

The IFGE Newsletter

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The International Foundation for Gender Education

Fall 2000

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

Nashville Selected for 2002 IFGE Convention *Tennessee Vals will be host group, date and details to follow*



The Nashville skyline at night, with Opryland USA in the foreground.



Marisa Richmond, Director

At the September Board meeting, the IFGE Board of Directors and the IFGE Convention Management Team enthusiastically accepted the proposal from the Tennessee Vals to host the 2002 IFGE Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The search and evaluation of the hotel site has begun with a goal

of being able to set the date by the March Convention in Chicago.

Marisa Richmond, Vice Chair and Co-Founder of the Tennessee Vals and a new Member of the IFGE Board said, "We are very excited to host the IFGE convention and are thrilled to have this opportunity to

showcase Nashville and the Tennessee Vals."

Stay tuned for the exciting plans on what promises to be a special event in the exciting Capital of Tennessee, Music City USA, and home of some of the friendliest people you will ever find.

US Supreme Court denies *certiorari* in Littleton case

By Joann Prinzivalli

Christie Lee Littleton's appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, from the Texas ruling voiding her marriage, was derailed when the Court decided in the morning of October 2, 2000, that it would not grant a writ of certiorari in the matter.

Of the thousands of cases presented to the Court each term, only 40-50 cases have a realistic chance of being heard.

According to the lead attorney on the appeal, Alyson Meiselman, Esq., of North Potomac, Maryland, there may be a faint hope for one last gasp. "Reconsideration is available if we have new law to present," she advised this writer.



Lead attorney, Alyson Meiselman



Co-counsel Phyllis Frye of Texas

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The Editor's Needle

A Supreme act of cowardice?

The October 2, 2000 New York Times carried an article about the cases selected by the United States Supreme Court for its fall session. Expecting to see something about *Littleton v. Prange*, I was puzzled when there was nothing in the article that touched on this case, so well known to many in the transcommunity. (For those who haven't heard about this case before, it's also one of the lead stories in this issue, starting on page 1).



Joann Prinzivalli

I poked around the web until I found an official Supreme Court website - where I discovered that some time that morning, the Court denied the writ!

My immediate reaction was one of shock, dismay and disappointment. Was Christie Lee Littleton denied justice because of the cowardice and moral

bankruptcy of a Supreme Court that did not want to create any offense or embarrassment for Texas Governor George W. Bush?

While that was my first reaction, my second, more measured thought was to realize that there is a great need for education on both social and scientific issues affecting members of the

Ohio child victimized by Big Brother

The dystopian visions of Franz Kafka and George Orwell appear to be becoming reality for six year old Aurora Lipscomb and her family, as the "award winning" Franklin County Children's Services agency (FCCS) has successfully wrested temporary custody of this transgendered child away from her loving parents, so the government can force her to be a boy.

FCCS brags about its "commitment" to multicultural diversity, chillingly establishing a record for the principles of Orwellian Newspeak. And the Ohio courts are giving the agency time to brainwash the child and keep her away from contact with her parents.

transcommunity, as well as the general public! The *Littleton* case poses a potential danger to every marriage in the country.

Insurance companies are going to love the *Littleton* case. There is a dangerous "junk science" aspect of the decision, which is now settled law for 26 counties in Texas. In at least those counties where *Littleton* is law, any case involving the allegation of the wrongful death of one spouse, whether it's a medical malpractice matter or a situation involving an automobile accident, is going to be subject to a *Littleton* inquiry.

The "junk science" standard established in *Littleton* appears to be that the only valid marriages are those between XY-males and XX-females. If one party to a marriage has a variation in their 46th chromosome pair that isn't XX or XY, or the putatively "female" spouse is an XY with androgen insensitivity, then that marriage is void *ab initio* (for those who aren't Latin scholars, "from the beginning"), and the plaintiff then lacks standing to bring suit in court. Insurance companies are going to call for genetic screenings!

This is fascinating - and once the concept settles in, insurance companies are going to be trying to use it in every wrongful death case that has a widowed plaintiff, even outside Texas. To the insurance companies, it is like a "seat belt" defense. It may work only 3% of the time, but that can run into millions of dollars saved.

There is a common theme that runs through both the *Littleton* and *Lipscomb* matters, a great need to educate on a wide basis.

We live in a nation and a culture where many people, including judges, social workers and legislators, have a very simplified and binary world view. Even our computers are designed using logic gates that allow only two states, on or off, yes or no, "one" or "zero." The IFGE exists so that some day, our cumulative educational efforts will pay off in a nation, a culture and a world, where people are not disenfranchised and families are not destroyed just because some of us don't fit into the expected categories.

Thread: *The IFGE Newsletter*

A quarterly publication of the International Foundation for Gender Education

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The Treasurer's Weaving:

1999 Financials are on the Web; We need volunteers and donations to get the work done!

By S. Kristine James, Treasurer

Take a look at the IFGE website, <http://www.ifge.org/> and you will find the fully audited 1999 financial statement with all the auditor notes. (Editor's note: if you want to find the first page of the annual report, here is the URL:

<http://www.ifge.org/ifgeannrpt1.htm>

This has to be all on one line in your browser to work)

This is the first time in our history that we have gone public with our financials! Financing this organization has always been a problem. If you have been in the community long, you have heard the many horror stories, including bankruptcy rumors. It is the policy of the Executive Committee that we have nothing to hide financially and are proud of everyone's efforts to provide service to our members.

