THEINGERSOLL MESSAGE

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER - SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
SEPTEMBER, 1995 (1 FOL. ONE | NO. 7 (1) PRICE: \$1.00 PA (1) \$15.00 PR SUBSCRIPTION

PATIENCE AND TIME:

The Story of Bill and Mary, an FTM Issue

I have been asked to write about my journey on the road to transition. It is a journey which all TS people and their families and significant others must endure.

Bill and Mary
(not their real
names) have
sent this story
to The
Ingersoll
Message in
hopes of letting
folks hear a
story with a
happy "ending"

When I was about four or five years old, I knew I was different from all the other kids in my peer group. As I grew older, the issue of these different feelings became almost overpowering in my life. On and off, I struggled with the heterosexual and homosexual scene. Eventually, I settled into the Lesbian lifestyle, and was always the male partner. At the age of 18, I planned to come to Seattle and live here. However, I became afraid because I knew that something was not right. I was unhappy in my relationships and everyday life.

By the time I had reached 25 years of age, I had come to know Mary, who is now my wife. She was not a Lesbian and had fallen in love with me because of my masculinity. My confusion with myself caused our relationship to be very rocky at times, and Mary even left me several times.

During the time of our being apart and together. Mary became pregnant with our first child. This was a very exciting time in spite of society's hang-ups, and the happy result was our son (who, incidentally only knows me as his Daddy). He bears my last name and eventually I will legally adopt him.



After several months of phone and mail contact with Ingersoil, in August of 1994, Mary and I decided it was time for us to make the move to Seattle. Talk about uprooting our lives! I sold the house which I had owned for three years and had put a lot of work and money into, gave up a cancer of six years, left my entire family, and moved two states away.

When we arrived in Seattle, we knew only a handful of people — most of whom were not very supportive. So, basically, except for the folks at Ingersoll, we were on our own. First on the agenda was to find a place lo live and jobs to support us. To add to the stress, before we left, Mary had become pregnant with our second child.

We found an apartment and jobs, and we were thinking that things were going well, Mary miscarried and lost the baby. Thank goodness I had started seeing a therapist to help me with my transition. The therapist helped us through the difficult time after the loss of the baby, but Mary and I felt we just couldn't go through many more disappointments.

For the next few months, it felt like we were going in slow motion. I needed to continue with therapy and find a physician so I could get started on hormones. By November, 1994, I had started on hormones, and we took some time to go home for Thanksgiving. The trip was uneventful and by Christmas, we were talking about having another baby. We knew, however, that we had to wait at least five to six months to try again.

In the interim, I legally changed my name and was making arrangements for my long-awaited upper surgery. I was very large breasted and always had to bind them down whenever I was in the public eye since I was now considered a male.

Mary and I decided to be legally married, and on February 14, 1995, we were married by a Justice of the Peace. It was very stressful for both of us. We were worried that the judge would notice that I was not a genetic male. I had been on hormones for a little over three months and had the breast binding down to a science. It must have worked, because we are now happily married.

In March, we had all the paperwork signed and a release from our doctor to do artificial insemination in the privacy of our own home, and on April 5, 1995, I artificially inseminated Mary.

April 21, 1995, I went to Oregon for my surgery. It was painful and I am still recovering, but it was worth it! Then to make the joy complete, seven days after my surgery, Mary announced that she was, in fact, pregnant with our second child!

So here we are. We are living our lives as a married couple — a family with our son and a baby on the way. I am happier than I have ever been in my life. I have a wife, family, a job and a place to call home.

There are many more chapters in my life I did not mention, but I know I would have to write a book to cover them all. I hope I have helped a few people who are struggling with similar situations. It has not been easy, and there are many more hills to climb. Once you get started on the long journey, things will start to happen. As recently as a year ago, I never thought I would have come this far. Yes, you may become discouraged — we certainly did — but be patient and take the time necessary. It will happen. And most importantly, reach out! The folks at Ingersoll have been so helpful, both at the very beginning of the journey and as we have celebrated our triumphs. Good Luck.

