



MIDWEST RAINBOW NEWS



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"When I liberate myself, I liberate others."

-Fannie Lou Hamer

HOUSEKEEPING

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Missing your copy?

Although things seem to be improving in terms of uniform delivery of the newsletter, please reach out if you do not receive your copy for more than one month in a row. Thank you!

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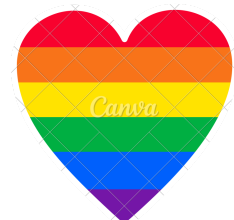
MAMA SAYS

I hope everyone was able to enjoy this year's Pride month! We would love to print stories about how you and/or your friends celebrated, so send them in and we will publish what we can. As most of you know this newsletter could not be possible without the dedicated work of our free world volunteers and partners. Our readership has grown a lot these past years and I am looking into ways we might be able to add more content. But it is important for you, our readers, to let us know what you want to read about.

Too often I seem to forget to say thank you to those who make all of this work. We operate under the umbrella of Black and Pink National and with the blessings of Dr. Tatyana Moaton, Executive Director, Andrew Aleman, A.K., Dawson, and all those many others who lend their support. Thank you All! I have to give all of my gratitude and thanks to our Editor and free world Manager, Jordana. Jordana patiently puts up with my many ideas and somehow brings them to life. Without Jordana's dedication we certainly would have failed and disappeared like smoke in a windstorm.

My heartfelt Thanks also to all of those who provide legal representation to those of our incarcerated community who desperately need it most. You came to our aid when so many turned their backs and found others to help our men and women. Thank you to Dylan, Cassandra, and the whole Liberation Lit team who print and distribute our newsletter to our readers in both Missouri and Kansas. I see a bright collaborative future as both of our organizations grow. We want to thank Beth from the Kansas City Public Library who has so generously donated 1,200 Forever postage stamps to cover the costs of distributing our newsletter!! Thank you so much Beth! There are so many more who give of themselves, yet stay out of the light. Among those we have a couple of wonderful ministers. One gave so much comfort to our dearly departed Sister Amber, who was executed January 3rd. Then we have a wonderful minister who helped two of our LGBTQ+ prisoners navigate past all the roadblocks in order to get legally married. Thank you so much! Let us never forget those who Advocate for us, work in a lobbyist position to ensure our voices are heard in Jefferson City, State Senators who delay votes in order to help change the outcomes of new laws, and Legislative Aides who point us in the right direction. Thank you all!!!! Let's stay cool and enjoy the summer! Fall and winter will be here before you know it.

With a Mothers Love,
Patricia



RECIPE CORNER

Beef and Veggie Burritos

Ingredients

3 ranch dressings
1¼ bag of sour cream and onion chips
6 tortilla shells
1 pkg of vegetables
1 pkg beef crumble
1 ramen soup
1 bag of rice
2 oz jalapeño cheese
BBQ sauce
minced onions
bacon bits

Fill a trash can with water, drop in your stinger, and boil. Drop in the bag of vegetables and beef crumble.

In a separate bag, pour in rice and noodles, add a little water, onions, and bacon bits with the two ounces of jalapeño cheese and drop into the trash can.

Cover the trash can with a shirt and let it cook for 15 minutes. Keep checking water levels as steam causes the water to evaporate. Once done, remove all ingredients from water, place them in separate bowls.

Pour the BBQ sauce on top of the beef crumble and mix together. add a sauce package to rice/noodles and then pour vegetables into mixture.

Lay out your shells, pour one packet of ranch on 3 shells, take the other shells and lay them on top. Press together and pull them apart, equally spreading the ranch on each shell.

Take about 6 chips, crush them in your hands and drop on each shell, then add the mixture of beef and veggies sparingly to each shell. Feeds 3.



SPECIAL CALL OUT

A reporter from the Marshall Project is interested in hearing from folks about any problems accessing gender-affirming care or HRT -- feel free to send a securus request to beth@themarshallproject.org

THE PRISON JOURNALISM PROJECT

The Prison Journalism Project is a great place for any prisoner to express their views while working to establish themselves as a credible writer and journalist. Many first time authors have been published on the Prison Journalism website. It only takes imagination and willingness to write your story. It is 100% free, costs you only time and dedication. Ask about their writing program and upcoming correspondence-based classes. For more information on how to get started, contact them at:

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WRITE FOR US!

We are actively seeking material from our readers to publish in future issues. We will no longer publish messages from one reader to another.

