

INGERSOLL MESSAGE

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER — SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER, 1997 □ VOL. THREE □ NO. 6 □ PRICE: \$1.00/EA. □ \$15.00/YR SUBSCRIPTION

BARBIE'S FIRST OUTING! PART II

BY Rebecca Buchanan

Reprinted from the Femme Forum, Houston Texas

Last month, in part I, "Barbie" was caught crossdressing in her sister's clothes. As the sister's friends demanded that Sis introduce her, "Barbie" waited in horror for her sisters' reaction. And now the exciting conclusion to our story!

"Of course I know her," my sister said, sardonically. I could do nothing, I was in her power. She could expose me to her friends, and I would be ruined — a laughing stock.

"This is my little sister, Barbie," she said, at last. "And she's being very bad, getting my new outfit all dirty out here. Get up, Barbie!" I stood, trembling, still not trusting her.

"She's adorable," said one of the girls. "You two could be twins!"

"YOU march right into that house and take off my clothes, girl," Margie said, raising her voice slightly. I just stared at her, not really comprehending.

I turned and ran, not being very feminine about it, but not caring. I ran through the back door, up the basement steps, into the living room. There I saw the dolls — Ken still in drag laying on the coffee table. I scooped them up and bolted upstairs.

I peeled off Margie's clothes and jewelry and wiped off the make-up. I put my own clothes back on and locked myself in my room. I waited for her to come and drop the other shoe: reveal who I really was to her friends so they could have a good laugh. But she didn't.

About ten minutes later, she yelled from downstairs, "We're going now, Barbie. You better stay away from my clothes. You have plenty of pretty things of your own. You be a good girl or I'll tell Mom about this little episode!" They left the house and I heard the car start up and pull away.

So that was her game, eh? Blackmail! She had me in her clutches. I now had to sweat it out until she got home and confronted me for real.

I didn't have to wait long. She came back home alone, about half an hour later. She came right upstairs and knocked on my door. I sheepishly opened it.

"I nearly had a heart attack over you!" she said, angrily. "Abby thought she had seen someone run around the house when we pulled up and we thought it was burglar! Then we see my old Barbie dolls in the living room and this girl sitting behind the tree in the back yard. I kind of figured it out by then and tried to get them to leave again, but they had to see who was sitting in the back yard. I didn't say anything because I thought you were going to look ridiculous, but you pulled it off. They thought you were my sister!"

"I'm sorry. I won't do it again, I promise! Just don't tell Mom and Dad!"

"Don't worry, I won't. If you want to dress up like a girl, that's your business. Just take care of my clothes, okay? No more sitting in the dirt behind trees."

"Don't worry, I'll never dress up again, I swear."

"Sure. And what do I tell my friends when they want to invite Barbie to go out with us?"

We both smiled.

Did I mention how much I love my sister?

EMERALD CITY

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PHONES ANSWERED TUESDAYS

7:00 PM 10:00 PM

For Crossdressers. Meetings and social gatherings. Safe, discreet, and confidential. A place to be

FROM THE FOUNDER

By Marsha C. Butzer, MA

(This article appeared in the Hands Off Washington Newsletter in the fall of 1996. It is worth reprinting here.)

ARE WE REALLY ANY DIFFERENT?

Hands off Washington has pursued its mission with care and dedication. At its very beginning, the organization decided to offer a place of support for diverse groups represented by the gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to. This means that for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered. The wisdom of this vote for inclusion is written in a success story shared by all the peoples of Washington: the defeat of attempts to deny equality among our citizens.

I am particularly pleased that the Hands Off Washington included transgendered people in its mission almost from the beginning. While the reasonableness of inclusion seemed obvious to me, I had to recognize the legitimacy of a primary question. Why should gay, lesbian, and bisexual people include transgendered people in a common struggle for justice?

The first answer to this is education. Transgendered people in Washington State do not enjoy the same protections against discrimination as other citizens. Just as lesbian, gay, and bisexual people face discrimination and attack, so do transgendered people. This simple fact is devastating in its effect; none of these groups receive the equal treatment under the law that other citizens receive. A transgendered person can be fired for nothing more than being transgendered.

