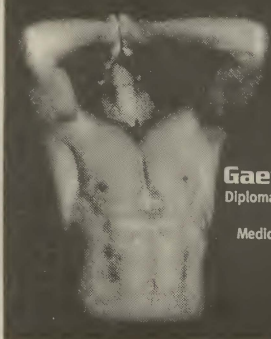


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# HBO: No lesbians

compiled by GLAAD

**H**BO, in conjunction with its television special, *Cancer: Evolution to Revolution*, which premiered March 30 and repeats several times in April, is running a cancer resource site on its Web site ([www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com)). The comprehensive posting covers many cancer topics and offers a listing of groups for information and support.

While this effort to supply people with more than just a show to watch is admirable, HBO failed to include the Mautner Project for Lesbians With Cancer in the resource listing. When representatives of the project brought this oversight to HBO's attention, they were told many groups wanted to be included, but not all could be. Yet there was room for Look Good...Feel Better, a group "dedicated to providing female cancer patients with beauty and coping techniques to help restore their appearance and self-image during cancer treatment."

As of this publication date, after being contacted several times by Mautner and others, HBO is still refusing to add Mautner to the list. It has, however, decided to add a discussion site to the Web site where people can post information about Mautner and anything else they want.

Please contact HBO and request it reconsider its position. The Web site information is scheduled to be up for a few months. Adding Mautner to the

resource list is a simple matter of a few key strokes by a programmer. This small investment of time and effort on HBO's part could help save lesbian lives.

Contact Bill Mesce, Director of Consumer Affairs, HBO, 1100 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036, telephone, (212) 512-1208, e-mail through [www.hbo.com](http://www.hbo.com).

### American Justice shows none

On March 29, A&E's *American Justice* aired "The Life and Death of Teena Brandon," a program about Brandon Teena, the transgendered youth who was murdered and who is the subject of the award-winning film *Boys Don't Cry*.

Although producers of the *American Justice* show consulted with GenderPAC, a national organization for transgender rights, it says producers ignored advice given by the group about how to present Brandon Teena's gender identity. Throughout the show, the host refers to the subject as "girl posing as a man" and describes how Brandon Teena was "killed when she was exposed." The show did not acknowledge his self-identified gender.

Additionally, GenderPAC says when it said the title was inappropriate and needed to be changed to "The Life and Death of Brandon Teena," producers said no.

Please let both Towers Productions and A&E Television Network know the importance of respecting an individual's gender identity and to stop furthering stereotypes that lead to discrimination and violence against the transgender community.

Contact Towers Productions, 549 West Randolph St., Suite 300, Chicago, IL 60661, fax (312) 993-1533; Nickolas Davatzes, President, A&E, 235 East 45th St., New York, NY 10017, fax: (212) 210-9755, e-mail through [www.aande.com](http://www.aande.com).

### Discovery Channel discovers intersex

As one interviewee says in the documentary *Is it a Boy or a Girl*, "I'm neither. I'm between." So sums up the common feeling of intersex people, those born with anatomy or physiology that differs from cultural ideals of male and female. According to Intersex Society of North America Executive Director Cheryl Chase, five intersex babies a day are surgically altered at the presiding doctor's discretion everyday in the United States.

Today, the intersex community is organizing and stepping forward to say these surgeries are often cosmetic, unnecessary, and subjective. Intersex activists want medical community members to rethink what they do when an intersex baby is born.

On March 26, the Discovery Channel aired Phyllis Ward's documentary, an hour-long look at the hormonal and genetic causes of ambiguous or combined genitalia, the procedures used to "correct" the conditions, and the lives of those affected as they grow up and learn what happened to them as babies.

In often heart-felt, first-person interviews, the people explain how they feel they were harmed by the initial and often subsequent surgeries and denied the opportunity to make their own choice about what sex to identify as. It also details the complexities faced by parents who are often forced to make quick decisions about what their baby's sex should be.

It is unfortunate that the first showing was on the same night as the Academy Awards. The next scheduled airing is on Mother's Day, May 14, a date that also could limit the number of people tuning in.

Contact Tomi Landis, Executive Producer, The Discovery Channel, 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814-3578, fax: (301) 986-4626, e-mail: [Tomi\\_Landis@discovery.com](mailto:Tomi_Landis@discovery.com)



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For more information on HIV, AIDS or sexually transmitted disease prevention treatment or support services, call the California State AIDS Hotline at (800)-367-AIDS. To receive a taped copy of any program call HIV Talk Radio Project at 312-541-TALK (8255).

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