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Becoming Nicole

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Becoming Nicole



BY: Ivana Valencia, Veer Gulia, and Robin Williams

Gender

- What is Gender?
 - It isn't Biology but rather a Social Identity
- Why is the distinction important?
 - It means that Gender much like Society is defined by Us
- Should our Identity be dictated by Society?
 - If America is a Society founded on freedom, why do we allow it to Constrict our citizens freedom of identity?



Nicole's Experience

As A Child (Wyatt)

- Immediately knew he was different
- Portrayed Feminine characteristics
- Parents believed he was just being dramatic

As A Pre-Teen (Wyatt)

- Very Self-conscious about body
- Developed elevated anxiety symptoms
- Frustrated by the fact that he can't be his true self

Becoming Nicole

- First stage: Adopted the name Nicole
- Second stage: Secured a full female wardrobe
- Final stage: Getting Sex Reassignment Surgery

Parenting: “Not Ruining Your Kid”

Wayne

- Expected a son
- Wanted a “normal” relationship
- Distanced himself from the family
- Slowly copped with Wyatt becoming Nicole
- Fought for his daughter
- Proud of the people their kids became

Kelly

- Had no expectation for her child
- Wanted to keep her child happy
- Did research to understand her child
- Fought for her daughter
- Created a safe environment for her child
- Proud of the people their kids became

Understanding the Other

Perceived Other

- “The Crossdresser”
- “They’re just Gay”
- “Bad Parenting”
 - “They wanted a girl/boy”
- “They’re invading our Bathrooms”
- “They are costing us taxpayer money”
- “Infecting our youth”

Gender roles: Naturally Divisive



Why they were created:

- Societies define gender therefore...
 - The 2 gender system was created to fit a society
 - Accommodating Intersex complicates the system
- Social Control/Order
 - Gender is largely role based
- Examples

How they are upheld:

- Religious sentiment
- Legal loopholes
- Lack of education
 - Fear of the other
- Reluctance to change
 - Even on small issues



The Opposition (In the Book)

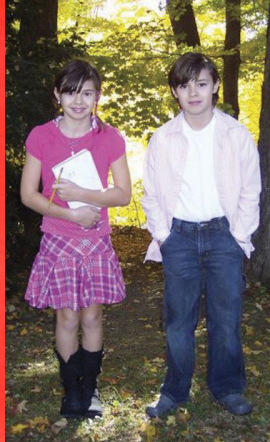
- The Grandpa
 - Prejudice is taught
 - Confusing the idea with the person
- The Principal
 - The dangers of inactivity
- Christian Civic League
 - Freedom of speech does not mean freedom to harass

Jonas' Perspective

- Who is he?
 - The twin brother
 - The Best friend
 - The classmate
- Why is he important?
 - Not all of us can be Nicole



Pictures of Nicole



Trans Community At IWU

Meaning of Being Trans

- Being a gender that differs from that was assigned at birth
- Truly being who they really were the whole time
- Taking hormones and socially transitioning due to dysphoria

Coming Out

- Friends:
 - Were immediately accepting and not surprised
- Family:
 - Experienced confusion & later anger
 - Reject that part of their child's identity
 - Denied legal permission to access medical care

Discrimination

- Not faced discrimination from IWU Staff
- Peers:
 - A target of many rumors
 - Social rejection
 - Lack of respect for privacy
 - Other issues...



What can IWU Do?



- **More education**
 - Following through with anti-harassment & anti-discrimination policies
 - **Individual students:**
 - Not outing students as transgender
 - Lack of tolerance on students who express transphobia, sexism, or racism
-

In Summation

- Challenging the idea not the person
- Question why the status quo exists and how long has it been the norm?
- Society should change to fit its citizens not the other way around.