At our recent Board of Directors meeting in Atlanta, we also distributed the numbers for the first six months of this year. Our financial position, then and now, shows need for a lot of improvement. We have taken measures to maintain our rent at the home office and control all of our expenses as best we can. However, pledges of financial support are difficult to come by.

IFGE's prime program is to make available educational materials, meetings and speakers to anyone who is in need. However, our professional staff has needed to spend too much time on financial concerns relating to daily operations and *Transgender Tapestry* magazine and we have missed several of our target programs.

Our fall fund raising campaign was mailed a few weeks ago and the results have been slow to come in. I am sure there are many reasons for this, but let's take a frank look at one: apathy. As



S. Kristine James, Treasurer

many of you know, I have been active in this community for many years. I have started Cross Dressers International, the largest open social support group in New York City. I have traveled across the USA to several trans events and am co-chair of the IFGE Convention management team. In every instance, I have found that most people have the notion of "let someone else do it." Our community, often compared and associated with the GLBT programs, has a very unique problem: most of us are afraid to be outed to our families, employers and community. Therefore, we do nothing.

This means that there are lost opportunities at both the local and international levels for good leaders and financial support to contact and provide support for those in need. The irony of the whole problem may be told in this story. Last year I was at one of New York's Trans clubs and talking to a former member of CDI. She told me that she was financially distressed and

could not pay her annual \$35 dues. We chatted for some time. We talked about her job (well paying), commented on her new dress, etc. After about two hours I brought to her attention that her total bar bill so far was \$35 and the night was still young. This shortsightedness brought her instant gratification and short term gain, and denied her a long term benefit.

Is that your story too? Are you thinking about now, that new dress, makeovers, etc., and denying yourself the ability to participate in a long term program? Are you denying others of the availability of good information that is not available elsewhere? Do you believe that you are just around to be served and that you have no responsibility to yourself and others for your actions or enjoyment?

Take responsibility! Become active in your local organization as a leader. Take an active role in IFGE by participating on a committee. (I need help in fund raising). Send a check to the IFGE office. It can be as little as \$10 or as much as \$100,000, and do it now. Yes, you can make a difference, and yes, you can do it anonymously, too.

Secretarial Spinnings:

Grants awarded by Winslow Street Fund

By Alison Laing, Secretary

In September 2000, the Winslow Street Fund (WSF) announced the award of two grants of \$500.00 each. One to the 4th International Congress on Crossdressing, Sex & Gender and the other to Fantasia Fair 2000 for scholarships and subsidy to encourage FtM persons to attend the Fair.

Earlier this year, an award of \$900.00 was made to to sponsor two TG people to attend "Wit-

ness Our Welcome: God's Promise is for You" (WOW 2000), a gathering of persons dedicated to the full acceptance of all minorities, but especially GLB and T, in the mainstream Protestant churches and organizations.

The WSF is now accepting proposal for grants to be made in the year 2001 .

The proposals may be forwarded to any Trustee or directly to the IFGE office.



Secretary Alison Laing

Focus: Transgender Youth at risk***Lipscomb case shocks the conscience as agency does Newspeak***

The plight of six-year old Aurora Lipscomb, trapped in the snares of a government agency devoted to extinguish her gender self-identification, might yet be relieved, if the transcommunity works to educate the people of Franklin County, Ohio, (which includes the city of Columbus and surrounding suburbs), about what is happening in their midst (See article on the next page). Aurora's parents have recognized and accepted Aurora's gender self-identity, but the misguided child welfare system has successfully ripped this child away from the arms of her loving family. They have placed Aurora in foster care and are insisting on treating her as a boy.

The cavalier attitude taken by the judges involved in the case, who are more concerned with their precious vacations than the welfare of that child, is illustrated by the statement of Judge Mason, "will the child die if I don't do anything tonight?"

No, Judge, Aurora won't die, but she will continue to have to endure the abuse of the child welfare system that won't allow her the dignity of her gender identity.

According to the Franklin County Children's Services (FCCS) website, Ohio law defines emotional abuse as follows:

"Emotional abuse, although not as visible as other forms of abuse, can still be very damaging. The law defines it as mental injury; and does not give any real guidelines. A child who is repeatedly belittled, ignored, or blamed for the family's problems, may be emotionally abused."

The FCCS, *without any legal guidelines to follow*, apparently has the right to remove any child from any parent for whatever reason it can theorize. And yet, the mental injury it and its minions are imposing on little Aurora by forcing her to conform with gender stereotypes is something that should be actionable. The social workers need to learn that they cannot interpose their narrow and reactionary agenda on loving parents and their gender-different child.

The FCCS online Newsletter trumpets the agency's commitment to multicultural diversity, reporting that the United Way recently recognized Franklin County Children Services and its Multicultural Development Team (MCDT) for "outstanding commitment to celebrating and promoting diversity in Columbus and Central Ohio."

The FCCS Newsletter article goes on to state, "The idea our nation once embraced about a great melting pot where anyone from any background can assimilate into a single society is now outdated. It has been replaced by a more realistic and appropriate ideal of multiculturalism. Cultural diversity is based on the idea that cultural identities should not be discarded or ignored, but instead should be maintained and valued."

The question is, how do these fine words relate to the actions taken by the agency to mistreat a gender-variant child?

Continuing with the FCCS article: "Cultural diversity is a matter of great importance for everyone, both professionally and personally. For businesses and communities to survive and thrive, everyone

needs to be aware and sensitive to all members of the community. Unfortunately, many people are confronted with obstacles, prejudices, and stereotypes because of ethnic backgrounds, gender, religion, sexual preference, and age."

