

Summer 06

# Standing Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness



**ACPA**  
STANDING COMMITTEE FOR  
**Lesbian, Gay  
Bisexual and  
Transgender  
Awareness**

## From the Chair's Chair

Hot Summer News from the Chair

Happy end-of-summer & opening of the school year! I hope all are doing well & getting that last bit of vacationing, training, and outdoor fun in before it's back to school!

I have 2 primary updates since convention: the new SCLGBT A structure and the passing of the new ACPA governance structure/bylaws.

The directorate met at Depaul University in Chicago for our Mid-Year Meeting. This meeting helps us plan and set direction for the coming year. One day of our meeting was devoted to implementing the new directorate structure that we voted in, as a directorate, at our first business meeting in Indianapolis. I encourage you to see our new structure in this newsletter. We are very excited about our team approach to getting our work accomplished and I feel this new structure better meets the membership needs.

Thank you to everyone for your commitment & voting in the ACPA Governance/Bylaw vote during June. This initiative passed and as an Association we are moving forward with the implementation piece. I encourage you, if you have not yet done so, to review the documents & structure found at: <http://www.myacpa.org/task%2Dforce/governance/>

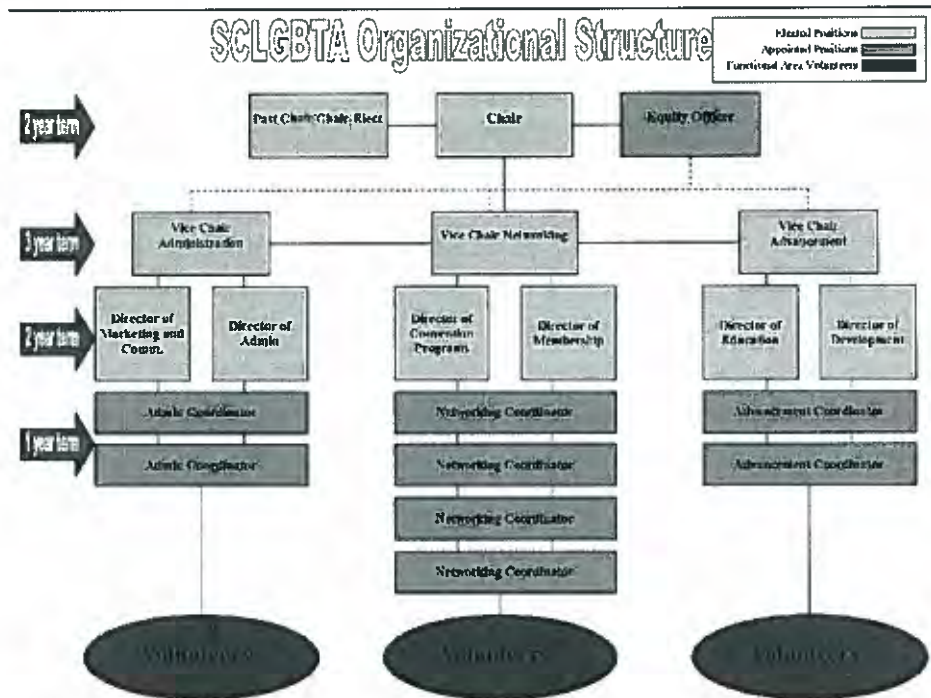
The Standing Committee Chairs are currently initiating a change to the new bylaw requiring SC Chairs to be elected only through their membership. We believe that the National election process has served the Association well and we are hoping to have a membership vote on that initiative in the coming months.

Please stay tuned for more exciting initiatives coming from the SCLGBT A. We are working with 2 groups on some upcoming Institutes and busily planning an incredible joint meeting in Orlando. We are working very closely with our NASPA friends in the LGBT Knowledge Community. You will see many collaborative events with our groups!

Have a great August & you'll hear from us again soon!

Fox

## Standing Committee New Organizational Structure



### New Directorate Body Structure Leads to New Nominations Process

by Alex Thompson, Equity Officer

If you are thinking of running for a spot on the SCLGBTA directorate body next year, pay close attention to this article! As you probably know, the SCLGBTA directorate has been restructured. Positions have been changed, the number of members has been reduced, and the way elections are conducted has been changed. Gone are the days of throwing your hat into the ring during the hurried rush of convention. Now, running for a position requires a bit more preparation.

