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## Blog # 87: The "Rad Fem" Hate Brigade: Chronicling a 40+ Year Campaign of Bigotry and Intimidation Against Transsexual/Transgender Women

Posted on June 6, 2012 by transmeditations



Individual Paper from the Panel: "Trans Sisters, Cis Sisters: Building Solidarity for Feminist and Queer Transformations"

Presented at the Philadelphia Trans Health Conference: June 1, 2012

The "Rad Fem" Hate Brigade: Chronicling a 40+ Year Campaign of Bigotry and Intimidation Against Transsexual/Transgender Women

To be perfectly honest, the last thing I want to come here and talk about is anti-trans radical feminists AKA TERFs (Trans Exclusive Radical Feminists) and their lengthy campaign of hate-mongering and intimidation against my sisters and I. Many have told me that I would be better off ignoring this band of haters, and use my energy on people who are much more amenable to learning about and understanding transgender issues. You know what? These people may be right! But in my case the Pandora's Box has already been opened. And while I do respect the above way of approaching this issue, as an activist I also strongly believe that hatred, bigotry and oppression, even from fringe ideologues, needs to be addressed up front. I do not believe that we should just all ignore what they are doing, because whether we ignore it or not, they are going to keep doing their work and jeopardizing our rights and our lives, so it is imperative that we keep doing OUR work to expose and oppose them at every turn.

Many may be surprised to learn that although the Internet portion of their hate campaign has been heating up for about 5-10 years now, this issue actually began over 40 years ago during the beginning of the Second Wave of the Feminist Movement in the U.S. One of the ringleaders of the "radfem" anti-trans campaign is named Beverly "BevJo" Dohrne, and she has been harassing trans women since at least 1970. Woman of transsexual history and [Women-Born-Transsexual Blogger](#) Suzan Cooke recently informed me that Bev Jo started a campaign of terror and harassment against transsexual lesbian Beth Elliott, who is known in the Bay Area as a long-time activist and musician, by trashing her in the feminist newspaper "It Ain't Me, Babe." The harassment against Beth came to a head in 1973 at a Lesbian Feminist Conference in Los Angeles when well-known feminist "icon" Robin Morgan publicly trashed Beth Elliott and tried to get her removed from the conference and from being able to perform at it. This harassment continued through the 1970s, with the abuse of transsexual woman Sandy Stone, who was a transsexual woman working at the all-women's record cooperative Olivia Records. While Olivia Records initially supported her, they eventually bowed down to anti-trans protesters and fired Stone. The 70s ended with the publication of the horrific hate screed *The Transsexual Empire* by Janice Raymond, which effectively laid the groundwork for horrendous oppression of transsexuals through

### My Tweets!!!

"Radfems" use the "tranny" word to refer to trans women, which is equivalent to racist hate-speech. Keep it classy, womyn! (sic) [#radfem2012](#)  
Sent 12 hours ago

Great to see so many people at [#pthc2012](#) condemning anti-trans "radfem" bigots. They are seen as a laughingstock & as pathetic [#radfem2012](#)  
Sent 13 hours ago

How unbelievably arrogant that you think YOU get to decide what our sexes/genders are. WE get to decide that, NOT you. [#bigots](#) [#radfem2012](#)  
Sent 13 hours ago

[#radfem2012](#) w/ their support of "born male" and "born female" thanks for supporting the patriarchy's arbitrary & coercive gender assignment  
Sent 18 hours ago

Asexuals are Queer, Too!  
[bit.ly/MAR9Wq](#) [#asexual](#) [#asexuals](#) [#asexuality](#) [#ace](#) [#queer](#) [#transgender](#) [#acephobia](#) [#LGBT](#) [#feminism](#) Please RT  
Sent 22 hours ago

TransFat Rebellions: Taking Back Our Bodies from the Haterz: [bit.ly/JU156K](#)

appealing to the Left with specious arguments about trans people. Raymond went on to help get Gender Clinics closed down and wrote a paper to the U.S. government to demand the end of publicly-funded transgender medical care. Raymond wrote that the so-called "problem" of transsexualism should be "morally mandated out of existence" thus unabashedly advocating the extermination and genocide of the transgender people. This hateful writing and policy work affected trans people through the 1980s. The 1990s saw a huge uptick in the transgender movement. But it also saw the ejection of transsexual woman, Nancy Jean Burkholder, from the land of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival in 1991 due to its so-called "womyn-born-womyn policy." This prompted the creation of Camp Trans which has been setting up shop across the street from the festival for 20 years now protesting its exclusion of transsexual and transgender women. The mid 1990s also saw the horrific discrimination against Kimberly Nixon by the Vancouver Rape Relief which would not allow Kim to volunteer for the collective because she is trans. Nixon sued and the case went through the courts for many years with Nixon ultimately losing and the Canadian courts upholding vicious discrimination.\* Starting 5-10 years ago, there has been a resurgence of transphobic "radical" feminism and it has mostly happened on the Internet. It is this Internet campaign of abuse that I wish to focus the remainder of my remarks on.

