

## “TRANSMAN” FROM PAGE TWO

and prejudice, but lack community and/or institutional support because they are perpetually treated as “one of them” – by feminists, employers, assaulters, the state, by gays and lesbians, family, women and men. Employment discrimination and social ostracism force many into sex work. They are subjected to sexist and homophobic acts of violence. And on a daily basis transwomen (and to a lesser extent transmen) are battered by rude stares, loud whispers of “What IS that?” or “Is that a boy or a girl?,” and invasive prying into their private lives and private parts.

In our post-9/11 society gender policing has increased in the name of national security. “Gender terrorists” find themselves subjected not only to heightened policing activities by their fellow citizens on a day-to-day basis, but also state-sanctioned actors constantly questioning the legitimacy of their identities. Transpeople are met with suspicion and treated as deceivers, being subjected to the “if you’re not with us, you’re against us” mentality.

Clinically I am considered a transsexual, which means that I have utilized medical services to help me better embody maleness. However, to access these services I first had to be diagnosed as having a disorder. The American Psychological Association claims that transsexuals are born with “gender identity disorder,” which is treatable by undergoing hormonal and/or surgical therapies. Yet unlike with other disorders, insurance companies deem such treatments elective. In other words, actualizing my identity entailed being told that I was sick with a disorder and sick for wanting to do anything about it. Even within the realm of science and medicine transpeople are treated as threats to the social order rather than examples of natural variation.

Transpeople have the radical desire to be who they are, and for others to see them as they see themselves. The declaration “It’s a girl!” were the first words that I ever heard. Such a seemingly innocuous statement, yet it robbed me of my authenticity for nearly three decades. But now I’ve taken my identity into my own hands, declaring “I am a transman.”•

**BE THE MEDIA!**

# State of Disunion

NUMBER OF SEXES the Human Genome Project has documented genetically in humans: 6	PERCENT OF STATES without laws addressing hate crimes based on gender: 76
PERCENT OF REPORTED HATE CRIMES which take place against BGLT people: 15.5	NUMBER OF REPORTED HATE CRIMES against BGLT people nationally in 2006: 1,472
NUMBER OF ARRESTS made during the first day of DNC in Denver this past summer: 106	PERCENT OF DNC ARREST CASES that have gone to trial that have ended in acquittal: 90
NUMBER OF COLORADO MOUNTAIN NEWS MEDIA NEWSPAPERS that have been shut down or scaled back: 6	NUMBER OF TIMES Obama has ordered bombing strikes on Pakistan: 2
MONTHLY WAGE paid to H2a Sheep herders in Colorado: \$650	NUMBER OF MONTHS The Red Pill has been covering the sheep herder story: 12

\* Sources for the State of Disunion can be found at  
[www.gjredpill.org](http://www.gjredpill.org)

## CALL TO ACTION

The Red Pill is looking for volunteers: graphic designers, writers, poets, cartoonists, artists, and photographers are needed. Get your work published now. Help distribute The Red Pill in your community, church, and school: contact us at [gjredpill@hotmail.com](mailto:gjredpill@hotmail.com). You can also do your part to keep us in print by donating time, paper, film, copies, and of course money (it doesn’t print itself).



The Red Pill is collectively produced by Grand Junction Alternative Media, with the aim of publishing stories and ideas that the mainstream media won’t cover. It is distributed free, collects no advertising, and is completely staffed by volunteers. All materials are copyleft, no rights are reserved. **PHOTOCOPY AND DISTRIBUTE AT WILL!**

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH TAKE

# The Red Pill

GRAND JUNCTION,  
COLORADO



TRUE

GENDER

FEBRUARY 2009

VOL. 7 NO. 2

## IT’S A GIRL....

It’s a girl!” Medical professionals took one look at my genitalia, and the idea of whom I was supposed to be was born. Amidst my struggle for gendered authenticity, gender consciousness became a part of my life. From a very early age I became acutely aware of gender disparity and inequity, of the importance of gender to our society, and the power of identity policing.