We are looking for:

- Articles with accurate information about relevant policies, legal developments, and current affairs (cite your sources!)
- Tips, life-hacks, and how-to articles that our readers would find useful
- Media recommendations — books, authors, podcasts, tv, movies etc. Preference given to free things. Write a little bit about why you're recommending it and/or what you got from it.
- Personal essays on topics relevant to our community, including but not limited to: mental health, personal growth, what sucks about being LGBTQ in prison, what's cool about being LGBTQ in prison, pride, shame, self-acceptance, friendship, liberation from oppression, dealing with difficult family relationships, etc.
- Good news — if you have something to celebrate!
- Reports from your camp on conditions for LGBTQ prisoners
- Responses — If you have something constructive to add to a particular conversation, you can write a response to a previously published piece

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO OUR PO BOX OR THE BLACK-PINK GAZETTE TABLET CONTACT

IF YOU'RE A NEW SUBSCRIBER AND DON'T HAVE THE CONTACT ON YOUR TABLET YET, PLEASE BE PATIENT. IF YOU'RE STILL MISSING THE CONTACT AFTER A COUPLE WEEKS, WRITE TO OUR PO BOX.



REFLECTIONS ON PRIDE



As I sit here on Monday June 19 2023, I'm watching a show on National Geographic called *Our America: Who I'm Meant To Be*. It's about these 6 teenagers who are transgender. They all came out as transgender between the ages of 5-14 and are proudly living their truth. It's basically just a sit down conversation where they talk about who they are and the road they have traveled down. One young lady named Jazzie said something that really stood out to me, she said "Being transgender is probably the least interesting part about who we are...." How right she is! I just wish the rest of the world could see that too. As she said, "we're writers, journalists and barbers," which goes for all of us. I've met all kinds of people who are writers, authors, teachers, hippies, truck drivers etc... who all just happen to also be transgender.

In this day and age being transgender is the new boogie man. These kids want to grow up to be barbers, writers, scientific researchers, actors, teachers, and politicians and our government is trying to outlaw their very existence by legislating everything from health care to being able to use their pronouns in school. One young man is from Texas and his parents were reported for child abuse simply because they wanted their child to be happy and supported him in his transition and provided him the proper medical care he is entitled to. I wish like hell I had had the guts to come out when I was younger like these amazing young people. I am so glad that the world has these young people in it who are standing up and saying this is who I am and I have the right to be here. Can you imagine what the world would be like if we lost these people? I honestly don't want to think about how dark the world would be without them or us in it.

I don't and never will understand how the politicians can sit there in their gilded palaces and say that a loving parent can't seek medical treatment for their child. Who better than a parent knows their child? The government sure doesn't know these kids and what is best for them, they don't even know any of their names, but yet they claim to know what's best. Sorry but that's a bunch of b.s.. With all the problems facing us as a nation, from poverty, homelessness, rising food costs, fuel costs, underfunded schools, and children starving to death, they want to focus on something as trivial as dictating if a school can call a child by their chosen name and pronoun. No wonder this country is going down the crapper.

What I want to encourage everyone to do is continue to live your truth and do it proudly. Stand up for your God given right to exist, talk to your people and ask them to write letters, emails, make phone calls to politicians and tell them to vote for basic human rights for all. Transgender rights are basic human rights just like the civil rights movement and same sex marriage. Tell the politicians to protect All citizens, not just the ones they agree with. We are human beings and we have the right to live our truth, just like they do. This Pride month, I hope everyone took the time to stand up and be proud of who you are. I am proud to be a trans woman. Several years ago I had the transgender symbol tattooed on my right calf for all the world to see. I proudly display it and I will always do so. My name is Bree Anna and I'm a proud trans woman! Who are you? I love each and every one of you and I wish you all the happiness in the world. Stand proud each and everyday and demand nothing less than your God given right to be alive.

Bree

I have been too busy fighting/educating to actually celebrate Pride. Last week my roommate was called in to see someone because someone in Education complained that she wasn't wearing a bra to class (though she always does). Our policy only says we are allowed to wear bras, but it doesn't say we are required. I should know because even though I am not on estrogen I have breasts (from gynoid or "pear-shaped" obesity), and I have six bras and only one fits so I'm often not wearing one.

What has been real fun is that the Women's Prison Book Project sent me the book "Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: A Resource for the Transgender Community" I am told the book was banned by the MO DOC in 2016 for sexually explicit material. You read that right, a book that helps transgender people with their transitioning has sexually explicit material in it. What's even more strange is despite them saying the book was banned in 2016, in March 2022 I read the book at the Farmington library days before I was transferred (for those out of state Farmington is the main sex offender treatment camp for "males"). But wait! There's more! In a US District Court Case in Minnesota the Court used that same book to define the word transgender...

