

Appendix 10E

History of Transgender- Related Incidents in the United States*

In order to appreciate why a transgender oppression curriculum is necessary at this point in time, a look at the historical context in which transgender identity has developed is instructive. Throughout history, there have been people in every society who transgressed the gender norms of their particular contexts. Societies have responded to gender diversity in many ways, ranging from violent repression to respect and veneration. Although gender transgressors can be found throughout time, to label those individuals as *transgender* imposes an ahistorical label out of context. Those interested in the history of gender non-conformity would do better to explore how individuals who transgressed gender norms have understood their own identities and roles in society, and how they were understood by their contemporaries. Nonetheless, with that caution, we must still look to history to inform our understanding of contemporary gender transgression and transgender oppression.

Given space limitations, we have chosen to limit this timeline to events that we believe have had a direct impact on the understanding of gender and the manifestation of transgender oppression in the contemporary U.S. We encourage educators and students to learn more about the history of gender and transgender oppression in time periods and cultures beyond what we have included here.

1861: Franklin Thompson, born Sarah Emma Edmonds, fought for the Union Army in the Civil War. During the war, Franklin served as a spy, nurse, dispatch carrier

* With appreciation for the websites: http://jenellerose.com/htmlpostings/20th_century_transgender.htm; http://www.transhistory.net/history/TH_Timeline.html; <http://www.transgenderzone.com/features/timeline.htm>

and later was the only woman mustered into the Grand Army of the Republic. Hundreds of female-bodied people are said to have fought in the war, dressed and passing as men.

1887: Publication of Richard Von Krafft-Ebing's book, *Psychopathia Sexualis*, in which he describes various forms of homosexuality, cross dressing, and transsexuality. One of the first attempts to separate cross dressing from homosexuality.

Early 1900s: Beginning in the early part of the century, gendered color schemes for infants are adopted, a shift from the unisex baby clothing that previously prevailed. Heated arguments appear in the press about the genders of pink and blue, with many arguing that pink is a more masculine color.

1910: Magnus Hirschfeld coins the word "transvestite" (Latin for cross dressing).

1919: Magnus Hirschfeld founds the Institute for Sexology in Berlin, Germany, which becomes the first clinic to serve transgender people on a regular basis.

1930: *Publication of Encyclopedia of Sexual Knowledge* by Norman Haire. Addresses transvestism in detail. It also illustrates the first "sex-change" procedures.

1931: The first sex change operation takes place in Germany.

1933: The Institute for Sexology is raided, shut down, and its records destroyed by the Nazis.

1936: Jack Bee Garland dies, and is revealed to be a biological female. Born Babe Bean, she first cross-dressed in order to serve in the Spanish-American war. Once the war ended, she continued to live as a man.

1949: David O. Cauldwell coins the term "transsexual."

Harry Benjamin begins to treat transsexuals with hormones in San Francisco and New York.

1950–1973: Many transvestite clubs form in the United States, England, and Australia.

1950: The term "sex change" begins to show up in medical literature.

1953: Christine Jorgensen, an American GI, returns from Denmark having changed sex. Her return to the United States caused tabloid media to sensationalize and expose her as the first publicly recognized male-to-female transsexual.

1960s: Publication of Virginia Prince's self-help books such as: *The Transvestite and His Wife* and *How to be a Woman though Male*.

1966: Harry Benjamin publishes *The Transsexual Phenomenon*.

Compton Cafeteria Riot: the first semi-organized resistance to police harassment by transgender people, in San Francisco.

1968: Robert Stoller publishes the first volume of *Sex and Gender*, which explores transsexualism and transvestism.

Universities such as Johns Hopkins in Baltimore begin offering sexual reassignment surgery.

The Olympic Committee begins chromosome testing of female athletes, effectively banning transsexuals and some intersexed individuals from competing.

1969: Transsexual, transgender, and other gender variant people, alongside gays and lesbians, resist police in a raid outside the Stonewall Bar in New York City, resulting in a 4-day riot. This is now viewed as the beginning of the modern gay rights movement.

1970s: Virginia Prince is said to have coined the terms "transgenderist" and "transgenderism" to distinguish her experiences as a male-bodied cross-dresser from those who changed their sex.

Prince helped establish the Foundation for Full Personality Expression (Phi Pi Epsilon or FPE) organization, a social organization for transvestites (or

cross-dressers). In 1976, FPE was renamed Tri-Es (Society for the Second Self). The organization excluded transsexuals, whom they saw as less acceptable than cross-dressers. Apolitical, private, and low-profile, Tri-Es was emblematic of transgender organizations during this era.