(Thanks to Bill and Mary for sharing their story. If you have questions or would like to speak with Bill or Mary, please contact them through the Ingersoll office -- the editor)

From the Founder:

By Marsha Botzer, Al.A

Recent issues of *The Ingersolt Message* looked at political and social activities in the Northwest. I am pleased by the passionate interest shown by Ingersoll's clients and friends -- we are fully involved in the radical and ongoing struggle for understanding and equality in matters affecting gender and gender identity. I do not, however, want to forget that we have another mission as well. A ssion more fundemental to the purposes of Ingersoll. This is our commutment to help individuals understand themselves. We provide our groups, our trainings and our educational materials with this one great purpose in mind. We know that once a person understands her or his gender and gender identity issues, they are freed to act. These actions may take a person through transition -- social and/or surgical -- and it may free that person to consider other ways of expressing their individuality and their place in the larger social community of citizenship.

First we help the person, then we support the choice to act socially. Then that invididual may decide to join in the social and political work surrounding gender identity, and that choice will be free, a choice made by a person, not an illusion or a system.

We will continue to focus on support groups, therapy, training, education and research, and we will never forget the importance of other actions in the social and political world.

In September, 1995. I will be going to Germany to participate in the meeting of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGAA). I will present the latest results of my origoing research — A long-term study of pre- and post-operative transsexual people. The study considers what factors lead to reports of positive outcome, i.e. people who are satisfied with their lives.

after surgery. My research partner. Bryant Vehrs, MA, will accompany me on this trip. His work has been dedicated and exemplary.

Please consider writing to us with ideas or thoughts. Ingersoll has a Wordwide Webb page at

Graphics WEBBrowser

< CRL: http://www.baleyon.com/ingersol/Hilhome.html > TEXTonly WEBBrowser.

< URL:http://www.hnleyon.com/Ingersol/IIIhometext.html>

Our E-Mail address is <ingersol@halcyon.com>

And - beginning in mid-September, we will have an electronic "StoreFront" on the *Emerald On Ramp* -- more about that later

Important Ingersoll Doings in SEPTEMBER

All Fridays in September TS Group (Referral Only) 7:30-9:30 PM
All Thursdays in September Drop-In Group (Open) 7:00-9:00 PM
All Fridays in September TV/TS Support Group (Open) 8-10 PM
IGC phones are answered Mondays & Fridays 6-8 pm and Saturdays 10-12
noon

September 11 Meeting of the Board of Directors of Ingersoll Gender Center. 7:30-8:30 PM.

September 12: FTM Support Group 7:30-9:30 PM. First Timers must call Jason at or David at before attending. Topic for this meeting. Passing Anxiety - Internalized phobia, difusing Social transphobia.

September 17: Sunday Afternoon at Ingersoll. 2:00-5:00 PM at Ingersoll. 1812 E. Madison, Suite 102. Topic to be announced.

September 19: Full time, Post-Op group meeting, 7:30-9:30 PM

September 23: FTM Support Group FTM Support Group 3:00-5:00 PM. First Timers must call Jason at or David at before attending. Topic for this meeting. Tricks of the trade - Binding. padding, surgeries mastectomics, phallophastics

The Emerald City

Call Tuesdays, 7:00-10:00 PM 206-284-1071

For Crossdressers. Providing safe and comfortable social and educational activities, including monthly meetings and social gatherings. Safe, discreet, and confidential. A place to be all you want to be!

Jaye's Journal By Jaye Jane Albright, Board Lesident



Last month, I used the occasion of our WCF/HOW issue of The Ingersoll Message to celebrate the diversity of our community and remaind us all how the unifying cause that "Hands Off Washington" works for has done a lot more than educate the general public about Lesbian, Transgender, Bisexual, and Gay issues and prevent (so far) the passage of onerous legislation. It has also served to strengthen our group's identity in the community.