For transgendered individuals the difficulties often begin at the time they start to face the sense of who they are and what this means in terms of their interaction with others. A sometimes confusing reality about being transgendered is that it means dealing with personal identity and self a bit differently than gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to. This means that for the transgendered person the central question is not about who one partners with or who one is with, sexually, but rather it is about the internal sense of self and identity and how to bring that sense of self into the world. Of course, *all* people struggle with this kind of internal identity at times, transgendered people have no monopoly on that! But the main point is that for a transgendered person this struggle is the central one.

Incidentally, this does not mean that transgendered people are not sexual. It just means that for them the issue of personal identity must come first, ahead of any discoveries about who one is attracted to or how one will

behave sexually. There is no hierarchy of importance here, only a difference of personal experience.

With a sense of the experience of transgender in mind, here are some reasons for including this group in the work of achieving civil rights for all. These are hard-won reasons born in the same search for self and place that has animated the long fight for equality.

First, there is the simple fact that those who oppose the justice and equality we seek make no distinction between lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. We are all seen as unworthy to participate in the full freedom of our place as Citizens. This may appear as a small thing, but the result is a bond of oppression that calls for a common and united response.

Second, there is a long history already in place of transgendered people participating in the struggle for equality. There have been transgendered persons serving on the phone banks, the committees, and the boards of all our various groups. They have been giving their help gladly for years, in the hope that everyone will be safe. Transgendered people are no more saintly than anyone else, but many of them have been doing the work of equality just like others who have put their life's energy toward freedom.

Far more important than the two previous points is this: transgendered people are linked to gay, lesbian and bisexual people by their mutual search for an understanding of what it means to discover oneself and to bring that self into the world which has rarely made a social or cultural place for them. What a lesbian, gay, or bisexual person means when they say the word "I" is the same question that drives a transgendered person. We are brought together by our profound confrontation with the meaning of person and self. We do not ask to be placed in this position of wonder and struggle, it comes with the act of being in the world. This is our common bond and the reason we have nothing to fear from our association and our joining together in social and political action.

(The following was written as an addendum to the article from the Fall, 1996 HOW Newsletter)

And so we come to the struggle to see the passage of I-677 in the Fall elections. It is only with the help, caring, and commitment of all people in the lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, gay, and our friends and allies in the heterosexual communities that we can make it so, and strike down one more wall which keeps us from our communion with the world at large.

I-677 SIGNATURE DRIVE GOES OVER THE TOP; LOWRY TO CO-CHAIR 'VOTE YES' CAMPAIGN

With the Initiative 677 petition campaign successfully completed, former governor Mike Lowry has announced he will help co-chair the statewide campaign to win voter support this fall.

If approved at the polls in November, the measure would end job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In a prepared statement, Lowry said, "Volunteers from the Hands Off Washington coalition councils around the state caravanned in their cars to Olympia, to the steps of the state capitol, to turn in the 16 boxes of signed petitions to the secretary of State (for verification)."

All told, Hands Off tallied 230,000 signatures on 17,071 petitions, he said. Organizers originally had hoped for 225,000 names to provide a cushion for duplications and inaccuracies.

IMPORTANT INGERSOLL DOINGS IN S E P T E M B E R

*All Mondays in September: Amazing Changes, an AA group
for all TS, TG, and TV people 6:00-7:00 pm
This is group is closed to families and SO's*

All Wednesdays in September: TS Group (Referral Only) 7:30-9:30 PM

All Thursdays in September: Drop In Group (Open) 7-9 PM

All Fridays in September: TV/TS Support Group (Open) 8-10 PM

Phones answered Mondays & Fridays 6-8 pm and Saturdays 10-12 noon

September 8, Ingersoll Board Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm.

September 9: FTM Support Group, 7:30-9:30 pm

Topic: Tricks of the Trade

September 23, FTM Therapy group, 7:00-8:30 pm (Ste. 103)

September 23, FTM SO Support Group, 7:00-8:30 pm (Ingersoll)

September 27: FTM Support Group, 11:00-1:00 pm

(See FTM Calendar for specifics)

FTM CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER, 1997

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 FTM PHONE LINES MSG SVC 329- 6651 **	4	5	6
7	8 IGC BOARD MTG 7:30 - 9:00pm	9 FTM SUPPORT GROUP 7:30 - 9:30pm Tricks of the Trade	10 FTM PHONE LINES MSG SVC 329- 6651 **	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 FTM PHONE LINES MSG SVC 329- 6651 **	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 FTM PHONE LINES MSG SVC 329- 6651 **	25	26	27 FTM SUPP' T GROUP 11:00- 1:00pm
28	29	30	FTM THERAPY GROUP: Jude Patton FTM-SO SUPPORT GROUP: Carole Miranda-Patton **Leave messages any time, especially Wednesday, and calls will be returned ASAP			
31						

