

When you're done reading, pass it on!

SUMMER 2021 Volume 1 Issue 2

THE KETCHIKAN QUEER COLLECTIVE

Based in Ketchikan representing Southeast Alaska, the Ketchikan Queer Collective is a group of local LGBTQIA+ individuals who have come together to network and support one another. We seek to make meaningful connections, provide resources, and spread awareness of issues.

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK

- Have a personal connection to Alaska
 - For example: live here, have lived here, work here, have visited here
- Please keep written works to approximately 300 words (around one page)
- Want to create our next issue cover art? Submit your artwork!
- Email submissions to loudandqueerketchikan@gmail.com

@loudandqueerketchikan



venmo

PWYC

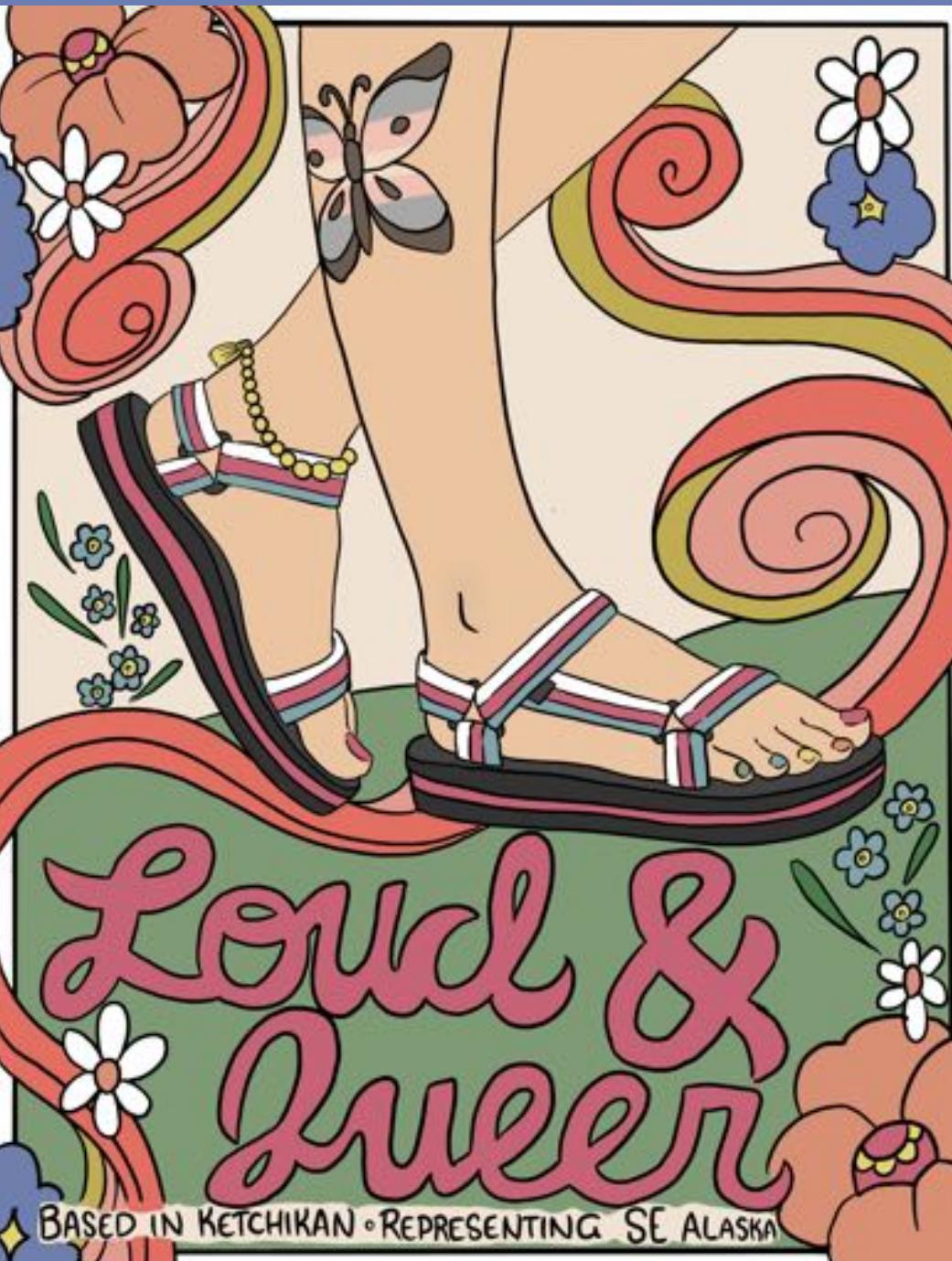
If you liked reading this zine, consider paying what you can to help with printing costs and website maintenance

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST!