Things are moving! And, as Judy Osborne reminds us monthly in her politics-of-gender column in the Scattle Emerald City Newsletter, they had BETTER! There is an evil and powerful force moving in the Christian Coalition, fueled by hatred, bigotry, fear and discrimination, which would deny us our human right to simply BE who we are. Fortunately, people among us are involved and acting. At least four of us from Scattle will be going to Washington D.C., in early October to join in a gender community "March On Washington".

The catalyst for our involvement was the political decision last year by the largest Gay and Lesbian policital action committee in the U.S., The Human Right Campaign Fund (HRCF), to drop the word "Transgendered" in their attempt to gain passage of an Employment Non-discrimination Act (ENDA). Their reasoning was, that with today's conservative majority in Congress, it would be a tough enough sell—with dubious hopes for passage anyway—to get Gay and Lesbian persons protected under the bill and "besides, many Transgender people are homosexual so that they would then already be protected", so they simply (and somewhat clandestinely) erased the word which would have brought ALL of us protection in employment from the proposed bill.

In fact, the action was done so covertly, that when Judy Osborne and I, at the Scattle Pride Day Rally in June, confronted the local HRCF volunteers who were asking for signatures in support of ENDA, as well as donation to the campaign with these facts, we were told "that simply cannot be true"

Unfortunately, it was true. However, many local HRCF supporters and

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volunteers all over the county, as they learn this reality are agreeing with us that "discrimination is discrimination" and that it would be a nustake to leave any of us behind in any effort to reaise consciousness among the legislative community.

Now, as a result of the threat of 100 members of the gender community from all 50 states going to Washington, D.C. to tell our story one on one wo any members of Congress who will listen — especially our local representatives who need our help, campaign contributions and votes — the HRCF appears to finally be at least cognizant of and listening to our point of view.

As of this writing, there is a meeting scheduled in a few weeks in Washington between a small number of key, active representatives of our *movement* (isn't it great? ... We're now a *MOVEMENT*!) with Ms Elizabeth Birch, Executive Director of HRCF, who, at least from what she says, seems willing to support inclusion of Transgendered in the 1996 version of the ENDA bill. We remain vigilant and hopefully suspicious because HRCF's actions have not always matched their words.

But, it makes me simply say WOW! If just the possibility of a group of us going to visit our political representatives can move things along at least a little, imagine what we can do with a visity to Slade, Patty, Jim and the other members of the Congressional delegation annually for a year or two.

That's why I am going. And, I am so very proud to be joined by Karen Williams, Judy Osborne and Anne Lawrence. We will see the sights and tell our story to anyone who will listen among Congressional staffs. I will keep you informed in these pages in October about our experences in the nation's capitol.

SPOTLIGHT ON PUBLICATIONS

At Ingersoll Center

My Husband Wears My Clothes

By Peggy Rudd, Ed D. A definition and discussion of crossdressing from the wife's point of view. Emphasis on understanding and improving the dynamics of the relationship, dealing with anger, image and seeking counseling. Published by PM Publishers. 148 pages.

Available at Ingersoll after meetings or by mail

At meetings: \$11.00 per copy/tax included

By Mail: \$111.00 plus \$2.00 ph (tax if app.)

"Caught in the 'Net" -An Article found in the Internet

THREE TRANSSEXUAL WOMYN CENSORED AT 1995 MICHIGAN WOMYN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL

Three postoperative transsexual womyn attended the twentieth annual Michigan Womyn's Music Festival (MWMF) near Hart. Michigan, August 7-14, 1995, in defiance of that festival's "Womyn Born Womyn" only policy with the express purpose of conducting educational activities in opposition to that policy. This was the fourth consecutive year that some type of protext/educational action against the festival's exclusionary policy has been conducted by transsexual activists since the expulsion of Nancy Jean



Burkholder of Weare, New Hampshire from that festival in 1991 brought national attention to the issue of the exclusion of transsexual womyn from womyn-only events within the lesbian community. A separate protest of the festival's policy—intended to take place across thr road from the main gate of the festibal—organized by the New York City activist group The Transexual Menace, was cancelled only two days

before it was scheduled to begin.