REFERRAL THERAPISTS

SANDRA L. FOSSHAGE
M.A.
(206) 286-6005

SANDRA L. JOHNSON
Ph.D. Lic. #1328
(206) 322-2012

HOWARD E. LEONARD
Ph.D. Lic. #989
(206) 329-5255

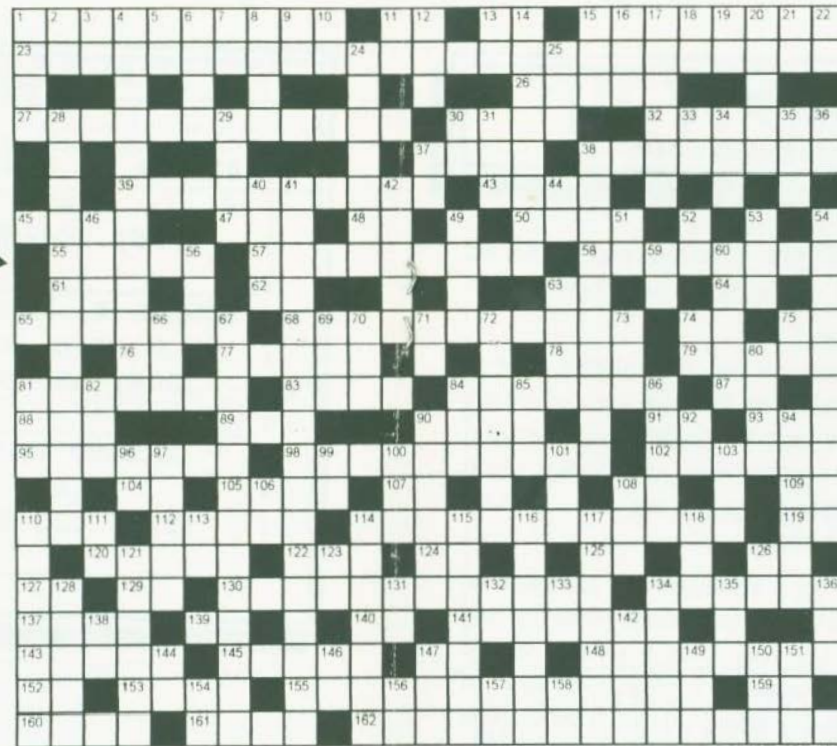
JUDE PATTON
CMHC, CMFT, PA-C
(206) 787-5094

