



The Monthly Rag

Brought to You by the Feminist & Gender Studies Student Advisory Council and Edited by Kadesha Caradine (FGS '16)

Lifting the Military's Transgender Ban

By Meredith Bower ('18)



Over the past few years, the military has experienced substantial media attention for scandals such as its "Don't Ask Don't Tell" policy or the exposed rape epidemic. Now, it's currently under fire for their ban on transgender people. According to Dan Lamothe, there are about 15,000 transgender personnel currently serving that are forced to keep their true identity hidden. Transgender people can be banned on the basis of both "medical and psychological regulations" (Ross 185), perpetuating an illusion that transgender people are inherently "sick." The transgender ban poses two very real problems. The first obviously being that the military is denying people a right to serve their country openly. The second issue at hand is that the military, a generally well-respected institution, is perpetuating the gender-binary that ostracizes so many.

The regulations behind the transgender ban are incredibly outdated. Psychological and physical evaluations are required before approval of entry into the military, and Allison Ross explains that "the Army's Standards of Medical Fitness, which is representative of the other branches' standards, lists numerous ways in which a current or prospective service member may be medically disqualified, including sex-reassignment surgery and identification as a transgender person" (189). Someone with sex-reassignment surgery can be denied the right to serve based on "major abnormalities or defects of the genitalia," but even a transgender person without surgery can be excluded for "a long list of disorders, including transvestism, transsexualism, psychosexualism, and Gender Identity Disorder" (Ross 190). This exclusion assumes that transgendering is a psychological or physical abnormal. **Scan QRC code below to read the complete article!**

Domestic Violence and the NFL

By Cheanna Gavin ('18)

This March, NFL running back Ray Rice was arrested for third-degree aggravated assault pertaining to a domestic violence incident with his then-fiancé that occurred in February. The NFL's initial reaction caused major uproar. Along these lines, Judith Lorber claims, "The ideological subtext of sports in Western culture is that physical strength is men's prerogative, and it justifies men's physical and sexual domination of men" (271). This ideal puts women in the backseat, justifying men's violence.



Rice's punishment sent a message that the NFL doesn't care about domestic violence. John Harbaugh, Head Coach of the Baltimore Ravens said, "It's not a big deal. It's just part of the process [...]. There are consequences when you make a mistake like that. I stand behind Ray. He's a heck of a guy. He's done everything right since. He makes a mistake. He's going to have to pay a consequence." In the society that we live in, aggression is valorized within sports. "Men and boys are encouraged to be aggressive, cool, and physically strong. Violence, especially in sports, is condoned" (Lorber, 254). After months of speculation and backlash, a video of Rice punching his fiancé surfaced on September 8. The NFL responded that same day. **Scan QRC code for complete article!**

By Barbara Whitten (Professor, Physics)

May-Britt Moser, together with her husband Edvard and John O'Keefe of University College, London, received the Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their work on the brain's mechanism for representing space. May-Britt received her bachelor's degree and PhD from the University of Oslo in 1990 and 1995, respectively. After postdocs in United Kingdom, she returned to Norway as Associate Professor in Biological Psychology at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim. In 2007 she was the founding co-director of the Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience. She and her husband discovered a part of the brain which acts like a nautical chart; "grid cells" that are like lines of longitude and latitude, helping the brain to judge distance and navigate.



This issue of *The Monthly Rag* is pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. #SavetheBoobies!

Don't forget to scan the QRC code for more! Also, if you would like to submit to the **Block 3 Monthly Rag**, please email Editor Kadesha Caradine at Kadesha.Caradine@coloradocollege.edu by **Friday, October 31 at 5 pm!**

