CURE, AFSC, and FANM.
- * Work with prisoner support orgs for overall prison reform; i.e., rehabilitation thru self-awareness is far better than years of bitter warehouse incarceration that leads to a high risk of recidivism once released without help.
- * Set up regional or state chapters, as CURE and FANM have done.
- * Submit informative articles or ads in as many TG periodicals as possible, informing gender community of the issues facing incarcerated transfolk.
- * Submit press releases to media sources (print-AP, radio, TV, Internet) on significant events affecting incarcerated transfolk. (Note: The editor of *Kalwisisaks*, the newspaper of Wisconsin Ojibwa Indians of whom I'm an enrolled collaborator, collaborates for the Associate Press because he is at the source of much local Indian news; this could be model for us.)
- * Through a form letter campaign that could lead to personal encounters, educate local, state, and federal policymakers on the issues facing incarcerated transfolk.
- * Help existing gender support groups to become a resource for local police, jails and prisons, when dealing with gender variant offenders and victims.
- * Petition local gender support groups to consider "sponsoring" incarcerated transfolk in their state or local area. Sponsoring may include little more than a paid subscription to *Tapestry* or other educational trans literature for those who have no other access to such material.
- * Compile a list of which state's DOC prohibits prisoners from receiving *Tapestry* and other gender education material. Write to that state's DOC leadership to inquire exactly why the prohibition and what if anything can be done to assure this rehabilitative material gets where it is needed.
- * Network with national, regional, and local GLST groups/orgs. Work towards developing a common strategy for serving needs of social minority prisoners.
- * Network with TOBS (Transgender Officers Protect & Serve.)
- * Network with other GLST activist and prisoner reform groups, and see how we can help one another's goals. Network with the restorative justice movement.
- * Create a package of information for addressing spiritual needs of incarcerated transfolk, offering them to TG-friendly faith-based institutions. Note: Most prisoners who struggle with gender issues privately are prone to turn to religion for resolving their haunting needs, and avoid any reminder of their past litigious path - missing the liberating info they need.



She said, you look like a boy
I said, I am a boy
and I am a wearer of leather
and a baker of pies
and a mediocre pinochle player-
but not all the time
(sometimes I'm great)

She said, but you sound like a girl
I said, that's cuz I am a girl
when I'm being whirled across the dance floor
or the Boston Public Gardens
at other times, too-
but not when I'm swimming
or running through the rain

She said, now really- which one are you?
So I told her- I can change with the wind
I am a tomgirl wonderboy star

And she said, I don't understand

Jamez Terry

from Transcendence
Winter 02/03

from Transsexuals in Prison

Publisher: Max Spit

Zine: H Days

Mailing Address: 4050 Tyler Road Ewell, MD 21824

Description: A personal documentation of "a young transman, and [his] most recent trials and experiences with surgery: A Laparoscopically (lapp-row-ska-pick-ka-lee) – Assisted Vaginal Hysterectomy. Or, in the words of my friend Todd, the H."

Publisher: lowrey

Zine: Gender Queer (GQ)

E-mail: alowrey@lclark.edu

Mailing Address: 0615 SW Palatine Hill Rd. MSC 125 / Portland, OR 97219

Description: A split zine of personal accounts with gender, through poetry, prose and interviews, as well as a vegan cookzine.