Amber



Hey Sister's and Brother's its Mylowe, again I'm writing to say ("HAPPY PRIDE MONTH")! its been a crazy few weeks do to the government trying to stop any and everything that got to do with Our Community as L.G.B.T.Q.+!. We continue to be targeted because they don't like or understand US! or want to do so. On a positive note the movie *Safe Haven* is a really great movie all should see it cause its a movie that bring tears to all eyes! If you don't believe me, I dare you to watch it! well I Love You All and be focused as well pray for one another cause its time for US all to come together and put our difference to the side and continue to be a strong force of L.O.V.E. I love you all Love Mylowe.



ON OUR HEARTS AND MINDS



MO TRANSGENDER LEGISLATION:

HOW IT AFFECTS YOU

This past legislative session, our transgender community seemed to be an unrelenting target of hate. Gender affirming medical treatments, girls and women's sports, even the ability of Drag Performers to put on shows was in their crosshairs. Thankfully, only two bills were passed and signed by the governor. Since none of you are under 18 and in school wanting to play sports, or wanting to play on a women's college team, I won't waste your time talking about that bill.

The legislation that directly affects you now and upon your release is Missouri Revised Statutes §191.1720, §208.152 and §217.230. I encourage everyone to look them up in the library after August 28th. The first is titled §191.1720.1 "Missouri Save Adolescents from Experimentation (SAFE) Act". This statute is listed only because they use it for definitions and it expires on August 28, 2027, unless renewed before that time.

§208.152 is the statute governing MO HealthNet (Missouri's medicare system) and could very well be used to block you from using Medicare to pay for treatment once released. In this statute, they added one new section at the end. Number 15 reads "There shall be no payments made under this section for gender transition surgeries, cross-sex hormones, or puberty blocking drugs, as such terms are defined in section 191.1720 for the purpose of a gender transition." The politicians will say that only applies to those under 18, but our attorney general will certainly apply it to any age, considering the fact that the definitions given in §191.1720 are not specifically limited to those under 18 years of age.

Lastly we have §217.230. Everything under section 217 directly affects those serving time in Missouri. §217.230 states: "The director shall arrange for necessary health care services for offenders confined in correctional centers, which shall not include any gender transition surgery as defined in §191.1720." What does all this mean? It means we need to be more proactive when it comes to future legislation. Right now those incarcerated are already banned from transitional surgery, so this bill should have little to no effect on our existing care options, but an earlier version of the bill tried to deny us hormones. If we are not proactive, 2024 could be much worse, considering it is an election year and all of the Missouri House and half of Missouri's Senate seats are up for reelection! 2024 could be very harmful to our community unless the politicians find another topic to focus on.

Mama Patricia

PAY IT FORWARD

Family: I need you all to help me pay it forward. Every day at 12:12pm I ask that you all unite for the greater good of humanity to make a wish. Pray/meditate. H.U.G. (help you grow) someone or lend a helping H.N.D. (say "Have a nice day") to somebody. It's our duty to provide beauty in this ugly world we live in. Beauty, unity and love will help us sustain our minds as we try to successfully 12/12 this bitch. Can you dig it? I think I hear a "yes we can". Together we can uplift each other. United we can all stand but divided we will all fall. I call this the IMU project, the international moment of unity at 12:12pm each day. Let's spread good vibes and bank on their hearty returns.

Our enemies do not want us to succeed. But we can if we continue to have a strong sense of unity and pride. Pride is a deeper love inside our souls that gives us the power to live in the strength to survive. Pride is unity and unity is strength. Life is all about unity. And 12 is the number of unity! There are 12 hours of sunlight/darkness, 12 months in a year. And your girl Summer "The Sweetest" Breeze was born in the 12 month, you feel me?

Those of you seeking HRT, do not give up no matter what kind of games they play with you and your therapy. Keep at it. Some things are worth fighting for. They're weaponizing HRT and using it as a tool to harm us instead of helping us but this too will pass. On May 17 I was approved for HRT, and I was excited. I was told that I was the first person at my camp and in the state to be approved under the new rules. But there's been no meds or treatment given. They continue to ask me ignorant questions that they have the answers for such as "Do you really want this?" "Am I SOP?" which I'm not. "Do you have PREA allegations? 7's or 15's?" None of that applies to me, but I will not be moved.

I'm like a tree planted by a refreshing stream that brings forth fruit in and out of season. I refuse to be refused. I shall not be moved. Keep y'all faces up and hang in there. Let's 12/12 these issues and this bitch together. I'm a lifer here to serve not only my sentence, but those who need help. I'm Locked In ForEver. So let's unite. Fight from a standpoint of victory and believe that no matter who or what you are up against that you will win! Love y'all. Auntie Summer "The Sweetest" Breeze





ON LONELINESS

Editor's Note: MRN fact-checked the numbers cited in this article, found them to be accurate, and included more detail about the research in question.