In the fall of each year, the Equity Officer will announce which positions will be open for election and prospective candidates will be asked to complete an application process. After applications are collected, a nominations committee (consisting of current directorate members, as well as SCLGBTA members who've never served on the directorate) will review them. The nominations committee will then choose two candidates to run for each open position. Those not chosen as a candidate will be considered for available appointed positions if they wish to pursue one. As of now, the deadline for applications, as well as the exact elections process, is yet to be announced. Watch your inbox for more information in the coming months!

The current directorate feels that these changes will make elections more fair and equitable, as well as cut down on the craziness that is a hallmark of convention. If you have any questions about the new nominations process, please contact me at [jthomps@bard.edu](mailto:jthomps@bard.edu). Until next time!

## Standing Committee for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Awareness

### New Faces on the Standing Committee

#### Lisa Kendall Director of Convention Programs

Hey y'all! My name is Lisa Kendall and I am serving in the position as Director of Convention Programs. Currently, I am the Assistant Director in the Office of Sorority and Fraternity Affairs at the University of Florida. Before I became apart of the Gator Nation, I was a graduate student in the College Student Personnel program at Western Illinois University in the booming metropolis of Macomb, Illinois. Prior to graduate school I got my Bachelor's in Business Administration - Hospitality Administration at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. I was born in Florida, but consider the ATL my home.....the waffle houses are better!

In my current position, I am very excited to be working with the Multicultural Greek Council consisting of 11 ethnically-based Greek letter organizations as well as Order of Omega which is a national leadership honorary that serves the top 3% of the Florida Greek community. I also oversee all leadership, service and community program initiatives. As I cross over the first year mark with my profession, I am super excited to incorporate a higher priority to teaching about social justice and diversity issues.

As my first year on the Standing Committee, I decided to dive into the community head first with my position. I have become more comfortable with my identity and feel it is time to become a more vocal advocate and support for the LGBTQ community especially within the Student Affairs profession. I certainly look forward to meeting you all and more importantly involving you more actively with the Standing Committee.

#### Gabe Javier Director of Education

Hello friends and colleagues! My name is Gabe Javier and I'm excited to be serving you as Director of Education for the Standing Committee. I am currently the Assistant Director at the Office of LGBT Affairs at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. I am a graduate of Rockhurst University, a small Catholic college in Kansas City, MO, and a graduate of the Master's in Higher Education Administration program at the University of Michigan. Though originally from St. Louis, MO, I am happy to call Ann Arbor my home (GoBlue!).

At the Office of LGBT Affairs at UM I am fortunate enough to work with a multitude of student and community organizations, concentrating on collaboration and leadership skills. Prior to working at the Office of LGBT Affairs, I served as a graduate intern at the UM Sexual Assault Prevention Awareness Center, working to mobilize men to be allies to survivors of sexual violence.

I am committed to increasing our capacity to advocate for and educate others about the LGBTQ community through meaningful interactions and educational endeavors. I hope you will join me as we move forward with this. On the lighter side, I'm always up for discussing which Journey song is the best ("Anyway You Want It" is my ringtone) or how much longer Britney will keep K-Fed around (you dumped Justin for him?!).

If you're ever in Ann Arbor, stop by!



## Keith Kozak Director of Administration

Hello SCLGBT! My name is Keith I. Kozak and I am thrilled to be a new member of the Directorate Body (DB) of this Standing Committee. I am diving into my second year as Residence Director at Framingham State College in Framingham, MA (about 25 minutes West of Boston).

I began my GLBT campus involvement back at The Catholic University of America where I served in various positions working for students' rights, programming on campus, and providing student resources. While a Residence Director at North Carolina State University I served for 2 ½ years as Advisor to Bisexuals, Gays, Lesbians, and Allies student group and Delta Lambda Phi. Aside from educational and social programming at NCSU, I co-created Coffee Talks weekly rap session, organized the annual Everyone Welcome Here (National Coming Out Week), and helped create a new GLBT graduate assistant position with the ultimate goal of starting a GLBT Resource Center. I am excited to be on the DB working with the Administrative area. My position includes internal administrative work and coordinating online communication among the DB specifically with file sharing and email.