Despite the fact that all three transsexual womyn who entered the festival (Davina Anne Gabriel of Kansas City, MO, Rica Fredrickson and Nancy Ann Forrest, both of Philadelphia, PA) outed themselves as being transsexual to hundreds of womyn at six different workshops over the course of the festival, none of them were expelled or encountered any hostile reactions from any of the MWMF staff or any of the womyn in attendance. This is in sharp contrast to the reaction of festival staff two years ago when four openly transsexual womyn were expelled from the festival

Two of the TS womyn performed various jobs at the festival. However, severe limitations were placed on the extent and types of educational activities that they were allowed to conduct inside the festival. In previous years, protesters were allowed to set up an information table in the *One World* (OW) area, which provides spaces for networking, surveys, petitions, etc.

The three had intended to hand out information as well as asking womyn at the festival to sign a petition requesting that the policy be changed to allow post-op TS womyn to attend the festival. They were told, however, by the coordinator of the OW area that a directive had come from the producer of the festival saying that they would not be allowed to have a literature table nor would they be allowed to place information on existing tables.

The three TS womyn decided to take their educational activities to workshops which had been scheduled during the festival. The three workshops "Confronting Transphobia", "Accepting Gender Diversity", and "Genderevolution" had already been scheduled and printed in the program.

A few women who attended the workshops agreed with the exclusionary policy, the overwhelming majority felt that post-op TS women should be allowed to attend, and a few felt that pre-op TS should be included as long as they agreed to keep their gentals covered.

In addition to the severe limitations placed on the ability of the TS womyn to spread their message, the 1995 festival program does not contain a feedback questionnaire (it has in past years). This act prevents festigoers from expressing disagreement with the "Womyn born Womyn" only policy or any other festival policy

Many of the womyn who attented the festival felt that Post-Op TS woimyn should be allowed to attend

"The decision against dissenting literature in the *One World* area, the elimination of the ficedback questionnaire from the program, along with the statement in the festival brochure that '... every problem has been solved (more than once)' seems to indicate a decreasing tolerance for dissent of any kind and a tendency toward a more authoritarian, less feminist, manner of governing the festival," Davina Anne Gabri el was quoted as stating

The Sounds of Autumn

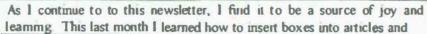
- .. The Whit-Ca- Chunkas a moner is started One Last Time ... One Last time ... One last...
- The scratch of a leaf rake as it
- But most of all, the sitence after the kids go off to school in siff new paints and squeaky new shoes...
- Ah yes, the stlence, which soon be filled with new sounds:
- ... Sounds of rain and wind slapping the windows...

.....and perhaps later -- snow?



The Butler Did it!

By Pat Butler, Executive Director



Indian
Summer: That
time of year
when Mother
Nature brings
out all the pots
of warm earth
tone-colored
paints she has
been storing up
for use at this
time.

to wrap text around it. It constantly amazes me what computers can do I remember taking typing a hundred years or so ago, and how we learned to count spaces, how to manually center a heading on a document. How to cut and paste letters to create headlines.

Then came 'Dul-Seal' lettering "All" you had to do was use a scalpel blade to cut our the self-adhesive letters and position them on your document ~ as long as you didn't cut all the way through the paper.

Then we had Rub-On Letters. Remember trying to line them up so that the eading was straight? I remember more than once making a random placement of letters just so I wouldn't have to worry whether they were straight or not.

Then we had typewriters with changeable type balls or wheels. Of course, all you had to worry about then was getting your hands dirty.

Then we come to the wonderful world of computers. Now we can simply strike a key or series of keys and Voila! Instant typesetting

But enough musing about the wonder of computers Autumn, 1995. I know that a lot of folks look at autumn as the time of endings. Personally, I look at it as a time of wonderful beginnings. School is starting for many of us, and many Ingersoll functions are resumed or happen in the Fall after a Summer off. Among these are regular Sunday Afternoon's at Ingersoll; a training for therapists and other caregivers who work with members of the Gender community, the Holiday Happening and many others.