I first became acquainted with the resurgence of anti-trans hate when I was attacked by Bob Jensen at a conference at my university in 2010. In addition, someone from the conference put anti-trans hate flyers in the bathrooms to try to intimidate me and other trans folks and allies. I wrote a strongly-worded Blog about the experience that has received many hits and that probably helped to put me in the cross-hairs of these anti-trans extremist bigots. The next hit came when in March of this year, "rad fem" lesbian attorney from Baltimore Cathy Brennan sent a ridiculous email to my colleagues, my department chair, and my dean, calling me a misogynist for my work in transgender activism and my defense of fellow trans woman Blogger Monica Roberts, whose award-winning Blog Trans Griot chronicles issues faced by trans women of color. Roberts has also been singled out for hatred by Brennan and her ilk. Brennan got several other folks to gang up on me that also sent emails to my work supervisors attempting to get me fired or jeopardize my employment, a seriously hateful thing to do to a transgender woman, given the epidemic of joblessness that we face. More recently she has written yet again due to my advocacy work against Rad Fem 2012, a conference scheduled for July in London, UK that shocked the trans and feminist communities recently when its website went live. In addition to hosting whorephobic and rabidly transphobic speakers such as Sheila Jeffreys and Gail Dines, the conference has set a "women born women living as women" only policy that intentionally excludes women of trans experience from taking part. There is a similar conference scheduled for this summer in Portland, Oregon called RadFem Reboot. [UPDATE: During the session it was revealed that Conway Hall, the venue that was to host RadFem 2012 in London, had cancelled their invitation. Thunderous applause and cheers of jubilation could be heard throughout the large auditorium--another blow to anti-trans hatred! For more on the story, see [here](#).)

So what are the radfem tactics? In a word, they are egregious. They take their activism strategies straight out of the Fred Phelps handbook. In addition to contacting trans people's employers to try to "out" them and/or get them fired, they consistently mis-gender people, use the wrong pronouns, use and print people's birth names, use the wrong honorific on purpose, lie and make shit up, misquote and twist people's words and intentions beyond recognition, threaten law suits or talking with an attorney, infiltrate trans women's online spaces to publish private posts, and use sock puppet techniques and "doxxing" to further expose people without their permission, and use copyrighted pictures to create sadistic "memes" with lies written on photos of real people. They also are very fond of name-calling: among other things, I have been called: a trans jacktivist, a trans whacktivist, a violent prick, a male creep, an MRA, King of the Trans MRAs, a bigot, a tranny, a fucking idiot, a liar, a garden variety M2T misogynist with a pulpit at the University of New Hampshire from which to teach hatred of females, anti-lesbian, anti-gay, homophobe, lesbophobe, "mansplainer," "transplainer," a disgrace for the whole institution of academia, a laughingstock, a trans cultist, a true male, Charlie Sheen and a male-bodied dick. One of my personal favorites was a Tweet from Gallus Mag who said: "We didn't exclude you from being female, God did. Blame her." They also like using the term SCAM, which stands for Surgically and Chemically Altered Males. Luckynkl states: "SCAMS are nothing more than MRAs in dresses" while RoseVerbena states that trans women are "sexist pigs who accessorize" and BevJo, taking a cue from *The Silence of the Lambs*, says trans women are "male supremacists who want to skin real women to wear as their 'womanly' guise." Mary Sunshine, (and there is nothing sunshine-y about Mary) asks: "Is Joelle a lazy tranny name for 'Joe'" which then caused Cathy Brenann and Co. to begin referring to me as "Joe." Brennan is fond of delivering one-liners such as: "Joe, gimme a break, your genital delusionist view oppresses females worldwide"; "trans people use gender to oppress females. stop doing that"; and "trans women don't give a shit about females, because the legislation they push says that." Maggie H. extorts: "Fed up with those fucking trannies saying they are womyn. They need to get blasted too. They're men." They also generally refuse to acknowledge the terms cis/cisgender/cissexual and call it "hate-speech" and willfully refuse to acknowledge women as having cisgender privilege. They are very fond of ganging up on people and trashing them in the comment threats of their frequent anti-trans posts. Their time to devote to anti-trans hate-mongering is seemingly endless, and this includes constantly re-Blogging other people's Blogs to get them out to a wider audience. They also get off on posting links to stories about alleged crimes by people who may or may not be trans to speciously claim that all trans women are violent, sociopathic, sexual-predators. Recently, Pam's House Blend Blogger Autumn Sandeen, who is a transender woman, wrote a post about how Cathy Brennan and some of her hechwoman tried to interfere with Sandeen's legal change of name proceedings in a California court. As someone with a license to practice law in the state of Maryland, I find so many of Brennan's actions to be highly unethical.