Scan the QR code and subscribe to get the best of what's queer, every quarter, in your inbox.

The first 100 copies of this issue paid for by
Lindsey Johnson, Ketchikan Dry Goods



Cover Artwork by Morgan Weber
She/Her/They/Them - Nonbinary

LOUD & QUEER!

Loud and Queer! is a quarterly zine published by the Ketchikan Queer Collective featuring visual art, articles, and resources.

Loud and Queer! engages with the Queer community of Southeast Alaska to make our experiences visible and voices heard. This publication tells our stories by and for each other.



Puzzle Me This!

Spring 2021 Winner:
Michelle Janine

Spring 2021 Answer:

"I hate the word homophobia. It's not a phobia. You're not scared. You're an asshole." -Morgan Freeman
(Parody Twitter Account)



SUDOKU BUT GAY LGBTQIA P +

	B	I		P	G	L
		L	T	B	I	Q
+		G	P		I	Q
			G		P	A
	A	T				+
+		L	B	P	Q	G
B	I		+G		P	
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						+

Email your answer to
loudandqueerketchikan@gmail.com for a chance to win a prize!
The winner will be announced in our next issue.
(Subject line: Puzzle Me This)

THE QUEER AGENDA



Present

Ketchikan's First Drag Show!

August 20th
Lipsync Battle
9pm - Arctic Bar
Free! 21+

Ketchikan locals compete in a lip sync battle for prizes and the chance to perform with the main cast!

Interested in competing? Sign up early by emailing lonadragqueen@gmail.com

August 21st
Drag Show
10pm - Arctic Bar
\$15 presale / \$20 at door
21+

Drag artists from all over the state come together for a night of performances you will not want to miss!

Tickets available in person at The Arctic



THIS IS LINGÍT AANÍ The Land of the Tlingit

We are located on the current and ancestral lands of the Tlingit, who have been living here since time immemorial. Kichxáan (Ketchikan) remains the territory of the Taant'a Kwáan (Sea Lion Tribe) of the Tongass Tlingit. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and learn here in mutual respect and appreciation.

Do you know the Indigenous place names of the land you are on?

See **Haa Léelk'w Hás Aaní Saax'ú / Our Grandparents' Names on the Land** Edited by Thomas F. Thornton at the Ketchikan Public Library or your local public library.

BACK TO THE BASICS

USEFUL TERMS

Did you notice that all contributors to the zine are identified with their pronouns?

We all like to be referred to in a way that makes us feel accepted. This can include the use of our name, gender, sexuality, and pronouns.

Pronouns, in relation to gender identity, are the way a person is referred to in the third person (when their name is not used), such as he/him/his, she/her/hers, or they/them/theirs.

Using someone's correct pronouns is one of the most basic ways to show respect for their identity.

Are there other pronouns besides he/him, she/her, and they/them?

Yes and people may use any pronoun or combination of pronouns they'd like, for example:

Ze (or Zie)/hir/hir
Pronounced:
zee / here / here

How do I know what someone's pronouns are?

Just Ask!

'What pronouns do you use?'

The only way to know someone's gender identity and pronouns is by talking to them.

We shouldn't assume pronouns based on appearance, name, or any other factor.

What if I make a mistake?

Mistakes happen! When you use the wrong pronouns, apologize, correct yourself and continue the conversation you were having.

It's important to not make the situation about yourself. The best way to demonstrate that you care about this individual and are supportive of them is to correct the error and use the correct pronoun the next time.

Avoid dragging out the apology and making the other person comfort you for your mistake.

There are actually a lot of gender neutral pronouns that we don't cover in this issue, but the information we discuss can be applied to any gender neutral pronoun.



