



Jim Fouratt · 285 followers
7 hours ago ·

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A few people have asked me to explain what the controversy is over my reputed position on trans-issues. Here is I am reposting what i wrote afew months back. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree or simply don't care I hope we can all agree that every person has the right to control their own body. I speak out because would like ro see informed choice not peer pressure to be the road making choice. I make no judgement on any person's route to finding self acceptance in this world. I do wish to raise questions about theory and practice`. If you actually know me I have assisted trans people in finding a safe place to explore their qustions... even if I might have a different point of view,

Where i stand today on gender issues.... always open to a positive conversation.. open mind ...open heart

I have been asked to explain why I think I have been under vicious attack since 2000 by academics, shunned by former political allies and objectified by some transgender and transsexual activists

This is a complicated and complex discussion. So let me begin by stating simply what I believe is a way to start a new positive and productive conversation .

If we disagree on a point or more, hopefully we can see each other as not the enemy but a traveler on the same road to liberation and freedom

In 2000 I wrote a private letter to members of the Imperial Court of NYC an organization of almost all gay men, some lesbians and occasional heterosexual cross-dresser who make drag both a political act and a social, personal concern.

In this letter, which was motivated by a sensationalized and dishonest article in NEW YORK TMES MAGAZINE

(<http://www.nytimes.com/2000/05/28/magazine/an-inconvenient-woman.html>)

by David France about the murder of a Marine by fellow marines when they discovered he was having an affair with a local gender illusionist, a professional drag queen. France made a critical choice to not include the fact that the Marine had stated he did NOT care about the male genitals of the the person he had fallen in love with. He had accept the person he was in love with for who physically v was.

Instead he had invented a story line that conformed to the agenda the young people at GLAAD had identified to the main stream media as gender identity issues and manipulated this agenda to fast becoming politically correct and professionally embraced .

I challenged the Court members to present themselves as gay men who enjoyed dressing up in a heightened manner as they created their theatrical concept of a man-made woman. It was fun for them , not a question of thinking themselves as actual women. I hoped this would add a dimension of historical importance in a debate that dismissed the history of a vibrant gender critique practiced in the lesbian and gay community world wide pre and post Stonewall.

It was a private letter that the only heterosexual cross-dresser member of the NYC Imperial Court angerly released on the INTERNET without my permission.

It ignited a firestorm and the embers still burn,

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I did apologize for the use of some provocative language that I would not have used publicly. I learned from the experience how choice of language can either facilitate communication or hinder it and have tried to not repeated such use of inflaming language since 2000.

I spoke personally to Calpernia Adams, the gender illusionist in the article, the surviving member of the relationship with the marine Barry Winchell while at Sundance in January .2002. I offered v an apology if I had offended v.

I still maintain the nascent ideas that were at the core of my concerns in 2000

I have engaged in many conferences on gender, have trans friends and have referred people with bodies in trouble to gender identity support services despite my theoretical concerns. I knew theory aside their bodies were in trouble.

I found that I was blacklisted from publishing anything directly on my gender politics position. Despite what is written about me, you will find little that I actually wrote or said published by me

Rarely would friend or foe ask me directly what I thought given the onslaught of attack they saw mounted against me and people like Alix Dobkin , Germaine Greer, Michael Bailey and Janis Raymond. Alix is a friend; I knew Germaine quite well in the middle '60's from being in the back room of Max's Kansas City long before Stonewall and her feminist writings..I have never met nor talked with Janis Raymond though I respect her provocative body of work. I found Michael Bailey's writing on gay male gender expression and transsexuality (The Boy Who Would Be Queen) and male bisexuality provocative and challenging. I have never met him . I also realize that most people who are enraged by these names had in fact never fully read their writings.

I am deeply concerned how gender identity, a political term, replaced gender expression as the operative political "queer" agenda. How lesbian and gay as language has been rejected as simply identity politics language and therefore reactionary. These are serious issues that I will not go into here.

I have serious questions about the rejection of genetics and science by a post-modern zeitgeist of the primacy of subjective experience. Its effect on the human body and mental health have not been fully examined in the rush to embraces subjectivity.

I am also aghast as to how gender issues not sexual orientation has taken over the radical lesbian and gay and queer agenda. How all issue of class and race privileged have been obscured in a campaign to make individuals born into one bio-sex who are attracted to their own bio-sex into a hetro normative image despite the denial by theorists.

This to me is the reclaiming of the sexual political turf by the dominate heterosexual society. A new form of homophobia has been professionalized with the blessings of many in the academic queer community. The impact and intersection of AIDS is a whole separate question on its impact on identity.

I grew up politically in consciousness raising groups that molded my sexual and radical politics into a feminist thinking

I remain grateful for this education no matter what trouble it gets me into.

I do believe there is an essential difference between men and woman.

I also have always advocated for people to have control over their own bodies. Have fought for the right of an individual with a body in troubler to make an INFORMED choice over the treatment of their body. This covers many issues of choice and not just those gender related.

It is essential to me to fight for this position as a gay man.

I have always stood on issues of jobs protection, access to housing, dress and self-name age with people who experienced or feared discrimination.

All people should be treated equally under the law. This understanding led me to support both same sex marriage and the right to be in the military despite my questioning of the value of marriage as related to property and oppose all war where men and now women are encouraged to a kill .

Most of my gender body concerns are about the interventions marketed for transition.

I still believe that gender dysphoria can, certainly not always, lead to pathological conditions. Mental health treatment can be both a survival defense and a tool of oppression.