A little bit about me... I enjoy playing board games, traveling, musicals, and singing... in the shower, karaoke, in my car, with the ACPA AIDS Memorial Choir (shameless plug, we always need more people). On that note, I will see you at the Joint Meeting in 2007, but in the meantime I am looking forward to serving your administrative needs in any and every way!

## Clark Dawood Networking Coordinator

I am currently the Director of Residential Life and Housing at The Art Institute of California San Francisco and this is my first leadership position within the SCLGBT. I've been a member of ACPA since 1998 and the majority of my work has been focused on Residential Life and Living/Learning educational development.

I'm very excited to join the group in this capacity and while I am still learning about the specifics of my position I am hopeful that I will be able to provide a great resource and support to the membership of the standing committee. The work being done by the standing committee is critical not only to ACPA but to the students that we all work for and represent at our respective institutions. I feel lucky to be working with such a talented group of individuals working to make the collegiate experience of LGTBTA students an equitable and rewarding one.

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### The Health Corner

By Kelli Statler, Networking Coordinator

The students are coming! My Budget got cut! You want me to do what kind of program?! As we all know, summer is quickly coming to an end and the approaching school year often brings anxiety, a lack of sleep, tension between colleagues, and above all things...STRESS. This is just a reminder, from the Health Corner of the world, to take a deep breath and if you get the opportunity...smile!

As student affairs professionals, it is easy to get caught up in all the little things and forget that life does exist outside of the residence halls, student centers, retreats, staff trainings, etc. Just a few tips to remember this time of year:

- Find time everyday for you. It doesn't matter if it is five minutes or an hour. Balance is crucial to one's overall health.
- Exercise. Find a way to channel the stress...go for a jog, a walk, run around the residence halls...just get out of the office.
- Don't forget to eat. Bring fruit, veggies or snacks to work. Your body needs food to function.
- Laugh. Don't take yourself too seriously. We all do this job because we love it (well most of us do). Find the fun in the little things.
- SLEEP. This is easier said than done with late night programming, duty rotations, and long days. Do the best you can to catch some Zzzz's. You will be much more effective in the office.
- Control the Controllables. Control what is in your power. Remember you are human and there are only so many things you can take on at one time.

Happy beginning of the year to you all. Good Luck, have fun, and STAY HEALTHY!

## "The Standing Committee Needs You!"

By Derrick Gunter, Networking Coordinator

Greetings SCLGBTA members, have you ever thought about getting involved in the SCLGBTA, but don't know how? Have you ever considered doing more for new professionals in the field who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender? Have you ever thought about how great it was when you finally found that person in the field who helped to affirm your identity and connect you with other persons just like you? Well why not do that for someone else?

It is with great enthusiasm that I am writing this article. Reason being, I would like to invite all of you to participate in the lambda mentoring program. For new committee members the lambda mentoring program is a staple of the SCLGBTA and it is a great way to get involved. The program is designed to provide support for new professionals and graduate students in the field. We are looking for persons to be both mentors and mentees. In order to become a part of the lambda mentoring program please send me your name and basic contact information (i.e., email, institution, position, career interest, and what you would like to be (mentee or mentor)). I can be reached at [dlgunter@usfca.edu](mailto:dlgunter@usfca.edu). Please note that there are a few new changes soon to come and more information will be provided as well. Before I close I would like to thank those persons who have been both a mentee and mentor. Furthermore, it is my hope that you would continue to participate in the program as well, whether you are a past mentee or continuing mentor.

Once again, the SCLGBTA needs you! So email me if you would like to participate!

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Call for Volunteers !!! We want you to join us as a volunteer as we work to serve our members...endless opportunities available...☒

By Dawn Dooley, Director of Membership

On behalf of the Standing Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Awareness, I wanted to tell you about all the exciting opportunities we have developed for involving our members for this upcoming year. In mid July, the Directorate body for the SCLGBTA met in Chicago. One of our goals for this year is to involve more of our membership in the work of the standing committee and increase involvement opportunities in every area of our structure. I will be organizing the volunteer program and getting each volunteer connected to an area of interest. As a member of the SCLGBTA, there are so many ways you can get involved and use your skills to strengthen our services and programs.

