

I'm a **genderqueer** trans person and I'm starting hormone treatment, so I've been researching technologies that allow one to change various sexual characteristics. Keep in mind, though, that I'm not writing to represent anybody. I'm writing about my own thoughts and feelings. What I want to do is to provide a specific critique of medical biotechnology here, which takes into account a lot of the medical demands of what Judith Butler calls the "**New Gender Politics**", which is a set of social movements that in the last few years takes into account the demands and desires of trans and intersex people. This zine doesn't rely on a claim that we need to get back to our pure natural state. Personally, I think that nature is often fetishized and mystified and how natural are we, when we wear sneakers and live with the internet at our fingertips? Instead, there are a number of examples here of the specific economic and political issues involved with medical biotech, how exactly corporations are making a profit by making you sick.

Here's an example from http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/monsanto_movie080307

"The story starts in the White House, where Monsanto often got its way by exerting disproportionate influence over policymakers via the "revolving door". One example is Michael Taylor, who worked for Monsanto as an attorney before being appointed as deputy commissioner of the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1991. While at the FDA, the authority that deals with all US food approvals, Taylor made crucial decisions that led to the approval of GE foods and crops. Then he returned to Monsanto, becoming the company's vice president for public policy.

Monsanto was founded in 1901 as a chemical company. Its history is intimately linked to the production and promotion of highly toxic chemicals such as Agent Orange (used as a chemical weapon in the Vietnam war) and PCBs (widespread toxic pollutants). Robin's movie reveals that Monsanto already knew about the "systematic toxic effects" of PCBs for decades

but instructed its salespeople to stay silent because, "we can't afford to lose one dollar."

More recently Monsanto received a bad reputation for the promotion of growth hormones from GE organisms known as rBGH, which the company sells in the US under the brand name Posilac. Monsanto claims that Posilac holds, "benefits to consumers". The reality is that, rBGH growth hormones were banned in Europe and Canada after the authorities found out about the health risks resulting from drinking milk from cows treated with rBGH hormones. Monsanto's way of "addressing" this problem was to sue the Oakhurst dairy company in the state of Maine (US) - attempting to force them, and other dairies, to stop labelling dairy products "rBGH-free" and "rBST-free".

Aerial view of a crop circle made by local farmers and Greenpeace volunteers in Isabela province, 300 km northeast of Manila. The crop circle, with a slash over the letter 'M' symbolizes farmer's rejection of genetically-modified Bt corn crops from Monsanto corporation.



Trans people have made the demand for years that we want access to medical technologies that empower us to change our bodies in the ways that we want. Also, **intersex people** have made the demand that they reject unconsensual sexual assignment surgeries at birth. What ties these demands together, I think, is that we want to have our health in our own hands, I want medical autonomy, I want medical self-determination, I want to do what I want with my body and not what anyone else tells me to do.

This is tied, for me, to moves toward natural, herbal, holistic medicine which puts people's responsibility for their own health in their own hands, instead of in the hands of multinational corporations and HMO's that have profit in mind, not healthy, happy bodies and minds and hearts.