So as you can see, these tactics are off the chart in terms of their level of malice, hatred, and bigotry. They also

#transgender #fat #trans #fatpride  
#fatpositive #queer Sent 22 hours ago

RT @supermattachine:

tumblr.co/ZAAEXwMpeG8L Sent

22 hours ago

RT @auntysarah: A conference which insists on only taking place if it's allowed to be transphobic is not about feminism; It is a hate ra ... Sent

1 day ago

Kudos to Ms. for publishing this!

msmagazine.com/blog/blog/2012...

More proof that trans-feminism is becoming totes accepted!

#radfem2012 Sent 1 day ago

Trans Feminism is on the revolutionary tip, & we are growing in number, in spirit, & in activist resolve. We won't be silenced! #radfem2012 Sent 1 day ago

Feminism affirms the radical notion that trans women ARE women!

#radfem2012 #GirlsLikeUs #transchat

#trans #feminism #transphobia #GLBT

Sent 1 day ago

Radfem Bigot Bug affirms MTFs by putting our Preferred Gender Pronoun in quotes & publishing birth name!

#radfem2012 <http://t.co/al4sAJZq> Sent

2 days ago

How ironic that this is called "ensuring fairness." U mean "ensuring fairness" 4 bigoted radfem ideologues?

bit.ly/MaTShl #radfem2012 Sent

2 days ago

I support destroying male violence too.

Why is there not a place for me to work on that as well? #radfem2012

Sent 3 days ago



frequently involve threats and intimidation. I know it is easy to write them off as fringe extremists who do not represent feminism and the LGBT community, and I agree with that. But their actions are incredibly insidious and injurious to the trans women they are targeting. That is why I want to encourage everyone to become more vigilant in terms of monitoring these hate-mongers and in terms of calling out their hate-speech in social media, including Facebook, the Blogosphere and Twitter. It is also crucial to point out that while trans women are the main targets of their gender terrorism campaign, trans guys have also been targeted, for instance see the hate Blog "The Dirt from Dirt" by a butch lesbian who is obsessed with fostering hatred against transgender men and likes to post their You-tube videos to open them up to harassment and abuse. In addition, the cis female supporters of trans people and trans women in particular face a lot of name-calling, although it does not rise to the antipathy directed against trans women. Cis female allies are variously called: trans pushers, handmaidens of the patriarchy, fun fems, lib fems, sex pozzies, "feminists", porn-sick genderists, terrorists, gender terrorists, passive-aggressive lib-fems, and Brainwashed on porn and TV. Radfems say ciswomen support trans because it is a leftist, trendy fad, because they are female/lesbian-haters, because they are in a daze, or because they are exhibiting "false consciousness."

It is time for us to reclaim feminism from the trans-hating, anti-queer, third-wave bashing, whorephobic, anti-postmodern, "rad fem" phonies. I urge you to get involved and speak out in any way you can so that they do not gain a foothold to harm our already greatly oppressed, marginalized and denigrated community. Let us join forces with sex workers and sex worker activists, Third Wave feminists, sex-positive/sex-radical/pro-sex feminists, queers, kinksters and BDSM advocates, anti-police brutality activists, prisoner rights advocates and prison abolitionists, as well as intersectional critics and activists and use these bonds to stop the tide of trans-misogyny and demand that the left see these ideologues for the harmful and injurious discrimination that they are fostering through their words and behavior.