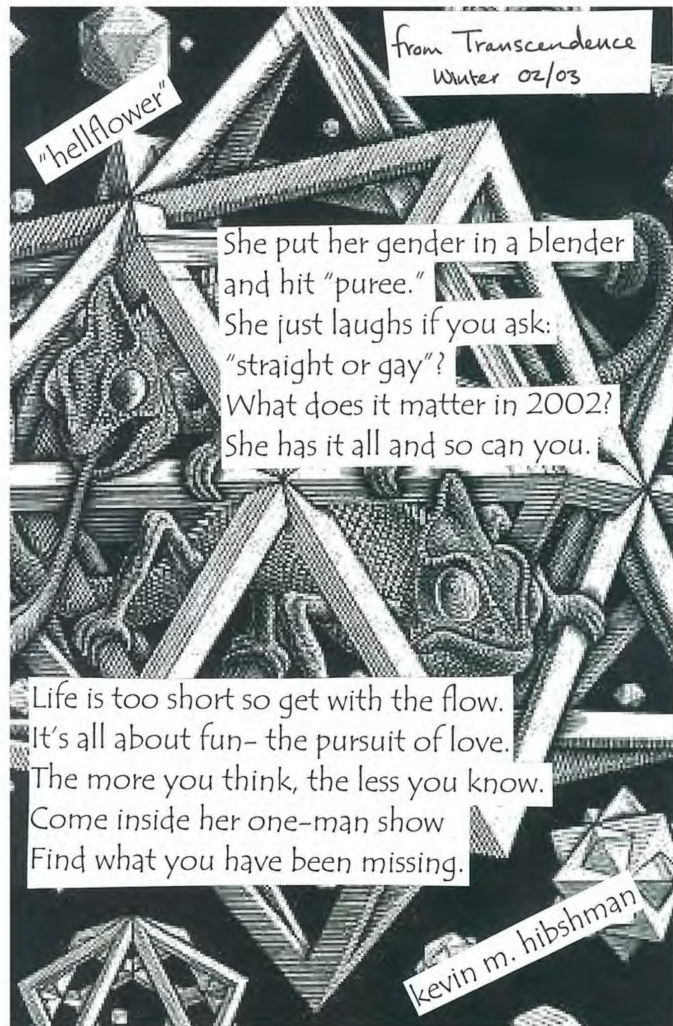
In the future, I'd like to create updated editions of this zine. To do so, I need folks who write about these issues (no matter your gender identity or expression) to give me a heads up that these zines exist. The best way to contact me is by e-mail (shortandqueer@yahoo.com) since I have been pretty transient recently and am not sure where I'll end up in the near future.

All of the zines listed in the resource pages are from the United States. I'd like to see this become an international resource someday.

-kelly shortandqueer

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- * Provide gender info brochures (like those featured in *Tapestry* #101) to prisoners that request them. Send several copies of these kits to each facility psychologist, since they are often the first to have a prisoner open up about their secret gender issues.
- * Through a Website and printed material, provide resources to ex-con transfolk needing directions for transitioning back into community as self-identified gender – especially after a long incarceration.
- * Encourage GLBT leaders behind bars to draft a proposal (in those states where this is appropriate) to set up a gender or GLBT support group. Write to each DOC to ask what their policy is for such a proposed organization.
- * Request each state's DOC for their transgender, G.I.D. or gender dysphoria policy. If none available, inquire why. ACA compliant?
- * Form letter sent to each DOC that presents our agenda as a nonthreatening resolution to their growing population of TG prisoners, open to their input.
- * Check each state's DOC housing arrangements for transsexuals in transition.
- * Propose each state provide a TG or TS care facility or unit. (This idea is being pursued by Ophelia De'Lonta, as a class action lawsuit remedy.)
- * Compile stats on how compliant each state is to their own stated GID policy. Publish as a graded score on Website, newsletter, news release (AP, each DOC's newsletter), and letter to appropriate congresspersons.
- * Compile list of who in each state legislature has authority over DOC policy making. Perhaps find who in each state legislature is pro prison reform and GLBT friendly.
- * Provide legal kits for TSs in need of treatment, how to seek proper treatment with or without prior diagnosis, with updated case law supporting their legal claims for petitioned treatment.
- * For TSs seeking proper treatment, draft guidelines on how to best utilize prison law libraries and other resources; compile history of successful litigants and inquire their availability as a resource for those just beginning their transition journey.
- * Collect case histories of successful transitions and treatments in prison setting, with post release effect of receiving one's gender rehabilitation.
- * Collect contrasting case histories of impeded transitions and poor or withheld treatment while under custody, with post release effect on recidivism.
- * Website for posting stories of incarcerated transfolk, horror stories; corroborative evidence where available to increase credibility. Invite feedback from those visiting the site. Share feedback with trans prisoners.
- * Collect case statistics of parole (in those states that still have parole) and compare with case histories of TSs who have been denied parole for dubious reasons. Compare recidivism rates of those who have received proper gender treatment with those transfolk who haven't.
- * Encourage increased awareness among trans prisoners about the political effect of their actions, attitudes towards state staff, sexual behaviors, misconduct histories, the backlash of being defensive towards misinformed