BRYANT VEHR'S
M.A.
(206) 623-5244

EASTERN WASH.
K.K. (ROBBY) ROBBINS
(509) 459-8111



- 1 _____ are the subjects in school
 11 MTF's can be called Miss, Ms. or _____
 13 The quiet sound _____
 15 100 years ago, it was not unusual for a teacher to _____ for being naughty
 23 _____ student should have the _____ to wear a dress to _____
 26 _____ says _____ only when you are spoken to
 27 An FTM is classified as _____
 30 Makes a kind of lace
 32 An _____ a very powerful thing
 37 Prefix meaning "self"
 38 Almost every _____ "When can I start wearing a brassiere?"
 39 After middle school
 43 It's either You _____
 45 A single occurrence
 47 Latin word for 'play'
 48 Prefix which can mean 'not'
 50 Way down _____ in New Orleans
 55 Abrasives
 57 An hour of when you are supposed to do your homework
 58 It takes more than _____ to make _____ woman
 61 By means of, or through
 62 Small preposition
 63 Spanish and French word for 'of or from'
 64 Abbr. for Transcendental Meditation
 65 Yellow sticks used in school
 68 It's amazing these days what you will see written _____
 74 Greek letter
 75 Another abbreviation meaning England
 76 Another small preposition
 77 And God created _____
 78 International Sport Organization
 79 Very shabby restaurant or bar
 81 _____ T.S or TG
 83 Woman's name aiso colored part of eye
 84 What some T's are for
 87 Sa _____ Pla _____ Da _____ Sia _____
 88 Type of mouse also breast
 89 Conjunction
 90 What east coast people call pop
 91 Tries to sell you something
 93 The flu _____ made herself _____ beside the fire
 95 If you want to be an _____ just _____
 98 _____ teach any classes about Gender issues?
 102 Almost every FTM knew _____ was _____ from a very early age
 104 Mild gasp
 105 Some people think that an _____ is _____ type of food
 107 Can't be reached (nrl)
 108 River in Italy
 109 Egyptian Sun God
 110 Nickname for Thaddeus
 112 In Spanish it's Maria
 114 Three words which strike terror into most teachers' hearts
 119 Initials for eye surgery
 120 Pants worn by most students
 122 Initials meaning All Tickets are Sold
 124 The _____ ng was still _____ ng while flying his _____
 126 B _____ D _____ M _____ S _____ F _____
 126 St. Louis address
 127 Before noon
 129 Nashville address
 130 Just because a man wears a dress to a Halloween party doesn't mean _____ wants to _____ all the time
 134 An FTM who wants to really dress up sometimes _____ luxeda
 137 Type of styro
 139 Step four on the piano
 149 Subtitle from the third filler and you will have ZIAT&T.vall
 150 One of the four elements in the ancient world
 151 Movie titles
 154 VP Humphrey's initials
 156 Please phone home
 157 Another holy title
 158 _____ adys _____ etulity and _____ zidly _____ oved _____ enda's hand
 140 Louisville address
 141 Socks safety belts backpacks and harnesses are things that you _____
 143 Religious songs
 145 Bases _____ are the lowest stringed instruments
 147 Gay County Western singer's initials
 148 Short witty poems or tetraharis
 147 Author Whig's initials
 153 The correct way to address an FTM
 155 Many TVs never _____ think that _____ thing to be
 159 P _____ B _____ J _____ W _____ R _____ D _____
 160 _____ the Latin word for 'thing'
 161 A _____
 162 After coming to a meeting at 1 person I know there is no _____



SEPTEMBER, 1997

Down

- 1 Four of these on your report card will make your parents very happy
 2 Medical initials
 3 Nickname for Tyrone
 4 It _____ ngly with these students they will eventually act the same with her
 5 A high male voice: T E _____ O _____
 6 What comes after the night
 7 St Paul address
 8 An MTF was heard to say "I always wanted to go to school _____ not someone I wasn't"
 9 A type of Gender Person
 10 _____ she or it
 11 More Medical initials
 12 Sometimes used as a synonym for gender
 13 Religious title
 14 It would be nice if in _____ class you could _____ earn about famous T-folk through the ages
 15 He _____ or it
 16 Organization which meets monthly to help schools
 17 Many boys would love to wear _____ to school
 18 Charlotte address
 19 S P _____ and S I _____ are two terms which refer to men in other countries
 20 Wouldn't it be nice if every _____ and girl could feel _____ free as they want to around issues of gender and sexual orientation?
 21 Two letters which sound like a mistake
 22 A S _____ ph is a type of fairy
 24 Most librarians say _____ talking _____ in the library!
 25 One of the best ways to meet other T-folk: Support _____ rou _____
 28 Give a _____ day of high heels and they're happy
 29 London district
 30 Put another one with this and you have a dancing skirt
 31 _____ me for your sins I said the Roman general is C _____ the Elder
 33 Abbi for down load
 34 The part usually pierced
 35 In the 1950's it like _____ was a popular phrase
 36 Naval designation
 37 Gore's first name
 38 As you search for your appropriate _____ thorough as you can
 40 Is _____ direction you are heading?
 41 Don't take your _____ Leave it at home
 42 Do you have your pantynose _____ or are you still working at it?
 44 _____ m _____ p _____ t h _____ re