"Loneliness is a disease that can lead to death. They might as well be the same thing." Holo the Wise Wolf (from Spice and Wolf)

The anime that I just quoted speaks a painful truth, for all of us that are different. There was a recent (June 2023) study that analyzed 90 existing studies on loneliness and social isolation involving more than two million adults, that found that these two factors can significantly increase the probability of an early death.

Let's break that down. Just those who feel lonely are 14% more likely to experience an early death. Next, those who live in social isolation are 32% more likely to have an early death. And those with an objective lack of contact are 30% more likely to die earlier than other people of similar health and status.

This is not just from suicidal idealization, but a whole gamut of serious health issues. Loneliness increases stress which over time can cause heart problems, blood pressure increase, psychological, and neurological issues, as well as leading to drug abuse and alcoholism.

And still I'm speaking of everyone. I haven't yet narrowed my focus to prisoners, nor to prisoners in long term ad-seg doing solitary confinement. Nor have I gotten to the issue close to our hearts; being transgender. No one is doing studies on the social isolation and loneliness of being transgender in prison. Of the destruction of our health and sanity. Of being one of the unseen. Of blatant harassment, which targets transgender society, that makes drag shows illegal. That restricts access to psychological and medical treatment for underage transgender people. That fails to remember that trans people are still people.

So what's the suicide statistics due to loneliness and social isolation of transgender inmates, who remain untreated due to discriminatory practices? Who receive violations due to harassment by bigoted staff? Who experience violence and sexual assault, and have no one to help them through it?

I don't know. I just live this life. I have experienced all of this and more. I have attempted suicide. I have tried to self castrate. I'm still not being treated by D.O.C. though I still fight, the same fight I've been fighting for the last twenty years. I am alone. I am isolated from the world.

There is a small community of Sisters, and LGBTQ+ Supporters here., But is that enough? Will that change the statistics?

I grew up in a small town seven miles in the country. I was an only child, being raised by my grandparents (mother's side) while my mother was working in St. Louis. I have always been very self aware, and by the time I was six, I KNEW that I was a girl. Of course in the early eighties the word transgender wasn't publicly known. With only two tv channels, there wasn't really any icons or role models for me. The only thing close was Klinger (from M.A.S.H.) or Bugs Bunny in drag.

Neither of these were quite right, but these were the only references I had to work with as I came out to first my grandparents then my mother. My grandparents grew during in the Great Depression and had their own ideas about how the world should be.

Then, as a teenager, my mother came out as being bisexual. Now their six year old grandson keeps insisting that he's a girl.

The gist of my grandparents' response was "That's nice, wear what you want, but dear god don't let the neighbors find out. and you'll outgrow it" My mother wasn't much better, she was butch, strong as any man and twice as tough; the only words I can still hear her say is: "You'll live." Of all people, she didn't get it. I was so like her, yet absolutely opposite what she wanted, it made no sense to her.

So I got to wear dresses and panties, but no one in my family could understand why. The more I tried to explain the more isolated I felt. I had no one to help or talk to. I got to be a girl at home, but when I went to school or into town I had to be a good boy (Dear god don't tell the neighbors). I had few friends, because I had a secret I couldn't tell, and kids at that age are highly perceptive to differences and can be very cruel. This led to a different issue a few years later. I had an uncle who had discovered that he had a niece, not a nephew. He also lived in St. Louis, and he began to take me for weekend trips to shop, and go to movies and the Science Center. From the next year I was his niece in public, and he used that to groom me to where I would do anything so long as he treated me as a girl. He never hurt me, but he used me. He killed himself when I was nine, and despite that he was my abuser, he had been the only one who had understood. My own first suicide attempt came less than a month later. I was alone again.

Now, I live in a world where I have to fight for treatment. Where I am watching the government attack transgender rights, trying to ban books about and by us. To silence our voices, and leave us in a state where in the age of instant Internet everywhere, others would have to grow up like I did, alone and never knowing that there was another person like I was. That was the hardest thing growing up, believing that I was the only girl trapped in the body of a boy. I'll be 43 this year and often I still feel exactly the same trapped in the wrong fucking body, unable to get help because D.O.C. refuses to do anything (dear god don't tell the voters). Thirty-four years later and nothing has changed. No one understands that I'm begging for help, all they care about is what the neighbors will think, or how they can use me for their own pleasures.