\* This history is highly incomplete. As Ida Hammer pointed out during the Q&A after the papers, Sylvia Rivera was viciously attacked at the 1973 NYC Gay Pride Parade and not allowed to speak by lesbian-feminist bigot Jean O'Leary, who called Sylvia a "female impersonator" that was an offense to "real" women. In addition, the 1990s saw the publication of "TransSisters: A Journal of Transsexual Feminism" for several years, published by Davina Anne Gabriel. Also, the conference "A Full Circle of Women" began meeting and included cissexual women as well as pre-, post-, and non-op trans women in attendance. The 2000s also saw the protesting against Lu's Pharmacy in Vancouver, BC Canada because it was a women's pharmacy that refused to prescribe medicine to trans women. Protesters got this successfully changed.

If you would like to see additional proof of some of the hate-mongering and cis-supremacist advocacy of genocide by some of these "radfem" ideologues, I invite you to peruse the verbatim quotes (boldface added) collected below. Most are from aliases, as they are gutless cowards who lack the integrity to be upfront with their hatred:

#### Transphobic, Cissexist and Misandrist Quotes

##### from the "Rad Fem" Blogosphere

**Luckyntl:** SCAMs (Surgically and Chemically Altered Males) are nothing more than MRAs (Men's Rights Activists) in dresses.

**Bev Jo:** [Transgender Women Are] Male supremacists who want to skin real women to wear as their "womanly" guise. They WOULD be a boring joke, except for the many women who support them. It's all about saying no to men who won't take no for an answer, except this group of female-haters have female guardians.

**MaggieH:** The libfems who are being so indoctrinated by patriarchal trans ideologies need to wake up and stop believing the lies. Libfems, especially, please stop internalizing the big patriarchal lie that says that men can somehow "become" women, a lie that was created by the male-supremacist medical establishment to begin with. Libfems, please stop supporting trans attacks against us. Stop believing they are "women;" they're MEN. Show us that you don't want to be handmaidens of patriarchy, coz that's sad...

**Ilaff:** I feel like all one would need to do to counteract the funfem support of transwomen is ask them if they'd like to fuck a transwomen. Hypocritical eye-darting may just ensue.

**WrathOfTiamat:** The fun-fem/MRA/trans backlash is designed in order to make us lose our time, it's the same old male vampirism now disguised in **effeminate, ugly, weirdoes** saying they're women.

**MaggieH:** [Males are] **Fucking mutants**. When will there ever be a **male-only deadly disease** taking over the earth to put them out of their misery, huh?

**Luckyntl:** The male-born are biologically incomplete mutants, useless and obsolete; **walking viruses on two legs and a cancer, spreading disease, death and destruction wherever they go. They are the walking-dead and the antithesis to life.** Gyn-energy sucking vampires who have to plug into women and feed on them in order to survive. No different than a parasite who sucks the life and energy out of its host.

**Mantis:** Oh, dontcha know? Anybody can be a woman if they feel like one...even if they have a big, hairy cock hangin' between their legs.

**Bonobabe:** Personally, I think we should do away with circumcision and replace it with **castration**.

**WhiteTiger:** If we're going that road, why not just **cull boy babies** for awhile? Re-establish a sane balance. Then we can start selective breeding programs for donor males... [To cull means to reduce the population of by selective slaughter.]

**Bonobobabe:** Most women don't like penetration all that much (if they are brutally honest with themselves and not a fun fem). I can't imagine having a dick shoved into a **surgical wound** would feel so much more wonderful than what real women feel when a dick is put inside their real vaginas.

**ybawife:** I get really angry at these men who assert they are women...I just wanna tell them to **fuck off** and find a gender of their own and leave OURs alone- **bastards all of them**...

**Moonrider:** If you're so intent on saying you're a woman, why do you NEVER say you are? Why are you NEVER interested in something other than what the status quo says is how a woman is? Why do you never give a shit about the lives of other women? Why the fuck, if you're so against stereotypes, do you go to all attempts to be "feminine"? **Stupid men**.

**MaggieH:** Jeez! Fucking SCAMs make me puke, just like all other men...

**Helzeph:** [Trans women] all through history they have been used by patriarchy to infiltrate women's spaces. It began in the temples, and slowly priestesses turned to priests and they invade feminist spaces today and hijack our agendas. Their reaction to [the death of Mary] Daly proves for all to see that **they don't care about actual women and our welfare at all**.

**JourneyMistress:** It might be well and good to "educate" them [males] but that seems to take decades. Only if you are dedicated to educating the **Terminally Stupid** should you embark on this...Detachment is the key to emotional survival in a world plagued by males. Otherwise you really do just want to **shoot them on sight**.

