Intersex Living by Lynnell Stephanie L. Thy Cup Runneth Over

Issue #3: Am I making a difference? I've always wondered why there weren't many people from the Trans/Intersex community out, when I came out. I asked a few people and the results were all the same. No one wanted to be out and known as Trans or Intersex. Some think if people knew they were Trans/Intersex, that's all they would ever be. Well, I debated the idea that the only way people were going to learn about us is for us to be out. I thought that way for awhile, but lately my opinion has changed.

I wonder if my being out is essential to the growth of the Trans/Intersex community. I'm not sure if I'm actually making a difference or just making headlines. More people have heard of my name recently, than ever before. I wonder if coming out was beneficial or just a mistake. After talking to a friend, I heard myself saying, "I want to move and start over, and never out myself again, EVER!" If I moved would I be running away because things aren't changing fast enough? If I give up because I'm not seeing the results of my being out, then I should have given up a long time ago.

I guess I've been a little naive about the world. I thought I could make a difference by being out. I thought by being out, being Trans wouldn't be an issue after awhile. Yeah, right! The LesBiGayTrans community is so used to being oppressed or oppressing. That's all we know. We have become blinded with rage and have started displacing our anger on each other. I've heard things like, 'Lesbians hate the Gays, Gays hate the Lesbians, Trans hate the lesbians and gays, and the Bisexuals are just confused."

If this is all there is to the LesBiGayTrans community, I want no part of it. If Trans/ Intersex women are supposed to become submissive, quiet women that don't say much—let



alone write or perform—then this isn't for me. I thought I was making a difference, but things are still the same. Or are they? I ask you, am I making a difference?

Issue #69: Sex & S/M. My interest in S/M isn't something I often write about. Why? For the same reason I seldom write about sex. There are some things Trans or Intersex women aren't supposed to enjoy-like Women, Sex or S/M for example. A few of us were talking recently about these subjects and I was asked why I never write about my dismay with the attitude some TS's have towards sex. Well, I will. When I started taking female hormones, my libido went up, way up. At first I was scared, I thought something was wrong. I asked my endocrinologist about it and he said, for me, it was normal. Since I am Intersex, my body has always needed Estrogen. Feeding it what it needs caused my body and libido to become alive. The fact that TS's or Intersex women are supposed to never have sex or only after the surgery is a rule I can't oblige. Then there's the question of how one has sex. As long as you don't use your male organ then you are a true transexual and have earned your crown. Male organ? I recently brought another dildo and harness. Are my dildos male organs? When I use them am I male? Are lesbians who wear strap-on's male? I also use handcuffs, does that make me a police woman? Look, my libido is high and I love SM, and I'm enjoying life. I can't teach you how to increase your libido, but I can teach you how to use handcuffs, and a Deer Skin Flogger.

Issue #34: African-American Women. Why is it that there aren't a lot of my sisters into dating TSs or Intersex women? Yet when I date white women, I've heard so much gossip about how I never date Black women, I must be a sell-out. Well I love my Black sisters, and if you can stop worrying about what people might think, then maybe we could talk.

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CARD REVOKED by D.L.

I was having a conversation with a few of my friends over the last month. One of these friends is about to give up on dating men. He felt that men have proven themselves to be distrustful and not capable of having a true relationship. He says he understands that women are not that much different but he has begun to find himself more attracted to women over the last year. He still considers himself gay but he wants to try dating a woman. His question was does this require his "gay card" to be revoked?

At first I laughed, but then I began to think about this. The thought is quite humorous, but I still decided to think about it seriously. What would it be like to date a woman again? So I began to have dreams about this-in my dreams I met this woman. She was about five feet six inches tall with mediumlength brown/black hair. She had dark skin and had a captivating laugh. At first, our relationship was terrific. We would laugh and go out dancing until the early morning hours. It was perfect; she would call me at night and we would talk about our future, not together but our dreams and our careers. I would tell her about becoming this great producer and she would tell me about owning her own advertising company.

A month later she decided we should have sex. I was a little disturbed since it had been a



couple of years since I had done such a thing. I began to psych myself up. As the evening approached, I had psyched myself up and it went off without a hitch after the initial laughter. I realized she didn't have everything I was quite accustomed to. We decided to go at it again just to make sure I had achieved the perfect level of comfort. To my surprise, I didn't die or explode.

The next day, a strange thing happened. She began to beep me and demand to know where I was and where I was going and who I was with. Every time I mentioned a guy, her voice grew quiet and she was distrustful since she knew I had male sex partners before. Then after she stopped by my apartment unannounced one evening and found my ex-boyfriend, Nelson, over "watching a movie," she called me a liar and said I was cheating on her. When I tried to explain we were just friends, she told me I was a man and that men can't keep their things in their pants, especially when they don't care who takes it out.

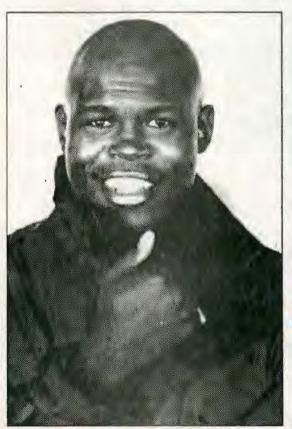
I awoke in a deep sweat and yelling at the top of my lungs. NO! NO! I then realized I had replaced this woman with one of my ex-lovers and this dream was a replay of a very silly episode. I called my friend and told him about my dream. Then I said the only difference men and women have is that women have two more letters. The reality is that relationships are just as unpredictable and crazy no matter what the gender. As for me I think I'll give myself another five years before I put myself through another nightmare because my present love life is frightening enough. I don't think I can take my mind inventing something I can't control.

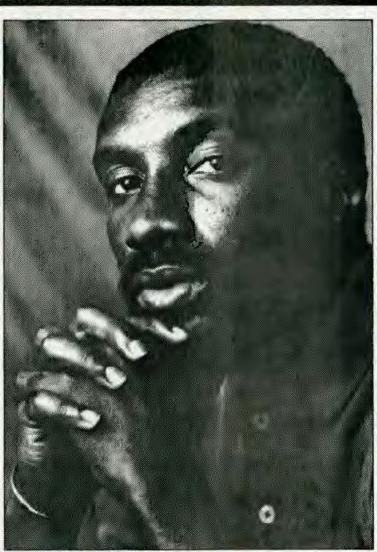


EXPRESSIONS FROM BLACK GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDERED LIFE MAY 1998, Vol. 3, No. 4 Free/S2 outside Chicago

STEVE

A Real Read and theatre O present a staged reading of the trilogy "Never Letting Go" by Steve Langley (right) See page 8 for details.





BYRON STINGILY
Getting Mighty Real With This
Dance Music Sensation (left). See page 23 for an interview.