

THE **INGERSOLL** **MESSAGE**

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER — SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
OCTOBER, 1995 □ VOL. ONE □ NO. 8 □ PRICE: \$1.00/EA. □ \$15.00/YR SUBSCRIPTION

LIFE BEHIND BARS, Another Part of the TS Community

(The following was received from a TS who is currently incarcerated at the Washington State Penitentiary in Walla Walla. We reprint a shortened version of it here. The editors) Hi! My name is Stephanie and I am a 23 year-old MTF. I recently became acquainted with Ingersoll and read the article by Marsha Botzer in the June, 1995, issue of *The Ingersoll Message*. In the article, Marsha asked for anyone who had experienced discrimination based upon gender issues to send their stories in to Ingersoll. I am writing in response to that article. My story is unique because it deals with the prison system, but that is exactly why I am writing to you.

First let me acquaint you with the prison. The Washington State Penitentiary houses all male inmates in minimum, medium, close and maximum custody. In the close-security part of the prison where I am housed, the majority of inmates are assigned to 4-man cells. The staff members are predominantly white, middle-class, middle-aged males.

I have spent a few years incarcerated and have used my time to pursue many personal achievements. Among them is to better myself as a person and develop security in my identity and to prepare myself for my upcoming release, when I hope to re-enter society as a productive part of it. In so doing, I have studied law and received a Certificate of Completion in a correspondence Paralegal Course. I have become a strong advocate of Human rights and Civil Rights for prisoners and other minorities. One of my recent legal victories was getting my name changed and getting the administration here to allow me to use it. One of my current legal endeavors involves harassment and discrimination targeted at certain inmates by specific staff members.

The close-security part of the prison houses approximately 1,000 or more inmates. There are only a few transsexuals, even more homosexuals, and a majority who claim to be bisexual and indulge in sexual activity. Because of the frequency of sex among inmates, and the fact that a majority of inmates are from high-risk groups (IV drug users, gay, multiple partners, etc.), sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS are a real concern. However, of all the people I know here who do have sex, most are careful and only have one partner during their incarceration, although there are a few exceptions. And for the most part, inmates do practice safe sex -- probably safer than they did when they were on the outside. There are others who do not engage in sex, but develop relationships.

This is where the discrimination and harassments come in. The staff here pretty much overlook gay and bisexual prisoners who choose to have sex. It seems that they are tolerated because they still function within the prison system as men. But it's a different story for us women who happen to be incarcerated with these men. It's not as bad with the other inmates, although some do try to use us as sex objects, the major problems come from the staff.

We are continually singled out for 'pat-searches' -- which, incidentally are nothing like they are for the men. They are more like 'rub-downs' where we endure fondling and caressing gestures coupled at times with comments as the guards talk among themselves and make lewd and crude remarks. The staff also laugh and make comments as we walk by in the Big Yard after we have spent 30-45 minutes in the mirror getting ready for "public appearances".

The staff tends to more strict with us in their application of the policies and rules and at times are even forced to comply with non-existing or made-up rules. We get threatened with segregation, isolation, or separation on a daily basis if we can't appear and act like men in an "Adult MALE Correctional Facility". Those of us who are involved in an intimate relationship are continually harassed by the staff who go out of their way to bring hardships in an attempt to break-up the relationship. If that doesn't work, they just separate us from our companions so that we can't see or communicate with them.

On the face of it all, it may appear to be trivial. When you're in a closed society like a prison setting, it brings about mental distress and emotional trauma. And when you experience it first-hand, it all becomes very real.

I seem to be getting a double dose of it because I associate with the African-American population and am instrumental in helping inmates with their legal pursuits. They see me as "white trash" as well as a threat because of my capabilities in bringing in judicial scrutiny and intervention. So, I don't get threatened with isolation, they just automatically place me there where I cannot function -- I am currently in isolation.

The Washington State Department of Corrections is very clever in justifying their actions for security purposes. The one thing they fail to realize is that many inmates are not going to be prisoners forever. With the exception of the "lifers", we all have release dates. The day comes when we are released back into the community, and the system needs to be promoting healthy, positive relationships. Inmates are among society's most anti-social people and for them to develop and maintain relationships, in my opinion shows positive signs of rehabilitation.

Unfortunately, our court system is taking a backward approach to this issue by justifying present security needs of the prison at the expense of the future security of the incarcerated individual. Yes, we have committed crimes, and yes, we are being punished. However, our punishment is losing our freedom to incarceration, not losing our dignity and humanity at the hands of correctional staff member who intimidate us and demonstrate their power over us.