In the first part of Loneliness I spoke about statistics; how being socially isolated and alone increases your chances of an early death. From my own point of view, those numbers are true. I feel that death has been my closest companion all along. She has walked beside me, behind and to my left all along. I have grown strong in this life, with my Death as my eternal companion, for when I hit that lowest point, and I feel that my Loneliness and Despair will surely kill me, I can turn to my Death and ask if this is true, then she will say to me "you are wrong, nothing matters beyond Death's kiss, and I haven't kissed you yet." And I am comforted. It is only when we have fallen, plummeting to our darkest depths and been tested unto the point of death; that one can truly know themselves, and discover their true strength, Can become one's true self, and have the courage to share that self with not just friends and family, but with those damned neighbors too.

Jessica Blackwolf

MEET THE VOLUNTEER TEAM PROTECTING DRAG STORY HOURS

By [Kiara Alfonseca](#) for Good Morning America, At drag queen story hours and LGBTQ Pride events across the country, two at-odds groups may be found facing off.

On one side, a group protesting the event -- be it the Proud Boys, Patriot Front, or the Westboro Baptist Church, all of which are designated as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center.

On the other side, the Parasol Patrol. It's a group of dedicated volunteers who use rainbow umbrellas to shield children and families so they can enjoy these events without the watchful eye of anti-LGBTQ protesters.

"It's been humbling to see the number of people that will come out to stand in the face of hate, even when that hate is dressed in black bloc [black clothing and face coverings] and yelling and screaming," said Eli Bazan, a co-founder of the group. "To see that support, and that love from the community is just amazing."

Eli Bazan is a co-founder of Parasol Patrol, which shields LGBTQ events from protesters. The group's roots begin in 2019 in northern Colorado, when a friend of Bazan hosted an all-ages drag show. The event received an influx of threats: "The hate mail was fast and furious. We had death threats coming in, they were gonna lock the doors and burn the buildings. It was really some nasty stuff," he said.

Bazan, a Marine Corps veteran, stood guard at the event, and continued to stand watch at following events, helping families to and from the venue safely. Each event brought a rapidly growing group of volunteers seeking to help protect these events and their patrons.

Activist Pasha Ripley and Bazan joined forces to rally hundreds more volunteers, activists and allies to keep LGBTQ-friendly safe spaces across the country as they are meant to be -- "safe."

Volunteers go through a training, where they're taught to be non-confrontational, and to not engage with potentially dangerous protesters.

"Nothing that makes protesters more angry than to simply twirl your umbrella and smile," said Bazan.

Instead of yelling or fighting, you'll find the Parasol Patrol crew playing music, singing, and laughing, they said.

Volunteer Heather Spillman recalled facing off with a vocal group of protestors, and the volunteer patrollers broke into Disney songs -- singing "the entire score from 'Frozen.' Kids were so distracted and enamored with these volunteers singing that they never even knew that the protesters were there," she told ABC News.

According to Ripley, a volunteer was once hit in the face by a Proud Boy protestor, and more than 250 volunteers showed up the following weekend in solidarity.

"We're there because of the protestors, not for the protestors," Ripley said. "We're there for the kids. And we love and support them not in spite of who they are, but because of who they are."

In recent years, the U.S. has seen a record number of bills targeting the LGBTQ community -- from restricting LGBTQ content in schools to banning gender-affirming care for transgender youth and young adults. So far, in 2023, there have been at least 491 anti-LGBTQ state bills introduced or passed, according to the ACLU.

The Parasol Patrol uses rainbow umbrellas to protect children and families from facing hate groups protesting their events. The Parasol Patrol says the "political vitriolic" rhetoric from legislators and groups against the LGBTQ community has kept them busy, noting an increase in calls for protection from venues and event hosts.

For many Parasol Patrollers, the mission is personal.

Ripley, who is queer, said she hopes to be the adult that she wishes she could have had during her youth. "When I grew up in a very rural area in Oklahoma, and being Asian and being queer -- it was a struggle, it was a very lonely time," Ripley said.

Hillman, who has a gay child, has been part of the group since the first Parasol Patrol event: "I was one of those 100 that showed up," she said.

"My daughter is gay, and I cannot sit by and let what's happening right now happen. I need to be out there helping," she added.

As LGBTQ spaces continue to be targeted, members of the Parasol Patrol say they will be there to help. Amid the protests and threats, Bazan urges hosts and venues to "stop canceling events."

"There are so many events that get brought up and things are going great and then in pour the death threats from the right," Bazan said. "When we cancel these events, it says something's wrong. We're not doing anything wrong."



After the Supreme Court's 303 Creative Ruling, What Happens to LGBTQ+ Rights?