I identify as a transman. For me, identifying as a transman means that I have accessed available medical services to help others see me as the man that I am. Others in similar circumstances may identify as transsexual, female-to-male, or simply male. For me, identifying as a

transman means that I have had different experiences as a man than those who were born with a male body. It acknowledges that I am a man with unique sensibilities regarding gender—that I know what it means to be both a man and a woman because of my experiences embodying both.

For me, identifying as a transman acknowledges my female past and the sensibilities I acquired because I was born female. As a transman I can feel safe walking the streets alone at night, and I understand

why a woman also walking the streets alone may fear me. As a transman I know that claiming armrests on an airplane or taking up two seats on the bus is a subconscious declaration of entitlement that robs women of greater personal space. As a transman I know what cramps feel like and I know

what morning wood feels like. As a transman I went through menopause and a second puberty – at the same time. And as a transman I know how to talk about my feelings, but it’s become more difficult for me to access them.

As a transman I was once unequivocally accepted as a feminist but now have to prove my feminist credentials. Being born biologically female dictated

how others treated me and how I was supposed to look/act/move, and foreclosed “man” as an identity for me. This made me highly receptive to the feminist claim that biology is not destiny. The contradictions between how I was treated and how I identified myself made the difference between (biological) sex and (social) gender painfully obvious to me. Transpeople (transmen, transwomen, transsexuals, transgenders, transvestites, genderqueers) seem to embody the best of

“TRANSMAN” ON PAGE TWO

## BASH BACK! RADICAL QUEERS UNITE!

I will always remember the first time I met some BashBack! kids at the DNC this past summer. They definitely helped me find part of myself I didn't know existed until we embraced under that August sun, in front of those homophobic hate mongers that stormed Food Not Bombs, or those heartless bastards that follow Fred Phelps. I will always remember the first time I made out with a BashBack! kid while the world around us called us scum and sinners.

Not familiar with Bash Back? Well "Bash Back! is a group of radical queers, transfolk and feminists dedicated to building strong communities and militant opposition to heterosexism and transphobia and all forms of oppression including: white supremacy, patriarchy, fascism, ageism, classism, capitalism, fatphobia, ableism, poverty, and borders."

Bash Back! members hold the following tenets:  
 1. Fight for liberation. Nothing more, nothing less. State recognition in the form of oppressive institutions such as marriage and militarism are not steps toward liberation but rather towards heteronormative assimilation.

2. A rejection of Capitalism, Imperialism, and all forms of State power.  
 3. Actively oppose oppression both in and out of the "movement." All oppressive behavior is not to be tolerated.

4. Respect a diversity of tactics in the struggle for liberation. Do not solely condemn an action on the grounds that the State deems it to be illegal."

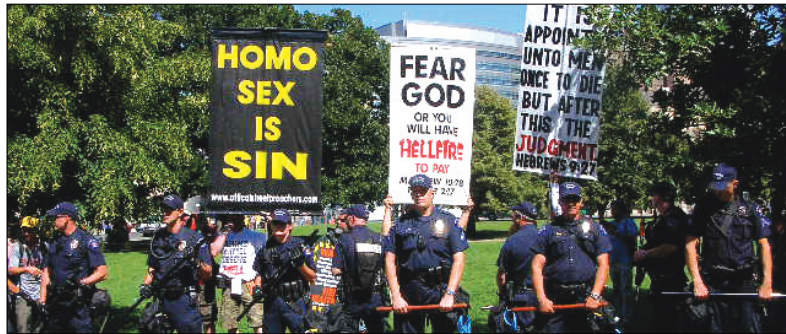
BashBack!'s last communique #666 calls for fellow queers to infiltrate the military to obtain weapons/training, while other BB! crews have been gathering pepper spray and other self defence "tools" (to hopefully give the cops a taste of their own medicine). Not that they need them. BashBack! kids are some of the toughest (and sexiest ;) anarchists I know. I can't personally wait to see BB! tear the army a new asshole (pardon my french) and destroy it from the inside out like right-wing-christian-fanatics/ politicians/ and military officials claim will happen if Obama repeals the DontAskDontTell policy like he has said.

