

Destabilizing the Categories of Sex and Gender: *The Case of the Transgendered Student*

In October, a judge in Brockton, Massachusetts ruled that a junior high school boy must be permitted to attend classes while wearing girls' clothing.

The boy had been suspended three times for using the girls' bathroom and wearing padded bras, wigs and high heels to school. School officials said the boy's behavior was disruptive.

The boy's therapist had diagnosed him with gender-identity disorder. She said it was "medically and clinically necessary for [him] to wear clothing consistent with female gender." If he was not allowed to dress as a girl, the therapist told the court, he would be traumatized.

The judge in the court case, who is a self-identified lesbian, agreed with the boy's therapist. When reporting her ruling, the judge referred to the boy as a female.

UPI reported that "school officials said [the unidentified student] sometimes wore tight skirts and high-heeled shoes, blew kisses to a male student, and once grabbed another boy's buttocks."

Transgenderism is a theme which the gay community has—for public-relations reasons--long downplayed. In its quest for mainstream acceptance of homosexuality, activists call upon gender-typical spokesmen to address the public--even though these same individuals may look notably gender-*atypical* when photographed for gay publications. Lesbian women who appear as spokespersons when speaking to the mainstream media, for example, may then be photographed in the gay press wearing masculine clothing and men's hairstyles.

But with the recent political successes of the gay movement, that effort to "mainstream" homosexuality as a "gender-typical" sexual variation is slowly changing. In fact, gay publications now frequently acknowledge a transgendered man or woman according to that person's preferred gender-identity rather than their biological sex, referring to a transgendered male, for example, as "she."

Furthermore, activists have begun to lobby forcefully for new laws which assert the right of a transgendered person to dress and identify themselves in the workplace according to their preferred gender.

But Dale O'Leary, author of *The Gender Agenda*, observes that society is colluding with what really amounts to a self-

delusion. *The following is her commentary:*

The boy in Brockton MA, is not a "she" no matter how many judges or therapists pretend he is. He is a boy with a severe gender identity disorder who needs real help. Unfortunately, many medical and mental health professionals--rather than working to find a cure for this type of psychological problem--have decided that *supporting the delusion* constitutes treatment. Or worse, they further the delusion through surgery aimed at "changing" a person's sex.

Patients who suffer from the belief that they are men trapped in the bodies of women (or women trapped in the bodies of men) need real help. Cutting off a man's private parts, giving him breast implants, shooting him full of female hormones, and taking off his beard will not make him a woman---it will make him something less than a eunuch. Surgery will *not* change the fact that every cell of the man's body is clearly marked male (XY).

The promotion of "sex changes," and the normalizing of severe gender-identity disorders by radical feminists, pro-same-sex-attraction-disorder activists, and sexual revolutionaries is part of their larger agenda -- namely, the destabilization of the categories of sex and gender.

Judge Giles justifies her decision by claiming that "exposing children to diversity at an early age serves the important social goals of increasing their abilities to tolerate differences and teaching them respect for everyone's experience in that 'Brave New World' out there."

I find the statement particularly revealing. Years ago, I read *Brave New World* and remember being horrified at the ugly, anti-human future it portrayed.

This is not as the lesbian judge would have it about tolerance. Of course, we should be kind to people with severe psychological problems. But there is nothing kind about denying them real help, or using them as pawns in the culture wars.

The idea that gender identity can be changed was long promoted by Dr. John Money, formerly of Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Money's strident promotion of the sexual revolution, his tolerance toward pedophilia, and his highly controversial approach to gender issues in psychiatry have been well documented by John Colapinto in the new book, *As Nature Made Him*. ■