



INGERSOLL MESSAGE

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER -- SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
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THE BASIS OF SEXUAL IDENTITY

By Shari Roan, Health Writer, LA Times, March 14, 1997

PART I

It was considered a medical triumph 33 years ago when John became Joan. John was 8 months old when his penis was accidentally destroyed during minor surgery to correct a problem with the foreskin. Doctors advised his horrified parents to raise the child as a girl, and surgery to create female anatomy followed shortly thereafter.

The 1964 operation made headlines around the world. It also became the standard of practice in cases involving freak accidents like John's or when children are born with severely deformed genitals, a rare defect occurring in about 1 out of every 100,000 births.

Now, however, two doctors involved with John's case from the start have tracked the results, and they say the decision to raise John as a girl was all wrong.

John, who reverted to being a male as a teenager, had always felt he was a boy, even though he was called Joan, wore dresses and had female genitals, say the authors of the report, published today in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine.

In addition to calling into question the practice of sex reassignment, as the treatment is called, the case yields valuable insight about what it means to be male or female. It also provides stark evidence that a person's brain predetermines sexual (gender) identity -- not one's anatomy or social environment, experts say.

"The question this case doesn't answer but lends data to is: What is the origin of

gender identity? How do we know we are a girl? How do we know we are a boy? And when do we know it? says Dr. William Reiner, a child psychiatrist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, where John was treated. "John, in spite of being raised as a girl and being treated with hormones and estrogen, said, 'Forget it. I'm a boy.'"

"Children who undergo sex reassignment provide a unique opportunity to explore the complexities of sexuality," says Reiner. While only one case, John's story is particularly strong testimony that the roots of sexual identity lie deep inside the brain, as more recent scientific studies have attested. Even as a child, Joan, who had not been told what happened, said she "felt like a trapped animal."

That was not what doctors would have predicted three decades ago, when notions of sexuality were much different. In proposing the sex-change surgery, doctors told John's parents that infants were sexually neutral at birth and that children learned their gender as they grew up and as hormonal influences kicked in at puberty.

"The teaching has been to convert these children because you can surgically construct a sexually functioning female but you can't surgically reconstruct a child to function as a male," says Reiner, who wrote an editorial accompanying the report.

Moreover, many experts believed that a male child could not grow up psychologically healthy without a penis -- an assumption not supported by data, Reiner says. Doctors have also assumed, until the past decade or so, that a child will reflect its upbringing.

"Doctors haven't been doing this willy-nilly. They have tried to do what they think is the right thing," says Milton Diamond, co-author of the report and an expert in anatomy and psychology at the Pacific Center for Sex and Society, University of Hawaii-Manoa. Diamond served as a consultant to the BBC in its coverage of the case in the 1960s and 1970s.

Indeed, the surgery on John was followed by a host of reports on the case touting it as a success. A 1973 Time Magazine article noted "This dramatic case provides strong support that conventional patterns of masculine and feminine behavior can be altered. It also casts doubt on the theory that major sex differences, psychological and well as anatomical, are immutably set by the genes at conception."

The case was quickly written into textbooks on pediatrics, psychiatry and sexuality -- where it remains today -- as an example that gender should be based on an infant's anatomy, not on chromosomes or the individual's feelings about his or her sexuality.



"The case led to a lot of excitement that this could even be done," Reiner says. "It was a very difficult clinical situation that could now be handled. It created a lot of enthusiasm and, probably, relief in the medical world."

The case received little attention, however, until the retrospection published today, which is heartbreaking in its portrayal of John's and his family's suffering.

The article is based on interviews in 1994 and 1995 with John, his wife and his mother. According to Diamond, John wanted his story told although he requested the use of the pseudonyms John and Joan.

The article suggests that the sex reassignment was wrong from the outset.

John's mother recalled "As soon as he had the surgery, the doctor said I should now start treating him as a girl, doing girl things, and putting him in girl's clothes. But that was a disaster. I put this beautiful little dress on him and he [immediately tried] to rip it off. I think he knew it was a dress and that it was for girls and he wasn't a girl." (To be concluded next month)



INGERSOLL CENTER REFERRAL THERAPISTS

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BOSTON FTM CONFERENCE PLANS GO FORWARD

Members of the FTM Community are busily planning the upcoming 3rd Annual All-FTM Conference of the Americas: THE HERO'S JOURNEY, August 8, 9, 10, 1997 in Boston, Massachusetts.