Bash Back! is also hosting a national radical queer convergence to take place in Chicago this summer, from May 28th through May 31st of 2009. "We're pleased to invite all radical queers to join us for a weekend of debauchery and mischief. The last weekend of May will prove to be four solid days of workshops, discussions, performances, games, dancing and street action!"

For more info/news on BB! go to:  
[www.bashbacknews.wordpress.com](http://www.bashbacknews.wordpress.com).

For more info on the Radical Queer Convergence email [radicalqueer2009@gmail.com](mailto:radicalqueer2009@gmail.com).

You can contact the denver chapter at [www.myspace.com/bashbackdenver](http://www.myspace.com/bashbackdenver), or email [bashbackdenver@gmail.com](mailto:bashbackdenver@gmail.com)



Denver riot cops protect homophobic christian fanatics after a BB! member assaulted one of their group by Food Not Bombs this summer during the DNC.

### "TRANSMAN" ON PAGE TWO

feminist theory, and I proudly identify as a feminist. But for decades feminists deemed men like me traitors. Historically feminists accused transsexuals of being betrayers to our sex, especially when they felt they were losing strong independent women to the lures of patriarchal privilege. However, I feel that we have not betrayed our sex, but that our sex betrayed us. I remain as committed as

ever to women's causes – I am a transman not because I wished to reap the benefits of being a male in this society (in fact I resist them as much as possible) but because I felt wholly disconnected from my female body. I revere women; I'm just not one myself.

As a feminist and transman, I am deeply concerned about my trans sisters. Transwomen face extreme discrimination

"TRANSMAN" ON LAST PAGE

## MASS MEDIA COLLAPSE: AN OPPORTUNITY

Newspapers are dying all over the place. Colorado Mountain News Media, a Swift Newspapers subsidiary, and the owners of the FreePress, has scaled back and outright shut down many of its papers across the mountains of Colorado. Gone is La Tribuna (the Western Slope's only Spanish language paper), The Valley Journal (Carbondale), and the Leadville Chronicle. The Aspen Times has gone from seven to six-days a week and the GJ FreePress has scaled back from five to only three-days a week. The Daily Sentinel has been for sale for months with no buyers, after Cox News decided to shed some useless flab and sell off the Sentinel this past summer. The Rocky Mountain News will be publishing its last issue the day after this Red

Pill goes to print, after over 100 years in print.

But there is hope. The community of Carbondale has come together and are creating a non-profit community weekly to replace the now defunct Valley Journal. And The Red Pill will continue to print, because that's what we do, and we have never made any money. With community-generated news and local bloggers with columns, can you imagine what a local paper could look like if every and any citizen could contribute content? After the mass media oligarchies come crashing down, there will be an opportunity to create an open, encompassing media system where we are all consumers and producers of media—the 'prosumer' age will soon be upon us.

## GRAND JUNCTION MAN AQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES STEMMING FROM DNC ARREST

Grand Junction man, Ian Lafferty, 21, was acquitted last month of charges stemming from a protest during the Democratic National Convention, held last August in Denver. Lafferty was originally charged with Interference with an Officer, Obstructing a Passage, Refused Order of Officer. Two charges were dropped and Lafferty was acquitted on the third.

"I feel vindicated," said Lafferty. "It was a huge expense to take it to trial, but was worth it to set the record straight."

Lafferty was arrested as a part of a mass arrest in downtown Denver on August 25th, the first day of the convention. Over 100 people were a part of the mass arrest. Many other defendants have also been acquitted

or had their charges dropped. Only five of the almost forty defendants that have taken their cases to trial have been convicted.