Increasing public recognition of the existence of transsexuals. Throughout the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, transsexuals in the public eye were almost exclusively male-to-female.

1973: The American Psychiatric Association decides to remove homosexuality from the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM II)*.

The catch-all diagnosis “gender dysphoria syndrome” appears in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*.

Beth Elliott, otherwise known as “Mustang Sally,” becomes vice-president of the Daughters of Bilitis. Soon after, she is “outed” as transsexual and hounded out of the organization by lesbian separatists.

1974: Publication of *Conundrum*, the autobiography of Jan Morris, a British journalist who transitioned from male-to-female.

1977: Sandy Stone, a male-to-female transsexual, is “outed” while working for Olivia Records, a woman-owned womyn’s music company. Lesbian separatists threaten a boycott of Olivia products and concerts, forcing the record company to ask for Stone’s resignation.

Male-to-female transsexual tennis player Reneé Richards is barred from competition when she attempts to enter a women’s tennis tournament. Her subsequent legal battle establishes that transsexuals are legally accepted in their new identity after reassignment, in the U.S.

1979: The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association’s *Standards of Care for Gender Identity Disorders* first published, articulating the organization’s guidelines for “professional consensus about the psychiatric, psychological, medical, and surgical management of gender identity disorders” (*DSM 5th Version*, p. 2).

Publication of Janice Raymond’s book, *The Transsexual Empire: The Making of the She-Male*, which articulates the feminist argument that transsexuals reinforce the gender binary rather than challenge it.

1980: The American Psychiatric Association’s *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders III (DSM-III)* adds “Gender Identity Disorder of Childhood.”

Joanna Clark organizes the ACLU Transsexual Rights Committee.

1986: Lou Sullivan founds Female-to-Male Inc., the first female-to-male transsexual organization providing support and information. Later became Female-to-Male International (FTMI).

1989: Billie Tipton, a small-time jazz musician, bleeds to death, rather than seek medical help for an ulcer. The coroner discovers that Tipton is a biological female, which is news to the world, including his family.

1991: A transsexual woman is ejected from the Michigan Womyn’s Music festival for the first time. This incident sparks debate among festival staff, and, as word gets out, among the transgender community. In the years following, “Camp-Trans” evolves as a protest to the exclusionary “woman-born-woman” policies of the festival.

Female-to-male transsexual activist Jamison Green took over Lou Sullivan’s FTM newsletter and transformed it into FTM International, Inc., the world’s largest information and networking group for female-to-male transgender people and transsexual men.

- 1992:** The film *The Crying Game* brings attention to transgender issues.
- 1993:** Minnesota becomes the first state in the United States to pass a law protecting transgender people and others who do not conform to gender stereotypes.
 Publication of Leslie Feinberg's *Stone Butch Blues: A Novel*, which articulates the struggles of a female-bodied butch-identified protagonist beginning in the 1950s.
 In Nebraska, Brandon Teena, a young transgender man, is murdered by two men who had raped him a week prior. The following May, gender activists from around the country gather during the murder trial, when John Lotter is sentenced to death, and his accomplice Tom Nissan gets life in prison.
 Cheryl Chase forms the Intersex Society of North America (ISNA).
- 1994:** The phrase "of childhood" is dropped from the diagnosis "Gender Identity Disorder of Childhood," and is replaced by "Gender Identity Disorder" in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV*.
 Release of *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, an Australian film about two Drag Queens and an MTF transsexual traveling through the desert.
- 1994:** The 25th anniversary march of Stonewall is protested by a variety of transgender groups, for the continuing exclusion of transgender people from the celebration, and especially for the exclusion of transgender from the title of the event.
 Publication of Kate Bornstein's *Gender Outlaw: Men, Women, and the Rest of Us*.
- 1995:** First FTM Conference of the Americas held in San Francisco, which was the first time FTMs had come together in numbers greater than a few dozen and was attended by people from as far as Germany and Japan.
 In Washington, DC, Tyra Hunter, a transgender woman is critically injured in a hit-and-run accident. After discovering that Tyra is male-bodied, EMTs cease treatment, allowing Hunter to die on the sidewalk.
 1st National Gender Lobby day organized by GenderPAC, the national activist organization dedicated to gender equality. The issues include Employment Non-Discrimination Bill (ENDA), the Hate Crimes Statistic Act (HCSA), and transgender health care and the treatment of transgender people in the military.
 In Boston, a memorial service and candlelight vigil is held in response to the murder of Channel Pickett, a transsexual woman, uniting 250 members of Boston's queer community. In 1997, the murderer is sentenced to only 2 years, with 6 months suspended.
- 1996:** In Colorado Springs, 19-year-old transgender man Sean O'Neill is sentenced to 90 days in County Jail, after being charged with sexual assault and statutory rape for consensual sexual relationships with four local girls. The first True Spirit Conference is held in Washington, DC, providing a place for female-body born transgender and transsexual people to network and access resources.
 Activists from Transsexual Menace, Menace Men, TOPS, and Act-Up demonstrate outside the national meeting of the American Psychiatric Association, calling for an end to diagnosing transpeople as mentally disordered.
 President Clinton signs the Hate Crimes Statistics Act, which tracks incidences of hate crimes. The act excludes crimes based on gender.
 In Boston, intersexuals and transsexuals demonstrate outside the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) national conference to protest AAP's con-