Join the Boston FTM community for 2 1/2 days of workshops, panels, seminars, presentations, networking, socializing, and partying for all FTM's and their partners and friends.

Provisional panel and workshop topics include: Coming Out, Sexuality, Tricks of the Trade, Parents of FTM's Panel, FTM's as parents panel, Children of FTM's, Partners of FTM's, Queer Sexuality Issues, Young Men's Issues, Finding a Partner, and many others.

Provisional speakers, panelists, and events include: James Green, FTM International, Diane Ellahom, LICSW, Stuart Chipkin, MD, Paul Costas, MD, Ellie Altman, PFLAG, Henry Rubin PhD, an FTM art exhibit, and the award-winning new FTM documentary film "You Don't Know Dick".

Registration fees, per person (non-refundable after July 15): Registration fee includes all sessions from Friday, August 8 at 6 p.m. to Sunday, August 10 at 2:30 p.m.

*\$50 if postmarked on or before June 30.

*\$60 if postmarked on or between July 1 and July 31.

*\$75 if postmarked on or after August 1, or at the door.

Snacks and beverages will be provided, but you will need to provide for your own transportation, lodging, and meals.

Some work/exchange discounts on registration fees are available for those who wish to volunteer to work before during, or after the conference. A limited number of partial-registration fee scholarships are available to those who would otherwise not be able to attend. We will also try to assist those who can't find or afford lodging, please let us know if you will require this assistance.

When we receive your paid registration, we will send you a confirmation postcard. Additional information and materials will follow later. For more information, call Mike at [REDACTED] or send e-mail to Mykael at IFGE@worldnet.att.net.

Make check or money order (do not send cash) payable to BFTMC and use the registration form below. There will be a \$20 charge for returned checks.

Mail to: BFTMC, P.O. Box 193, Bellingham, MA 02019.



REGISTRATION FORM

Today's Date: _____ Arriving: 8/ /97 Departing: 8/ /97

Mailing name(s) _____ Name(s) for Badge(s) _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____ E-Mail (if applicable) _____

Do you need assistance with lodging? Yes No Number of beds required _____

Smoking or not? _____ Any allergies? _____

Do you have any special needs? _____

Enclose your registration payment and mail form to: BFTMC, P.O. BOX 193, Bellingham, MA 02019.

LAMBERT HOUSE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

Lambert House is an activities and resource center for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning youth ages 14-22. The center is located at 15th and Denny on Capitol Hill. The goal of Lambert House is to foster an increased sense of self, capability and resilience among sexual minority (GLBT) youth through the development of personal, social and life skills. We approach this mission through educational and informative resources such as tutoring, a youth computer lab, community presentations and discussions, recreational activities such as an artist in residence program and group outings, youth leadership opportunities, a jobs board, community internships, and support groups. In addition, Lambert House offers an unstructured drop-in center, where youth find support from peers and adult volunteers and are able to get information about referrals to local social service programs.

Lambert House is seeking adult volunteers age 25 and up to supervise the drop-in center, teach youth computer skills, participate in and provide transportation to activities, and greet youth and adult visitors to the center. Volunteers receive extensive training. They also need volunteers for office and donation assistance. If you wish to help, please contact Lynne at [REDACTED] for further information and application materials.



SAN FRANCISCO GLBT MUSEUM SEEKING INPUT (COURTESY JAMES GREEN, FTM NEWSLETTER)

The Gay and Lesbian Historical Society (GLHS) has an important collection of transgender material, including the personal papers of Lou Sullivan (one of the founders of the GLHS), and extensive runs of transgender publications like the FTM Newsletter, Metamorphosis Monthly, and many other more obscure items of interest to the transgender community. They are also trying to add transgender voices to their rapidly expanding oral history collection on audiotape. History Professor Joanne Meyerowitz of the University of Cincinnati has recently been awarded a grant from the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) that will fund a project at the GLHS in San Francisco to record and transcribe oral histories of transsexuals who transitioned before 1970, both MTF and FTM.