GET VACCINATED



The Delta variant is more than two times as contagious as the original strain. While some fully vaccinated people can spread Delta, COVID-19 vaccines help protect people from serious illness, hospitalization, and death.

Unvaccinated individuals currently account for nearly all the hospitalizations and deaths in the country. Getting fully vaccinated is the best thing you can do to protect yourself and those around you.

Learn more: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus

GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE

Queer Media Recommendations

Raising Them by Kyl Meyers at the Ketchikan Public Library

Dr. Kyl Meyers has a Doctorate of Sociology with a focus in Gender Studies. She has a 5 year old named Zoomer, who she raised gender-neutral until they shared how they personally identify. Dr. Meyers also has a new Patreon where they provide education on gender and queer theory, an online community of those eager to learn and connect, and a book club. Plus so much more, search "Dr. Kyl Meyers" on Patreon to learn more.

Alok: The Urgent Need For Compassion on The Man Enough Podcast

Do you know who you are outside of who you have been told you should be? Acclaimed gender non-conforming writer, performer, and speaker, Alok Vaid-Menon, shares their story, and the stories of those who came before them, with an urgency that invites us to step into our power and the power of interdependence.

Follow The Man Enough Podcast on your favorite podcast platform or watch full episodes here.

LOUD & QUEER! PLAYLIST

Smile - Shea Diamond

Marceline - Willow

Pynk - Janelle Monae

MONTERO - Lil Nas X

Black Myself - Our Native Daughters

LISTEN NOW



Open Spotify and scan the code to listen to our Queer playlist or search "L&Q Ketchikan" on Spotify!



How to be an ally

Include your pronouns in your social media bios and email signatures.

This helps to normalize conversation about gender and protects trans and gender diverse people when they include their pronouns. This is harder and riskier for trans and gender diverse people because it leads to longer conversations and asks them to educate people.



Example:

Hi Gene,

I hope this email finds you well!

Warmest Regards,
Skyler
(She/Her)



Practice with a friend!

A person's pronouns are not preferred; they're the pronouns that must be used.

You might not be used to it, but with practice you can learn and feel more confident.

Example:

Jake: Hi, I'm Jake. I use he/him pronouns.

Milo: Hi Jake, I'm Milo. I use he/him and they/them pronouns.



How do I correct a friend?

Intent is important, remember to have grace with people who are trying. If someone shows no effort or bad intent, it might be time for a longer conversation about respecting others.

Example:

Sky: Jay is coming over later.

Willow: I haven't seen them in forever!

Sky: I can't wait to hear all about her trip. She posts the most...

Willow: *They* post.

Sky: Oh right, they post the most beautiful travel pictures.



My Little Theybie

As I grew closer to parenthood, I knew I had to bring my child into the world... WITHOUT GENDER. Much like realizing my own queerness, I had to mentally justify the obvious. I spent a lot of time debating my two choices. I could either, declare a gender for my child and battle the dismantling of harmful gender stereotype; or I could not gender my child and battle a person's right to exist gender-free.

I often asked myself, "What choice will be easier for me to deal with?" This question is practical, but from a place of privilege. Eventually, I committed to the path I knew I was called to; I would practice non-gendered parenting.

These are some of my reasons:

- Gender is a social construct, not actually correlated to your anatomy. I might know my kids biology but I certainly don't know their gender until they tell me how they see themselves.
- I loathe the oppression and abuse I've faced in life because I'm perceived as a woman. The times that I have resonated the most with womanhood, are when I am experiencing gender-based violence. I want my child to skip that part of life for as long as possible.
- I don't ever want my child to feel that part of the world is not made for them or that the shape of their body indicates what passions they're "allowed" to have.
- I want people to see my child as a human first; for who they are in their heart.

There is both privilege and sacrifice in this choice and not everyone is called to this. This is what is right for MY family. Of course, I would love to see our society move this direction.

Until then, Taurus is Taurus; an incredibly wonderful human being.

Hannah Bayles - She/They - Pansexual - Ketchikan, AK

The LGBTQ+ Panic Defense

The state of Alaska still allows the panic defense as a legal strategy in court. A 'panic defense' is a legal strategy that uses a victim's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression as the reason for a violent crime.