It is absolutely amazing that the words ring so hollow. Can they not see this? A commitment to gender diversity means in their own literature they accept gender variance, but in practice they try to suppress it. How vile to mouth pious platitudes while abusing that poor child.

The Lipscomb's attorney, Randi Barnabee, countered that children's services is the one to blame for trying to change Aurora into something she's not.

"At the visitation, in the presence of her parents, [Aurora] turned to the social workers and said, 'You told me I was a boy and couldn't use a girl's name. My name is Aurora and I'm a girl.' The social workers ignored her and continued referring to her as 'him,'" said Barnabee.

Apparently, FCCS has had a multicultural diversity team in place since 1993. The article recites that the team is co-chaired by Program Bureau chief Mary Louise Smoot and Children Services board member Norman Brown.

"The agency's cultural awareness program began as a commitment with a dual purpose. Our goal is to better appreciate diversity in the workplace and deliver better services to the families and children we serve," says Smoot in the article.

The MCDT accomplishments include developing racism study circles for all agency employees, creating a diversity resource directory, hosting a statewide diversity conference, and conducting a variety of workshops and celebrations of African American, Latino, Asian, and Appalachian cultures.

It's clear that they haven't addressed the issue of gender diversity, though, from their handling of poor little Aurora.

The article wraps up with "When a group or segment of the population is excluded, the entire community is denied. When all segments are respected and utilized, everyone involved benefits. Children Services is proud to serve as a Central Ohio role model for cultural diversity awareness."

Well, it appears that they are so proud, and patting themselves on the back for their multicultural awareness, while at the same time, they have perpetrated in fact a pattern of emotional abuse on little six-year old Aurora Lipscomb.

This isn't a case where the parents are forcing a little boy to be a girl - it's a case where the parents have recognized that their child is gender-different.

The situation is one where a recognition of the natural gender diversity would be much preferable to forcing the child into cultural stereotypes, as FCCS has so cruelly chosen.

ACCENT on Kids

Children will be tomorrow what we make of them today.

The banner of the online FCCS Newsletter; the ironic tagline says "Children will be tomorrow what we make of them today."

Focus: Transgender Youth at risk

Six year old trans child removed from supportive parents

By Gwendolyn Ann Smith

OHIO — Parents Paul and Sherry Lipscomb are in the fight of their lives: An attempt to keep custody of their 6-year-old daughter, Aurora. A Franklin County Magistrate ruled against them August 23rd, awarding temporary custody of Aurora to Franklin County Children's Services (FCCS).

When Aurora was approximately two years old, Sherry and Paul began to notice that she, then their son, had a preference for feminine toys, clothes, shoes, and activities. By the time she entered pre-school, Aurora was emphatically stating that she was a girl. She had also announced her choice of name and insisted that she be addressed by it.

The Lipscombs initially viewed Aurora's behavior as just a phase of her development and assumed that she would outgrow it. As Aurora grew older, however, society around her began exerting increasing pressure on her to conform to social gender-role expectations. Accordingly, Aurora began exhibiting emotional problems in response to those pressures.

The Lipscombs sought therapy for Aurora, which included several inpatient hospitalizations. In the course of Aurora's treatment she was diagnosed with both Gender Identity Disorder (GID) and Aspergers Syndrome (a mild form of autism similar to Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder). The parents discontinued therapy and sought legal representation after they discovered that therapists were using behavior modification techniques in an attempt to force the child to identify and behave as a male.

It was prior to the fourth and final period of hospitalization that the Lipscombs had told the doctors and Aurora's school that they were planning to support Aurora's gender identity, including having her ears pierced and home schooling her.

But then the problems started. "On the fourth inpatient stay the physicians totally flipped the diagnosis as strictly being psychological," said Paul Lipscomb, "[Telling us] we had to make a child conform."

Children's Services in Franklin and Hamilton counties stated that Aurora should be kept in a male role against her and her family's wishes. FCCS filed a petition in Franklin County Court, suggesting residential care for Aurora, which would remove Paul and Sherry Lipscomb from custody, simply because they have refused to raise Aurora as a male.

Magistrate Sanchez of Franklin County agreed with the FCCS petition, placing Aurora in their custody. The Magistrate also refused to order that FCCS maintain Aurora's female gender identity while in their care, including the use of her name, and allowing her to wear girl's clothing.

Following the hearing, the Lipscombs and their attorneys, Randi Barnabee and Mark Narens, filed an objection to the decision. To the parent's dismay, the objection was not heard until September 12th because the judge to whom the case is assigned, Kay Lias, was on vacation.

The Lipscombs have also filed a motion to stay the order granting custody of Aurora to FCCS. Duty Judge James Mason was not willing to stay the order on the day it was issued, because the court-appointed guardian for Aurora was not present.

At this August hearing, Judge Mason also posed the cynical question, "will the child die if I don't do anything to-night?"

At the September hearing, the court tightened the governmental grip on Au-

rorra, leaving Aurora in government custody until a trial scheduled for November.