If you or anyone you know would like to contribute an interview to this project, please contact Joanne Meyerowitz, her Bay Area research collaborator Susan Stryker, or Lyndall [REDACTED] of the Oral History Project.

If you transitioned after 1970 and would still like to make a contribution to the preservation of transgender history, there are many other opportunities at the GLHS. You could donate historically significant material from any period about being transgendered in the Bay Area or beyond (diaries, correspondence, organizational records, photos of special events). Perhaps you have some great stories to tell that could be included in another GLHS oral history collection other than the one being funded by the SSRC. Or maybe you'd like to volunteer at the GLHS and learn how to collect, organize and preserve archival material or how to conduct oral histories.

Contact the GLHS at (415) 777-5455, they're open to the public on Saturday and Sunday Afternoons from 2:00-5:00 and by special appointment. Joanne Meyerowitz can be reached at [REDACTED]. Susan Stryker can be reached at [REDACTED]. Lyndall McCowan can be reached at [REDACTED]. And the Oral History project has its own email box at glhsvoices@aol.com.

EMERALD CITY

206-827-9494

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. Botzer, MA

It is a joy to report that our groups are expanding in both numbers and in topics of discussion. Each week we see people at work on the questions of personal gender identity. The intellectual activity is mirrored by the activism, as more people come forward to participate in the ongoing struggle for equality. Here are some of the things that are happening.

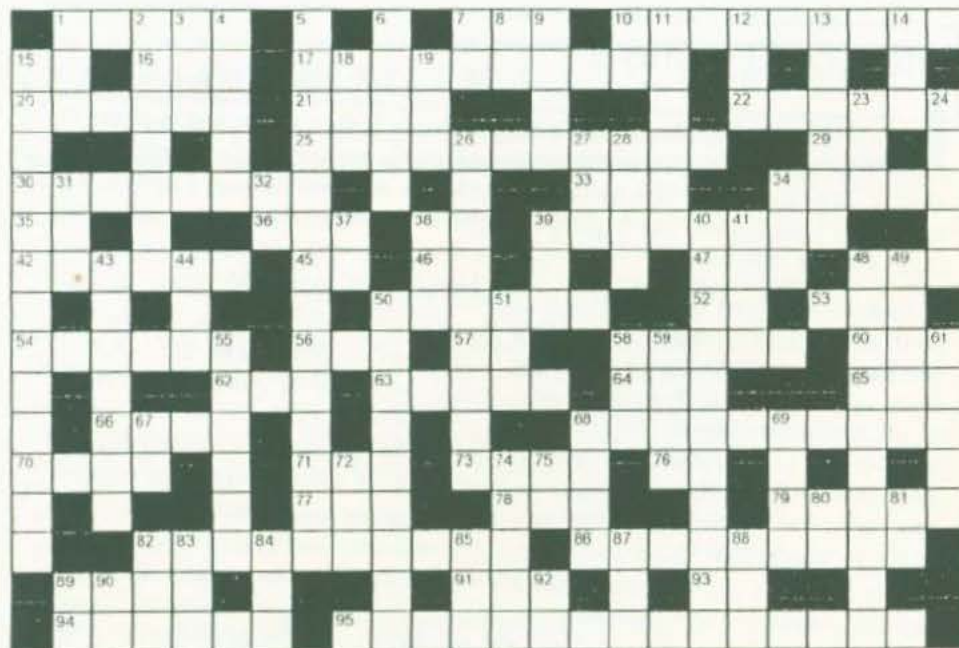
Individuals from our communities of gender are volunteering to work on new projects like youth support, expanding the hours of service at the Center and developing fresh topics for the Weekend Events. In addition, we have been active in the political arena. Volunteers have joined the signature gathering efforts of Equity Washington/Lands Out Washington. This is in response to a history making initiative that has been filed here in Washington State. Initiative 677 would stop job discrimination in the State, bringing the same rights in employment to all citizens. This means that no longer will it be legal to fire a person just because of their sexual or gender orientation¹. As in most states, *it is still legal* to fire someone for these reasons. And we are part of this Initiative. For the first time gender identity is included in this kind of legislation in the State. Many people have worked toward making this Initiative inclusive, as a Board member of Equality Washington/Lands Out Washington, I made every effort to assure that we would be included.

