

Video Transcription of *Gold Star No Thank You* by Weston Bonczek¹

Hello! Okay, before we get started I have two things. Number one, let's take a minute to appreciate how great this shirt is. Pretty great. Cut-and-tie fringe, seventh grade all over again. Secondly, this is a video about sex, gender, and sexuality, so I will be using the anatomically correct names for sex organs. If that makes you uncomfortable, click here and you can watch me failing at cooking food.

And...start. Okay, so, a lot of the ideas, rhetoric, and priorities of the gay mainstream do not resonate with me. I often feel like they're hella restrictive, exclusive, and prioritize certain types of bodies, sexuality, family structures, and relationships over other types, and that just gives me frowny face after frowny face after frow-- You get the point.

Today I want to talk about a concept that I've heard thrown around the gay vernacular that really gets my goat and that is the concept of the "gold star gay." For those of you who don't know, the term gold star gay usually refers to a gay person who has not had sexual intercourse, usually penis-to-vagina intercourse is implied, with a person of a different sex.

That shit is not okay! Firstly, a gold star is meant to imply that someone excels at something. Therefore, a gold star gay is apparently doing gay better than other gay-identified people who have sexual histories that include people of a different gender. There is no one way to be gay, and there is certainly no best way to be gay.

One really spectacular thing about nonheteronormative sexuality is that it is exploring things that are nonnormative. Please don't try to push us into narrow boxes. Queerness can be an adventure. It doesn't have to be a narrow idea of sex and romance carbon copied from straightness.

Also, the fact that this concept tries to dichotomize our sexualities into straight or gay, men or women, is such a ciscentric idea, homonormative idea that it marginalizes a plethora of sexualities that don't fit this narrow prescription, including my own! AGH!

And here's the icing on the cake. I actually did not even know about this until I started doing a little bit of research for this video. There's apparently a term among gay men that refers to a gay man who was a C-section baby. This person could be referred to, in my research, as a double gold star baby or a platinum star baby because he has never in his life come into physical contact with a vagina. Yup, this is a thing that people say. AGH! UGH! Sigh.

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Okay, once again, we are implying sex with a woman must involve a vagina. Aside from being heinously cissexist, this also invalidates all other man-woman nonpenetrative sexual experiences. Additionally, this perpetuates the misogynistic rhetoric so common among gay men that it's a topic that deserves its very own video. Hold for the future.

Can you see that I'm upset? I am. I get really worked up about these kinds of things. And I'm especially exasperated because this term is not an anomaly. This is not the first oppressive term or idea I have seen thrown about the gay community, and that shit is not okay. It's not!

Y'all, queer people should be empowering to all sexualities, bodies, body types, genders, sexes, relationships, family structures, and anything else that could even tangentially affect queer identity. Intersectionality!

Moral of the story, love yourself, love others, love all sexualities! And don't imply that your shit or my shit or his shit or her shit or their shit is any better than anybody else's shit! As long as things are consensual and healthy, I don't think we need to be assigning prizes or awards based on sexual histories.

Sigh. Okay, there might be more videos like this sometime. My queerness is an important part of my identity, so there you go.

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