A defendant claims to have acted in a state of violent, temporary insanity, committing assault or murder, because of unwanted same-sex sexual advances or becoming aware of the individual's sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. A defendant may allege to have found the same-sex sexual advances so offensive or frightening that they were provoked into reacting, were acting in self-defense, were of diminished capacity, or were temporarily insane, and that this circumstance should lead to a reduced sentence or acquittal. This defense implies that LGBTQ+ lives are worth less than others.

**Our existence does not
justify violence against us.**

The steps you can, and should, take are as follows:

- Contact your state legislators and Governor Dunlavey and ask them to ban the LGBTQ+ panic defense.
- Be an advocate and spread awareness about the LGBTQ+ panic defense.
- Support organizations that work to protect and uplift the LGBTQ+ community like the Ketchikan Pride Alliance, Community Roots, SEAGLA, Identity Alaska, and Choosing our Roots.

STRAIGHT PANIC

GAY FEAR

This might not be an appropriate submission, but it's all I've been able to think about since the zine was made.

In 2001 a flamboyant gay man was lured out of his apartment by two young men who then beat him to death... I'd learned what a homosexual was when I was about 5 or 6. My favorite cousin was a lesbian. I of course saw nothing wrong with this, as I'd never been taught it was wrong. But when that man was murdered, it instilled in me a deep fear. I knew I liked boy's and girl's, and I knew I could never tell anyone, or maybe I too would be ambushed and killed.

The only reason I ever came out of the closet is because doctor's gave me a death sentence, so I had nothing left to fear. Though the doctors were wrong, and I didn't die, I have never regretted coming out and being myself.

Dean Clark
He/Him/They/Them
Pansexual

From the Collective...

Two men we're arrested and charged with second-degree murder, manslaughter, first-degree robbery, and second-degree theft for the beating to death of an openly gay Alaska Native man in Ketchikan in 2001.

Police arrested both men in response to a tip called in to Ketchikan Crime Stoppers, according to news reports. The caller said he overheard the two men bragging that they were planning to "beat up and rob [the gay man] because he is a fag," said then Ketchikan District Attorney.

Both men claimed self-defense against unsolicited sexual advances and were acquitted of murder.

"My parrot, Daffodil, is one of my anchors when I feel distressed. Having a 150gram Caique Parrot sing to me while I sit at the bottom of the shower during a depressive episode always helps."

Sometimes people keep you alive, other times it's your pets. No matter what keeps you alive, make sure to hold on and keep going."



Amanda Gannon - She/her - Pansexual -Ketchikan, AK

Hemispheres

Half and half heart
Torn between extremes,
Each side with labels
That I look away from,
Looking instead inward
To find myself, find
Out, come out with it
In hand like a white dove
Uncolored by these words:

Male,
Female;
I open my palm
And release my spirit
Free into the air,
Watch as the binary
Billows away like a cloud
Puff of smoke,
Up and gone,
And on the ground
I stand strong;
I am myself.

Poem (*above*) and
Artwork (*right*)
Sam Thompson
Any Pronouns
Non-Binary
North Pole, AK



Who holds the U.S. Record for Running a Marathon in Heels?

This Human!

On June 19th, 2021, I found myself experiencing the low-key fame that comes with breaking the U.S. record for running a marathon in heels. What made me want to do such a thing? Self-Love.

Last year, I was at the lowest point in life. I was depressed, closeted, misusing alcohol, unemployed, and deep down I knew that I was on the brink of divorce. I'll never forget the night I walked out my front door and found myself stopping in the middle of the bridge between Government Hill and Anchorage. I was numb. All the hiding, erasing, and sacrificing myself was exhausting. My focus drifted to the pavement below, as I pictured myself diving into relief. Then, I turned and kept walking.