A new independent group has been formed to allow our folks to become more politically involved in the day to day work of social activism. This group is made up of gender folk and exists to support the same rights for us all. I am very proud of their efforts.

Recently, I met with Seattle Chief of Police, Norm Stamper, and had a very positive discussion about the needs of transgendered people in this city. Chief Stamper was interested and supportive and quite well informed about the general efforts of transgender equality. He is a partner in our work, a friend of our Communities.

On March 25, 1997, I met with the Secretary of Washington State's Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), Lyle Quasius. Here is another ally for us in our work. He understands the needs that transgender people have when approaching State services for assistance. I also met with his Senior Assistant Secretaries in charge of the various divisions of DSHS, such as Medical Assistance, Children's Administration and Aging and Adult Services. All the department heads were open and willing to learn of our needs and how we might be better served.

The work goes on and I am encouraged by the results we are achieving. I am so pleased to see so many of our own folks coming forward to be part of these tasks. At the same time, I know we must never forget that we exist to help individuals discover themselves and liberate themselves from the confusing bonds of gender. That is Ingersoll's mission now and always.



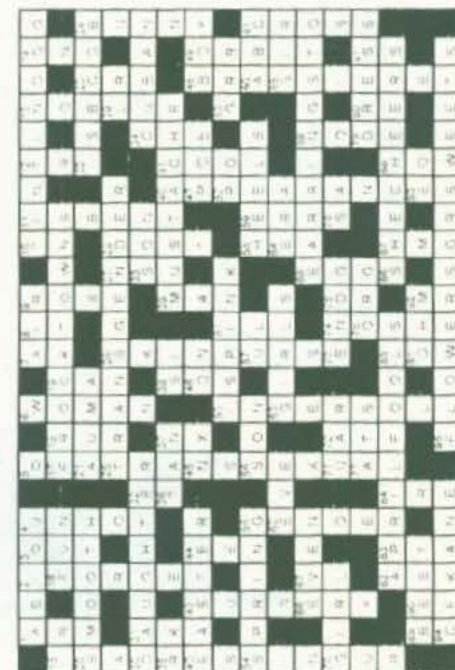
Across

- 1 All these are #
 7 Plates fly in this
 10 An _____ war, a _____
 15 F _____ T _____ e _____ o _____ e
 16 Crossdressing can be this
 17 A possible name for a chain of dress shops
 20 Hiel tough
 21 Sexless military Ti _____
 22 A slang term for breast _____
 25 Crossing over the gender lines
 29 Abbr. for left and right
 30 Your mother's female child
 33 Your father's male child
 34 Touted to be the best cigars in the world
 35 A type of eye surgery _____ (inf)
 36 We found that this can be a health hazard
 38 Spanish word for 'yes'
 39 Cookie duster
 42 _____ egg _____ Bunny _____ basket
 45 One of the two boroughs of NYC the BRO _____
 46 Not off
 47 Raven's writer
 48 Young male
 50 The 'traditional' color for girls _____
 52 Italian ever
 53 First part of what Tony the Tiger says
 54 Season
 56 With a _____ g in my heart
 57 Underwriter's Laboratory (inf)
 58 Hard to walk in but fun to wear
 60 First three letters

- 62 First woman
 63 Many young females
 64 Period of time
 65 Talk in the UK
 66 Odd's opposite
 68 I need some _____ clip on my ears
 70 Same as 63 across, but singular
 71 United Arab Republic (inf)
 73 At the _____ of the word 'sing', you find the letter _____
 76 North America's neighbor (inf)
 77 Women are starting to wear H _____ again
 78 Abbr. for a company or a group of people
 79 Female garb
 82 Fourth-month idiots
 86 What the MTF does when she finally has the money for SRS
 89 Not the worst
 91 Chant
 93 2nd and 4th vowel
 94 Lead character in Orson Welles' movie
 95 What to buy when romancing _____