tinued support of intersex genital mutilation (IGM). The AAP releases a press statement declaring that IGM is in the best interests of the child.

1997: GenderPAC organizes the first national conference for gender activists. Issues discussed include violence and hate crimes against transgender people, employment discrimination, and child custody rights.

1998: Hilary Swank wins an Academy Award for her portrayal of Brandon Teena in the movie *Boys Don't Cry*.

Transgender activists protest exclusion from the Gay Games in Amsterdam. The Gay Games reinstates rules that require “documented completion of sex change or 2 years of hormones” before allowing transgendered individuals to compete.

PFLAG, a national organization for parents and friends of gays, lesbians and bisexuals, adds supporting parents and friends of transgender people to their mission.

1999: Dana Rivers, a high school teacher, transitions on the job in Sacramento, CA. An award-winning and well-loved teacher, Rivers was nevertheless fired, and subsequently settled a lawsuit against the school district, for \$150,000.

Gwendolyn Ann Smith, in San Francisco, organizes the first annual Transgender Day of Remembrance to honor Rita Hester and all others who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice.

In Texas, Christine Littleton, a male-to-female transsexual, loses a malpractice suit against the doctor who allowed her husband to die. Defense lawyers argue that she was never married to her late husband since her Texas birth certificate, though now amended to read female, originally read male.

2001: The city of San Francisco agrees to allow health care coverage for sexual reassignment surgery for city employees.

2002: Gwen Araujo, a 17-year-old transgender teenager, was brutally murdered in California. In 2006, four men were convicted of her murder.

CBS' *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* shows an episode entitled “Identity Crisis” featuring the return of Paul Millander, a vicious serial killer who has outsmarted the CSI team since the series' first episode. The episode reveals that Paul is a female-to-male transsexual. The national organization Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) responds on January 25, 2002 in a press release: “To have the second female-to-male character [on television] presented as a vicious, matricidal serial killer is profoundly disturbing and deeply offensive.”

2002–Present: A variety of “prime time” shows on cable and network television depict transgender characters, including *Law & Order: SVU*, *CSI: Crime Scene Investigations*, *The Closer*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *The L Word*, *Queer as Folk*, and *ER*. Though not always positive, the increased attention to transgender, transsexual, and intersex topics and characters increases public awareness.

2003: New Mexico adds “sexual orientation and gender identity” to non-discrimination laws.

National Center for Transgender Equality, a national social justice organization, is established in Washington, DC. NCTE is devoted to ending discrimination and violence against transgender people through education and advocacy on national issues of importance to transgender people.

2004: California law explicitly prohibits discrimination based on gender identity, appearance and behavior in the areas of employment and housing. California law also permits employees to dress consistently with their gender identity.

The release of the movie *Normal* (on HBO), a story depicting a man who reveals to his wife that he wants to pursue sexual reassignment surgery and live as a woman.

2004: The series *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* airs episode entitled “Ch-Ch-Changes” about a transgender woman found brutally stabbed and murdered. The show follows the CSI team as they explore the “world of sex changes in order to catch a killer.”

2005: The television documentary “Transgeneration” airs on the Sundance Channel. The series documents the experiences of four transgender college students (two FTM & two MTF), chronicling their experiences of socio-economic class, ability, sexuality, family, hormones, and political activism.

In September, Congress voted to add “actual or perceived gender/gender identity” to federal hate crimes laws.

2006: The film *TransAmerica*, about a transsexual woman’s cross-country road trip with the teenage son she didn’t know she had, wins widespread public and critical acclaim. Felicity Huffman is nominated for an Academy Award for her starring role. Much of the media commentary about the film focuses on how challenging the critics imagine it must have been for Huffman, a female-bodied woman, to play the role of Bree, a transsexual woman.