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| **Finalists in the Miss International Transgender Beauty Contest** |

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|  | **Transgender People**  **13 March 2015** | **195-2015-02** |

**There seems to be a lot of confusion between cross-dressers, transvestites, transsexuals, and transgender people. And what is a “Drag Queen” or “Drag King”? Well, being a country boy growing up in rural Utah, I don’t think I had any contact with any of these people until attending the University of Utah and living in Salt Lake City. There were a lot of strange people hanging around the west side bar area and I’m pretty sure some of those ladies were transvestites. After moving to Honolulu in 1970, I know that I come in contact with several transvestites because they told me so. There was a bar on Hotel Street in downtown Honolulu named Bill Lederer Bar & Hotel where I used to go after work to drink beer and play pool. There were always a group of transvestites in there playing pool – I played pool with them many times. Actually, this bar was the classiest bar in Chinatown – other bars in the area like the Swing Club, Club Hubba Hubba, the Playroom, the Paradise Club, the Blue Note, Two Jacks, Gibson’s Bar, Brown Derby, Tradewinds, and the Alley Cat were a lot more sleazy. Many of the bars in the Philippines and Thailand that I visited were loaded with pretty transvestites and cross-dressers. I have never had any trouble with any of the transgender people I have met.**

**What does transgender mean?**

**Transgender is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity, gender expression or behavior does not conform to that typically associated with the sex to which they were assigned at birth. Transgender is independent of sexual orientation meaning that transgender people may identify as heterosexual, homosexual (lesbian or gay), or bisexual. So, the word “transgender” is the new politically correct way of describing these strange people. Don’t you dare call them transvestites or queers!! Most transvestites and transsexuals like this new word. It was actually coined in 1979 when Christine Jorgensen publicly rejected transsexual and instead identified herself in newsprint as a transgender saying, "gender doesn't have to do with bed partners - it has to do with identity.”**

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|  | **Christine Jorgensen was an American transsexual woman who was the first person to become widely known in the United States for having sex reassignment surgery. Jorgensen grew up in the Bronx, New York City. Shortly after graduating from high school in 1945, she was drafted into the US Army for World War II. After her service, she attended several schools, worked, and around this time heard about transitioning surgery. She travelled to Europe, and in Copenhagen, Denmark, obtained special permission to undergo a series of operations starting in 1951. Christine Jorgensen was named George William Jorgensen, Jr. at birth.** |

**What is Transsexualism?**

**A transsexual is a person in which the sex-related structures of the brain that define gender identity are exactly opposite the physical sex organs of the body. Put even more simply, a transsexual is a mind that is literally, physically, trapped in a body of the opposite sex. These people have a strong desire to change their anatomical gender. Most, however, are perfectly normal physically. Transsexuals may dress and behave as individuals of the opposite sex, and they may choose to use hormones or surgery to develop desired secondary sex characteristics. Surgery to change the appearance of the external genitals is known as sex reassignment surgery. Surgery and hormonal treatments for gender reassignment are available for both male and female transsexuals. Transsexualism is distinct from transvestitism and cross-dressing.**

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**What is the difference between sex and gender?**

**Your sex assigned at birth refers to your biological status as either male or female, and is associated with physical attributes such as chromosomes, hormone prevalence, and external and internal anatomy. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities, and attributes that a given society considers appropriate for boys and men or girls and women. These influence the ways that people act, interact, and feel about themselves. While aspects of biological sex are similar across different cultures, aspects of gender may differ.**

**What is the difference between transvestites and cross-dressing males and females?**

**Both transvestites and cross-dressers are people who like to wear the clothes of the opposite sex. Some women dress up as men, but it's overwhelmingly men who like to dress as women. The primary difference between transvestites and crossdressers is transvestites feel the need not just to dress, but to behave as a member of the opposite gender. They do this all the time and many live as the opposite gender. Most transvestites are men who are uncomfortable about being male, or who feel they are not male inside. They are said to have gender dysphoria that means a chronic feeling of unease or great discontent when dressed as a man. Transvestites often take hormones or other breast enhancement drugs. Most cross dressers only do it occasionally for sexual pleasure or just to feel more comfortable. The rest of the time they live a normal life dressed as their assigned sex.**