The SCLGBTA is structured into three functional areas: administration, networking and advancement. All volunteer opportunities will work within one of these functional areas or with our Equity Officer. Please review the list of volunteer opportunities below and rank order your areas of interest.

Administration is looking for volunteers for the following:

\_\_\_ Newsletter, "Out on Campus" published quarterly.  
Write an article, book review, film/resource review.

\_\_\_ Silent Auction. Help solicit and/or contribute donations for our Silent Auction held at convention. Proceeds are donated to a local youth organization in the convention city.

\_\_\_ Convention Showcase. At convention, we need 5 volunteers to work at our table and also help distribute SCLGBTA resources around the room.

\_\_\_ Publications. We are looking for 2-3 volunteers with design strength to help with all SCLGBTA publications throughout the year, ie. to enhance design and proof documents.

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Call for Volunteers continued

\_\_\_Awards. As SCLGBTQA awards become available, we need nominations for our annual Awards to be brought forward by our members.

Networking is looking for volunteers for the following:

\_\_\_Local arrangements in Orlando for convention. If you live and/or work in the Orlando area, we are looking for 1-2 people to help on all aspects of the local arrangements for SCLGBTQA events at convention.

\_\_\_Gender Blender Social. 4 people to help plan and host the Gender Blender Social at convention.

\_\_\_Health and wellness articles and events. 3-4 people interested in helping plan and implement wellness events at convention and write wellness articles for our newsletter.

\_\_\_The Social. 4-8 people to help plan and implement our "Social" at convention.

\_\_\_AIDS Memorial. 7-10 volunteers to help coordinate and implement the AIDS memorial program at convention.

\_\_\_Dinner Out. 2-3 volunteers to help coordinate and implement our Dinner Out program at convention.

\_\_\_Paul Hart Fund. One volunteer to help design a new logo for the program. Fall 2006.

\_\_\_Membership. 3-4 people to work with membership to identify news ways to serve members and improve upon established SCLGBTQA programs and services. ie. work on a membership survey, outreach to members and other projects.

\_\_\_Lambda mentor program. We need lots of volunteers to participate in our convention networking opportunity, both mentors and mentees alike.

Advancement is looking for volunteers for the following:

\_\_\_SCLGBTQA, Director of Education is looking for 3-4 volunteers to review convention programs to be sponsored by our standing committee. This commitment is prior to convention.

\_\_\_Several volunteers to work throughout the year to help solicit donations and prizes for convention events.

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\_\_\_Cabaret. Help plan and staff the cabaret. On-going and at convention.

\_\_\_Sales. Join a team of individuals to coordinate raffle and cabaret ticket sales, both prior to and at convention.

\_\_\_Research. Work with Advancement to identify areas of research needs in higher education. Help increase the availability of research to our members.

\_\_\_Educational articles. Write educational articles on topics identified by the advancement area of the SCLGBTQA.

In addition, our SCLGBTQA Equity Officer is looking for volunteers for the following:

\_\_\_ Elections committee. 2-4 people who have never served on the Directorate body and do not intend to run for an elected position for the upcoming year. These people will assist in reviewing candidate applications for the upcoming elections. This is a minimum 3 month commitment.

Once you have ranked your volunteer areas of interest, you can fax or email me with your information. Please feel free to include any comments with your rankings. I will be connecting each of our volunteers with their area(s) of interest and getting back in touch with you personally. If you have any questions about the volunteer opportunities listed above, please email or call me. I am excited about organizing our volunteer opportunities and look forward to working with each of you during the upcoming year.

Dawn Dooley  
Phone 907-751-7449  
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andpd@uaa.alaska.edu

# Citizen Queer

By Gabe Javier

Note: The theme of the University of Michigan College of Literature Sciences and the Arts for Fall 2006 is The Theory and practice of citizenship, from local to global. This article is a reflection on the theme.

I remember very little of my parents' naturalization ceremony when they went to a city court building in St. Louis, Missouri, held up their right hands in front of a judge, pledged allegiance to their new homeland and made promises of civic duty. My brother and I were directed to wear ties and sit quietly as we watched. To us, the benches in the courtroom seemed like church pews, and the people taking the pledge were the congregation.