Also, starting in the middle of September, a training for folks who would

training for therapists and other caregivers who work with members of the Gender community, the *Holiday Huppening* and many others

Also, starting in the middle of September, a training for folks who would like to work on the phones will begin. Interested people should call and leave a message on the Ingersoll voice mail. Please include your name and phone number, and a good time to reach you.

And so, another season draws to a close, and with it lots of memories Another starts and the potential for new memories lies ahead. May your new memories be delicious and happy ones



INGERSOLL TO PRESENT TRAINING



Through a generous grant from the Pride Foundation, Ingersoll is proud to announce a training for therapists, medical doctors and other caregivers. "The grant will enable us to fulfill the part of our mission which is to provide education around gender issues." said Marsha Botzer,

founder of Ingersoll

The training will be held on Saturday, November 11, 1995, from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm at Scattle Counseling Service for Sexual Mmorities' new facility at 1820 E. Pine Street. SCSSM was chosen as the site because they have a large multi-purpose room which will hold a larger group of participants than the Ingersoll facility.

Therapists, medical doctors will present panel discussion on topics of interest, and in the afternoon, a panel of people from the gender community will tell of their life experiences.

Letters will go out to therapists all over the state inviting them to attend.

Students and interns at various colleges and universities will also be invited to attend.

Tution for the workshop is \$40.00, for registrations received by October 25, 1995 (\$45.00 after 10/25 or at the door) and \$20.00 for students and interns. For more information, contact Ingersoll at (206) 329-6651. Leave a message on our voice mail. To receive information, leave your name and address, city, state and zip, and we will send you a registration packet.

DON'T LOOK BACK By Mary Engelbreit

As you travel through life there are those times When decisions have to be made When choices are hard and solutions seem scarce. There are some situations where all you can do is To simply let go and move on... Gather courage together and choose a direction That carries you toward a new dawn. So pack up your troubles and take a step forward -The process of change can be tough. But think about all the excitement ahead If you can be stalwart enough! There could be adventures you never imagined Just waiting around the next bend. And wishes and dreams just about to come to life In ways you can't yet comprehend! Perhaps you'll find friendships that spring from new interests As you go

And learn there are so many options in life And so many ways you can grow! Perhaps you'll go places you never expected And see things that you've never seen... Or travel to fabulous, far away worlds And the wonderful spots in between! Perhaps you'll find warmth and affection and caring --A "somebody special" who's there To help you stay centered and listen with interest To those stories and feelings you share. Perhaps you'll find comfort in knowing your friends Are supportive of all that you do... And believe that whatever decisions you make, They'll be the right choices for you! So keep putting one foot in front of the other And taking your life day by day There's a brighter tomorrow that's just down the road Don't look back, you're not going that way!

Only about 91 Shopping Days Until "Slegance" Holiday Rappening, '95 December 2, 1995 7:00 - 11:00 pm The Grand Bullroom Best Western Executive Inn

WHAT!? The holidays in September? That's right. It's only September and it is time to start making plans for the big holiday party. This year's theme is "Elegance", and that's exactly what we hope it will be Elegant!

Why are we bringing this up now? For two reasons. First of all, to let you know so that you can mark your calendars. We hope to make this the biggest Ingersoll party of all time. We have the Grand Ballroom at the Executive Inn, which will hold over 200 people. Last year's attendance was about 125, so spread the word.

Secondly, last year's two auction tables were so successful, we are hoping to expand to at least four this year, and to increase our raffle items from three to six. We need auction/raffle donations. These can be new items like the CD's we had donated last year, or used items of interest like the leather jacket and red cocktail dress donated by some friends of Ingersoll

We are also looking for someone, or a group of someones to help with acquisition of items for the auction/raffle. As items come in, we will list them in *The Ingersoll Message*, so watch each month for an *Elegance* update

BY PAT BUTLER

Ingersoll has joined Emerald OnRamp, a new service to the Gay, Transgender, Lesbian, and Bisexual communities. The following press release is from EOR's Patrick Conroy:

"While Seattle may not have a gay community center yet, a growing number of queer organization are now offering on-line services and forming a "cyber" community center. Ingersoll is excited to join Chicken Soup, Hands Off Washington, GSBA, the Lesbian Resource Center, the Tina Podlodowski Campaign, Big of Busters, the Coalition of Community Organizations, and the Pride Foundation as one of the organizations that now have "On-Line Storefronts" on the Emerald OnRamp.

