



FOR submissions, questions, comments, OR to submit material, please e-mail Julie at julie@birlzine.com, OR visit birlzine.com. All material is the property of their respective owners.

Tailored Shirt

by Annie Aarons

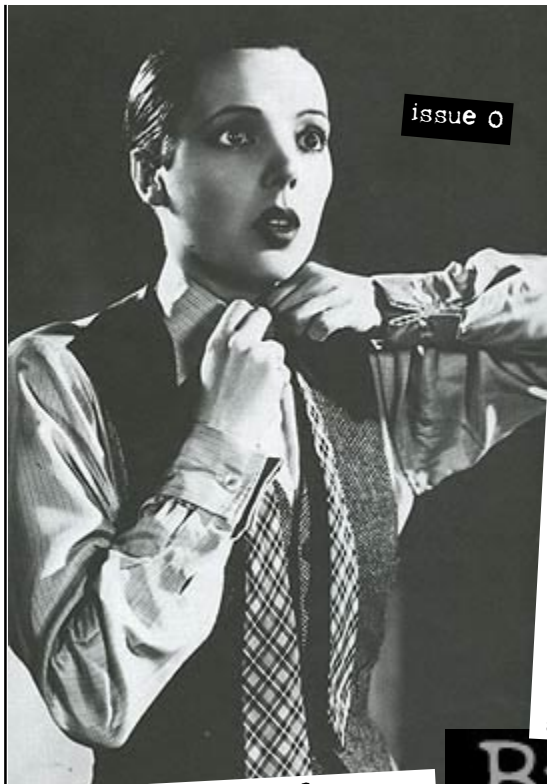
Collar, buttons, starched cuffs
 I wear it better than you, my friend
 Whose divine right to own it is scorned
 Whose divine right to love the fairer sex, and love them well
 Is scorned

I don't suppose you lay awake in bed wondering:
 Will anyone take me?
 Because you know it already
 The masses back you
 Tradition backs you
 All the world accepts you

And I
 Hidden in shadows and sleight of hand
 Watch you take for granted those gifts
 Blind Acceptance
 Oh how I longed for it, perhaps long for it still
 But if granted, what then?
 Should I become you?
 Lazy in my freely offered gifts
 And scorn as well?

No sir, I'll take the fight, and steal the prize
 Right out from under your well protected castle
 With its one weakness
 A hidden passageway
 Straight through the closet
 Into your domain
 To steal your lady fair

And I
 I am not like you, good sir
 I do not receive the respect you do
 Automatically, unthinkingly
 But fight for it I will
 Until the day
 The far off day
 When 'hir' may be spoken with the same weight
 And deference
 As 'sir'



issue 0

a birl is a boyish girl-- someone born female who refuses to let their gender dictate how to look or act: FTMs, tomboys, butch dykes, gender-queers, androgynes ...

a gender-safe space for:
 news, art, resources, poetry,
 photographs, essays, re-
 sources, rants, reviews, stories



foldout small

Famous birls/birl types: Jodie Foster, Idgie (Fried Green Tomatoes), Pippi Longstocking, Punky Brewster, Little Orphan Annie, Jimmy Shimizu, Grace Jones, Brandon Teena (made even more famous when portrayed by birlish Hilary Swank in Boys Don't Cry).

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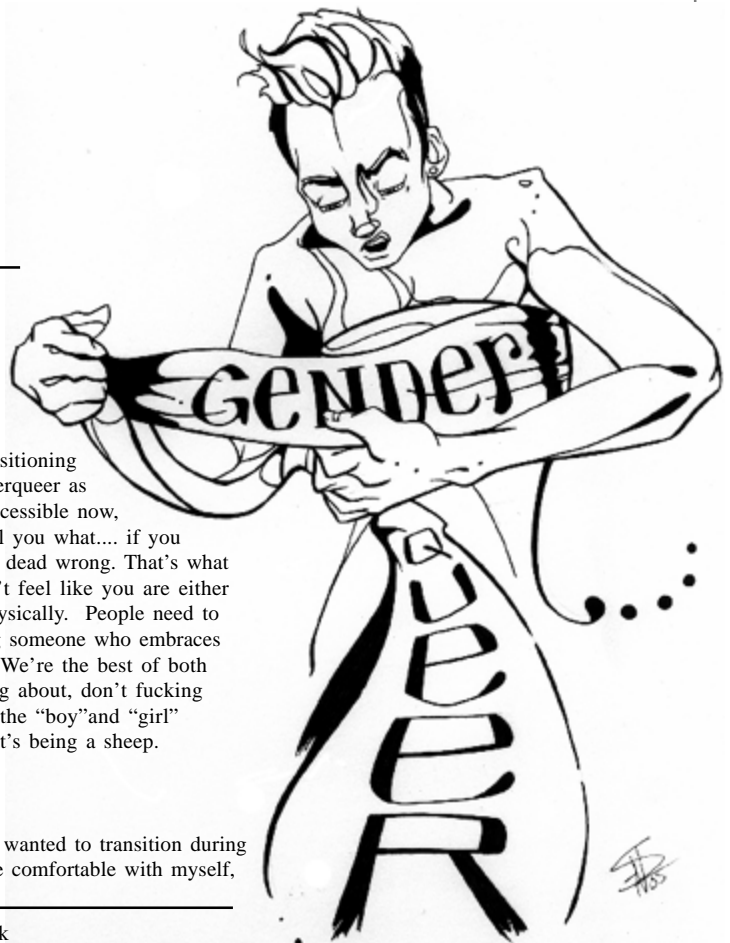
Viva La Genderqueer
 illustration* and article by Nik Scarlett

What the hell is wrong with being genderqueer?
 The more I read my friends' pages and certain LiveJournal communities, the more frustrated I get.

There are people out there who don't feel like a "boy" or a "girl," but are transitioning into the opposite sex because, for some reason or another, they see being genderqueer as being too hard or wrong. More and more people, since Testosterone is easily accessible now, are taking it thinking that it's going to solve all of their problems. Well, I'll tell you what.... if you think taking T is going to solve all of your insecurities about your body, you're dead wrong. That's what therapy is for. Taking T and transitioning into the opposite sex, when you don't feel like you are either gender, is just going to cause more problems for ya - not only mentally, but physically. People need to wake up and realize that there is nothing wrong with being a genderqueer, being someone who embraces both the stereotypical male and female qualities within them (What can i say? We're the best of both worlds!). If people are so much about this gender revolution that they're talking about, don't fucking conform to what society wants you to be! Society WANTS people to fall into the "boy" and "girl" categories because it's easier for them to box us in. That's not a revolution, that's being a sheep.

VIVA LA GENDERQUEER!

Sidenote: This is coming from a genderqueer butch boi who, once upon a time, wanted to transition during high school because I didn't like my body either. but then I grew up, grew more comfortable with myself, and realized I'm not a guy. I'm not a girl. I'm nik.



*Nik's illustration is available on products at www.cafepress.com/genderqueerink