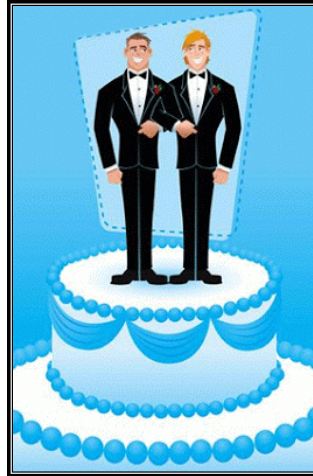


HOMELESS IN PARADISE

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Column #39



Part 2: WHAT DO YOU CALL TWO NEWLYWED LGBTQIs? *Bride & bride, wife & wife, groom & groom, husband & husband?* By Wanda Sue Parrott

REVISING standard rules of etiquette is such a fresh challenge the Emily Post Institute hasn't yet updated its web content to include the three-week-old Supreme Court decision that legalizes same-sex marriage.

If you consult the Post Institute website, you'll find this comment under Wedding (what to wear): "...remember, most people will be looking at the bride and groom anyways."

<http://www.emilypost.com/weddings>.

What if the couple exchanging vows are both women? Or men? Will the statement soon become inclusionary, as "most people will be looking at the bride and groom, bride and bride, or husband and husband?"

Until recently, the term "partner" was often used to describe the "significant other" of both lesbian and gay couples, as well as non-married heterosexuals.

Now that non-traditional wedlock is legal, will new language replace the traditional heterosexual man and woman protocol "Mr. and Mrs." with non-traditional formal terms like "Mrs. and Mrs." or "Ms. and Ms." for women? Or, "Mr. and Mr." for men?

How Non-Traditional Partners Choose Names

Cedar Street Times asked a long-term Carmel couple I'll call Joan Thomas and Grace Hanley for their insight. "We are rewriting the rules and breathing fresh air into old traditions. Each couple creates what works best for them," Joan said. "Thank you for your sensitivity." Their teenage daughter, Carrilee, refers to her same-sex parents as "my two moms."

This family, which solved the problem of which partner's last name to take, simply combined both their last names. Thus, instead of giving their daughter the traditional first and middle name followed by one last name, they gave her one first name and two last names: Carilee Thomas Hanley.

As the country adjusts to the sweeping changes brought June 26, 2015, by the Supreme Court decision legalizing same sex marriage, elementary education into key terms related to the LGBTQI community will help the public-at-large understand what is happening.

Definitions Of The Pride Flag's Stripes

Here in a nutshell are excerpted definitions of the six colored stripes of the Pride Flag shown above, LGBTQI, from eli@trans-academics.org. The site serves as a post-Post path-paver pointing to homeless and sheltered mainstream terms of the future that is now here.

Lesbian – Term used to describe female-identified people attracted romantically, erotically, and/or emotionally to other female-identified people. The term lesbian is derived from the name of the Greek island of Lesbos and as such is sometimes considered a Eurocentric category that does not necessarily represent the identities of African Americans and other non-European ethnic groups. This being said, individual female-identified people from diverse ethnic groups, including African Americans, embrace the term 'lesbian' as an identity label.

Gay – (1) Term used in some cultural settings to represent males who are attracted to males in a romantic, erotic and/or emotional sense. Not all men who engage in "homosexual behavior" identify as gay, and as such this label should be used with caution. (2) Term used to refer to the LGBTQI community as a whole, or as an individual identity label for anyone who does not identify as heterosexual.

Bisexual – A person emotionally, physically, and/or sexually attracted to males/men and females/women. This attraction does not have to be equally split between genders and there may be a preference for one gender over others.

Transgender – A person who lives as a member of a gender other than that expected based on anatomical sex. Sexual orientation varies and is not dependent on gender identity.

Queer – (1) An umbrella term which embraces a matrix of sexual preferences, orientations, and habits of the not-exclusively- heterosexual-and-monogamous majority. Queer includes lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, trans-people, intersex persons, the radical sex communities, and many other sexually transgressive (underworld) explorers. (2) This term is sometimes used as a sexual orientation label instead of 'bisexual' as a way of acknowledging that there are more than two genders to be attracted to, or as a way of stating a non-heterosexual orientation without having to state who they are attracted to. (3) A reclaimed word that was formerly used solely as a slur but that has been semantically overturned by members of the maligned group, who use it as a term of defiant pride. 'Queer' is an example of a word undergoing this process. For decades 'queer' was used solely as a derogatory adjective for gays and lesbians, but in the 1980s the term began to be used by gay and lesbian activists as a term of self-identification. Eventually, it came to be used as an umbrella term that included gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people. Nevertheless, a sizable percentage of people to whom this term might apply still hold 'queer' to be a hateful insult, and its use by heterosexuals is often considered offensive. Similarly, other reclaimed words are usually offensive to the in-group when used by outsiders, so extreme caution must be taken concerning their use when one is not a member of the group.

Intersexed Person—Someone whose sex a doctor has a difficult time categorizing as either male or female. A person whose combination of chromosomes, gonads, hormones, internal sex organs, gonads, and/or genitals differs from one of the two expected patterns.

So What?

Ernie Guzman, 41, the never-married homeless "Gay Gourmet" who prepared Thanksgiving dinner from dumpster discards last fall, now works for a temp agency as a server and cook while seeking steady employment, and lives in Seaside with a businesswoman who now rents him a small room.

Last week Ernie reflected on the effect he hopes the Supreme Court decision has. "I don't care what people think of me," he says. "I don't care what people call me. What I care about is that people respect me as a human being."

Ernie's relationship with his landlady is strictly platonic. She's a transgendered man. Like the title of an old song, their forthcoming mainstream lifestyle is "Anything Goes."

To be continued next week.

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