corrections staff, of AIDS threat and perception, of fears of sexual violence when being labeled as a "sissy" that keep most heterosexual transfolk hiding in the dark, the diverse motivations of staff in their attitudes toward us, etc. Encourage them not to give up but to endure valiantly, so we can win in the court of public opinion.

- * List of name and address of each state's DOC head/regional medical official.
- * Campaign to educate courts, prosecutors, defense lawyers, police stations, probation and parole officers, and anyone who deal with TSs who find themselves in trouble with the law or victim of a crime.
- * Query universities with intern programs in their Psychology and/or Corrections degree programs; volunteer to help educate the next generation of prison staff in the needs of trans prisoners. Work in concert with other trans activists who speak regularly at colleges for this purpose.
- * Collect documentation of abuses of incarcerated transfolk. Gather verifiable stories of suffered injustices to pitch to local, national, and specialty news media outlets (as Roni Sobrette once tried to do).
- * Craft a workbook for dealing with gender issues from inside prison.
- * Provide a hotline (that can be called collect) for transfolk to leave their name, state ID number, facility address, and problem, when needing to report any life-threatening gender related violence suffered by staff neglect, and when they have no where else to turn for help.
- * Compartmentalize these suggested services. Seek volunteers to cover each aspect, especially those who have been released and desire to give back to the trans community. (Or specialize by regional chapters.)
- * Trans Prisoners Services
- * Trans Educational Services to Judicial Staff
- * Trans Prisoner Political Activism Services

DEFINITIONS

Assigned Sex*: The announcement by doctors (It's a boy/girl) based on what your physical anatomy looks like. Based on this, you are supposed to grow up, to be and exist within a certain set of gender roles.

Binary Gender System*: A culturally and socially defined code of "acceptable" behaviors that teach that there are men and women, who are masculine and feminine, and that there is nothing outside of this system.

Cross-Dressing* (also Transvestite, Transvestitism): A person who takes on one or more characteristics (performance, actions, behaviors, dress, grooming, adornment and speech) typical for another gender on occasion, but does not desire to change their gender. Reasons for cross-dressing can range from a need to express a feminine or masculine side to attainment of erotic/sexual/fetish gratification. Cross-dressers can be of any sexual orientation, but within this community, there is a large percentage of heterosexual/straight identified individuals.

Drag* (also Drag King, Drag Queen, Female/Male Impersonator): A person who plays with gender expression and roles for entertainment purposes, often exaggerating cultural/stereotypical gender characteristics.

Effeminate*: Used to identify a person who expresses and/or presents culturally/stereotypically feminine characteristics. This is often viewed as a negative term.

F2M, FTM, Female to Male, Female Towards Male*: Used to identify a person who was assigned a female sex at birth and who identifies as male or masculine, or lives as a man.

Female: A label used to signify a "human sex," the biological designation based on genitalia in this case a vagina and a clitoris. This can also be used socially, and by an individual to label their gender identity.

Gender: A blurry group of emotional and psychological characteristics that classify an individual as feminine, masculine, androgynous or other. The classification and assumption that one is male, female, or intersex

The following information about zinesters and specific zines may not be current but is worth listing. They are listed in no particular order.