I believe that inmates today are not all the degenerates and low-lives portrayed in the media. Many are professionals and business people who, for a variety of reasons, failed in our society and succumbed to a level of criminality which resulted in incarceration. But how should they be treated once they get here? Less than human? I think not!

The point to this lengthy letter is to remind the community that in the midst of their demanding respect and recognition in today's society, not to forget about those of us unfortunate enough to be presently confined. The treatment we receive while incarcerated is contributing to the people we will be when we are returned to the community outside. Our debt to society for our crimes is to be denied the privileges offered by a free society, not to lose our rights as human beings! Please, include us in the Gender community, because whether or not we are welcome, we are a part of it and we support it from behind bars. Thank you for your time.

(Signed) Stephanie K.
Washington St. Penitentiary
Walla Walla, Washington

HARRY BENJAMIN ONCE SAID TO CHRISTINE JORGENSEN:

"We don't know what 'normal' is. We only know what is customary."



From the Founder:

By Marsha Bolzer, MA



First of all, I would like to thank all those who have been so supportive during this time. My Mother's illness and death have been very stressful for me, and knowing that so many people cared has been a great source of strength. As the days go by, I continue to realize the hole her passing has left in my life. The courage she showed throughout the last year has been truly awe-inspiring, but I will continue to miss the small things like sitting by her bed and talking, her periodic phone calls to me on my cellular phone reminding me what to pick up at the store. She was much loved and will be missed.

Thank you to all who sent and continue to send cards. My Mother asked that remembrances be made in her name to Ingersoll Center. It's ironic that after her death, she continues to support and love us at Ingersoll.

Along with my research partner, Bryant Vehrs, I presented a paper at the Harry Benjamin Conference in Germany in September. The presentation was very well received, and in a later issue of *The Ingersoll Message*, I will make a detailed report of the conference and what it can mean to those of us in the Gender Community.

FREEDOM DAY COMMITTEE MAKES DONATION TO INGERSOLL

by Pat Butler

Several weeks ago, I had a call from Geoffrey Anderson, from the Freedom Day Committee, which sponsors the Pride events in June of each year. Geoffrey said that the City of Seattle required groups using public property to give 5% of their revenues back to the City and another 5% back to community organizations. Anderson further explained that through the lobbying efforts of Ingersoll, Ara Tripp, the committee had decided to make Ingersoll one of five organizations to receive the donation.



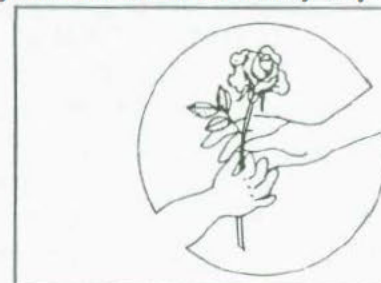
When I announced the gift to the Board of Directors, I envisioned the possibility of several hundred dollars. Imagine my surprise when Geoffrey came to

Ingersoll and presented us with a check for \$522.12! The money will be put into the general fund to help "push us back from the edge", so to speak, and give us some breathing room, financially.

The next time you see Ara Tripp, be sure to thank her for her wonderful efforts. On behalf of the Board, I will be sending a formal thank you to Ara for thinking of Ingersoll.

DO IT THE UNITED WAY

Every fall, the United Way Campaign is conducted all over the U.S.A. Millions of dollars are pledged and automatically deducted each month from paychecks throughout the year. Until recently, a nonprofit agency had to be a member agency of United Way in order to benefit in any way. Changes in United Way policy now make it possible for non-member agencies to receive funds through *Designated Giving*. The donor simply indicates on the donor form that her/his gift is to be deducted and sent to the agency of choice.



Currently, Ingersoll Center receives approximately \$300.00 per year from designated donor programs in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties in Washington and from United Way in Los Angeles County, CA.

We invite other supporters of Ingersoll to designate us on their United Way donor forms. It's easy. Simply indicate that your donation (or a part of it) is to go to:

Ingersoll Center
1812 E. Madison
Suite 106
Seattle, WA 98122

It is not necessary to use the word "Gender" in the title, thus ensuring confidentiality. All United Way wants to know is that we are a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit agency (we are, and can give proof of it). It is a wonderfully painless way to give ongoing support to Ingersoll and its programs, and it really helps us.

Important Ingersoll Doings in O C T O B E R

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

All Thursdays in October: Drop-In Group (Open) 7:00-9:00 PM

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

IGC phones are answered Mondays & Fridays 6-8 pm and Saturdays 10-12 noon

October 9: Meeting of the Board of Directors of Ingersoll Gender Center. 7:15-8:30 PM.