- 49 Instead of School Days perhaps it should be School _____
 51 A third set of medical initials
 52 Latin word for bone
 53 The bottom of a skirt, coat, shirt or dress
 54 Slang phrase meaning talk talk talk
 56 Latin word for 'self'
 59 Initials for very popular TV program
 60 A room for reading in a large home
 63 Slang term for a small dent
 66 _____ the main of Jupiter
 67 _____ way of showing off their curves = if they are tight enough!
 69 A type of whale with a long horn
 70 Rodeo! Welch's daughter T _____ Welch
 71 M _____ s names K _____ B _____ L _____ D _____
 72 One who is taught
 73 Black and sticky
 74 Nickname for the 'Maternal Unit'
 75 Cockney term for a man, usually the boss: G _____
 80 A set of initials for a doctor _____ T.G.N.
 81 Girl to boy
 82 Boy to girl
 84 The real name for our sun
 85 Old term meaning pick on or tease
 86 Cowboy snout
 80 Dressy pants for men or women
 92 Prefix meaning 'from' also Spanish and French for 'of or from'
 94 Two Mexican heroes with black masks and rappers
 86 First musical step
 97 Mild exclamation
 99 Mary bought a feather b _____ in Mauna L _____ and washed it in a _____ p
 100 M _____ bought some coffee in K _____ bright and sunny day
 101 B _____ sink some Silver _____ sci that she could sing du _____ with the pitcher
 103 While you wh _____ don't forget to set _____ in a p
 106 Two of these come just before Yoh in Old MacDonald!
 108 Very advanced degree
 110 The one _____ T.G.N. learns from
 111 Record Player
 113 Short article
 114 What comes out of a library? _____ than go back to school
 115 Some _____ say they would rather _____ than go back to school
 116 One says _____
 117 Is _____ friendly ghost?
 118 Gar. Cy. _____
 121 _____ an inclusive school in the UK
 123 Type of crossing
 126 _____ address
 128 Possibly
 131 Both an abbr. for a road and for a holy person
 132 Abbr. for 'let's other ha'
 133 _____ y _____ lly did you know that _____ mrs a _____ p?
 134 A scrambled nickname for Arnold
 135 The others do it neither
 136 D _____ p _____ are unable to _____ wer J _____ questions
 138 Te _____ Fi _____ se _____ Fa _____ Fo _____
 142 Oil Cagan (nrl)
 144 Snake sound
 146 First initials for Bean's
 147 _____ ng _____ chard the Lion _____ arted was gay and possibly a crossdresser
 --- but who could tell with the clothes they wore then??



THE BUTLER DID IT!
BY PAT BUTLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PASSAGES

Day passes into night; Summer passes into fall; Child passes to Adult; Work passes into Vacation and back again; Male passes into Female and Female to Male.

Passages. Moving from what is/was to what will be. To quote a Disney song: "It's the Circle of Life." Looking back over the last few columns I have written for *The Ingersoll Message*, I see a common thread running through them, and that thread is **Change**. More than just change, each column seems to focus on learning to accept change; to welcome it as an old friend, not as a disrupter of life.

I remember my three daughters growing up. Change was to them an essential. It was something eagerly sought. To remain in one place for any extended period of time was boring, no fun, icky – to use their words, which come to mind over the years. Even Summer, with its long days of play and no school finally ceased to hold enchantment. True, it took about two months, but somewhere around August 15, I would hear, "There's nothing to do" or (heaven forbid!) "I wish school would start again."

When did I stop looking forward to change? It happened somewhere between experiencing the loss of so many friends and loved-ones to AIDS and a realization that I have more years behind me than in front of me. To be sure, I have never been one to embrace change with an open and loving heart, but it seems that it used to be easier. Could it be that I just didn't notice it? That I was oblivious to it when it happened?

But it does happen. As I have hammered home in the last few months in prose and poetry, change is the only constant (a contradiction at best). I remember something I read in a book when I was a child. It is a book that I have re-read at least a hundred times in my life. The speaker is an older woman who says to a younger woman, "Blessings brighten as they take their flight... otherwise they wouldn't be blessings ..."

If this is true – and I believe it is -- each moment in my life in the last few years has been a wondrous blessing. I know this because each time a blessing takes flight, I notice that the trailing edge is pretty tattered and finger-stained where I have held on to it until the last moment.

'HEY, GOOD COOKIN!'