Down

- 1 Connects your shoulder and hand
 2 When I don't remember _____
 3 In's' buddy
 4 Not really a word, but could mean cold
 5 'The Rene Richards Story' is about the life _____
 6 Grown up girl
 7 Fairbanks address
 8 Neuter
 9 By any other name
 10 Flashy address
 11 Something crooked
 12 Prof's meaning three
 13 There are many flags in the world which have _____ color in them
 14 Lennon's wife
 15 For a TV, any day _____ day
 18 Early play about robots (inf)
 19 Folks in the Gender Community need to keep saying 'Yes, I _____'
 23 Sphere
 24 Holiday animal which supposedly lays eggs
 26 Used to be a fashion must Alligator _____
 27 STD
 28 Familiar (archaic) form of 'do'
 31 Also known as
 32 _____ Tu, Buile 7
 34 4th letter of Spanish alphabet, also first name of revolutionary
 37 Same as 45 across
 38 Standard dressless call
 39 Grown up boy
 40 What can be deceiving
 41 Can mean chilly or really hot
 43 What the 3rd letter stands for in 'SRS'
 44 Poetic form of 'even'
 48 After my implants, my _____ felt like a _____
 49 Celestial path
 50 Famous center for Gender Folk
 51 Ailing
 55 Biological sex
 58 Queen of Gods _____ R _____
 59 Forgive me who _____
 61 Go over
 67 Vest, Travel, and Violin share this
 68 What the bunny teases
 69 Poly
 72 One of the combatants at Waco, TX
 74 An FTM is _____
 75 Medical abbreviation
 80 Do _____ M
 81 Naval designation
 87 Request
 83 Parent and teacher group
 84 Anger
 85 High's opposite
 87 Type of health insurance
 88 Group fighting for equal rights for GLBT people
 89 Province to the north
 90 Letters 5 and 6
 92 Matelife



THE PROM...YOU NEVER WENT TO!

And you can go to it the way you always wanted to! Maybe you went to the Prom in High School and had to wear a tuxedo while your partner wore the dress you wanted to wear. Maybe it was just the other way around. Did you want to wear the powder blue dinner jacket? Well, here's your chance, as The Seattle Chapter of Tacky Tourist Clubs of America presents its annual PROM.

The Prom will be held Saturday, April 26, 1997, from 8:00 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the Mountaineers Building, 300 Third Avenue West, Seattle (AKA Lavender Valley High School, Home of the Fighting Poodles). This is the 14th year for the Prom, the largest springtime gathering for the GLBT Community and their friends in the Pacific Northwest, attracting students, faculty, chaperones and party crashers from throughout the region for an evening of adolescent fantasy, rock'n'roll nostalgia and community fun. Over 2000 people attend the event each year. This is the LAST Prom to be held in Seattle.

Three different types of music in various rooms, performances by the Seattle Women's Ensemble, The Cheerleaders, Kahlua Ice, The Righteous Outrageous Twisting Corps, Lavanda Women Who Clog Too Much and more. Another highlight of the evening is the not-so-traditional King and Queen Contest, hosted by Rebecca Davis and Bertha B. Miller.

Tickets are \$25 each in advance. Available in Seattle at Bailey-Coy Books, Beyond the Closet Bookstore, Red and Black Books, Glamazonia in Fremont, Ruby Montana's in Pioneer Square, Metropolis Stores in Greenwood and Wallingford and Fantasy Unlimited at First and Pike. In Tacoma at Club 733, in Portland at CC Slaughter's and in Vancouver at Little Sister's Emporium, and \$30 at the door.

Proceeds from the Prom go to Emerald City Softball Association, Freedom Day Committee, GSBA Scholarship Fund, Hands Off Washington Campaign and the Seattle Women's Ensemble. For dinner reservations and tickets, phone (206) 632-2527. For other information phone (206) 233-8842.



FTM CALENDAR

APRIL, 1997

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2 **FTM MESSAGE LINE 329- 6651	3	4	5
6	7	8 FTM SUPPT GRP 7:30- 9:30 PARTNER ISSUES	9 **FTM MESSAGE LINE 329- 6651	10	11	12
13	14 IGC BOARD MTG 7:00- 8:30	15	16 **FTM MESSAGE LINE 329- 6651	17	18 IFGE CONFERENCE AT LONG BEACH, CA MASCULINITIES PROGRAM CALL	19
20 CA CON- FER- ENCE CONT.	21	22 *FTM THERAPY GROUP & FTM/SO SUPPT GRP 7:00- 8:30	23 **FTM MESSAGE LINE 329- 6651	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 **FTM MESSAGE LINE 329- 6651			