Afterwards, we had brunch and celebrated their newfound status: Filipino nationals, living the American dream in the Midwest, raising American sons and paying American taxes. Surely this life was better than the one they left on the Islands, and surely the subsequent generations would remember and appreciate their struggle of immigration.

The Department of Homeland Security reports that there were 604,280 people naturalized as US citizens in 2005. Yet, these new Americans are not afforded full rights. Naturalized citizens can never be President of the United States; the highest-ranking naturalized citizen in the Presidential line of succession was Henry Kissinger, who, as Secretary of State, was fifth in line. Naturalized citizens can hold other civic offices – Gov. Schwarzenegger of California and Gov. Granholm of Michigan, from Austria and Canada, respectively, are two well-known examples. Still, the formal, codified rights of citizens are seemingly few: men must register for the draft and everyone is subject to taxes and jury duty; and perhaps most importantly, citizens, other than felons, are allowed to vote.

The title and status of 'citizen' does little to capture the complexities of the concept of citizenship in the United States. For example, US citizens were recently evacuated by boatloads from Lebanon. The codified rights of US citizenship have no provisions regarding these types of evacuations, though there are most likely procedures spelled out by the State Department. It is in incidents like this that we see the 'idea' or 'essence' of citizenship: the underlying concepts are the rights one gains as a full participant in American society.

So we have two types of American citizenship: the type that gets us the American passport and the type that makes us feel like an American.

This second type of citizenship - the privilege, benefits, rights, responsibilities and earned status - is where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are being denied participation. At the heart of this matter is the ability for us, as Americans, to have civil rights and civil protections. This is what we expect and what we mean by freedom, after all.

Sadly, America is often unjust in its assignment and allocation of some of these protections, collectively considered civil rights. At the country's inception, only white, male, landowners were able to fully exercise their rights as citizens. Then, gradually, some were granted limited citizenship: women unable to vote, blacks segregated to separate drinking fountains, etc. Now, it seems the LGBT community is next in line to suffer these limitations.

What are the implications of our citizenship status as queers in the United States of America? In a framework where we couple civil rights with human rights, then is more responsible for the injustice being served to LGBT people – the lawmakers who pass laws or the voters that empower them?

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Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans are the only social identity group in the United States that is consistently denied civil rights. Currently only one state, Massachusetts, issues marriage licenses to same-sex couples. Four states and the District of Columbia have no specific provisions banning same-sex marriage. The other 45 states currently have laws, provisions of state constitutions or face upcoming legislation to block same-sex marriages.

Also, while our duty as citizens mandates men's registration for selective service, gay, lesbian and bisexual soldiers serve in silence or not at all. In many areas of the workforce, discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression is not explicitly forbidden.

The attention paid to LGBT civil rights is not about replicating the lives of our "normal," straight counterparts. It is a cultural struggle to open the eyes of the majority to understand their (albeit mostly unintentional) abuse of a minority. Supporting the status quo is opposing progress. The excuse of protecting institutions of marriage and family are weak when held up against a rising divorce rate and the success of non-nuclear families.

LGBT citizens are such only by name. Our contributions to civic society and our participation in the fabric of the American experience are met with the thanks of limited rights and privileges. In addition, other citizens can exercise their right to vote to strip us of our right to get married, have families and openly serve our country.

Our stunted status may not be something that haunts people's minds on a daily basis. Relatively few queer people are abused in the ways that blacks and other ethnic minorities were abused in the 60s. But the damage is nonetheless pervasive as we allow laws to limit the expressions of our identity. The more we continue to take our social identities as American citizens for granted, the less we will have to take for granted.

We are functional and fabulous in our second-class status, continuing to live civically active and engaged lives. We literally and figuratively add value to our communities. We continue to love this country, and we continue to add to its rich diversity. Our celebrations of Pride and National Coming Out Week are bittersweet - both a celebration of our difference and a lament that our difference provides the fuel to limit our lives.

My parents, like many other immigrants, say that they moved here to provide a better life for their children. And now, as their child, I struggle to think about the kind of life I will be able to provide to my children - what if they are only allowed to legally have one parent, and what if it continues to be acceptable for me to be discriminated against on the basis of my sexual orientation? So, as our future as citizens is called into question, it becomes imperative for us to remain rooted in our true selves. Even if we aren't considered to be people worthy of full citizenship as expressed by society, we have proven that we are people of worth as defined by our lived lives.



