



Quatrefolio

Quatrefoil Library 1619 Dayton Avenue, Suite 105, St. Paul, MN 55104 www.qlibrary.org Vol. 1.5 No. 2 – Spring 2005

Gender! *A Discussion*

By Barbara Satin

Gender! It's amazing what havoc that six-letter word can wreak on the psyches of ordinary people.

A high school principal recently had a girl's picture removed from the school yearbook because she wore a tuxedo instead of a formal. She said she wasn't comfortable showing herself in a formal and the tux was her response. The principal claimed she was not being punished for stepping outside the normal gender role but instead for "breaking the rules."

During a government-sponsored conference on the risks of suicide among GLBT youths, the sponsoring agency decided presenters could not use the words *gay*, *lesbian*, *bisexual* or *transgender* in materials promoting the event—even though these were the subjects of the meeting. After heated discussion, the agency slightly modified its ban—allowing promotional material to include sanitized titles like "suicide among at-risk youths" and permitting the use of *sexual orientation* in the discussion. But they refused to allow use of the term *gender identity*.

What causes this paranoia? Why would seemingly well-intentioned people refuse to accept a teen's response to an uncomfortable situation? Why would they fail to acknowledge that gender identity has a legitimate place in a discussion about suicide risks among GLBT teens? What about the youths who are at risk because they are questioning their gender?

As a transgender woman I can only speak from my own experience, but I think the answer lays in the fact that people want, or need, certainty about gender. And we who violate that certainty scare the pants—or skirts—off them.

Certainty. There are boys and there are girls; there are men and there are women. Boys act like boys, and girls act like girls. Men act and dress like men and—you know the rest of

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the litany. But when boys don't act like boys, and girls are interested in things other than dolls and clothes, parents and friends become concerned, then frustrated, and finally they panic because their children aren't following "appropriate" gender norms.

Imagine the effect this concern, frustration, and panic has on those of us who hold differing views on what is "appropriate" for ourselves as we try to live lives that are true to who we really are. For too many, society's antagonistic response has caused us to retreat and hide, to be reclusive about our transgender lives, and to fear for our safety and security if our "secret" is ever exposed.

Thankfully, there is a new cadre of gender activists, many of them here in Minnesota where they matured under the protection of the first human rights law to protect gender identity. Unwilling to accept social norms, these activists are tearing at the margins of what it means to be transgender.

New terms, like *gender queer* and *questioning*, are finding their way into trans vocabulary showing gender to be even more fluid than many of us thought. Just when we were getting our heads around terms like *cross-dresser*, *transgender*, and *transsexual*, we now have to work at understanding people who are intersex, or those who don't want their gender boundaries to be limited by titles and pronouns, or those who just want to be able to float among

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Hold The Date!

St. Paul Saints Baseball Game & Tailgate Party

Saturday, June 11, 2005

Join other Q Library members at Midway Stadium in St. Paul on Saturday, June 11 for a St. Paul Saints baseball game. Tailgating starts at 5:00 p.m. with a game time of 7:05 p.m. The cost of approximately \$8 will include

tailgating snacks, soft drinks, and a reserved seat for the game. For more information, call Dave at 763-503-7894.

QCabaret 2005

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2005

Please save the date and watch for further announcements.

New Video Titles

By Hank Herrmann

God Shave the Queen, A Night at the Roxbury (For all you SNL fans)

Everlasting Gloria! (Estefan)

Ford Star Jubilee (Judy Garland)

Finding North

A Home at the End of the World (Colin Farrell)

Notorious C.H.O. (Margaret, that is)

The Freshman

We have added a total of 48 titles in the regular collection and 43 titles in the Hengel Collection. In the DVD collection, we have added 48 titles in the regular and 56 titles in the Hengel Collection. We are now offering duplicate videotapes for sale along with the duplicate books located in the foyer of the library (only \$2 per video).

Generous Gift to Quatrefoil

By Dan Hanson

The Quatrefoil Library recently received a gift of hundreds of books, magazines, videos, and DVDs. They were the cherished property of Duane Crawford of St. Louis Park, who passed away in mid-December 2004. Duane's partner of 32 years, Hal Vierra, generously donated the collection.