*FTM Therapy Group-Jude Patton
FTM SO group-Carole Miranda-Patton.
**LEAVE A MESSAGE ANY TIME AND
CALLS WILL BE RETURNED ASAP

MASCULINITIES PROGRAM TO BE HELD AT IFGE CONVENTION/CALIFORNIA DREAMIN' '97

Join Jacob Hale, Spencer Bergstedt, James Green, Jude Patton, Jordy Jones, Sky Renfro and other illustrious presenters and facilitators aboard the Hotel Queen Mary, April 18, 19, and 20, 1997, in Long Beach, California, at the 11th Annual IFGE Convention and California Dreamin' '97. There will be 21 days of stimulating discussion on such topics as:

*Basic Introduction to FTM Transsexuality -- Friday, 2:00 to 4:00 pm

*Dark Sides of Masculinity -- Friday, 10:00 to noon

*Our History: Community Formation -- Friday, 4:30 to 6:30 pm

*The Arts -- Friday evening; curated by Danielle [REDACTED] with a presentation of Loren Cameron's slide show by James Green

*Relationships: Work, Family, Partners, Friends, Fellow Travelers -- Saturday, 10:00 am to noon

*Our Political Future: Gender Identity Disorder Reform, Saturday -- 2:00 pm -- 4:00 pm

*Body Modification, Saturday -- 5:30 to 7:30 pm

*Sexualities Rap, Sunday -- 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Reduced conference fees for FTM/Masculinities Program attendees: \$50.00 total program registration! Use the standard conference registration form, mark it "FTM Program", and send your check to IFGE, P.O. Box 229, Waltham, MA, 02254-0229.

Hotel rooms range from \$65.00 to \$90.00 per night, at the IFGE/California Unity Conference rates. Call 1-800-437-2934, to make your room reservation, and mention IFGE/California Unity to get the conference rates. Quantities are limited, so reserve early! If you need a registration form or have any questions, call IFGE for more information, at 1-617-899-2212.

IMPORTANT INGERSOLL DOINGS IN APRIL

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

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

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

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

April 14: Ingersoll Board meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

April 15: FTM Support Group, 7:30-9:30 pm.

(See FTM Calendar for specifics)

RETREAT - MAY 16-18, 1997

**Build Self Esteem! Take Pride In Being a Man! Enhance Your Intimacy
Skills and Sexuality! Develop Self Empowerment!**

Under Construction of Southern California is sponsoring a weekend retreat in Malibu, CA, USA for male identified, female birth assigned, men who want to learn about male socialization and experience male bonding in an all-male environment. Each participant will have an opportunity to explore how to integrate female socialization patterns into his current masculine identification.

Retreat will be in a confidential, remote location with 50 mile panoramic ocean and mountain views (weather permitting). Try to be present from Friday 5 p.m. to Sunday noon to obtain the most from this special event!

Max E. Fuentes Fuhrmann, PhD, a clinical psychologist and HBGDA member with extensive personal and professional experience with transgendered men, will provide an experiential participatory retreat. Attendance will be limited and all will have the opportunity to fully participate in the workshops and programs! Additional FTM presenters (Michael Hernandez, Patric Magee, Jude Patton, Jeff Shevlowitz, and others to be scheduled) will facilitate workshops. Topics are scheduled to include: disclosure, sexuality (including use of prosthetics), transitioning at various life stages, body image, intimacy, dealing with partners, friends and family, feminism, reverse sexism and personal responsibility for political action.

Hot food, beverages and campsite will be provided for the duration of the retreat. This is an outdoor location so bring a sleeping bag and be prepared to rough it (there will be hot water but no showering facilities). Bring any special snacks or drinks (BYOB) you wish. Sunscreen recommended. Smoking will be permitted at restricted times and locations. Plan to arrive between 3:30 p.m. and 4:45 p.m. at the retreat. A map will be sent to you. Limited transportation will be available from Los Angeles International Airport. **CONFIDENTIAL REGISTRATION**

DATE _____ NAME _____

ADDRESS Street _____

City, State, Country _____

E-MAIL _____ PHONE _____

Transportation needs?