"The only violence I saw that day was the police attacking us," said Lafferty. "The jury agreed that I wasn't doing anything illegal." The police deployed pepper spray, pepper balls, tear gas, and batons indiscriminately against protesters.

Denver Police were also caught using undercover officers as agent provocateurs, lying on the stand, and fabricating charges for the 106 arrestees. DPD has also drawn criticism from the ACLU and the National Lawyers Guild for widespread civil-rights violations.

## NEW YORK TIMES BREAKS STORY ALREADY BROKEN BY THE RED PILL

The New York Times, this past Sunday, February 22nd, published a story entitled "In Loneliness, Immigrants Tend the Flock" by reporter Dan Frosch.

The full-page feature-length story focused on the working and living conditions that H2a visa immigrants have to endure in the sheep-ranching areas of northern Colorado and southern Wyoming.

The Red Pill has been covering this story for the past year. We have published two stories in The Red Pill, and have produced three mini-documentaries on the plight of the sheepherders, two of which are available on youtube—our screen name is

"gjredpill." The third video is available at our bookstore, Confluence Books, 600 White Ave. Suite 302, downtown Grand Junction.

Thanks to all of you that have supported The Red Pill over the years. Without your support, this story would never have been broken.





## IN LOVING MEMORY



### DARCY DANIEL BLISS

DECEMBER 16, 1971—DECEMBER 27, 2008

Darcy is remembered best by her many friends and family, for her special gift to make one laugh and smile and make friends with animals. She loved life and she loved people.

Darcy Bliss loved the outdoors especially the feel of the grass and mud beneath her feet. She lived life by her own set of rules, that made her the very special person that was so dearly loved. If Darcy had her own way, all the signs that read "shoes required," would read "No Shoes Allowed." She will be greatly missed by all who's lives she had touched. God bless

Darcy Daniel Bliss, may she rest in peace.

Darcy is survived by her mother Tanis and sister Angelina. Darcy will always be loved by Allen.

*Editor's Note—Darcy is, to our best count, the 23rd local homeless person who has passed away on the streets in the past year.*

## TRANSGENDER 101

BY SHARI DALY-MILLER

Howdy Y'all—I am a former member of the Western Equality Board of Directors. Western Equality is an organization dedicated to creating a fair community for everyone including: bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender people. Often we use the letters BGLT as shorthand to describe our very diverse community. Most people nowadays know the meaning of "gay, bisexual and lesbian," and understand that sexual orientation refers to who a person is attracted to, whether same-gender or all genders. However most people, including gays and lesbians remain baffled about the idea of transgender. There is a good reason for this, the term "transgender" has only recently been coined and is still in the process of being defined. I will give definitions of various trans terms here, with the caveat that the consensus about most of these terms is still incomplete. First it is important to note that GENDER is separate

from ORIENTATION. Gender refers to what sex one is, and a transgender person can be straight, gay, lesbian, or bisexual in orientation. Our culture has been taught that there are only two possibilities for gender, male or female. Actually the recent mapping of the human genome has showed us that there are at least six different markers on our genes that refer to gender, making the xx-xy choices look overly simplistic. The word TRANSGENDER means transcending gender, and is used as a description of anyone who does not follow the traditional role our society prescribes for male or female. We use TRANSGENDER as shorthand to describe anyone who is gender non-conforming, from tomboys to transsexuals.