Baked Chicken Casserole

Ingredients:

- 4 boneless chicken breasts, skinned
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves of garlic, diced
- 1 cup of slice fresh mushrooms
(1 small can of sliced mushrooms may be substituted)
- 1 can of pork and beans
- 2 tsp Curry powder
- Salt and pepper to taste

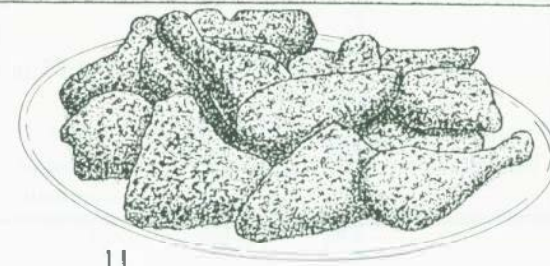
Preparation:

In a large skillet, sauté onions until translucent then add garlic. Add chicken and brown it. In a blender, put the pork and beans (remove the token strip of fat and discard it) Add the curry powder and salt and pepper. Blend until the mixture is a smooth, sauce-like liquid. Arrange the chicken in the pan and pour bean mixture over it. Cover pan with lid or with foil and back in a 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes. Remove the lid for the last 15 minutes.

Presentation:

Serve in the skillet or remove to a large bowl. Serve with a tossed green salad and crusty French bread rolls. Makes great leftovers! The sauce tastes delicious over noodles or mashed potatoes.

Enjoy and be Proud!!



TO YOUR HEALTH

Eating at Arby's Restaurant? Though Arby's has its share of high-fat items, the fast-food chain has developed a light menu that features healthful meals.

Sandwiches such as the Roast Beef Deluxe, Roast Chicken Deluxe, Roast Turkey Deluxe and Roast Chicken Salad contain less than 300 calories and 10 gms of fat. Other low-fat menu items include a plain backed potato, Grilled Chicken BBQ sandwich, Old Fashion Chicken Noodle Soup, a garden salad and a side salad.

Many of Arby's high-fat items contain more than half the recommended daily and sodium intake for an adult. Among the less healthful items are the Bac'n Cheddar Deluxe sandwich, with 539 calories and 35 gm of fat, the Roast Beef Sub, with 700 calories and 42 gm. of fat, and the Philly Beef'n Swiss with 755 calories and 47 gm of fat.

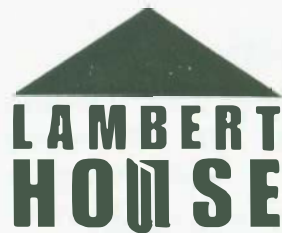
If you're trying to reduce your sodium intake, be aware that the Italian Sub, Philly Beef'n Swiss, Roast Beef Sub and Turkey Sub sandwiches have more than 2,000 mg. of sodium.

BEST BETS

Roast Beef Deluxe
Roast Chicken Deluxe
Roast Turkey Deluxe
Roast Chicken Salad
Grilled Chicken BBQ

WORST BETS

Bac'n Cheddar Deluxe
Beef'n Cheddar
Philly Beef'n Swiss
Triple Cheese Melt
Roast Beef Sub



**LAMBERT
HOUSE**



1818 15th Avenue (15th and Denny)

Can you give some time to help Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender youth as a Board member or Volunteer? If so, call Lynne at 322-0415 for further information and application materials.

DRAG QUEENS RAISE MONEY TO BENEFIT CHILDREN WITH AIDS

FROM THE STONEWALL NEWS NORTHWEST, SPOKANE, WA.

Sea creatures, space voyagers, students from the '60s and sequined gowns brought cheers and donations on July 5, 1997, as Spokane's drag queens — along with other members of the Imperial Sovereign Court and their friends — more than \$500 at the annual Zenith Awards show to benefit children with AIDS.

Marquise Montgomery, surrounded by seven hunks, won first place for her production medley from "Grease" and promptly donated the \$100 in prize money to the fundraiser, according to the event's coordinator, Eunice Kennedy Smith. Although money collected was to benefit the Court's general fund, the kids came out on the long end with \$504 of the \$904 raised in tips and donations, said Smith.

ISC'S supports a number of philanthropic programs through its general fund and special benefit shows. The Zenith Awards commemorate Spokane's 23rd empress, Zenith Rockefeller, who died last fall, three years after inaugurating the benefit.

Sequined gowns, valued at up to \$300, were auctioned during the evening.

Runners-up in the production category included musical numbers saluting Star Trek, Golden Eye and The Little Mermaid.

Shaun Kennedy Smith won the first place trophy in the singles category. Misti Montgomery placed second and Silky Smooth Lee of Seattle, was third.