**MaggieH:** There are times when I just want **all men dead right now**. Sometimes I really, really daydream about a virus that would suddenly take over the earth and that **would kill all males (also that would make them well suffer before they die)**, as well as give us the possibility to reproduce through parthenogenesis... Oh, my Goddess, I want men to be **So. Fucking. Dead. Right now!!!**

**Luckynkl:** So at this point in time, men are a complete waste of our time and energy. They are a hopeless cause. **And if we don't take them out soon, they will destroy this planet and all life on it. So they've got to go.**

**Bev Jo:** There are no words to describe them. There are tiny parasitic wasps who paralyze small animals (spiders, caterpillars, etc.) and lay their eggs on them, so the animal is alive while being slowly eaten by the growing baby. But the wasps aren't deliberately cruel. These men remind me of a deliberately female-hating version of that. They've prove what I've been saying for decades — **they are more female-hating than even many het men. The character in Silence of the Lambs who skinned women to wear really seems more accurate all the time.**

**WrathOfTiamat:** Just imagine that this idea of making gender-neutral toilets is brought to terms and we end up having to go pee with the males...**we'd be in constant panic to get raped** and we would sure as hell get bullied all the time—well AND raped.

**Luckynkl:** So if we can come up with a **biological weapon that can be ingested and kill off the Y Chromosome in a man's sperm count**, we're almost home. We can all get hired as waitresses or chefs or work at McDonald's and sprinkle it into the food or something... It's not a quick solution. It will take about 2 generations to cull males. But it will work.

**RoseVerbena:** I do not agree that you are a woman. I will never agree that you are a woman. Having GID does not make you a woman. I will go to my grave disagreeing that you are a woman. That's final.

**Delphyne:** This is what trans has always been about. All their politics, all their organizing, centers around preventing women from experiencing real women-only spaces, and women-only politics. Ten years ago trans politics barely existed, but since then they have managed to create for themselves a whole new brand of oppression, found themselves armies of supporters, who think they are being cool and tolerant by supporting men in dresses...

**Bug Brennan:** When cross-dressing males, who have *not* sought medical treatment and/or who do *not* intend to transition, demand access to sex-segregated spaces on the vague basis of a feminine 'gender identity,' that is an infringement on **our** rights.

**jen:** Only the **transgender cult** demands that the rest of the world constantly validate their shaky identities. Your gender obsessions are a bore and a waste of valuable time.

**BevJo:** It's way more than just pretend bodies for SCAMs—these men's minds, hearts and spirits are nowhere near to



what women's are. They can't be, they never will be, and the more they threaten and insult us, the clearer it is to all women. **It's like they are way beyond even most rapists, who want to maim and torture and possess girls and women... They want to completely eliminate us**, and particularly Lesbians, as a culture, a people, as living beings. Like how the women were replaced in the original *Stepford Wives* and *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*. Kill us and replace us with pretenders.

**RoseVerbena:** Just say NO to pretendbian lady-sticks, "new and improved" f-holes made of colon and all the other insults and appropriations. Just say no to culturally-enforced, sexist "jendah" stereotypes, coercing baby dykes and "effeminate" boys into transitioning, media hyping of so-called "pregnant men." sexually-obsessed adult males being legally enabled to invade women's safe and private spaces and the ongoing, accelerating pornification of woman-kind.

**Gallus Mag:** We didn't exclude you from being female, God did. Blame her.

**FeistyAmazon:** Just one man, or one male born can ruin a woman only space, cuz they don't just sit down, shut up and ACTIVELY LISTEN to us and what we are saying amongst ourselves...they ALWAYS have to take over and draw attention to themselves and TELL US WHAT TO DO! Damn, that fucking workshop drained me, and pissed me off so fucking bad!

**Allecto Tauni:** Women beware Dionysus. He is far more dangerous than Zeus.

**Amazon ManCrusher:** I don't believe in the tooth fairy or all seeing invisible sky dude or males being born into wrong sexed bodies.

**MaggieH:** Fed up with those fucking trannies saying they are womyn. **They need to get blasted too. They're men.**

**FCM:** Neo-Vagina? Or **Second Asshole**? There is absolutely NO non-patriarchal, non-misogynist reason to regard this structure as a neo-vagina rather than a second asshole... If you must, call it a second asshole, because at least that's not misogynist.

**Bev Jo:** They expect we'll be shocked to see statistics about them [transgender women] being killed, and don't realize, **some of us wish they would ALL be dead.**

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