Price for the entire retreat is \$100.00 payable with registration due in full by April 21, 1997. Sunday and Sunday only \$75.00. Late registration including same day if space permits will be \$125.00. Please make check payable to Max E. Fuhrmann, PhD. Send registration form and payment to: 30171 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Ste. 128, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320, or e-mail to DRI@earthlink.net. Questions: (805) 496-4442. Refund policy: 100% if cancellation in writing received by May 1, 1997. 50% if cancellation received by May 15, 1997. No refund if cancellation after this date.



HEY, GOOD COOKIN'!

This month, a reprint of a wonderful Weekend treat. Good with coffee, tea, or cocoa.

E-Z Upside Down Cinnamon Buns

Ingredients:

Two "tubes" of prepared buttermilk biscuits
1 cube of your favorite margarine

(or Butter if you're feeling really decadent)

½ Cup of Raisins, ½ Cup of chopped nuts

½ cup of brown sugar, Cinnamon, Nutmeg and Cloves to taste.

Very Important: a non-stick frying pan or cake pan

Approximately 7" across

Preparation:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Cut margarine or butter into patties and arrange on the bottom of your pan. Sprinkle the brown sugar and spices over the margarine or butter. Sprinkle nuts and raisins over the brown sugar and spices.—This will become your topping! Arrange biscuits on top of the 'topping'. Important: use all of the biscuits. Jam them into place if necessary. Put into 325 degree oven and bake for about 25 minutes or until the biscuits are golden brown on the top – or bottom – well, you know what I mean.

Presentation:

When done, remove from oven and allow to sit for 5 minutes. Take a knife or plastic spatula and go around the edge to make sure that none of the biscuits are sticking. Place plate over pan and carefully invert, and Voilà, instant Cinnamon Pull-Apart.

A Special Thanks to D. M. & A.

SHE'S NO DOCTOR!!

by Jennette Caden, editor -- CrossPort InnerView Cincinnati, Ohio

We in Dayton are (un)fortunate enough to hear syndicated radio talk show host "Dr." Laura Schlessinger. (The "Dr." is in quotes, because her PhD is in physiology, not psychology or psychiatry. Her lack of such a degree doesn't seem to matter when she plays "shrink" to a caller.)

According to Cindy Martin on TG Forum (on the Internet), Schlessinger, who prefers to be called "Dr. Laura", had a call from a male CD. Married for 15 years, he stated he has been dressing secretly. This (naturally) created tremendous guilt feelings about this, and he asked her whether or not he should tell his wife. The conservative Schlessinger said, "No." OK, no problem here, this is American talk radio, and that's her opinion.

Where I get my feathers ruffled is the reason WHY she said he should not tell his spouse. It seems Schlessinger proceeded to tell him cross-dressing is 'deviant and perverted', and he would 'cruelly and unduly burden his family with this dirty little secret' if he told his wife. Excuse me a moment? This is competent mental health advice? This brand of 'pseudo-psychology' could single-handedly increase the suicide rate!

The really sad part is that the Jerry Springer stereotype of the 'psycho' cross-dresser is once again reinforced by someone who should definitely know better. Too many of her listeners think her advice is 'true and genuine' (like 'professional' wrestling is real!) when the fact is that THIS IS ENTERTAINMENT, not reality! (She also chides women daily for working when they have children at home, yet she is a 'career woman' herself with an 8-year old son at home! Can you say, HYPOCRITE, too?)

The Dayton radio station runs a commercial for her show, saying how she 'tells you the truth' and you can 'get a reality check' by listening to her. Truth? Oh, puh-lease! I am thankful for one thing, though. That some radio station always runs an ad for her show, which includes her picture in the Sunday paper. I usually need a new target for my dart board about then.



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Opinions expressed in the Ingersoll Message are strictly those of the writer. They do not necessarily reflect those of Ingersoll Gender Center or the Board of Directors

-----DETACH HERE-----

PLEASE ENTER MY SUBSCRIPTION FOR *THE INGERSOLL MESSAGE*. I HAVE ENCLOSED \$15.00 (check or money order) FOR A ONE YEAR SUBSCRIPTION.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

☐ I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP UP WITH INGERSOLL EVENTS. PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST.

☐ PLEASE SEND ME AN INFORMATION PACKET.
(ENCLOSE \$1.00 p/h AND S.A.S.E. (#10 BUSINESS SIZE))