"Ingersoll will be able to post on-line information about Ingersoll, our upcoming events, catalog, meeting schedule, newsletters as well as an "OnLine Roundtable", where anyone can post questions, comments or
information pertaining to the Transgender Community All Ingersoll
supporters will have free access to the "On-Line Storefront" and will be
given their own e-mail accounts! To activate your account, simply log-on
to the Emerald OnRamp and let them know you are an Ingersoll
supporter.

"Emerald OnRamp uses a special software that makes anyone a pro. The software can be downloaded by calling (206)860-9766 or you can call (206) 324-6666 and ask for a free disk

"In addition to these services, the Emerald OnRamp also offers commercial "on-line storefronts", chat rooms, shared software, photos, gay Newsgroups including the SGN, full Internet access and World Wide Web pages for its members. EOR membership is \$8.95 per month or \$20 per month for full Internet access. These are flat fees and their are no time limits.

"EOR offers our community an extraordinary opportunity to open communication channels and bring down many of the walls that have existed between organizations and individuals. It is my goal to see thousands using this service to help strengthen and unify our community, our businesses, and our political effectiveness,' says Nancy Brown, community leader and the Volunteer Coordinator for the GSBA."





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14

ACROSS

- I In the first degree
- 5 Adjective describing T-Folk
- 8. Except after 'c'
- 9 Article
- lo Old English Airline B
- 11 A place to be acknowledged
- 15 Hospital's trauma unit
- 16 Enthusiasm
- 17. What a gay cross dresser wants (2 wds)
- 21. Spamsh shout
- 22 Family saying
- 23 Just brush it on
- 26 This is a crowd
- 30 Exist
- 32. This can be lonesome
- 33. Facially hirsute
- 34 Alternative
- 35 Not permanent
- 37 Not an option (2 wds)
- 39 Teacher's, student's, computer

- 42 One half of a Chinese soup. unit of weight
- 43 Stroke
- 44 Ingersoll's initials
- 47 Sarcastic giggle
- 49 Prefix meaning 'new'
- 50 And so forth
- 51. Half of initials meaning 'reply. if you please'
- 52 Cheese, people, wines, beef

DOWN

- 1 The top belongs to me (2 wds)
- 2. Weather, accident, stock
- 3. To lower then raise
- 4 More scarce
- 5 Irish fuel source Peat
- 6 Less than #4 down
- 7. A tint or huc in Canada (2 wds)
- 12 MIFs. FTMs are these
- 13 Modern Airline (init)
- 14 B C's Pacific Northern Expo (mit)
- 18 P 1, T 1, f- 1
- 19 First two initials of #50 across
- 20 Chrome (slang)
- 24 Measure of land
- 25 On, to, or in bed

- 27 Chemical changers
- 28 Not a doc or orderly. (iiii)
- 29 Look like snakes
- 31 Talking horse Mr.
- 33 Ars Baocalarum (ling uni)
- 34 You can feel'em
- 36 More than eight hours (mit.)
- 38 One part
- 40 ' phone home'
- 41 Opposite of 'drag queen' 'drag
- 43 By means of
- 45 Mild exclamation
- 46 Large fish
- 48 Metric measurement (mit)



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Editorial and article con	tributions are welcomed
Editor Pat	
Contributors L	ee Marsha Botzer,
	Jaye Albright
Ingersall Gender Cent	
Jaye Albright, President S	
Marian Bedd	
Marsha Botzer, MA	Suzanne
Christina MA	Patrick Butler
Jason Cromwell, PhD c	Kristen Langley
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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])