Slipper Awards, to signify promise in future Court activities went to Kayla Montgomery and Misti Montgomery (not related). For her role as the Little Mermaid, with sequined and satin flippers ala Bette Midler, Eunice Kennedy Smith was dubbed "the Divine Ms. Queen, Nep'tuna" for the evening.



N.O.W. PASSES TRANS-INCLUSION RESOLUTION

After three years of ongoing debate and a final four days of intense dialog, the National Organization for Women (NOW) passed a transgender inclusion resolution at its national conference in Memphis, Tennessee. The measure's success owed a great deal to the personal support of NOW's President, Patricia Ireland, who had arranged for Gender PAC's Executive Director, Riki Anne Wilchins to address NOW's National Board the preceding Thursday, as well as to the intensive consensus-building effort by NOW Lesbian Rights Coordinator, Kimberlee Ward, and NOW-NJ State President, Bear Atwood.

"This was a landmark resolution whose time has clearly come. It's not just the resolution, but the acknowledgment that the transgender community is today's cutting edge. Transgender people are now doing the pioneering work in exposing artificial constructs of gender and breaking down the stereotypes and barriers which divide us all" declared NOW Action Vice President and activist, Rosemary Dempsey.

GenderPAC's Terri McCorcal, who had helped steer the resolution over three years, agreed. "In its own way, this was as historic a moment as NOW's affirmation of lesbian inclusion over 25 years ago. After all the debate, seven amendments, and scores of small compromises and dialogs, it was a truly emotional moment when nearly every hand in the convention went up in support. Women who had worked on this for years were crying and hugging in the aisles."

The resolution had been originally introduced and unanimously passed at NOW-NJ's State Conference in 1994. The next year, a dozen activists from the Transsexual Menace showed up at the NOW's 1995 National Conference in Columbus, Ohio, and gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions. The resolution was introduced from the conference floor, only to be tabled to the National Board, where it languished in spite of apparently overwhelming support. The breakthrough came with NOW-NJ's Bear Atwood was able to arrange an invitation for the representatives from the GenderPAC and allied groups to address NOW's state presidents at their annual state coordinators conference in San Francisco last January. As a result, a number of state presidents came out in support of the measure. In addition, Ms. Ireland herself was present at the presentation, and an

invitation to address the full National Board came shortly thereafter. The text of the resolution follows below.

OPPRESSION OF TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW) has worked for the elimination of all forms of oppression in our society targeted at groups who are systematically mistreated; and

WHEREAS, The transgendered and transsexual communities confront oppression daily and are systematically mistreated because of artificial gender constructs in our society; and

WHEREAS, There is a lack of understanding and information on issues affecting transgendered and transsexual people; and

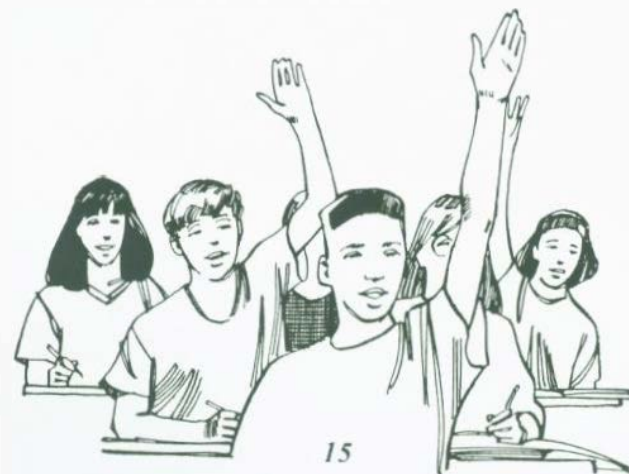
WHEREAS, One of NOW's goals is to eliminate all sex stereotypes including so-called gender roles; and

WHEREAS, NOW affirms and honors the right of people to self-identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW and its sub-units encourage education and dialogue within NOW and other organizations on gender and sex stereotypes including those who are transgendered and transsexual people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW reaffirms its commitment to end all sex and gender stereotypes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we acknowledge that gender is a patriarchal social construct used to oppress women.



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Suite 106
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 329-6651

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Editorial and article contributions are welcomed.

Editor: Pat Butler

Contributors: Marsha Botzer.

Ingersoll Gender Center Board of Directors:

Bryant Vehrs, President
Marsha Botzer, MA
Patrick Butler
Jude Patton

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