Publisher: Cindy
Zine: Doris (21)
Mailing Address: PO Box 1734 / Asheville, NC 28802

Publisher: Jesse Pack
Zine: Faeryland (1, 2)
E-mail: jessethaboi@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: 21 Lancaster St, Basement / Worcester, MA 01609

Publisher: Liberte unLocked
Zine: Fixing Her Hair
E-mail: FreedBiArt@topseven.com
Mailing Address: 1573 N. Milwaukee / PMB 420 / Chicago, IL 60622

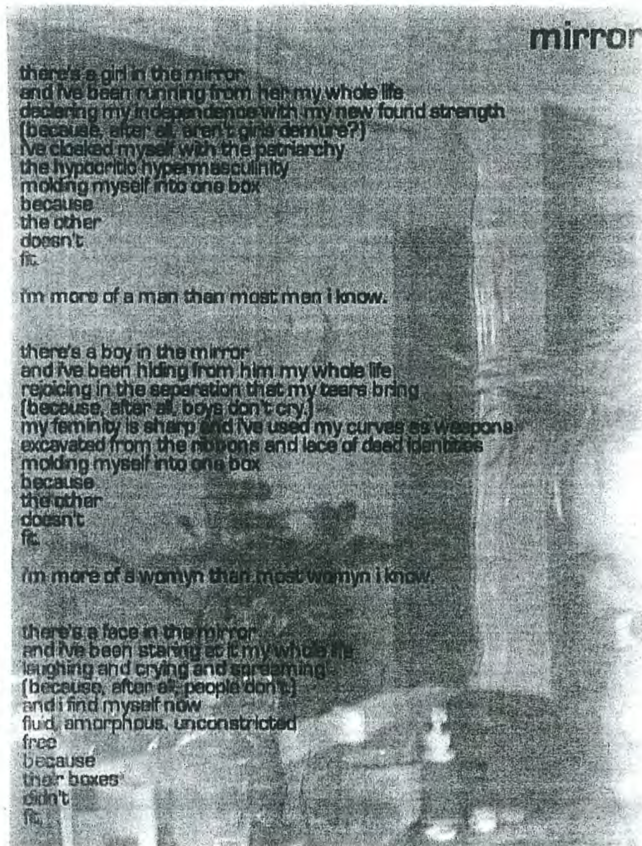
Publisher: rachel szego
Zine: petroleuse
Mailing Address: PO Box 6737 / Ithaca, NY 14851

Publisher: Toby
Zine: Subject to Change
Mailing Address: PO Box 400686 / N. Cambridge, MA 02140

Zine: The Outlaw Sister Riff (V. 1, No 2)
E-mail: sisterriff@hotmail.com

Zine: Trannies In Love
E-mail: tranny@tranniesinlove.com
Mailing Address: PO Box 171 / Schenectady, NY 12301

Publisher: Health Initiatives for Youth
Zine: Vital Signs
Mailing Address: 235 Montgomery St, #430 / San Francisco, CA 94104



mirror

there's a girl in the mirror
and I've been running from her my whole life
declaring my independence with my new found strength
(because, after all, aren't girls demure?)
I've cloaked myself with the patriarchy
the hypocritical hypermasculinity
molding myself into one box
because
the other
doesn't
fit.

I'm more of a man than most men I know.

there's a boy in the mirror
and I've been hiding from him my whole life
rejoicing in the separation that my tears bring
(because, after all, boys don't cry)
my femininity is sharp and I've used my curves as weapons
excavated from the no-nos and lace of dead identities
molding myself into one box
because
the other
doesn't
fit.

I'm more of a woman than most women I know.

there's a face in the mirror
and I've been staring at it my whole life
laughing and crying and screaming
(because, after all, people don't)
and I find myself now
fluid, amorphous, unconstricted
free
because
the "boxes"
didn't
fit.

from GQ (Gender Queer) Vol. One Half



from H-Days

Publisher: Clark Sheldon
Zine: Fagment-Fragment (issues 2 and 3)
E-mail: fabflab@hotmail.com
Mailing Address: 59 1/2 St. Mary's Street / Burlington, VT 05401
Description: The personal is political. My body is my weapon. These zines are a mix of personal experience, imagination, desire and hope. My wish is for readers to find a piece of themselves among my words and carry on the message. Copy at will, but please attribute my words to my name.