The valuable collection, ranging from new to vintage, will be preserved, used, and enjoyed now and in the future.

Thank you to Duane, for being such a prolific collector of GLBT materials throughout his life. And thank you to his loving partner, Hal, for recognizing the value of Duane's collection and ensuring it was placed where it will be appreciated and circulated.

Q Library is seeking a few Q-friendly businesses

Currently, Query Booksellers, Wilde Roast, Cahoots, Oddfellows Restaurant, Amazon Bookstore Cooperative, and Betsy's Back Porch Coffee House give Q Library members a discount for patronizing their establishments.

We would like to add other businesses to our member benefits program. The incentive for a business that offers a membership discount is increased

patronage through exposure to more than 500 Quatrefoil members plus their friends and relatives.

If you own, work at, or have a good contact for a Q-friendly business, please help us increase our list of member benefit participants. Contact Dave Violett at 763-503-7894 or daviolett@comcast.net. Thank you for supporting Quatrefoil.

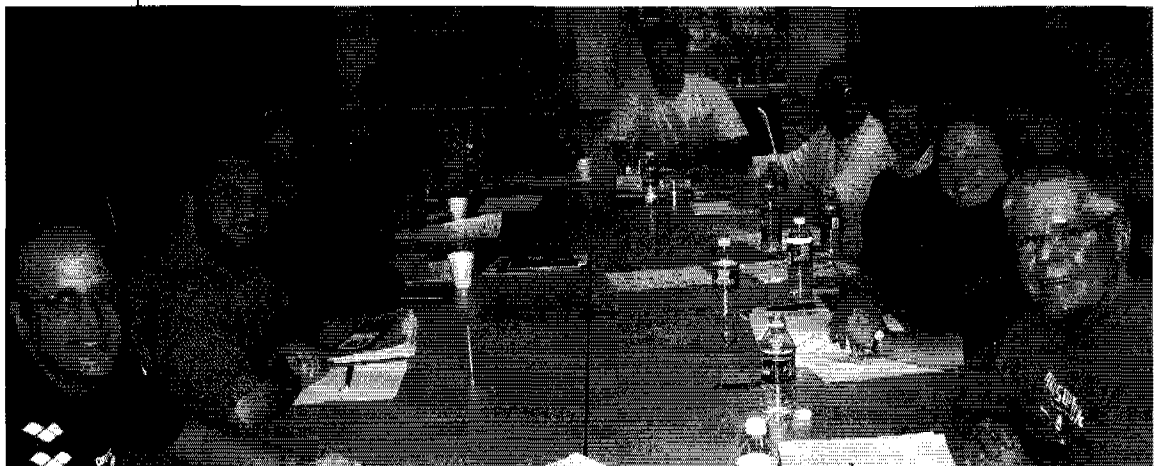
Help!

The Development Committee is considering merger of Q library's membership and development records. We are looking for someone with expertise in using and/or building development databases to advise us. Please call Cathy at 651-636-6475.

Board Retreat

The Quatrefoil Board of Directors met for a retreat Feb. 13 to discuss goals for 2005. The key topic was development and financial support for Quatrefoil Library. Peter Pearson, executive director of Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, and Kevin Winge, executive director of Open Arms of Minnesota, offered advice on how to be more effective in providing financial support. The Board agreed to act on their input and focus on major fundraising and sponsorship opportunities in the coming year. Members who are interested in participating in fundraising activities may contact Mark Ranum at mranum@hclib.org.

Board members and committee chairs are (left to right), Jeffrey Alger, Jeremy Wardein, Chris Olson, Karen Hogan, Paul Fleege, Art Stoeberl, Mark Ranum, Rob Johnson, David Violett, Kathy Robbins, Cathy Croghan, Dan Hanson.



7th Annual Quatrefoil Matinee Thank You

We are very thankful to the many sponsors, volunteers and supporters who helped ensure the success of Movie Matinee. Please be sure to thank them as you see them out and about in the community.

