

Deirdre McCloskey
720 S. Dearborn St., Unit 206
Chicago, IL 60605
312-435-1479
Friday, August 24, 2007

Editor:

The report on the Bailey controversy over gender crossing (“Criticism of a Gender Theory,” August 21) relies on whitewashing “research” paid for by the Bailey group and published in Archives of Sexual Behavior, a Bailey-wick, as it were. Professor Bailey is on its board. Its editor directs an institute to “cure” gender crossers.

Bailey said to the Chicago Reader in 2003: “Deirdre says he [get it? ‘he’] was really a woman inside. What does that mean really? What does it mean to say you were a man but you ‘felt like a woman’?” I didn’t say it, in my New York Times Notable Book of 1999 or elsewhere. Nor felt it. And of course wanting to be something different is routine. You were once a child, did not know “really” what it was like to be an adult, but wanted to be one. Sic transit behaviorist and essentialist gender policing, praise the Lord.

Sincerely,

Deirdre McCloskey
University of Illinois at Chicago