By CHRISTOPHER WIGGINS for The Advocate, JUNE 30 2023

It has been another controversial year for the conservative U.S. Supreme Court. As a result of a decision that allows business owners to discriminate against LGBTQ+ people under the guise of free speech, legal experts warn that the decision will have repercussions that will change American society for years to come.

In 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis, the court ruled 6-3 in favor of a Christian web designer, making it legal on free speech grounds for businesses that provide custom or expressive services to decline to provide services if doing so was against their beliefs, paving the way for further discrimination against LGBTQ+ people.

The owner of 303 Creative, Lorie Smith, challenged a Colorado law prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ+ customers.

Colorado's Civil Rights Division argued that Smith couldn't deny service to LGBTQ+ couples and that the business must accept all customers, regardless of sexual orientation. However, using a hypothetical situation, Smith was arguing she should not be forced to design wedding websites for LGBTQ+ clients, which violates her religious beliefs and her right to free expression.

Smith filed the lawsuit to prevent the state from enforcing its antidiscrimination law against her. Her complaint is preemptive, as she has not yet designed wedding websites or turned away same-sex couples. However, the Supreme Court agreed to hear it. One of the unusual aspects of this case was the absence of a discrimination complaint. In fact, Smith sued to advertise that she would not create wedding websites for same-sex couples.

The court's conservative majority opinion was authored by Justice Neil Gorsuch, with Justices Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, and Ketanji Brown Jackson dissenting. According to the Supreme Court, the First Amendment protects businesses from violating their consciences. Smith claimed that making a wedding website for same-sex couples violated her religious beliefs and compelled her to, in essence, speak in a way that she could not support.

"Colorado seeks to force an individual to speak in ways that align with its views but defy her conscience about a matter of major significance," Gorsuch wrote.

Sotomayor took her colleagues to task in a scathing rebuke within her dissent.

"Today, the Court, for the first time in its history, grants a business open to the public a constitutional right to refuse to serve members of a protected class," Sotomayor wrote.

The vice president at the Constitutional Accountability Center, Praveen Fernandes, tells The Advocate that the conservative justices in the 303 Creative case are misguided.

"There are so many reasons that this ruling is problematic, but the primary one for me as a matter of law is that the court conservative majority invented — out of whole cloth — an exception to the public accommodations laws that states across this nation have used to prevent discrimination and delivery of goods and services," he says.

Fernandes notes that this ruling does not give corporations the right to refuse services or goods to people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. Companies like Target, Office Depot, and FedEx Office, which provide a standard array of products or that provide duplication services for otherwise generated documents, should not feel free to try to discriminate since the ruling is relatively narrow in its scope.

Continued on next page

MORE HEARTS AND MINDS

So it has been awhile since I've wrote in and I've really been struggling lately. These people up and snatched my roommate of 3 years from me and moved them to a lower level saying I can't cell with them because of classification. Now my whole world has crashed around me. So my advise to anyone out there who is struggling or cares is to always remember if you truly love someone and feel like you can't live without them, then do everything you can to ensure they know that. And never forget to cherish those precious moments together because you never know when they will be gone... To that special person in my life you know who you are I love you so much my love and I never want you to forget that. I would also like to send late birthday wishes to our Big Sister B her birthday was May 22.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY B... Russell

I hope this finds you all in good spirits. As for me, push ups, reading, writing and hoping God blesses me with that special somebody. I'm now in single digits of being released so I thought it wouldn't be that hard to find somebody but its been hard and I'm tired of being alone. I'm six foot five, dark skin bald head, straight white teeth, 215 pounds, educated, love basketball, history, poems, movies. I have two beautiful daughters that love their daddy. I'm looking for somebody who is willing to give a redeemed man a chance at love. I'm forty years old so I don't have time to play love connection. I know what I want in this lifetime. I want pure and undying love in my life. I had to learn how to love because I let hate override my love and intellect. Now I'm ready to share this love. I'm into trans women but if you are a sexy male that can get it off without dressing then we might could be friends. I don't mean to sound cocky but I want only fine and sexy cause I'm fine and sexy. But I always have room for "real" friends. You take care and I hope to hear from somebody fine and sexy soon. Love/Honor Travis.



SUPREME COURT CONTINUED



“If we’re to take the court at its word and if we’re to look at the decision on its narrowest terms, the conservative majority on the court crafted an exception for businesses like 303 Creative, which offered expressive and customizable services. It’s hard to think of something like just simply Xerox copying something as being expressive,” Fernandes says.