## See Tom Be Jane

The country's youngest transgender child is ready for kindergarten. But is Florida's Broward County school district ready for her?

by Julia Reischel | reprinted from Broward-Palm Beach New Times

It's a spring break morning, and by 11 a.m. at the Anderson home, chaos is erupting. School is out for the week, and the twin boys are throwing a ball inside the spacious, two-story house. Upstairs, the preteen daughter pretends not to hear her mother calling. Lauren Anderson, a tanned and well-dressed stay-at-home mom who seems incapable of sitting still, cajoles her offspring to behave as she waits for a babysitter to arrive.

Her youngest, Nicole, 5, is frowning. Nicole's face is framed with delicate brown braids, and her fingernails are painted a rainbow of colors. She plans to go swimming with a friend at the community pool, but at the moment, she doesn't like the way her dress feels. She yanks the hot-pink halter-top over her head, telling her mother, "This is poking me. I want to change my dress."

Minutes later, she scampers back, now as naked as a jaybird except for her underwear. Without the dress, you can clearly see her penis, tucked carefully into her pink patterned panties.

Born a biological male whom the family named Nicholas, Nicole today dresses, acts and lives as a girl. She's been insisting she's female since she could talk, say the Andersons, who asked that their real names not be used for this article. "He has always been attracted to the flowers, the bright colors, his Barbie dolls, and his beloved mermaids," Lauren says, using the male pronoun for her child. In fact, talking with Lauren, who fully supports Nicole's desire to live as a girl, it's clear that the family is still working out the grammar of how to refer to its youngest.

"As a young toddler, he wouldn't let me snap her onesies together because she wanted to wear a 'dwees' like his sister," Lauren says, mixing pronouns like he and her interchangeably.

Lauren admits that the family is feeling its way down a path very few families find themselves navigating. Although it's common for young boys to play with dolls or paint their nails -- what parents classically refer to as "a phase" -- it's much rarer for a child to so completely identify as the opposite sex. And what to do about it has been the subject of fierce debate for decades.

When it's not just 'a phase'

Some therapists insist that such children should be discouraged from living as the opposite sex because, they have found, the large majority of such children grow out of it. Studies show that many end up as gay adults. But a growing coalition of therapists, scientists and activists disagree and refer to such children -- even those as young as 3 years old -- as transgendered, insisting that the child's new identification shouldn't be discouraged.

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The Andersons are in the latter camp, encouraging Nicholas to be Nicole. Experts consulted by this reporter say the Andersons are the only family in the United States supporting a 5-year-old's choice to live as the opposite sex. This fall, the Andersons plan to enroll Nicole in a Broward County, Fla., kindergarten class as a female. They are convinced that's the only way she'll be happy.

Lauren says she constantly feels as if she's flying by the seat of her pants. "There is no protocol," she says. "Nobody knows of anybody. No 5-year-olds who go to school fully transitioned. There's no book called How to Raise Your Gender Variant Preschooler."

Nicole "carried like a girl" when Lauren was pregnant, but when Nicholas was born, he was definitely a baby boy.

"So we dressed him all boyish," Lauren says, as she fondly turns the pages of a fat baby album. There are pages and pages of little Nicholas -- with his family smiling at his bris, dressed in a tiny football uniform, being hugged by his older siblings. Nicholas looks happy. But Lauren says his desire to be treated like a girl was constant.

"At first, I thought it was cute," she explains. "I don't have a problem putting nail polish on a little boy. I don't have a problem if my son plays with dolls. His older brothers went through a similar period of doll playing and asking for nail polish on their toes. There's no reason to say no to a phase. I never once said 'no.' A phase is a phase."

So baby Nicholas was allowed to wear high heels. To play with Little Mermaid and Barbie dolls. To grow his hair a little longer. But instead of being satisfied with these concessions, Nicholas always asked for more. One day, he asked for something his parents weren't expecting.

Lauren was sitting at her computer working when 2-year-old Nicholas, who, like all the Anderson children, had a frank understanding of anatomy, came to her with a request: "I want the fairy princess to come and make my penis into a vagina," he said.