**Some men get relief from tension simply by wearing women's lingerie (often silk) under their exterior male clothing. These guys often go no further than that with their cross-dressing. Most transvestites, however, want to appear as female as possible in their outer garments and want to wear elegant make-up and pleasant perfumes.**

**Who are Drag Queens and Drag Kings?**

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| **A Drag Queen is a male who dresses in drag and often acts with exaggerated femininity and in female gender roles. Often they will exaggerate certain characteristics such as make-up and eyelashes for comic, dramatic or satirical effect. While drag is very much associated with gay men and gay culture, there are drag artists of all genders and sexualities. Pictured above is Jinkx Monsoon – a very famous Drag Queen.** | **Drag kings are female performance artists who dress in masculine drag. A typical show may incorporate dancing and singing, sometimes live or lip-synching to pre-recorded tracks. Drag kings often perform as exaggeratedly macho male characters such as construction workers or they will impersonate male celebrities like Elvis Presley. Pictured above is All The Kings Men—a drag king performance troupe from Boston.** |

**Frank De Lima is one of Hawaii's most popular and beloved comedians. For more than 30 years, this award-winning comic has been entertaining local residents and tourists alike with his zany parodies, outrageous sense of humor, and spontaneous creativity. Frank's specialty is translating issues - such as current events, fads, attitudes, and people - into fresh musical parodies. He also likes to dress as a women for many of his on-stage acts and for doing commercials. I guess he is our state’s most famous Drag Queen.**

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| **Frank De Lima** |

**Are these transgender people mentally ill?**

**Other than being a little strange, men and women who cross-dress are not any more mentally ill then the non-transgender population. Indeed, most psychologists in the United States have decided that cross-dressing comes within the normal range of male sexuality unless it becomes a compulsive obsession. Most transvestites and cross dressers are not homosexual. However, a lot of gay guys certainly like to dress as drag queens.**

**What percentage of the people in the world are transgender?**

**It is difficult to accurately estimate the number of transgender people, mostly because there are no population studies that accurately and completely account for the range of gender identity and gender expression. Most of the people in the pictures in this article (except the Drag Kings) are actually men (or at least male at birth). As you can see, some of these women (I mean men?? – I’m not sure!!) are very attractive. It is hard to tell who is what now days! But with that said, experts believe that about 1% of the world population is transgender. This translates to about 4 million adults in the U.S.**

**More Transgender Facts and Statistics**

* **Being transgender (of any type) is not against the law in the U.S. or most other countries.**
* **Transgender people face a much higher suicide risk. About 40% percent of transgender people surveyed said they had attempted suicide, compared with less than 2% percent of the general population.**
* **Transgender people have an unemployed at about twice the rate of the general population, or roughly 14 percent.**
* **25% of transgender people have reported losing a job because they did not conform to gender norms.**
* **20% of transgender people have been homeless at some point in their life.**
* **The transgender community reports much higher rates of housing discrimination and 11% have been evicted due to bias.**
* **About 20% of transsexuals are refused medical care due to their gender status.**
* **Transsexuals still can’t legally serve in the U.S. military.**
* **55% of transsexuals and transvestites reported that their family chose not to speak or spend time with them.**
* **The transgender murder rate is 50% higher than for gays/lesbians – put in another way, you have about a 1 in 12 chance of being murdered if you are transgender.**

**And the big question of the day –**

**What bathroom do transgender people use in public places?**

**Transvestites or crossdressers would most likely use the bathroom of their born sex, unless they were a drag queen in a gay bar. Then it just depends. Transsexuals and others who identify as a gender other than the sex they were assigned at birth must use their best discretion for which bathroom they use. It could be dangerous to use the one for their chosen gender when they look like they don’t belong there. That is because some people will beat up those who transgress the gender divisions of restrooms.**

**Is it against the law for a man to use the lady’s bathroom? No, however, it is essential you are talking about a restroom that is known to be unoccupied or has been checked to be unoccupied by a female companion. And is lockable. Otherwise, you may find yourself in jail wishing you had waited for the men's restroom to open up. This is because there are laws against such things like being a peeping tom.**

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| **Winner of the** **Miss International Transgender Beauty Contest is Miss Thailand** |

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