Business Sponsors

Amy Johnson, Attorney at Law
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David Violet
Laura Wornest

Special thanks to Amazon Bookstore Cooperative and Query Booksellers for pre-event ticket sales; Tom Letness for once again making The Heights available to Quatrefoil; Tom & Dean of Wilde Roast for complimentary coffee; Harvey Gustafson, Musician Extraordinaire; and Brian Mangin of Start Spark Communications for program design.

Books with Transgender Themes

Quatrefoil Library has a growing collection of books on transgender topics. Unless otherwise noted, you will find the following titles in or very near the HQ77.9 section.



Confessions of a Gender Defender by Randi Ettner. This psychologist gives us a beautiful portrayal of many of her transgendered clients.

Conundrum by Jan Morris

Counseling in Genderland: A Guide for You and Your Transgendered Client

by Niela Miller et al. Don't let the title of this thin paperback put you off as being for therapists only—it's not at all. The clear and concise writing makes for an easy and very informative read.

Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women and the Rest of Us by Kate Bornstein

Girlfriend: Men, Women, and Drag by Holly Brubach and Michael James O'Brien. Gender-bending around the world—a gorgeous and insightful book.

True Selves: Understanding Transsexualism—for Families, Friends, Coworkers and Helping Professionals by Mildred L. Brown and Chloe Rounsley. This is an excellent primer covering the range of transgender experience and issues from childhood to gender transition as an adult. It includes a myriad of relationship and workplace issues.

Miss Vera's Cross-Dress for Success: A Resource Guide for Boys Who Want to Be Girls by Veronica Vera. A tranny basic—one of the best.

Second Serve by Renee Richards

Trans Liberation: Beyond Pink or Blue by Leslie Feinberg. A collection of speeches and new writing by Feinberg along with short pieces by other trans-activists, this is a passionate call for acceptance of trans people of every stripe.

Transmen and FTMs: Identities, Bodies, Genders, and Sexualities by Jason Cromwell

Transsexuals: Candid Answers to Private Questions by Gerald Ramsey. This very readable book is an A to Z rundown on all aspects of trans-genderism, both male to female and female to male.

Trans-Sister Radio by Chris Bohjalian (Fiction B6766 .T7 2000). A boy-meets-girl story with a twist. In this case the "boy" is a thirty-something college English teacher who's known since early childhood that he was a birth sex mistake. He is planning a surgical correction soon. The "girl" is a divorced sixth-grade schoolteacher who audits one of his classes. They fall in love. When he reveals his intentions, she rallies to support him through the sex-reassignment surgery. After they resume living together in their hometown, her students' parents are scandalized.

Venus of Mars This new DVD documentary starts with performances by the Twin Cities glam rock band All The Pretty Horses, then goes behind the scenes to interview and follow the two transgendered members—especially the lead performer, Venus, and her/his wife.

Board of Directors

Mark Ranum, President
Karen Hogan, Vice President
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Cathy Croghan
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Rob Johnson
Chris Olson
Dave Violett
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Mon-Fri 7pm-9pm

Sat 10am-5pm **Sun** 1pm-5pm

Closed holiday weekends

Editor Mary Kay Watson



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Quatrefoil Library

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gender options without having to settle on a category.

A number of GLBT opinion makers, including Minnesota's own Beth Zensky, have made the argument for some time that gender, rather than sexual orientation, is the basis of the discrimination and hostility foisted on all the GLBT community. Society views what you do as a gay man, a lesbian, or a bisexual to be in violation of societal gender norms. You are not acting as a man should act when you love another man; you are not behaving in a way society expects of a woman when you love another woman; you as a bisexual are outside of gender norms when you love a man or a woman.

Gender! Isn't it wonderful what havoc that six-letter word can wreak on the psyches of ordinary people—like you and me? I pray it can only help us grow in understanding and acceptance.

JOIN OR SUPPORT THE QUATREFOIL LIBRARY

The library receives no public/government dollars and it relies on the support of individuals through membership and donations, special events and Community Solutions Fund to raise its operating budget each year. Please give generously!

I want to become a Quatrefoil Library member at the following level:
 Student (\$20) Individual (\$35) Household (Two individuals-\$50)

I want to support the library's great work with the following gift:
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