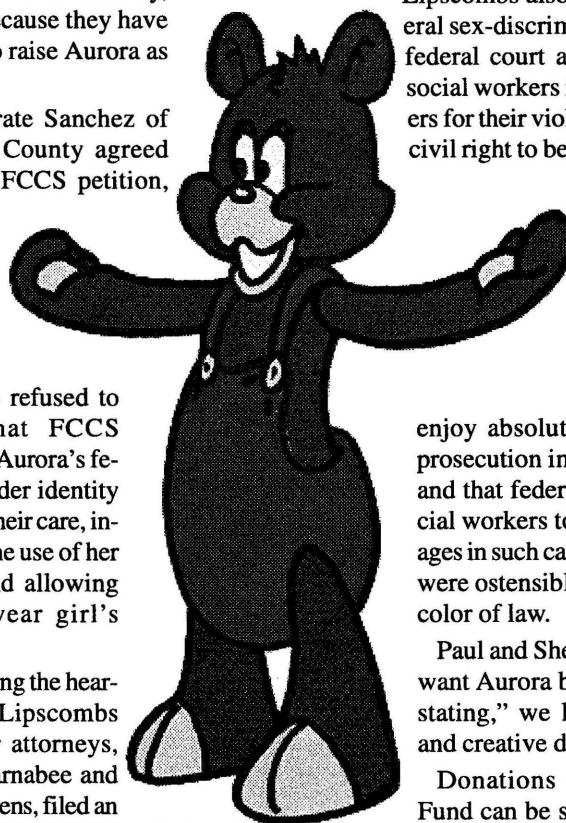
Planned legal actions by the Lipscombs include filing of a writ of habeas corpus in federal court in the hope that FCCS can be forced to relinquish custody. The Lipscombs also plan to file a federal sex-discrimination lawsuit in federal court against FCCS, the social workers involved, and others for their violations of Aurora's civil right to be whoever she says

she is without regard for the gender-role expectations of others. Randi Barnabee noted that social workers do not

enjoy absolute immunity from prosecution in civil rights cases, and that federal law permits social workers to be sued for damages in such cases even when they were ostensibly acting under the color of law.

Paul and Sherry Lipscomb just want Aurora back home, simply stating, "we love our beautiful and creative daughter."

Donations to their Defense Fund can be sent to 2121 South Green Road, South Euclid, OH 44121. Make checks out to "Aurora's Defense Fund."



Ted D. Bear, the Mascot for Franklin County Children's Services. Is he a symbol for Big Brother?

The writer, Gwendolyn Ann Smith (gwen@gwensmith.com) is a "child of the Internet," serving as the Community Host of the Transgender Gazebo at Gay.com, as well as creating numerous transgender-specific Web projects, including the award-winning "Remembering Our Dead" project at <http://www.gender.org/remember>. She also serves on the Board of Gender Education and Advocacy (GEA), and is an advisor to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Historical Society of Northern California. Her own Web site is located at www.gwensmith.com/gender.

Focus: Transgender Youth at risk***Banned from Brocton MA School, Trans Student fights for her rights***

BROCKTON, MA, October 12, 2000 - Judge Linda Giles, an openly lesbian magistrate of the Plymouth County, Massachusetts Superior Court, has ruled on a motion for a preliminary injunction which, unless stayed on appeal, will allow an M2F transsexual eighth-grade Brockton student who once wore a dress to a semi-formal dance to attend school wearing gender-appropriate clothing.

The defendant Brockton School Committee, the government body that administers the local public schools, missing an opportunity to set an example of tolerance for diversity, may seek the stay and appeal. To protect the plaintiff, the child is identified in court papers only as "Pat Doe," and the exact school is not identified. All the court papers have been placed under seal and are not available for review. Pat Doe has not been in school and is being tutored at home.

Ms. Doe is represented by Jennifer Levi, Esq., of the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders in Boston.

In a press release, Ms. Levi stated that the decision is "tremendously important," and that "transgender students face serious hostility from teachers and administrators who lack a basic understanding about gender identity."

Unless stayed, the injunction would permit the student to go to school while expressing her gender preference, including wearing clothes that others would see as feminine attire.

During the hearing on the preliminary injunction on October 4th, Levi said Pat Doe was born male, but has a female identity. The attorney referred to Doe in the female gender during the hearing. She also said that Pat should be allowed to go to school and express her transgender identity. Levi argued case law suggesting Pat has a First Amendment right to self-expression. The attorney also said the same dress code should be applied to Doe as other girls in the school.

Edward Lenox, the attorney for the School Committee, argued that "The student will show off, apply makeup in front of other students," Lenox said. He also alluded to kisses being blown in class and referred to a long, slinky black dress that Pat wore to a semi-formal dance, claiming that this was a disruption to both students and parents.

During the hearing, Judge Giles questioned what constitutes flamboyance in dress and if

schools should be allowed to set boundaries for flamboyance.

Prior to the start of the hearing, Lenox, confusing gender identity with sexual orientation, filed a motion asking Judge Giles to recuse herself for having a gay affiliation.

Judge Giles, refused to recuse herself, and said gender identity disorder is the issue in the case. She said it is not a gay issue.

Apparently unable to comprehend the concept of tolerance for diversity, Brockton School Superintendent Joseph Bage said he disagreed with Giles' contention that other

students' discomfort was not sufficient enough to prohibit the boy from wearing girl's clothes to school.

"We feel this is a disruption to the education process, he said. "There have been problems. Students are students."

The court affirmed that transgender students need the same support and protection for their safety that other students need. It further recognized that "exposing children to diversity at an early age serves the important social goals of increasing their ability to tolerate differences" and teaches "respect for everyone's unique personal experience."

Can it happen in your state?

Legislatures pass statutory law almost every session in the various states, that may have an effect on transgendered people, and particularly on transgendered youth.

Rarely, the law is a positive one, such as the efforts in several municipalities and one state over the past couple of decades to pass human rights legislation that includes "gender identity, characteristics or expression" as a protected class, using one or another way to describe people who are gender-different.

