

IN THE DARK

"We" now have a black secretary of state succeeding another black secretary of state, said Bebe Moore Campbell at a private Republican soiree held in a locked public building Monday on the UO campus.

The public had been told we were invited to this event, planned by the city of Eugene and student groups, but when the public arrived at the announced time, the doors had already been locked.

We were told only 500 people had been admitted. Most of those 500 came an hour early, obviously as special invited guests who knew the real starting time was 5, not 6 pm. By advertising this affair as "public," someone got a big tax deduction for all the money spent on food, drink and entertainment for Eugene's upper classes.

Meanwhile, having gone round and round looking for an unlocked entrance, hundreds of people of all races, including dozens of black children and teenagers, were left standing in the dark on an emergency exit stairway, barred from entrance to an affair advertised as a celebration of the life of Martin Luther King Jr.

Where was Martin Luther King Jr. on that day? Dr. King was on the stairs with those black kids, who once again had been told that equal rights do not apply to them. This event

was just another in a long string of messages from Eugene's ruling class to the lower classes that there will be no equal treatment, no fair treatment, for anyone in this town unless they are rich.

Ann Tattersall
Eugene

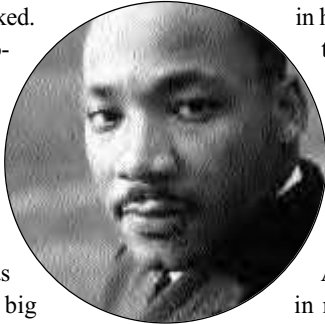
DESPOTIC RULE

Mr. Bush uses Orwellian doublespeak in his inaugural address to lull us into the idealistic vision of democracy spreading across the world, but that really means plutocracy, which is what we have in America today, a despotic rule by the rich.

Since the Vietnam war, America has intervened militarily in more than 31 foreign countries.

The reality is that America uses the overpowering threat of military violence to impose the will of the rich onto the weak and poor nations of the world. Mr. Bush is only the current player in a long list of puppets.

Dennis Kucinich (D-OH) understands the necessity for curbing American military madness, and has sponsored HR 1673, which would create a Department of Peace to establish nonviolence as our new frame of reference. Peter DeFazio (D-OR), co-sponsor of the bill, needs your support for that as well as his co-sponsorship of HR 2037. This bill would establish the Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund, so that people who as a matter of



TOO MUCH COFFEE MAN

BY SHANNON WHEELER



TO-DO LIST

1. GET PAPER AND PENCIL.
2. THINK ABOUT THINGS TO-DO.
3. START WRITING THE TO-DO LIST.
4. WATCH THE LIST GET REALLY BIG.
5. GET OVERWHELMED.
6. PANIC.

7. START DOING STUFF (THAT ISN'T THE STUFF YOU'RE TRYING TO DO) IN ORDER TO AVOID THE STUFF THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO DO.

8. HAVE ANXIETY.

9. WORK ON LIST AGAIN.

10. ADD INCREASINGLY IMPOSSIBLE THINGS TO THE LIST.

11. THINK ABOUT THE THINGS YOU'VE WANTED TO DO IN YOUR LIFE, BUT HAVEN'T DONE. REALIZE THAT YOUR LIFE IS A WASTE AND THAT ACHIEVING EVEN THE SIMPLEST GOALS IS BEYOND YOU.

12. ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE FILLED WITH SHAME.

13. FREAK OUT.

14. SPEND SO MUCH TIME ON THE TO-DO LIST THAT YOU RUN OUT OF TIME TO ACTUALLY DO ANYTHING.

15. GIVE UP.

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conscience object to income taxes being used for death and destruction may legally divert their tax into a non-military fund.

Until that bill is passed, I am seriously considering depositing my taxes owed into an escrow account offered by The Nonviolent Action Community of Cascadia to be used for life-affirming purposes, because I cannot

be complicit with a government that violates international law and denies the dignity, freedom and equality of all peoples.