## ACTIVIST CALENDAR

### Monday, March 2nd • 6PM

Solidarity Not Charity has its monthly meeting the first Monday of every month to discuss the numerous projects going on throughout the community.  
Confluence Books 600 White Ave Suite 302

### Wednesday, March 4th • 5PM

Drinking Liberally gets together to drink and talk politics the first Wednesday of the month.  
Kannah Creek Brewery, Grand Junction

### Friday, March 20th • 5PM

Critical Mass. Bring your bike or skate for a community ride. We are traffic.  
Lincoln Park, Grand Junction

### Saturday, March 21st • 11AM-5PM

Peace Rally and Concert. Bands, Booths, Speakers, Free Food and much more. Fun for the whole family.  
Lincoln Park, Grand Junction, CO

### Saturday, March 28th • 6PM

Documentary screening to support the RNC 8 Grand Junction Alternative Media will be screening "Terrorizing Dissent" a film about the repression faced by protesters at the RNC this past year.  
Confluence Books 600 White Ave Suite 302

### April 20th-26th • All WEEK

TV Turnoff Week.  
Tune out, Turn off, and Join the world.

### EVERY SATURDAY • 4:00PM

Solidarity Not Charity meets at Whitman Park to serve free food for free people.  
For more info: 257-9520

### EVERY SATURDAY • 12:00PM

The Red Pill meets at Confluence Books.  
GET INVOLVED!  
For more info: 245-4442  
600 White Ave. #302 Grand Junction, CO

### Saturday, March 28 • 1-2:30PM

Alternative Parenting Series #3: Homebirth: Come Listen to two local homebirth midwives about your birthing alternatives. Future Parenting Events: Home Schooling, Breast Feeding, Baby Wearing, Natural Parenting/ Attachment Parenting, and more!  
600 White Ave., Suite 302, Grand Junction, CO

## GENDER TRUE

BY ABBY S. DAVIS

I am who I say I am really it's true. Inside is where I am boy or girl, not what appears to you. Since this is true may I please have dignity too? If I say my name is Sue would you please say her and she that would be so accepting of you. If I say my name is Bob could you say he and him even if I am only five foot two? Society says that it's only a life style, this is so untrue it is simply reality same as what you feel inside of you.

This I know is true; to deny is to suffer, to accept is to be healthier. So when I accept myself, and dress and act a certain way, it is not to shock you, it is to be healthy in my true gender just like you. Like all, I search for Truth and meaning, so I ask will you welcome me on my journey? As I in turn welcome you.

## SUPPORT

## LOCAL MEDIA

RED PILLS, CD ZINES,  
PATCHES, UNDERGROUND  
COMICS, BOOKS USED AND  
NEW, FAIR TRADE COFFEE  
AND TEAS, T-SHIRTS,  
MAGAZINES, DVDS, AND  
MORE.

## CONFLUENCE

## BOOKS

600 WHITE AVE. SUITE 302  
GRAND JUNCTION

## GRAND JUNCTION IN THE STREETS: 2008 A YEAR IN REVIEW

2008 was a good year for activism, protest and growth for the radical community here in Grand Junction.

From the Palin blockade, to the DNC in Denver, to Grand Junction Alternative Media (publisher of The Red Pill) opening Confluence Books, to the formation of Solidarity Not Charity, 2008 has basically kicked ass. The following is a rundown of all the cool ass shit that happened in '08. If I forgot anyone's kick-ass action, protest, or community building, I apologize.

In February, the arrival of the Longest Walk II, which marched from the Pacific Ocean to Washington D.C. to draw attention to the continued hardships faced by this nation's indigenous peoples, was the first event that really roused us from our post-holiday-lazy-depressed-funk. Local groups including Catholic Outreach the Unitarian Universalists and other local activists coordinated speaking gigs and places for the marchers to sleep in both Fruita and Grand Junction. These strong women and men of many different tribes marched thousands of miles for redress of their grievances, and lit a fire under our asses for the whole year.

March saw the fifth annual peace rally commemorating and protesting the invasion and occupation of Iraq. The march brought the protest to the door of our local weapons manufacturer, Capco Inc. 1341 Winters Ave. The un-permitted march took the streets and made their presence known at Capco with a community picket blocking the street in front of the war profiteers... just to let them know we know where they're at.