One example of a law that might have a negative impact on transgendered students, is the **Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act (Project SAVE)**, recently enacted in New York. Some rather innocuous provisions might be used by governmental agencies against transgendered or other children who happen to be different.

Take one of the provisions of this law, enacted as Section 3214 of the New York education law, which defines a "disruptive pupil" as "an elementary or secondary student under twenty-one years of age who is substantially disruptive of the educational process or substantially interferes with the teacher's authority over the classroom," and authorizes a teacher to remove such a disruptive pupil "consistent with discipline measures contained in the code of conduct adopted by the board..."

Another provision of the law require all school boards to adopt drsss codes, without providing any guidance on handling transgendered youth.

As the accompanying article indicates, such a law might empower a teacher to remove a transgendered youth for wearing the appropriate clothing for her or his gender, instead of removing other students who might be harassing or heckling or otherwise causing the disturbance.

This "blame the victim" situation is at the very core of the defendant School Committee's argument in the Brockton case - instead of taking the opportunity to teach tolerance, the school board's reaction is to ban the victim from school.

A similar motivation is at the root of the Aurora Lipscomb case, and the recent situation in Washington State, involving student Violet Peters, who was suspended from school for dressing in a gender-variant manner.

Lucy's Window

Being Crossdressed on a Caribbean Cruise

By Lucy Stone

Sometime during the winter every year, Joan and I find ourselves wishing that we could escape the cold weather and head south for at least a week or two. This winter was no exception. When we received a brochure for a Caribbean cruise in early January, our longing to go south became strong. This year, we were pleasantly surprised to learn that both an unexpected financial windfall and the "reduced price" for the brochure's return-customer cruise bookings were compatible. So we quickly booked our cruise, and began the process of getting ready.

I made a strong pitch to Joan to cross-dress every evening for dinner. She said that it worked well on the Tri-Ess Dignity cruise, but she had her doubts concerning whether it would be workable on a two-week cruise where no CD group was present. We discussed potential problems, and found two for which we didn't have the answer:

- How did the cruise line feel about having passengers cross-dress?
- Would there be any problem going ashore cross-dressed at any of our ten port calls to southern Caribbean islands?

I called the cruise line and was put through to a lady whose job it was to answer customer inquiries. She told me the cruise line did not have any policy on cross-dressing one way or the other. She said the only "problem" that she could see was that I would have to wear a formal gown to dinner on formal evenings. (I should have more problems like this.) Concerning the matter of going ashore cross-dressed, she said that was not a problem.

After much discussion, we came up with a plan. Because neither of us knew what situations we would encounter, we agreed that it would be best to pack both for Don and Lucy for everything except formal evenings where I would take two formal dresses. We were unfamiliar with our cruise line's check-in procedures, so I decided that

I would play it safe by boarding the ship enhomme (I was concerned about other passengers learning my secret while I was checking in.). Once in our cabin, I would cross-dress before the evening meal. I planned to dress every evening for dinner. Further, we expected the ship to be large enough that it would be possible for me to dress enhomme to go dancing, to have time as a couple or when Joan just got tired of Lucy.



When we checked in, we discovered that boarding cross-dressed could have been accomplished discreetly. I changed before dinner as planned, and everything went well at dinner where we met the two couples with whom we would be dining. Throughout the remainder of the evening, I became convinced that switching back and forth between Lucy and Don could be done with no one the wiser. However, my conclusion evaporated when we discovered that one of the couples with whom we would be dining every evening had an inside stateroom almost directly across the hall from us. As a result it was going to be very difficult to come and go without raising suspicions if I were to switch back and forth.

Since they had met Lucy that evening at dinner, Joan and I concluded that I was going to have to remain cross-dressed for the entire two-week cruise or else risk creating an awkward situation in the dining room. (At that moment, the prospect of me cross-dressing for an extended period appealed to me, but I was concerned about how Joan was going to react.)

From that first evening until the cruise was over, two weeks later, I cross-dressed all of the time, and when the cruise was over, I left the ship and flew home without ever getting any of my male wardrobe out of the suitcase. The entire cruise was without incident except for the one that Jen gleefully relates this month in this newsletter. For the most part the cruise was a lot of fun for both of us, and I learned some important things, which I summarize below:

- It is possible for a CD to totally cross-dress for an extended period of time without anybody becoming the wiser, if she has developed the capability to pass for shorter periods of time and has confidence in herself. However, I am certain that it would have been far more difficult, if not impossible, for me without a wonderful supportive wife to let me know if something wasn't just right and to help build and maintain our cover story.

- It was very strange to find myself in a situation where I could go about freely as a female but found it impractical to dress as a male. Being precluded from dressing enhomme made it impractical for Joan and me to go dancing or even hold hands, and we both very much missed this.

- Being coerced into dancing with a man is an extremely scary situation. Although his attraction to the identity I had assumed was in itself validation that I appeared to be the woman that I was emulating. Fortunately, he didn't suspect a thing. However, I intend to be careful to avoid being put into a similar situation in the future.

Do I plan to cross-dress on future cruises, and more importantly will Joan be receptive to me doing so? We both are as enthusiastic as ever about going on the Tri-Ess Dignity Cruises, and we feel certain that we will be very much aware of the lessons learned on this cruise when deciding what level of activity will work best for both of us on all future cruises.

**Be careful for
what you wish
You might get it
. . . and more!**

By Joan Stone

If you are a CD who can pass as a woman, be wary of where you choose to do this.