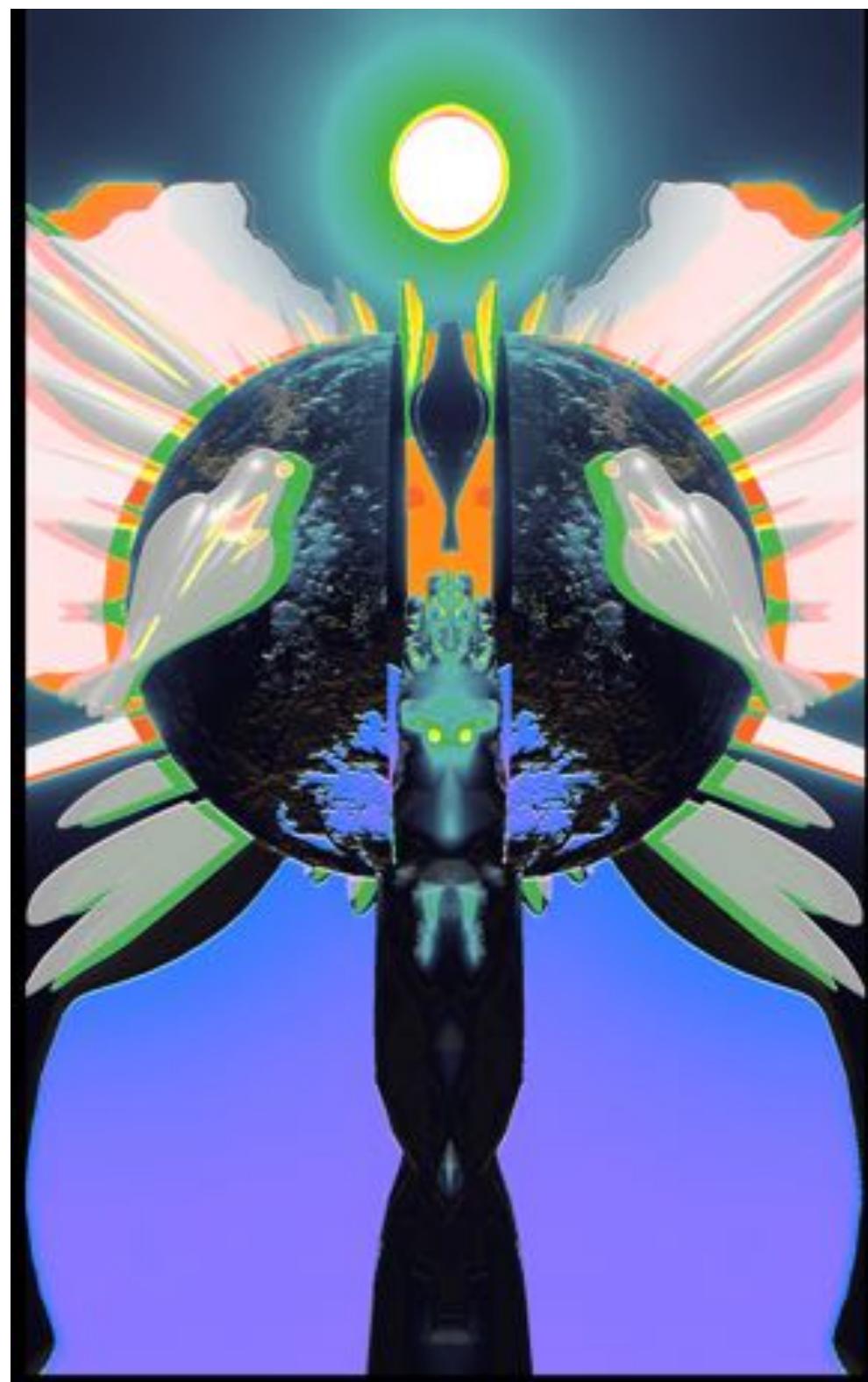
After the divorce, I decided I was tired of hiding who I was from the world. I was ready to finally, fully, come out. And I was going to do so publicly, in the loudest way I could imagine. I decided to run the Anchorage Mayor's Marathon in high heels. During my first training run, I put on a pair of glittery heels and ran across the very bridge I considered jumping from the year before.

On race day, I walked confidently to the starting line in my running skirt, 3 inch heels and the trans pride cape I sewed for the occasion. As I ran that day, I realized that nowhere in my body was I able to locate shame, even though a year ago, that's all I felt.

26 miles later I saw the finish line and I sprinted! I stopped on the other side and just paused in awe. I overcame so much more than anybody will ever know, and finally returned home, in my body. I welcomed all the self-love, worthiness, and belonging I felt awakening within me. I made it.