The use of synthetic hormones has had a disastrous effect on female bodies. We know that from cancer studies. What will the wide-spread use of synthetic hormones have in the long term on trans bodies I ask? No one has come forward that I am aware of to answer this question. Apparently it makes people too uncomfortable as it is a practical not theoretical question.

The recent growth of the GENDERQUEER MOVEMENT may be the rainbow at the end of this dark and painful journey to wholeness.

Part of my concern is deeply personal. I was cured of childhood leukemia with the intervention of a then wonder drug in massive dosages ... cortisone.. and to this day remain one of the first children to have survive. I still carry the side effect's baggage because of the uninformed over use of the new steroid. But I am alive.

Gender and body issues were not born in the lesbian and gay community in 1992. Historically any male whose gender expression is culturally non-conforming has always been the object of scorn and homophobia regardless of their sexual orientation. And the tracking of gender expression and behavior today, even in pre-adolescent children, as signifier of a trans identity robs the real revolt against hetero-normative behavior, depersonalizes and potentially traps a child into a category not of their own choosing. It also reinforces the dominate culture's hetero-normative boundaries as acceptable gender expression by creating and expanding new categories of gender roles that do not threaten the standard of normative-heterosexual gender boundary rules. It also reinforces the dominate culture's retro-hetero-normative boundaries as acceptable gender expression by the creating of new categories of gender roles that do not threaten the standard of normative-heterosexual gender boundaries.

Back in the days of the radical lesbian and gay movement much of the male consciousnesses raising I went through was about what it meant to be a man and the oppression of culturally enforced boundaries of acceptable gender expression. In response gay men created their own roles in response to homophobia and oppression. Today the true nature of gay male expression remains academically limited to a sex act litmus and not to a goal of integration of sexual desire and emotional attachment into an integrated self. Much of the work of Harry Hay was/is about the true nature of gay male sensibility.

We challenged it 1969 and declared ourselves gender free. This history has not been written of yet

Women who identify as lesbian suffer similar but different forms of oppression because of their being female in a misogynist culture, which is more accepting of fluidity in both sexual and gender expression of woman because of the supposed superiority of men. Lesbians and their sisters will speak for themselves.

Jim Fouratt (cc) October 18th 2012

An Inconvenient Woman – New York Times

www.nytimes.com

Calpernia Sarah Addams has just rebuffed two handsome men (and a not-so-handsome one) who offered her compliments as she hurried across Union Street in Nashville. "Libertine gentlemen," she says,


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Liza Cowan thanks, Jim. I agree.
7 hours ago · [Like](#)



Mike Fornatale If any of this is a good reason for your having been excluded from speaking yesterday, it's beyond me. That's really abhorrent to me. "Toe the entire party line, tick by tick, or begone." How nice to know that the same kind of wackos are in control of the equality movement as are in control of the Republican Party. Gee, I wonder if that analogy would upset them?
6 hours ago · [Like](#) ·  1



Mark Horn Thanks Jim.
5 hours ago · [Like](#)



Abbie Cohen Thank you for sharing this on facebook.
5 hours ago · [Like](#)



Nicole Knutsson articulate. insightful. earned. you are *not alone inhabiting this opinion.
5 hours ago · [Like](#)



Nedra Johnson Respect.
5 hours ago · [Like](#) ·  1



Jonathan Dalin What a complicated discussion. Sometimes I think its important to see that we are able, in this short lifetime, to experience just a micro-fragment of where we are in human history, that in the last forty years, not every important issue facing us folk... [See More](#)
4 hours ago · [Like](#)




Grace Skrobisz wow, this is so similar to how I feel on these issues. I am glad to read this today, and so sorry to hear you were not permitted to speak. Respect for your part in gay history and for speaking your mind
4 hours ago · [Like](#)




Marina Brown Jim, Thanks for posting this. Hard to believe that tempest in a teapot was 13 years ago.
4 hours ago · [Like](#)




Nedra Johnson He would have to renounce any previous inclination to question those politics. The *inclination to question* proves anyone unworthy these days.
3 hours ago · [Like](#) ·  1




Marina Brown Jim, I apologize for my part in that fight. Honest differences of opinion should not have led to the years of bad mouthing you have received.
3 hours ago · [Like](#) ·  2



Ian Young I really appreciate this article. Very few people are willing to talk sensibly about these issues as a Party Line has formed & quite well financed too. John Lauritsen is a friend who has tried to challenge orthodoxy on some of these issues & has also been censored & shouted down. I know others who simply keep quiet so as not to be vilified.
3 hours ago · [Like](#) ·  2



Jim Fouratt thank you Marina . I can't tell you how touched I am by your outstretched hand to join together in a respectful discussion of gender and identity and how to change this oppressive world . I have learned much from trans people willing to engage in open... [See More](#)
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Marina Brown Nowadays i don't say much about gender identity. It does not come up in my life. What does concern me are issues of personal freedom to be whoever you want to be and to do what you want with your body and life as long as it is not harmful to another. My passions are internet freedom, lack of censorship and of course our brave amazing young whistleblowers.

Human decency is another of my issues. Right now – i realized that i had held a resentment about what you wrote and said 13 years ago. That needed to come to an end.

Starting when i was 18 i got really upset about a certain professor who teaches at a very very conservative christian college. That percolated til a bit less than 2 years ago when i met this professor at a running race more than 25 years later. We ended up enjoying each others company despite being from opposite sides of the political and religious spectrum.

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Stan Magnan (Gender-)Free at last (again)! Free at last!
Thanks, Jim.
20 minutes ago · [Like](#)



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