On a recent two-week cruise to the southern Caribbean, my CD, Lucy, and I had a wonderful time. As far as we know, we were the only enfemme CD and wife on the ship. Each evening after dinner, we enjoyed relaxing by the dance floor while listening to the orchestra. My only regret was we were not able to take advantage of the excellent dance music that was being played.

However, one of the hosts, who the cruise line had hired to dance with the unescorted ladies, took a liking to Lucy. Several evenings, he asked Lucy to dance, but each time, she very sweetly declined.

However, one Saturday afternoon, dance music was being played on the pool deck while we were sitting nearby, visiting with another lady. We were not paying much attention to the dancing or who was dancing. So it was a surprise when the host who had been asking Lucy to dance in the evenings appeared at our table. He took Lucy's hand and said, "Please dance with me." Lucy again graciously declined. But the lady sitting with us said, "Go ahead and dance with him. He is an excellent dancer." I couldn't help myself; I too encouraged Lucy to dance.

I only wish I had a camera with me. The dance was a rumba, which Lucy does not know how to do, nor had she ever wanted to dance with a man. So I will leave it to your imagination as to the scene on the dance floor. I am still shaking with laughter every time I think about it. It was my small revenge for not being able to dance during the cruise, because I could not dance with my husband, and none of the hosts ever asked me to dance!

I'm certain that Lucy in her wildest imagination never envisioned having to ward off the attentions of a man. So for CDs wanting to pass, be careful for what you wish, or you too might encounter situations you would rather not experience.

IFGE is on the Move Again!

By Nancy Cain

In order to reduce our overhead and best utilize our space, especially with ever climbing rent costs, we have relocated the Synchronicity Bookstore to the Lower Level of the building we currently occupy at 14 Felton Street in Waltham, MA. By completing this move we have accomplished reducing our space by one quarter. And keeping our rent (with increase) at approximately what we were paying before the increase took effect at the beginning of September.

Even though we are separated by three flights of stairs, we figure this way we can get in our daily exercise! The one benefit is that we don't have to carry any shipments of books or magazines up a whole flight of stairs anymore. We carried the move out ourselves with a lot of help from our volunteers, especially Christine, Janice and Holly. Thanks to all who helped!

True Spirit Conference 2001

The American Boyz presents the 5th annual True Spirit Conference.

This 3 day conference is being held in the nation's capital, Washington, DC, President's day weekend (February 16-19, 2001).

We have a variety of workshops, seminars, entertainment and general fun and frolic in the planning for this years conference, beginning on Friday evening, February 16, 2001. This conference is open to all who wish to come. We encourage all varieties of people to attend. Bring your parents, husband, wife, girlfriend, boyfriend, brothers, sisters, or whoever you wish. We have a very diverse group of people who attend.

If you have been to True Spirit before and we have your correct mailing address, you will be receiving the flyer and registration form in the next few weeks. If you have moved, please send me your new address at the e-mail address below, so we can send the information to the correct address.

If you have never been before and would like more information, please e-mail me at the address below, and I will add you to the mailing list and will make sure you have all the information you could possibly want.

Mike S.

HoobieOne

TSC 2001 co-chair

HoobieOne@aol.com

CALL FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR: IFGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Nominations due by December 1, 2000

Each year, IFGE members (YOU!) have the opportunity to nominate individuals for the IFGE Board of Directors. You have the ability to directly influence your organization's policy, as well as the services it provides to the TG community, through nominating and voting for qualified individuals who you feel best represent your constituency, perspective and desires for IFGE's present and future course.

Board members are elected to a three year term and must be members of IFGE. They serve without compensation. The Board oversees and directs IFGE affairs, establishes policy and provides for overall operation and management of the organization.

Board members may serve as chairpersons of IFGE's action committees, including the Finance, Fundraising, Nominations, Awards, Publications, Programs and Conventions committees.

IFGE holds four board meetings each year at different TG events around the country. IFGE board members must attend a minimum of two of these board meetings each year at their own expense.

The person you nominate should be someone you know well enough to endorse their ability to work constructively within IFGE. When reviewing potential nominees, please consider whether they meet the following qualifications:

- A. Be a member in good standing of IFGE
- B. Have experience and/or competency in managing the policies of a growing not-for-profit organization.
- C. Have a commitment to the welfare of and service to the transgender community without consideration for personal gain.
- D. Have a pro-diversity attitude and a commitment to serving the community without bias.
- E. Be willing to learn, have sufficient self-awareness to recognize and avoid personal agendas.
- F. Have the ability to exercise patience and diplomacy in the forging of consensus.

Once you have determined whom you wish to nominate:

1. Fill out the nomination form completely. Include the information on how we can contact the nominee.
2. State why you feel the candidate(s) are qualified.
3. Send the nomination form to the IFGE Nominations Committee at the address below.

Nominations without contact information for the nominee will *not* be eligible for inclusion on the ballot as we must confirm the candidate's acceptance of the nomination. Remember, persons who represent your views and interests can't be elected to next year's board if you don't nominate them.

Please send your nominations to

IFGE Board Nominations Committee

PO Box 540229

Waltham, MA 02454-0229

OR e-mail your nominations to: **nancyjc@ifge.org** - please include the words "Board Nominations" on the subject line.