In April, GJ was blighted by the visit

of war criminal Dick Cheney. Hundreds of Junctionites showed up and occupied all sides of the intersection Cheney would have to pass through to get to the Bob Schaffer fundraiser. With lots of funny props and signs, the crowd was able to Unwelcome Dick Cheney, in what he considered a conservative stronghold. Two people were arrested after Cheney passed the crowd when they tried to enter the

neighborhood to go talk to Cheney. This marked the first political arrests in GJ since 2004. It wouldn't be the last.

In May, Grand Junction activist Mallory Rice disrupted the Colorado State Republican Convention by getting on stage with a banner that read "End The War Now." After the disruption, police escorted her to the "free speech zone" nearly a mile from the event. Throughout the summer, we harassed Bob Schaffer a lot. Richard Crespin and

Jaynie Curington tried to hand him a check for a million dollars in war profits to "Big Oil Bob" from Dick Cheney. Local activists also crashed the Republican Headquarters Grand Opening in downtown GJ.

Wal-Mart was harangued this summer, with a disruptive Dance Party organized by the Fun Liberation Front, reminding you to put the fun back in your life.

In August, at least 12 Grand Junction residents traveled to the Democratic National

Convention in Denver to make sure the Democrats know that we'll hold them to account as well. The Grand Junction contingent was in every march, loud and proud. They marched with the Immigration Rights Coalition, Iraq Veterans Against the War (for five fucking miles in an un-permitted march), the Black Bloc, the Green Anarchist Green Washing Tour, SAFER,

and with prisoner rights groups. The GJ crew was also able to organize a spontaneous action against Fred Phelps and his group (the evangelical wackos that protest fallen soldiers because they believe its god's punishment for our acceptance of GLBT people). GJ folks got a bunch of people to march from Civic Center Park to where homophobes were and then proceeded to have a "queer in" (thanks Bash Back) all around them. Two GJ residents were arrested on trumpeted charges during the DNC. One plead guilty and the other took his case to trial and won. We had bonded as a group, and when we got back to GJ in late August, activism took off again.

It always is amazing how mass-mobilization can create an energy you can take back to your own community to build alternatives and oppose injustices.

In September, Solidarity Not Charity formed, with its initial project of feeding the Homeless. Since then, SNC has fed dozens of people in Whitman Park and provided food for struggling families for free. Free food for Free people.

September also saw dozens of protesters at the Obama rally, calling him out on his centrist business-oriented pro-war beliefs.

October saw the now infamous Palin Unwelcoming. If you haven't seen it yet, check it out on You Tube. A total of five adults and two minors were charged with Obstruction of a Highway or Other Passageway and Obstruction of Government Operations for attempting to block the motorcade. The Adults were given 24 hours of Community Service and a \$100

fine. But the video went out all over the world. It was on CNN for days, Al-Jazeera English, the BBC, and Telemundo.

A few days later, a walkout was organized at Palisade High School against the unjust tardy policy and badge system. One hundred kids walked out and over 30 kids were suspended.

Less than a week later, Grand Junctionites traveled to Durango to help Animas SDS make McCain Unwelcome in Durango. Then again, protesters confronted McCain on Election Day in Grand Junction.

On Halloween, Durango Zombies (and a few GJ Zombies) reclaimed the streets with thousands of other Zombies who marched despite police orders to disperse and, in the end, five arrests were made.

During the first week of November, Grand Junction Alternative Media opened Confluence Books: Radical Bookstore and Community Center in White Hall Village, 600 White Ave Suite 302, Grand Junction, CO 81501. The space offers zines, radical books, used

books, magazines, obscure newspapers, underground comix, fair-trade coffee, and meeting space for groups, from Alternative Parenting workshops, to Know Your Rights Trainings, to Queer 101 for Straight Folks.

The radical community in Grand Junction is organized, growing, active, and can't be ignored. The year 2008 exemplifies just that. We will become an even more powerful force for change in this community in the future. See you in the Streets. •



## GRAND JUNCTION IS RISING...