Justin Dickens
They/Them
Trans Non-binary
Bisexual
Anchorage, AK

(right) Photos from the
Anchorage Mayor's Marathon
Photographer:
Jeff Chen, Alaska Public Media
Photographer:
Olivia Franke



LGBTQ+ Youth

Get the Facts

LGBTQ+ youth experience high rates of homelessness and suicide. 40% of homeless youth are members of the LGBTQ+ community. The National LGBT Task Force reports that LGBTQ+ youth and young adults are 120% more likely than their straight and cisgender peers to experience homelessness. 66% of young LGBTQ+ people report being unhappy (compared to 33% of their heterosexual cisgendered peers) and 50% of LGBTQ+ youth believe they will need to leave their hometowns in order to find happiness. LGBTQ+ youth are 5x more likely to attempt suicide and 6x more likely than their heterosexual cisgendered peers to experience high levels of depression.

This is an epidemic that has the simplest answer: to just love our youth as they are. It isn't an exaggeration to say that it is a matter of life or death to accept people as they are. You don't have to comprehend to have compassion and love for someone.

If our community can agree that homelessness, poor mental health and suicide are negative life outcomes we should prevent, then it's our duty to accept our LGBTQ+ youth, elders, neighbors, friends and family.

Support your local organizations and nonprofits that work to protect and uplift the LGBTQ+ community like the Ketchikan Pride Alliance, Community Roots, and Southeast Alaska Gay and Lesbian Alliance (SEAGLA), Identity Alaska, and Choosing our Roots.

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You can learn more about supporting LGBTQ+ youth at thetrevorproject.org and mykidisgay.com.

Ask Auntie Queer

Dear Auntie Queer,
I think my high school aged child might be gay, and I'm not sure what to do. I want them to know that I love and support them no matter what, but I don't want to overstep, or make them feel uncomfortable.

Please help!
-Understanding Parent

Ask Auntie Queer is an advice column. We pair your question with a Ketchikan Queer Collective member or others best qualified to answer. If you have a question of your own please email us with the subject line "Ask Auntie Queer".

Dear Understanding Parent,

First of all, let me give you the biggest applause! You're already on the right track. The biggest issue for young queer folk is usually a lack of support from family.

If my parents spent more time inquiring to their queer resources how to best approach/support me in my sexuality vs using shame and literal violence, I would have figured a lot of stuff out much sooner and much easier.

So to answer your question, all you have to do is love. A parent can almost always tell if their child is queer, so just tell them that you are there for them no matter who they love, and when they are ready, they will know they are supported. There's truly no greater gift.

Thank you for warming my cold, queer heart.

-Auntie Queer

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The hospital doctor who admitted me made it clear that he had no interest in the illness that brought me to the ER and that he was only going to admit me due to the lab abnormality. He listed in all capitals GENDER REASSIGNMENT as a primary allergy. I was not seen by by a hospital doctor at all the first day that I was in the hospital.

There needs to be some assurance that people can be treated as persons no matter what their history.

Fortunately, the nursing staff on the floor and the consulting doctors treated me with compassion and as a person. Up until my next to the last day in the hospital, the only treatment that I received from the hospital doctors came as a consequence of my being able to advocate for myself.

The hospitalist my next to the last day was a classmate from medical school who took over my care until discharge. There needs to be some assurance that people can be treated as persons no matter what their history.

Wynelle Snow
She/Her/Hers
Female Transsexual



From the Collective...

In 2016, National Center for Transgender Equality released the report of the U.S. Transgender Survey. Read the report at <http://ustranssurvey.org>.

Transgender respondents encountered high levels of mistreatment when seeking health care. In the year prior to completing the survey, **one-third (33%)** of those who saw a health care provider had at least one negative experience related to being trans, such as being verbally harassed or refused treatment because of their gender identity. Additionally, **nearly one-quarter (23%)** of respondents reported that they did not seek the health care they needed in the year prior to completing the survey due to fear of being mistreated as a trans person, and **33%** did not go to a health care provider when needed because they could not afford it.