Publisher: James McQuiston
Zine: Neufutur and Interstitial
E-mail: editor@neufutur.com
Website: http://www.neufutur.com
Mailing Address: 308 S. Maple St. / Lancaster, OH 43130
Description: Neufutur is a personal 'zine that describes the adventures of a 21 yr old genderqueer kid, the Lancaster, Ohio punk rock scene, and a myriad of cruddy jobs and loves. Interstitial is a political, musical, and DIY magazine. The political side is heavily based on breaking down the societal power-struggle that is gender. Music is anything local, anything constructed with love, and DIY has a number of how-to pieces.

Publisher: Suzie Crashcourse
Zine: Bits and Pieces
E-mail: irremable_loss@yahoo.com
Mailing Address: 3651 Barron / Memphis, TN 38111
Description: A humorous comic about a young child's reluctance to do/wear things to be feminine and the reactions of her parents.

Publisher: Amanda Armstrong
Zine: Transsexuals in Prison
Mailing Address: Swarthmore College / 500 College Ave / Swarthmore, PA 19081
Description: An amazing zine filled with personal stories about transgressing gender in the prison system, resources, advice for trans activists interested in working with incarcerated trans people and pen pal listings.

at birth, and that one will act in a certain manner based on that assumption.

Gender Expression: The self-expression, performance, actions, behavior, dress, grooming, adornment, and speech of either culturally prescribed norms that are attributed to a binary set of human sexes (male and female), or anything else a person wishes to mix up to explain themselves.

Gender Identity: The inner sense of 'being' male, female, both, all, multi or neither. This usually matches with one's physical anatomy, but sometimes does not. Gender identity includes one's sense of self, the image that one presents to the world, and the perception that world has of an individual.

Genderqueer*: A term which is used by some people who may or may not fit on the spectrum of trans, or be labeled as trans, but who identify their gender and their sexual orientation to be outside of the assumed norm.

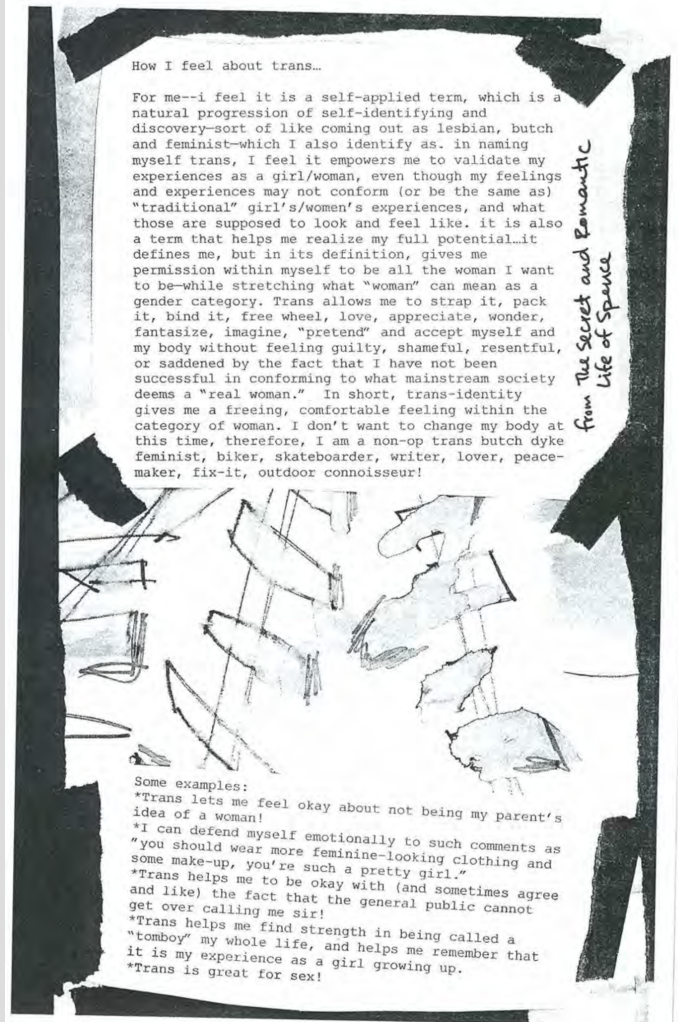
Gender Role: The social expectation of how an individual should act, think and feel – defining them as being male or female. Behavior categorized as feminine or masculine according to cultural/stereotypical norms, which are perceived both positively and negatively.