“I think there is a concern that under the logic of the court’s opinion today, as a similarly expressive service or let’s just say 303 Creative itself, a business like 303 Creative could say, ‘We’re not going to do website design for interfaith marriages. Religion is certainly one of the protected categories in this Colorado public accommodation statute. So thinking of other protected categories, they could say, ‘We’re not gonna do services for interfaith marriages [or] we’re not going to do website design services for interracial marriages.’”

He warns that the implications of the ruling could be much more comprehensive.

“Arguably, if you wanted to have a birth announcement website or a website for the christening of your child [businesses] could say, ‘Well, we’re not going to do such website services for unmarried couples because we don’t believe in people procreating outside of the institution of marriage.’ So I think there are concerns of a similar sort of small expressive customizable businesses looking at other protected classes and saying, ‘We no longer have to comply with the public accommodation protections that were enacted a long time ago to protect these people, and we’re going to try to bootstrap these denials of services into the court’s opinion today.’”

The director of the National Center for Transgender Equality, Josie Caballero, is distressed by the court’s ruling.

“Every time the Supreme Court issues another corrupt extremist decision, the court loses more legitimacy, and the American people have to pay the price,” Caballero says.

“The 6-3 extreme supermajority is making policy decisions both from the bench and limiting the freedom of people across the country,” she adds. “Their power grab is showing no signs of slowing.”

Stasha Rhodes, the campaign director for United for Democracy, a group pushing for Congress to "rein in" the high court, also denounced the justices’ ruling.

“For decades, our laws have affirmed the basic principle that businesses open to the public should be truly open to the public so that every American has equal access to the commercial marketplace,” Rhodes wrote.

“In its decision today, the Supreme Court once again ignored longstanding precedent to impose its own right-wing ideological biases on our country, granting businesses the right to discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals and opening the door to more discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community, women, people with disabilities, and against people based on their faith,” Rhodes continued. “As extremists on the Supreme Court try to warp our laws and constitution to reflect their agenda, United for Democracy will keep sending this message: Congress, it’s time to act and check the power of this extreme Supreme Court.”

Alejandra Caraballo, an instructor at the Harvard Cyber Law Clinic, did not hold back in her reaction to the decision and what it means moving forward.

“The Supreme Court just made this legal for ‘creative professions’ to put up on their windows in 303 Creative,” she wrote on Twitter alongside a sign reading, “No gays allowed.”

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of a Colorado baker in 2018 who claimed that making cakes for same-sex weddings violated his rights. That ruling was narrow and only applied to his situation.

The Christian baker, Jack Philips, recently lost an appeal in a new case where he refused to make a birthday cake for a transgender person.

