

How important and valuable that item is in our world, So that is what we will discuss in my next issue. Respect, what it is, what it means, how to get it, how to give it and how to teach and show others the respect necessary and needed for us to be better and to live safe lives in the worlds that others fear. due to the violence and dangers that have been propagated over the many Centuries of human bondage and imprisonment.

Until the next issue, Stay Strong, Stay United in Love, Compassion and Respect, but most importantly... STAY YOU because as a TS. You truly are beautiful.

With Respect and
In Solidarity
Mother Cat.

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Enter The Cathouse.

By: Catherine Lynn Quick

A new perspective on the Prison, &
Detention, Transsexual issue # 1

This is an ongoing project by the one known as Mother/Mama Cat in the Federal Prison; TN. Dept of Corrections; AZ. Dept. of Corrections and other Detention Facilities U.S.A. Wide.

Welcome... In this issue and those that follow, it is my intention and hope to bring issues as well as my own Cat-like perspective to the issues that all Transsexual Women face in the brutal and Male Dominated Worlds of Prisons and other Detention facilities.

First though, a small bit of background. Male to Female and Female to Male Transsexuals have been known throughout all

human history, though we were only recorded as the oddity and not a people, a group as we are recognized as today, and since only recently (in historical time frames) we are able to change our bodies, back in history we were wrongly classed with the groups we now recognize as Gays, Lesbians and Transvestites.

Yes, it is true that alot of Transsexuals may be gay, Lesbian, or even enjoy a bit of the idea of Crossgender dressing, that is not who we are as a people, a group, and don't doubt for a second that we are a people amongst other peoples! No different than any other group of people, just we stand out a bit more due to our needs and knowledge of who we are.

When Hormone Replacement Therapy (H.R.T.), and Sex Reassignment Surgery (S.R.S.) came to be, we were forced to stand alone as a people! The Gays, Lesbians etc., we used to stand with took exception to our need to be in the DSMV-IV (Diagnostic and Statistics Manual version IV), that they worked so hard to get out of as a mental disorder, We were forced to get in it just to get the treatment that we needed, Also the gays believed MTF Transsexuals to be

hard as it may sound, it has just been done by so few that it has not become common practice yet, but it should, and will when others climb on board and make Our own worlds the way we want them to be! It is our world as much as anyone else's, but we run and hide in fear of rape, assaults or worse when we do not have to!

Things are the way they are in Prisons only because we as prisoners have made them that way, and let things we know that are bad for us go unchecked until now it is the law of the land which is now too dangerous for us to walk in.

We have allowed other groups, lots of times with the backing of Prison officials to take over and control our Prisons and our lives. We must correct this, we must become the leaders, and we must give the examples to live by, and can you think of any other group less likely to be seen as a threat in this area? or one that has more open and less violent viewpoints than your own fellow Brothers and Sisters? We made these very changes in the Federal System and I am even now slowly effecting the change in the TN. Dept. of Corrections to one of acceptance and if not total acceptance then Respect, and we all know

feared, but are a safe and sensible partner for the world of the future.

Everything I have said is common knowledge, but for some reason we all get caught up in the day to day garbage and drama of prison life and we fail to see the greater or the whole picture of the worlds that we are a part of.

Yes, we do live in a different world, not just a society within a society, but a whole different world that those who have never been a part of it can never really 100% comprehend. ^(Metaphorically)

I invite all my fellow T.S. Sisters and brothers to become so much better and so much more! The following I know to work and is real, because I used it myself in both the B.O.P. (Bureau of Prisons) and other State prisons and facilities, as the Mother (shot caller of all the girls whether gay or TS) and so I know that it works! It just takes time, effort and the patients of Mother Theresa, but in the long run, the benefits that you will receive both as an individual and as a member of the larger group will far outweigh any of the losses that you feel that you have suffered, so I invite you all to become well-known and respected leaders within your individual environments and yes it can be done, and No it is not as

gender traitors, Gays who could not deal with our gay desires, and this caused untold pain and altercations until the truth of our condition became a truly Medical issue. There is also the Lesbians, our Sisters who we fight side by side with now, once believed we MTF were out to do damage to womanhood and feminism which they fought many years for the gains and strides of equality, lots of Post-Op MTF Feminists when outted were treated just as poorly by the Lesbians as the Gays, if not more so. (See "The Politics of Transgenderism" by Pat Califia)

Since our coming out, we have held strong, fought for the rights of all L.B.G. Transgender, and intersex rights and have grown in respect from everyone who used to hate us because they did not understand us.

People have since come to know and understand that though we know we were not given the right body at birth, either F.T.M. or M.T.F. when we are changing over or have changed over, we are not the copy of or replacement for/of the biologically born Female or Male, but we know ourselves to be a different kind of Female or male! Not better or worse than those who were born the way we should have been, but still a

female or male that we change to, only a little different, a little better, and even a little less than the Biological Female or Male, but an MTF is still a Female and FTM is still a Male, and to some, better than the biological ones.

What needs to be known or expressed is that we exist as a people and a group, we are not going away, nor are we here to challenge your perceptions of Female and Male, but as another version of those gender descriptions.

Now, with that small background done, I will now attempt to put into perspective for all my fellow TS Females and Males and those who are interested, our place in the Prison and detention facilities as well as ways I have found to handle various situations in those environments.

To begin, We as a group must always stand with our other L.B.G. Transgender, & Intersex Sisters and Brothers, Support them in their fights for all their rights, for in Strength and Solidarity do we all grow and prosper!

We are not gay and lesbian or bi, as a group though we have those as ^{individual} personal traits, we must

hold ourselves to a high standard as we are attacked more often than our other Sisters and brothers and we have to work harder for all we get, as the officials hate us as we as a group are causing more change within their precious Institutions than any others have made happen thus far.

Also remember that they fear us and this is not a good thing! Like all animals, the human animal strikes out to protect themselves when they become fearful! What do they fear from us?, simple,

1. They fear we challenge their sexuality, and they fear the loss of their Socially Comfortable and stable ideas of their worlds conceived gender norms.
2. They fear (just as irrationally as the people who feared everyone in the plague) that we carry death and diseases. To some extent this is true with some of us, As Aids spreads like wild-fire in a Prison, Detention environment, that is why we MUST hold ourselves to a High Standard! There are groups who are promiscuous, but we as a group can not afford to be that way! Their fear of us, their fear that we bring death to their normal Comfortable Views of their Hetro-Society and as the main Carriers of this current world plague Aids, demand that we be a better people and prove we are not to be