To the Light

I had to replace the Pride flag that hangs outside my house. My first one was originally returned with apologies after being torn down and stolen, but my conversation with the young person who did it stuck with me. It had me reflecting on my own experience growing up in my hometown. So many queer friends can't or won't come back here. I understand, of course I do. But I'm devastated at the way their traumas effectively took away the chance to return to the forest of their childhood.

I kept thinking about those who stay, arrive, and return to this place we call home. What do we lose, when we lose each other? How do we hold on? How do we build so that there's always more to see, even when we get knocked down?

The beauty of a world of survivors is we all have our own way, and pace. But every one of us is a precious, necessary part of the journey to a more loving world. May we shine bright enough to find each other in the dark. And so the path is easier for those who follow.



Chelsea Tremblay
She/her
Polyamorous
Petersburg, AK

Let's Dive Deeper into Intersectionality

In the last issue, we gave a brief intro to intersectionality. This term was created by Kimberlé Crenshaw to describe the way a person's multiple identities interact. It is important to acknowledge that Crenshaw specifically sought to describe the way Black women's lives exist at the intersection of being Black and being female. Meaning that Black women experience racialized sexism and sexualized racism. Often, the fight for both racial and gender equality have overlooked unique aspects of the Black female experience.

Crenshaw explains intersectionality as, "a lens through which you can see where power comes and collides, where it interlocks and intersects." This lens can be utilized to better understand the way a person may experience privilege in one aspect of their identity and oppression in another.

Sociologist Patricia Hill Collins adapted and elaborated upon intersectionality. Her work illustrates the complexity of privilege and oppression. She argues that there are "few pure victims and oppressors." For example, a white woman experiences the privilege of being white, while also experiencing oppression for being a woman. As we continue to add to our identity – such as age, ability, class, sexuality – our identities become more complex. Most people fall into a variety of privileged and oppressed identities.

Collins' work highlights the fact that we are often most moved by the oppression we feel most affected by. For example, a white, cis, able-bodied, middle-class gay man likely is most concerned with ensuring that gay rights are protected. The worry is, once that man reaches the goal he is fighting for (i.e. equal marriage rights), he may bow out of the continued fight for other social justice issues. There is nothing wrong with having passion for one particular issue. However, we must remember that the fight for a society that values everyone is not over when our issue has been addressed to our satisfaction.

We have a duty to build relationships with people whose oppression looks different than ours and bring our privilege to their fight.



Disclosure

Transgender Discrimination in Healthcare

By Wynelle Snow
She/Her/Hers
Female Transsexual

I have never regarded my experience growing up in west Texas in the fifties as a very confused, transgendered kid as being especially unique. I just knew that I didn't fit in anywhere no matter how hard I tried. I've had friends who said that they regarded being transgendered as a blessing...I think that I felt it to be more a curse.

I got married and we had two children; I went to medical school, did a residency in psychiatry, and went through a variety of psychiatric and psychoanalytic therapies that brought me to an acceptance of who I am.

Now I'm a senior and recently fell quite ill while on a train trip from Austin to Chicago. I realized that I needed medical treatment prior to the scheduled arrival in Chicago.

The train made a stop in Texarkana where I was taken to the emergency room at Wadley Regional Medical Center. In honestly answering the triage questions about medical history from the nurse, I disclosed my history of sexual reassignment which turned out to be a mistake.

I disclosed my history of sexual reassignment which turned out to be a mistake.

The nurse practitioner who was to evaluate me made an initial comment about my being "crazy" and did a sketchy history of my illness deciding I had pancreatitis. While the lab work did not support this diagnosis, there was an abnormality that suggested that I needed inpatient evaluation.

TRANS RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

Transgender is an umbrella term for peoples whose gender identity or expression is different from the sex they were assigned at birth. Often the word transgender is shortened to trans.



Queer Wisdom

The more that we share with each other, the more there is that can be shared and less that any one person needs.

The more that goes around the more you get back.

How to practice this:

- Share food with friends by cooking meals and inviting people into your home to eat.
- Share your excess food grown, harvested, hunted, or caught with friends and neighbors, especially elders.



Stacey is a professional dancer. He was hired by the Ketchikan Theater Ballet in 2019 for the Nutcracker performance.

Stacey Badgett Jr. He/Him - Gay - Brooklyn, NY