

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT &amp; TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	San Francisco Women's Motorcycle Contingent
Mark	:	DYKES ON BIKES
Serial No.	:	78,281746
Filing Date	:	July 31, 2003

Commissioner for Trademarks  
P.O. Box 1451  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1451

Attention: Sharon A. Meier, Examining Attorney  
Law Office 116  
(571) 272-9195, phone

DECLARATION OF DR. MYKOL HAMILTON UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 2.20

I, Mykol Hamilton, being warned that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001, and that such willful false statements and the like may jeopardize the validity of the application or document or any registration resulting therefrom, declare:

1. I earned a PhD in Social Psychology from UCLA in 1985, with a minor in Psycholinguistics. I had previously earned master's degrees in both psychology and women's studies. My doctoral dissertation and several published papers and professional presentations in the last 20 years have addressed the issue of gender and language as regards meanings, interpretations, connotations, and the bias inherent in various terms. An excerpt from my *curriculum vitae* providing further details is attached.

2. I have also been an activist in the gay and lesbian movement since 1970. I have participated in, led, and/or founded lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) groups at Stanford University, the University of California at Los Angeles, and my current workplace (Centre College in Danville, Kentucky). I have spoken at multiple rallies, organized and spoken at many symposia, sponsored dozens of speakers on various campuses, spoken on behalf of the LGBT community to the governor of Kentucky and other government officials, and testified about the effects of linguistic sexism before a Maine Senate committee.

3. At the time I came out in 1970, the word “dyke” was already in use as a positive self-referencing term in the lesbian community. We were all aware that the word had in the past been associated with derogation of lesbians by heterosexuals. But certainly by 1970, the word “dyke” had been “rehabilitated.” That is, it had been taken up as a proud self-label by lesbians in the U. S. and other English-speaking countries. The term “dyke” as used within the lesbian community is extremely positive and powerful.

4. Here are just a few pieces of evidence that the word “dyke” currently has, and has had for many years, very positive connotations within the lesbian community.

- In the 1985 “Feminist Dictionary,” editors Cheris Kramarae and Paula Treichler quote Jeanne Cordova’s 1974 description of the “contemporary redefinition of a DYKE as a ‘strong independent, aggressive, self-defined woman’” and stated that “DYKE is a term proudly used by lesbian and radical feminists today.”

- When I was in college, a group of my friends and I had lavender T-shirts made with the word “DYKE” silk-screened on the front in large, black letters.

- In the online newsletter YAQ (Young African Queers), DYKE is defined as “A derogatory word describing a butch lesbian... re-invented by lesbians and used to describe someone strong or politically pro-active.” See attached.

- It is my understanding that DYKES ON BIKES have participated in LGBT

pride parades under that name since at least the 1970's.

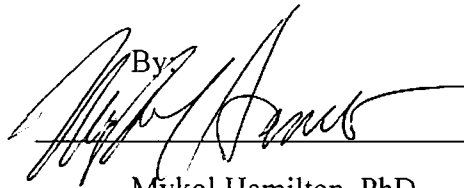
5. Within the LGBT community, formerly insulting terms such as dyke and queer have undergone a radical change in meaning. The terms have been used proudly for decades on shirts, hats, posters and the like. They appear in the names of events and groups, like "Dykefest" and "Queer Nation." They become parts of chants, such as "we're here, we're queer, get over it." And last but not least, the highly visible and widely celebrated DYKES ON BIKES have been entertaining us and leading our parades and marches for decades.

All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true.

Dated:

3-18-05

By:



Mykol Hamilton, PhD

Professor

Department of Psychology

Centre College



*April 7, 2006*