Intersexed* (also Hermaphrodite): A person born with ambiguous genitalia and/or with chromosomal/hormonal differences or secondary sex characteristics outside of the typical, for either of the two defined physical sexes. Typically, a singular gender is assigned. Surgery is common in infancy, for babies born with anatomy or physiology, which differs from cultural ideals of male and female.

M2F, MTF, Male to Female, Male Towards Female*: Used to identify a person who was assigned a male sex at birth and who identifies as female or feminine, or lives as a woman.

Male: A label used to signify a "human sex," the biological designation based on genitalia, in this case a penis and testicles. This can also be used socially and by an individual to label their gender identity.

Non-Op*: Individuals who do not desire to attain "gender reassignment surgery", and may or may not take hormone therapy. For many individuals, self-identification through various methods of gender expression achieves harmony or congruence between one's



body and one's gender identity, and there is no need felt for surgical reconstruction.

Post-Op*: Individuals who have attained "gender reassignment surgery", and/or other surgeries to change physical characteristics.

Pre-Op*: Individuals who have not attained "gender reassignment surgery", but who desire to do so and are seeking that as an option. They may or may not take hormone therapy.

Sex (noun): Sex has been historically and medically used to identify genetic/biological/hormonal/physical 'sex' characteristics, including genitalia, which are used to classify an individual as female, male or intersex.

Trans (also Transgender): Those who transgress societal gender norms; often used as an umbrella term to mean those who defy rigid gender constructions, and who express or present a breaking and/or blurring of cultural/stereotypical gender roles. This includes BUT not limited to androgynes, cross-dressers, gender-benders, intersexed individuals, shape shifters, transvestites, and transsexuals.

Transphobia: The irrational fear of those who are perceived to break and/or blur cultural stereotypical gender roles, often assumed to be queer. Expressed as negative feelings, attitudes, actions or behaviors against those perceived as breaking and/or blurring cultural/stereotypical gender roles.

Transsexual (also Female to Male (FTM/F2M), Male to Female (MTF/M2F), Pre-Operative, Post-Operative, Non-Operative: A person who, through experiencing an intense long-term discomfort resulting from feeling the inappropriateness of their assigned gender at birth and discomfort of their body, adapts their gender role and body in order to reflect and be congruent with their gender identity. This may include cross-living, synthesized sex hormones, surgery and other body modification, which may or may not lead to the feeling of harmony between a person's body and gender identity.

The original definitions come from a "Gender Terminology List" developed by T. Aaron Hans in 1998.

Definitions with an asterisk () have been edited in some way (parts added, changed or removed).*

Publisher: kelly shortandqueer

Zine: Do As I Say, Not As I Do: Family Lessons to Unlearn

E-mail: shortandqueer@yahoo.com

Description: A perzine about bringing a trans boyfriend home to meet the family on Thanksgiving.

