

In full support of transvestites

BY STEPHANIE REIDY
STAFF OPINION WRITER

Last weekend I made an excursion to San Francisco with some friends. Aside from a pea-soup fog that felt like liquid nitrogen, we had a wonderful time. San Francisco is a colorful town; in other words, basically everyone is competing for the Freak of the Year award.

Among the many bizarre individuals that I encountered, I found the cross-dressers to be some of the most fascinating (actually, it kind of irked me that some of these guys were prettier than myself).

In the straight, conservative world, transvestites have a bad rep and are seen as candidates for mental hospitals or good targets for

over-ripe fruit. This intolerant attitude is very unfortunate, because I think we could all learn a little from the tribe of the she-men.

I, for one, would be very interested in finding out how to apply false lashes without blinding myself. I'm sure some shopping tips would also come in handy, such as where to buy discount pre-ripped fishnets or sparkle wigs. And I would absolutely LOVE to discover the secret of the breasts: how do they make them look so real?? I'm not ashamed to admit it! If I knew how to go up a bra size (or two or three) without silicone or wadded toilet paper I'd be flaunting some serious curves.

I think men could also learn from cross dressers—how to get more in touch with their feminine side (I'll pause a

moment so that all of you football players and other macho men can shudder collectively). The truth is, we live in a society that celebrates female beauty and encourages the adornment and decoration of the woman's body, but has such rigid stereotypes concerning "manhood" that males are excluded from the joys of playing dress-up.

Costumery is great! It is always amusing to be something you aren't—to don lycra and Lee Press On's and vampy blood red lipstick for a night on the town. Why should girls get to have all the fun? Next Halloween, take note of how many buff, tough guys have thrown on blonde wigs and miniskirts as a joke. There's an old saying that claims every joke has an element of truth in it, right? These Rico's

(excuse me, I mean Rica's) are jumping at the only chance they have to sashay!

Contrary to popular belief, many transvestites are totally heterosexual and do all sorts of "typical" red-blooded American male things, like having a wife, a large collection of "Hustler," and a fixation on football. They simply enjoy the outlet for creativity that cross-dressing allows.

Who can deny the allure of having a separate identity, especially when you get to call yourself something like "Can D. Lishus" or "Sister Vicious Power Hungry Bitch."

Aside from the more frivolous matters, transvestites are some very courageous people. For a man to wear pantyhose and lipstick in public basically flies in the face of all accepted cultural norms and makes

him (as I mentioned before) a target for insults and rotten vegetables! To pursue such a controversial past-time is to make oneself vulnerable, and that is a hard thing for anyone to do.

So next time you see a cross dresser, (and who knows? He/she may be staring at you from the looking glass) don't look only at the riot of rhinestones and faux furs, but observe the strength of character, the bravery and the badge of the individual that this colorful character is wearing.

So, boys, lighten up! Explore the realm of Revlon and L'Oreal (or do I mean Wet 'n' Wild?). Find out whether you look better in pink or purple, sequins or fur! Personally, I think anyone's legs look nicer in a pair of heels.

Parking the pits at on UNLV campus

UNLV administrators told us when they instituted the parking fee of \$30 per semester, they were planning a new parking facility containing up to 1,200 parking spots.

a few months later a new plan of implementation was formulated.

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Thinking about the current parking situation, how many times I had to search for a parking space and having to walk in from the north 40 only to walk into class five minutes late, a new 1,200 parking space facility seemed worth the annual pass. Commensurate with the spirit of improving a bad situation I decided to pay the \$30 annual fee.

Unfortunately, true to the administration's usual form,

It seems the original budgetary plan has fallen short nearly \$100,000, derailing the project.

But why "derail," instead of simply delay? Alternatives recently proposed included repairing existing parking facilities or constructing a smaller garage, neither of which address the problem that initially sparked the plan.

What was the original plan? To collect the fees and then think about how, or whether, or what size of garage we are going to build for students? I

think not.

Last year's interim president proposed building the 1,200 space facility with the funds collected from parking passes.

Donald Drake, a sergeant with University Police, proposes the purchase of automated ticket dispensers (at \$5,000 per unit), constructing visitor parking booths (estimated at \$15,000 with an additional \$18,000 to staff annually) and charging for night parking to complete the funds build up. I guess the administration figures they can fix the project gone astray with toys and stop-gap measures.

Why propose a project, and

implement the beginning phases only to drop short of the end goal, or worse yet, amend the project by focusing in completely different directions?

Drake also stated the university wants to buy an apartment complex so they can gain 500 new parking spaces. Isn't that a bit extreme? And do we really believe that the 500 parking spaces will exist into the future? We know that the university is cramped for space. Isn't this just another way to channel funds "earmarked" for student parking into an acquisition move? I won't be surprised when those 500 parking spaces temporarily gained could suddenly be put to better use as another

expensive building for the Athletic Department.

Why do administrators think throwing more student money at a problem will create a solution, especially when we can all see that they intend to throw it in the wrong directions?

What's next, valet parking for administrators?

Judging by the new proposals and apparent lack of planning, should we expect a parking garage anytime before the year 2010?

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