Lauren mentioned Nicholas' strange demand to his pediatrician at the child's three-year birthday checkup, expecting to be told that the behavior was part of the phase. "She got a concerned look on her face," she says. "This was not the reaction I was looking for." The Andersons were advised to look into Nicholas' desires with the help of a therapist.

Frightened, Lauren says she turned to her college copy of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) and looked up something called "Gender Identity Disorder," the clinical term for transsexualism. It seemed to describe Nicole's behaviors exactly.



"The neutral thing doesn't work"

The Andersons began allowing Nicholas to act and dress like a girl in the safety of their home or in the anonymity of the grocery store or at Disney World. That summer, Nicholas' camp even allowed him to wear a girl's bathing suit. But at preschool, Nicholas remained a boy and seemed satisfied with relegating his girl time to afterschool hours. Until he turned 5.

"Right at the age of 5, it was like 'boom,'" Lauren says. "Since he hit 5, he totally rebelled and refused to wear boy clothes. Every single day was a fight. By the end of the school year, she looked like a totally different child."

Today, Nicole gets to be all girl at home and is supposed to be "neutral" in public at her preschool, where many of her friends, all girls, call her "she." But every day, Nicole chips away at the vestiges of her boyhood.

"I try to do the neutral thing, and it doesn't work," Lauren says, "Slowly, every day, a new article of clothing will come out of the closet. And we end up looking like a girl."

Lauren says the potential for bullying won't change her mind. "I don't want to take that child's soul and squash it," she says.

Logistically, the Andersons believe, having Nicole attend school as a girl shouldn't be difficult. Most of the classrooms at the school have attached single-stall bathrooms. With the cooperation of teachers, other children would never have to know.

Marilyn Volker, a Miami sexologist, says other transsexual children have successfully navigated Florida schools, often with the discreet help of teachers. "Sometimes only individual teachers know about it," she says. "Often, the teacher deals with it."

"This is a child with wonderfully supportive, loving parents who's got medical and mental health professionals on her side," lesbian rights attorney Karen Doering says. "I think as far as being able to handle bullying, I think this child will do just fine."

School district insists protocols in place  
Although the Broward County School District would not acknowledge that it had received communications about Nicole's needs from the Andersons, it insists that it has protocols for dealing with a GID child.

"We take each child as an individual," district spokesman Andrew Feirstein says. "Any time a student enrolls in a district school and has specific needs, all appropriate information is gathered for an evaluation. District professionals meet together and work with parents to determine the student's best educational plan."

The Andersons say they contacted Nicole's principal in January, sending along two letters from mental health professionals who explained Nicole's special needs.

Then they waited. With registration for fall's kindergarten classes already beginning, the Andersons are still in the dark about the school's plans, making the task of listing Nicole's gender on the registration forms difficult. "I'm not going to put male or female. I'm going to put down 'I,'" Lauren says, which she means to stand for intersexed.

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Oblivious to the fight swirling around her as only a 5-year-old can be, Nicole is headstrong and boisterous. She seems to be a happy, healthy -- and perhaps a tiny bit spoiled -- little girl.

A month ago, Nicole debuted in her first theatrical role in a local community musical. On the show's closing night, the stage is dark, and a chorus of small, childish voices lisp a showtune. Parading around the stage singing along and concentrating hard on her stage directions, Nicole is possible to pick out only because she is the youngest child in the show, a good head shorter than the other girls.

If anyone in the crowd or the cast knows that Nicole was once Nicholas, they don't seem to care -- proof, the Andersons say, that Nicole will be able to function happily in public as a girl.

This story is excerpted from Broward-Palm Beach New Times and reprinted with the author's permission.

The Standing Committee would like to thank Julia Retschel for allowing us to reprint this very informative article.

## Call for Articles and Suggestions

In an effort to keep Out On Campus a valuable resource to all Standing Committee members, Out On Campus welcomes your ideas for articles. We are also always seeking articles that affect the LGBTQA community of ACPA and on our campuses. If you have an idea, suggestion or an article that could be included in upcoming newsletters, please email that information to Brian Kurisky, editor of Out On Campus at [kuriskb@ferris.edu](mailto:kuriskb@ferris.edu).

We appreciate your help in keeping Out On Campus a valuable resource for everyone.