
Student says he is finally living after gender change

BY **ERIC WILSON**

Nearly a year after starting treatments to change his outward sexual appearance from female to male, Bryan Fox said he is happy to be making his transition while at Lafayette.

Fox said the combination of hor-

mone therapy and support from mentors and family has helped Fox achieve a sense of self he never thought possible.

Ever since age two, Fox felt like he was a stranger in someone else's body. It wasn't until the summer of 2007 that he recognized it was time to alter his physical appearance and gender

identity "in order to be happy with myself." He quickly began researching his options.

Fox' research led him to the Callen-Lorde clinic in Manhattan where he learned the necessary steps one must take to receive hormone therapy and

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Fox says Lafayette is the school for him during gender transition

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set up a schedule for therapy. After doing a required four months of counseling on campus with Doctor Forbes and passing the necessary blood work, Fox had his first injection on January 25, 2008. After nearly a year of injecting testosterone twice a month, Fox has undergone stark changes. His voice has morphed from a soprano to a high baritone, his shoulders have gotten broader, he has gained weight, lost his baby fat and his face has become more angular.

While Fox said the testosterone in his system has helped him become more satisfied with his physical appearance, his transformation goes beyond the superficial, "I've become more confident now. I'm not just breathing," he said. "I'm living. Life is a lot more colorful."

Viewing the world through this fresh lens is a blessing and a curse for Fox. He said that while he is able to experience life as he has always wanted to, he has also experienced one of the world's ugliest hues: hate.

This month, Fox was confronted by a student about his gender identity. The student said that by changing his identity, Fox was being sinful and



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violating God's wishes. Fox was overwhelmed, but able to quietly manage the incident without losing his cool. Surprisingly, the experience has not altered his perception of Lafayette as he maintains "this is the school for me," he said. Fox cites Lafayette peers and professors such as Professors Bryan Washington, Ian Smith and Forbes as invaluable sources of support.

This support from professors combined with his desire to help others has inspired Fox to be a teacher himself. That is, if he can make up his mind on exactly how he wants to

change the world, "There are times when I want to be a jazz musician, times when I want to be a rapper, there are times when I want to be the next Malcom X – I want to do so many big things for people," he said.

"I was invisible to a lot of people and I was just going through life numb, just going through, just a speck in this universe, letting everything move me around, letting everything control me," Fox said. "No. Now I'm in control. Now I'm in the drivers seat."