OR FAX your nominations to: **(781) 899-5703 ATT: Nancy Cain**

Please use the form on page the next page, one for each nomination. This form may be copied for additional nominations. Thank you for your participation in the process

**NOMINATION FOR THE
INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 2001**

Your name: _____ Date: _____

Your address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

(your name will be listed on the ballot as a supporter of your candidate)

Nominations without contact information for the nominee will not be eligible for inclusion on the ballot, as we must confirm acceptance of the nomination.

For the nominee, please supply:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Submit 1-3 paragraphs in support of your nominee.

Return to:
IFGE Board Nominations Committee
PO Box 540229
Waltham, MA 02454-0229

OR e-mail to: **nancyjc@ifge.org** - please include the words "Board Nominations" on the subject line.

OR FAX your nominations to: **(781) 899-5703 ATT: Nancy Cain**

Supreme Court denies Littleton appeal with little hope for rehearing

continued from page 1

"The decision to do so, or not, has not been made at this time," she said, adding that the deadline is October 27th.

Texas is now confronted with a strange sort of dual legal system, where gay marriage is allowed in the 26 counties covered by the 5th Appellate Court in San Antonio, as long as one of the partners is a transsexual, but a heterosexual marriage is denied to transsexuals, and to others whose chromosomes are not correct for their "sex."

Ms. Meiselman indicates that in those 26 counties, her client is "male," but "in other parts of the state she is female and may marry a male again."

Indeed, in the aftermath of the *Littleton* decision, at least two lesbian couples have visited the clerk in Bexar County alone, and have gotten marriage licenses.



Jonathan Mark Littleton and Christie Lee at their wedding

As long as one of the partners in the relationship is transsexual, the clerk, at least in Bexar, bound by the *Littleton* decision, is issuing the licenses.

Lori Killough and Cynthia Young followed Jessica Wicks and Robin Wicks by just two weeks. The clerk in Bexar

was reported in the local press as having been surprised to see a second couple.

In a brief statement issued on Monday, October 2, 2000, after the denial of certiorari was published, Ms. Meiselman stated:

"I am proud to have joined in this fight with Christie Lee Littleton, Phyllis Randolph Frye, and the many professionals that assisted us, and I thank them for their courage and resolve."

She said, "I am disappointed that the members of the Supreme Court of the United States did not have the courage to hear this case, and by their denial of the writ they have encouraged further discrimination against the transgendered community.

Ms. Meiselman also indicated that her client might be willing to make a statement at a later date.

A Littleton Legal Analysis: Religion and junk science play a part

In the appellate court decision, the Chief Justice, Phil Hardberger, begins by framing the question presented in a civil case in religious terms, writing "... is a person's gender immutably fixed by our Creator at birth?"

This sets the stage - the decision, in Hardberger's mind, is being framed as a matter involving the acts of human beings in defying the will of the Deity.

In the stipulated facts presented to that court, Hardberger writes, "Both Dr. Greer and Dr. Mohl would testify that, in their opinions, following the successful completion of Christie's participation in UTHSC's gender dysphoria program, Christie is medically a woman."

So are the acts of mere mortal human beings set forth.

"During the pendency of this suit, Christie amended the original birth certificate to change the sex and name. Under section 191.029 of the Texas Health and Safety Code she was entitled to seek such an amendment if the record was 'incomplete or proved by satisfactory evidence to be inaccurate.'"

That's the whole point for transsexuals - that the designation of their sex on the basis of genital analysis at birth, without a gender identity analysis (which can only happen later), is an inaccuracy.

One key error in Hardberger's reasoning in the discussion is the following: "No one claims the information contained in Christie's original birth certificate was based on fraud or error." The application was because the certificate was in error.

Hardberger continued, "We believe the legislature intended the term 'inaccurate' in section 191.028 to mean inaccurate as of the time the certificate was recorded; that is, at the time of birth." Even so, that doesn't justify the holding.

Hardberger held, "At the time of birth, Christie was a male, both anatomically and genetically. The facts contained in the original birth cer-

tificate were true and accurate, and the words contained in the amended certificate are not binding on this court. There are some things we cannot will into being. They just are."

Here we are confronted with the "junk science" aspect of the opinion. There was absolutely nothing in the facts presented to the court that established Christie Lee's chromosomes. Birth certificates are not issued after a chromosomal analysis, not in April 1952, and not today. He also ignores the role of the individual's psychological being on sex.

What Hardberger does by bringing genetic assumptions into the equation, may have far-reaching effects. Insurance companies defending wrongful death cases involving widowed plaintiffs, at least in Texas, have nothing to lose by claiming a possible error in the birth certificates of the plaintiff or the decedent. A chromosomal analysis will probably knock out a small percentage of the marriages, not because a party is transsexual, but because one of the parties is chromosomally variant. And with the marriages knocked out, the plaintiffs, like Christie, will lose their standing to sue. This is for auto accident cases, as well as malpractice!

In her dissent, Justice Alma Lopez, the only judge involved at any level of this case who has demonstrated any grasp of procedural law, points out that the law regarding the change of a birth certificate was improperly ignored by Hardberger.

"Although a birth certificate is not a legal pleading, the document is an official state document. Amendment of the state document is certainly analogous to an amended legal pleading. In this case, Christie's amended birth certificate replaced her original birth certificate. In effect, the amended birth certificate nullified the original birth certificate. As a result, summary judgment was issued based on a nullified document."

Justice Lopez continued, "How then can the majority conclude that Christie is a male?" How, indeed.