Publisher: Click Patterdale

Zine: life doesn't come with training wheels

E-mail: click_patterdale@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.fauxpasproductions.com/cpatterdale.shtml>

Mailing Address: 931 NW 20th Apt 16 / Portland, OR 97209

Description: "life doesn't come with training wheels" discusses the fluidity of my identity and how i see the world including my past sexual abuse, my abusive mother, domestic violence in my own past relationships, many genderqueer rants, queer words, what it has meant to start and then permanently stop "transitioning from female to male" (including being on hormones for a year) and coming back out as a dyke boi genderqueer tranny half-breed freak!!! my life with chosen children (two dogs and a cat)

Publisher: darby hickey

Zine: Portrait of the Artist as a Young Trannie

E-mail: darby@mutualaid.org

Mailing Address: 1359 Monroe St, NW / Washington DC 20011

Description: A zine concerned with issues of gender, race, class and more from a first person perspective. Heavy on essays, humor, interviews, lite on personal tales, poetry, original drawings.

Publisher: spence

Zine: The Secret and Romantic Life of Spence

E-mail: lifeofspence@yahoo.com

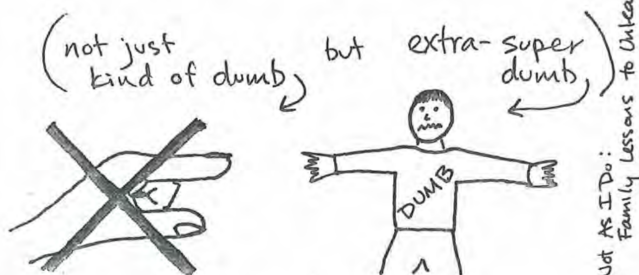
Description: The Secret and Romantic Life of Spence follows our tranny character through the turmoils of discovering gender variance, love and political consciousness. Humor, book reviews, comics and love notes. Special sections include letters to the editor and bike mechanic advice and humorous bike stories.

Publisher: Katie Kaput

Zine: Grrrl Dick

E-mail: katiekaput@aol.com

And there was my family, going back & forth on pronouns because they were following his lead. And all I could think was that my dad is dumb.



James & I managed to excuse ourselves shortly after my uncle [from examples 1 & 2 on pg 485] showed up.

In the car, with a headache and a sore throat, James described how he felt with my family.

INVISIBLE

Something hit home with that one word that I couldn't put my finger on until later.

It's an almost perfect word to describe how I usually feel when I'm with my family.

INVISIBLE



It seems to be a requirement...that queers come out of childhood...scarred...burned...broken...we don't live eighteen years in our parent's homes...forced to fend for ourselves at a much earlier age...we carry the pain...the shame...wanting only to make them happy...to hear them say...they are proud...just proud...whenever i think things have changed...i am forced to realize...we are all the same...our stories...our pain...like xerox copies...spitting out...generation after generation...our parents shouldn't be allowed to have us...we are too special...to be treated this way...beautiful queer angels...words shoot like bullets...piercing our tender hearts...shattering them...and yet...all we want...is the band-aid...only mother can give...all we want is for them...to put our hearts back together...but they are gone...unable to comprehend...who and what...we are...leaving us...forced to sew our hearts...our lives...together...not even knowing where to begin...teaching ourselves...as we go along...i am here...heart mended...sewn together...in a messy but strong stitch...this heart has healed from the pain...the wounds...their love inflicted...but it bleeds...with the pain of my people...when i hear the stories...of the pain...i don't know one person my age...who has lived eighteen years in their parent's home...who isn't black and blue...from years of abuse...words. bruse. better. than. fists...beautiful queer angels...tonight i listen to one of them cry...there is nothing i can do...but listen...i wish i could reach through these phone lines...and hug them...but they are cross-town...and i am here...listening to them cry...how all they want...is to make her understand...how much they want to hear her say...she is proud...that she loves them...in their voice...i hear myself...my mind travels back...four years...where: am them...crying over my mother...how i love her...and of those who listened to my pain...it's my turn to give back...we are family...family sticks together...the only ones who understand...us against them...against the world...and i tucked them in...as others did me...wanting your last thoughts...before sleep overtakes your exhausted body...to be of strength...strength and hope.

from Life Doesn't Come With Training Wheels