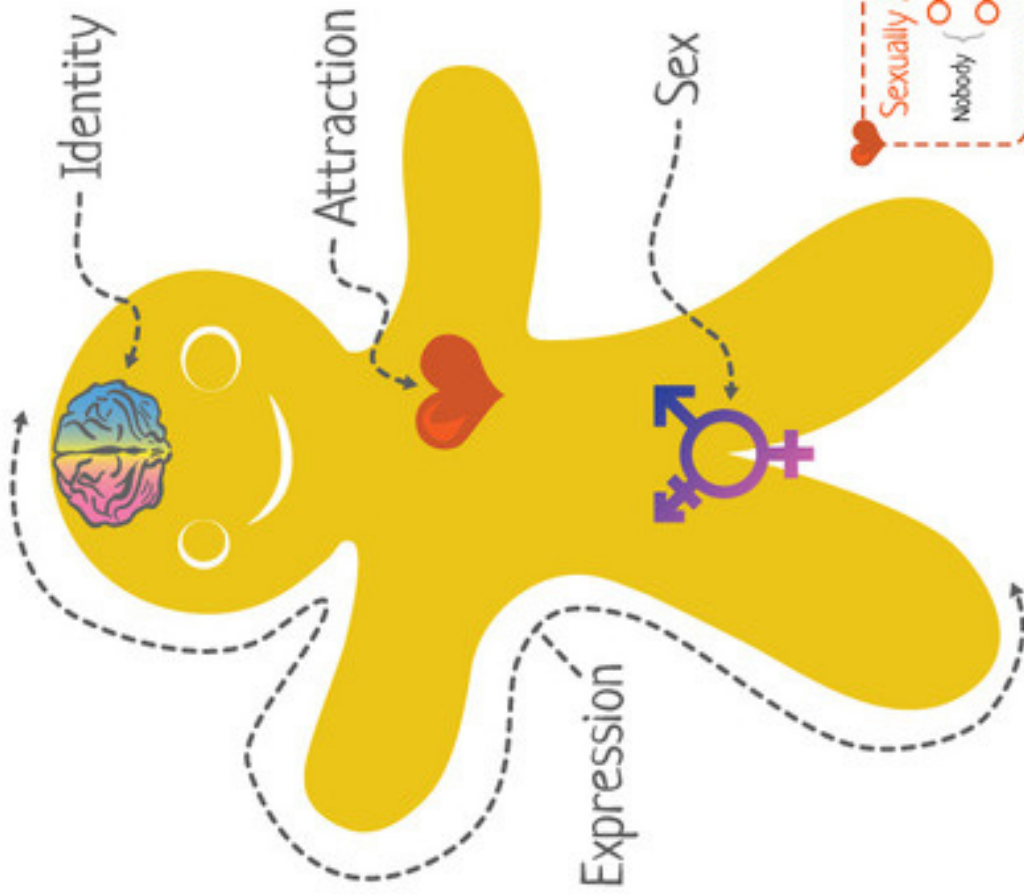
MORE HEARTS AND MINDS

I'm having a problem and I need yall help. I know I can be a bish sometimes but when you are on hrt baby emotions are like a rollercoaster. So recently I've had a family member go to the hole, and I literally found his i.d and forgot to turn it in. Later that afternoon a c.o came and woke me up and locked me up for false identification. funny right? he said my fum called it in, but nobody knew i had it. If so, I didn't even get a chance to turn it in. I go to school for my associate degree and agricultural science and i get done at 3. I made it back to the house and I fell asleep. at approximately 320 he came and locked me up after I cleaned my cell and found the i.d, I took a nap from a long day in the garden. They gave me a 14.1 but it's funny that all the guys who get 11.1 - 11.5 or so on get orange vest. I've seen guys flop out and the c.o come to the door and no medical examinations or nothing took place, just a orange vest. make no mistake about it I dont wish this on no one an im not a rat but is this discrimination or what? Dakota Nayomii Marie

The Genderbread Person v3.3

Gender is one of those things everyone thinks they understand, but most people don't. Like Inception. Gender isn't binary. It's not either/or. In many cases it's both/and. A bit of this, a dash of that. This tasty little guide is meant to be an appetizer for gender understanding. It's okay if you're hungry for more. In fact, that's the idea.

by its pronounced **METROsexual**.com



☉ Indicates a lack of whys on the right.

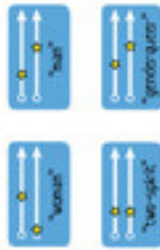
Plot a point on both continua in each category to represent your identity, combine all ingredients to form your Genderbread

4 (of infinite) possible plot and label combos

Gender Identity



How you, in your head, define your gender, based on how much you align (or don't align) with what you understand to be the options for gender.



Gender Expression



The ways you present gender, through your actions, dress, and demeanor, and how those presentations are interpreted based on gender norms.



Biological Sex



The physical sex characteristics you're born with and develop, including genitalia, body shape, voice pitch, body hair, hormones, chromosomes, etc.



In each grouping, circle all that apply to you and plot a point, depicting the aspects of gender toward which you experience attraction.

For a bigger bite, read more at <http://bit.ly/genderbread>



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Pittsburgh, PA 15217**

LEGAL/ADVOCACY

NEWSLETTER

RESEARCH

Lambda Legal
C/O Help Desk
4221 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90010

Missouri - Cure
P.O. Box 411794
Kansas City, Mo 64141
Chair Person: Kathy Franklin

Liberation Lit (inquire for free books)
P.O. Box 45071
Kansas City, MO 64171

ACLU
906 Olive St., Suite 1130
St. Louis, Mo. 63101

LAGAI (Ultraviolet)
3543 18th St #26
San Francisco, CA 94110

Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave. S.E.
Washington, DC 20540-4660

Missouri Protection and Advocacy Services
925 S. Country Club Dr.
Jeff City, Mo. 66109-4510

Black and Pink
6223 Maple St., #4600
Omaha NE 68104

Centurion
1400 Edgewood Drive
Jefferson City, Mo. 63109

Transgender Law Center
P.O. Box 70976
Oakland, CA 94612

Prison Health News
4722 Baltimore Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19143



National Center for Transgender Equality
1032 15th St NW
Suite # 199
Washington, D.C. 20005

Slingshot (quarterly radical newspaper)
3124 Shattuck Avenue
Berkeley, CA 94705



GLAAD
18 Tremont St Suite # 950
Boston, MA 02108

Prisoner Express (twice a year)
Prisoner Express
PO Box #6556
Ithaca, NY 14851



TGI Justice Project
370 Turk St # 370
San Francisco, CA 94102

LEGAL/ADVOCACY



Southern Poverty Law Center
400 Washington Ave.
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