Transgender 2001: *Plan now! Don't miss it!*

The International Foundation for Gender Education Inc.'s 2001 convention scheduled for March 21 to 25, 2001 will be held at the Radisson Hotel, Arlington Heights, Illinois (near Chicago's O'Hare Airport). This is destined to be the most exciting event presented in the history of IFGE. There will be a faculty of medical/professionals from around the world, many TG community luminaries and leaders, and star-studded entertainment each night, at the hotel and in downtown Chicago.

Part of this is being made possible by the Rikki Swin Institute's sponsoring a special concurrent Symposium of International Trans Medicine and Law. This incredible joint effort is being held at a wonderful hotel property that we essentially have for our exclusive use.

Transgender 2001 is being co-hosted by the Chicago Gender Society and Chi Chapter Tri-Ess with presentations by members of It's Time Illinois, IFGE and the Rikki Swin Institute, Inc. The convention will present a program featuring a veritable Who's Who of professionals, experts, and TG leaders, covering the latest in transgender medicine, surgery, psychotherapy, sociology, self-help, law and politics. There will be special programs for F2Ms, as well as for families and significant others. The program has been designed to include every facet of the trans community from the cross-dresser still in the closet to post-op transsexuals; both male-to-female and female-to-male; part time care-giver to highly-professional, experienced medical practitioners.

Here are just a few for the professionals and community speakers scheduled to date: George R. Brown, M.D.; Richard Docter, Ph.D.; Diane Ellaborn, LICSW; Frederic Ettner, M.D.; Randi Ettner, Ph.D.; Michael Miqqi, (Alicia Gilbert) Ph.D.; Armand Hotimsky; Sexologist; Ariadne Kane, Ed.D.; Deidre McCloskey, Ph.D.; Toby R. Meltzer, M.D.; Douglas Ousterhout, M.D.; David Ostad, M.D.; Jos Megens from the Amsterdam Gender Team; Eugene A. Schrang, M.D. S.C.;

Mariette Pathy-Allen M.A.; Alyson Meiselman, Esq.; Stephen Whittle, Ph.D.; Moonhawk River Stone, B.S. psychotherapist. Ms. Bob; Tony Barreto-Neto; Holly Boswell; Ann Casebeer; Diana Cicotello; Laurie Cicotello; Carrie Davis; Dallas Denny; Angela Bright Feather; Jane Fee; Michael Gray; Jamison Green; Marisa Richmond; Julie Johnson; Paula Ison; Dana Rivers; Zantui Rose; Jessica Xavier; Miranda Stevens-Miller; Virginia Prince, and the persons who will be selected to receive the prestigious Virginia Prince Awards.

The convention will formally open with a plenary session on Thursday morning, March 22nd. Educational seminars will begin that afternoon and continue for the next two days with the RSI Symposium running and open to all registrants.

It's not all work and no play! We will kick off the event on Wednesday evening March 21st, with a pool party and welcoming reception. Thursday will feature a fashion show during lunch as well as a noted speaker and an evening at the Grand Opening reception of the RS Institute in downtown Chicago. This will be followed by an optional local restaurant tour and will conclude with a special show at the famous Baton Lounge (bus transportation will be provided). Friday's lunch will feature the IFGE Trinity Awards, (recognition of several community leaders) and the annual IFGE fund drive. The evening is devoted to a "TV" game show followed by a 50's sock-hop. An optional tour of local

TG night spots will finish off the evening. Saturday's lunch will feature the annual Virginia Prince Award and the evening will be our gala banquet and star-studded entertainment followed by dancing.

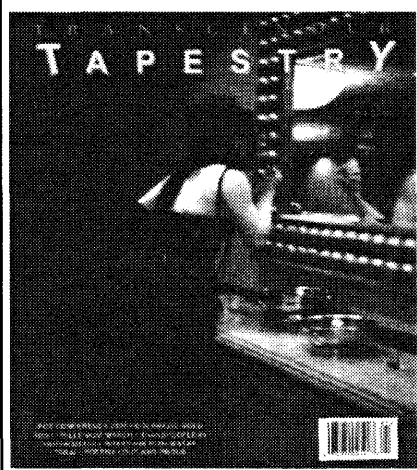
The convention is being held at the Radisson hotel in Arlington Heights, Illinois, near the O'Hare Airport, with free shuttle service to and from the hotel. This is a great location, having easy access from all Illinois highways. It is small enough to give us the exclusive use of the property, but large enough to accommodate our programs. The hotel staff is warm, friendly, and professional and will take good care of our various needs.

A special rate of \$79.++/per night (single/double) has been arraigned. Reservations may be made now by calling the Radisson Hotel reservations at 800-333-333 or the hotel direct at 847-364-7600, ask for the International Foundation For Gender Education special rate. This rate will be available from Monday, March 19 to Sunday, March 25, so come early and enjoy the Chicago sights including the famous Woodfield Mall (free transportation provided by the hotel). Space is limited to 144 doubles and 127 kings (suites may still be available), call in your reservations early!

The complete convention registration is \$250 and includes all sessions, three lunches, dinner and entertainment of both Friday and Saturday evening. Special day rates are Thursday, Friday or Saturday at \$50 per day (not including meals). Other daily and package rates and IFGE member and early registration discounts will be published in the registration package, available after November 15, 2000.

Do not miss this exciting event! For more information, contact S. Kristine James at Cioe Enterprises (IFGE Convention Management Team) at P.O. Box 61, Easton, PA 18044-0061, 610-759-1761 (days); fax 610-759-0223; e-mail SkristineJ@aol.com.

For program information contact Alison Laing, fax 401-624-8753 or e-mail at alison@lng.com



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