David Hazen
Eugene

LTD FAILING

As the spouse of a Lane Transit District

viewpoint BY RISA BEAR

The Transsexual Quandary

Misconceptions, fear feed society's revulsion.



Transsexuals are currently one of society's easiest targets for disinformation, scapegoating, and vilification, and are sometimes violently attacked or even murdered for being who they are. Statistically, murders of trans people are more violent than average, with repeated blows from blunt objects or knives. See "Remembering Our Dead" at www.rememberingourdead.org

What would be the cause of such revulsion in society? Fear and misunderstanding. A clue to the lack of understanding of trans people is the use of phrases like "homosexual agenda" in transphobic propaganda.

In fact, the condition is relatively rare, affecting as few as one in 10,000 of the population, unlike homosexuality, which affects as many as one in 10. Gender Identity Disorder is a known medical condition believed by leading researchers to be generally caused by hormone imbalances in utero and described in the physician's mental health reference manual *DSM-IV*, with a prescribed set of diagnostic and therapeutic responses, up to and including surgical intervention. Surgery, however, is regarded as a last resort. "Reversion" therapy is practiced, generally for a year, before surgery is allowed, with letter of approval from a physician and two psychotherapists.

Research has indicated that transsexuals as a population are particularly resistant to reversion, having a particularly strong identity that is opposed to their birth gender. Awareness that one is trans often has an onset of four to six years. Doctors and researchers the world over have concluded from these facts that the condition is related to levels of testosterone and/or estrogen present during formation of the brain and before the formation of secondary sexual characteristics.

Formation of the secondary sexual characteristics follows instructions usually, but not always, consistent with the presence or absence of a Y chromosome (problems with the chromosomal location of the "sex determining factor" result in intersexuals, a different population from gays or transpersons but equally adversely affected by the marriage amendments). Transpeople are thought to suffer from the presence in the brain of

a structure in the hypothalamus that differs from they one they should have had, given the sex of the body. See "Definition and Synopsis of the Etiology of Adult Gender Identity Disorder and Transsexualism" at www.gires.org.uk/Web_Page_Assets/Etiology_definition_signed.htm

Although this condition is known and understood among medical professionals, treatment is regularly and specifically denied by insurance companies and HMOs, and transpeople must fend for themselves. The justification given is a few studies showing that transpeople aren't always happier after GRS and the suicide rate remains high. This is true, but what the studies do not consider is that the reason given by transpeople for suicide attempts is social rejection before surgery AND social rejection after surgery. It's not that the surgery doesn't have the desired effect, but that society often refuses to allow a happy outcome.

Hormone replacement therapy, electrolysis, psychotherapy (including the much-touted but extremely stressful "reversion" therapy) and, ultimately, for those who can tough it out (I've heard figures of as low as 15 percent), surgery, costs transmen and transwomen anywhere from \$15,000 to \$50,000, cash up front. There is tremendous pain involved, often accompanied by the loss of spouse (I've heard 93 percent), friends, family, work, or housing, and increased danger of death from blood clots, necrosis or infection from surgical malpractice, suicide, or murder.

No, we're not "recruiting" anyone. Who would wish this condition on themselves or anyone else?

As a population, transpeople appear to have higher than average intelligence and are less prone to violence than others, and, given the opportunity, are notably productive, gentle and unassuming citizens who, like other persecuted groups, ask nothing more than the same rights and responsibilities that are accorded to and expected of the surrounding population. See "Transsexual Women's Successes" at <http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/TSsuccesses/TSsuccesses.html>

I'm a pre-op MTF (male-to-female) transsexual. I believe the author of the letter "Sheer Madness" (1/6) to be a person of good intentions, and I invite him to lunch, on me, any time. I'm easy to find: in the Document Center in the Knight Library on the UO campus. Or dinner with my family at our home, if he likes. We don't live far from Springfield. My daughter was born there. I believe he will find that our agenda, just like his, is, first, to *breathe*, and, second, to *leave the world a better place than we found it*.

Risa Bear is a resident of Pleasant Hill.