October 10: FTM Support Group 7:30-9:30 PM. First Timers must call Jason at [REDACTED] or David at [REDACTED] before attending. Topic for this meeting: Coming Out - Dealing with Stress, Dealing with Rejection (friends, family)

October 15: Sunday Afternoon at Ingersoll. 2:00-5:00 PM at Ingersoll, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 102. "Ghosts, Goblins, Goodies and Gendertalk" We will have a video available, treats, and talk.

October 17: Full time, Post-Op group meeting; 7:30-9:30 PM.

JOIN US ON OCTOBER 15, 1995

WHEN SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT INGERSOLL PRESENTS
GHOSTS, GOBLINS, GOODIES AND GENDERTALK


2:00oooooooooooo to 5:00oooooooooooooooooooo pm
AT INGERSOLL CENTER



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!



63 Shopping Days Until Elegance Holiday Happening, '95 December 2, 1995 7:00 - 11:00 pm The Grand Ballroom Best Western Executive Inn

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!**

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.

We hope to offer four auction tables this year and have six items in the raffle. You can help. 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.

FLASH!! Elegance Update: As of press time, we have two beautiful works of art, one gorgeous cocktail dress and a set of books, first edition & personally autographed by the author!

Jaye's Journal

By Jaye Jane Albright, Board President



Dr. Richard Docter is a psychology professor at Cal State Northridge, a former head of the university's department of psychology and an interested observer of our community.

He is also the writer-researcher of a book (*Transvestites and Transsexuals*) which was published several years ago, purporting to be the definitive psychological explanation of 'us', which deeply disappointed me as one of his research subjects.

At the time, I recall asking myself, "If this is what our friends think and how ignorant they are, imagine what those who do not sympathize with us at all must believe!" I felt like he had simply ignored data that I had given him about myself during his research -- data which seemed to contradict his final conclusions. I wondered at the time how many others had a similar experience. Or, was I the only one who felt the way I did and he simply discarded my case history as extraneous?

I have known Dick and his wife Shirley for more than 15 years, and, in spite of that seemingly narrow perspective (from my point of view) on the causation of gender identity issues/disorders, I have found the couple to be great and loyal friends. In fact, I anxiously await their Christmas card each year because Dick is an amateur printer and theirs is always a brilliant, creative effort which bears his wonderful and unique personal style and philosophy.

Last week, it was time for me to update my holiday mailing list and I was going through the cards I received last year, double-checking addresses in my database. I happened across the card the Docters had sent last holiday, and I suddenly remembered why I had saved it. It contained a poem:

IN WILD COUNTRY

Where it is possible to encounter and truly experience other kinds of intelligence, we can learn with a clarity unobtainable elsewhere that we are not alone on this cooling cinder.

This world and its creatures were not presented to us: we were joined to them in the

exquisite saraband of life. It was never meant to be a conquest, and it is more deeply complex than a responsibility.
.....It is a sharing

Perhaps Dr. Docter is finally coming around!

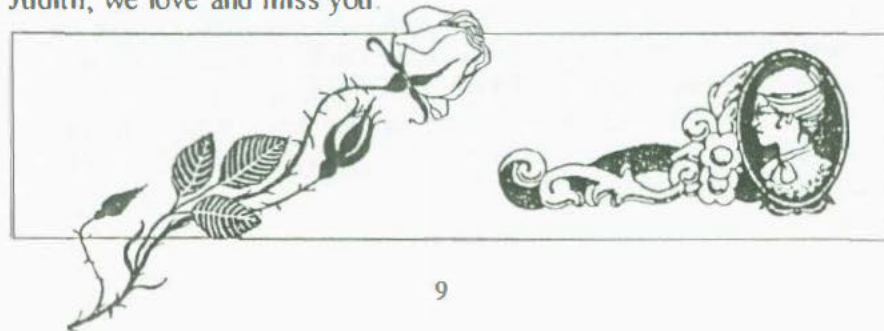
The experience of identifying as a transgendered has certainly taken me to "wild country". And, the personal spiritual and psychological and motivational lessons I have learned from it are described perfectly by Watkins.

JUDITH BOTZER ~In Memoriam~

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Judith Botzer, Mother of Marsha C. Botzer, founder of Ingersoll Center. Judith fought bravely up to the very end against the cancer which finally claimed her life. She died with her daughter Marsha at her side on September 14, 1995.

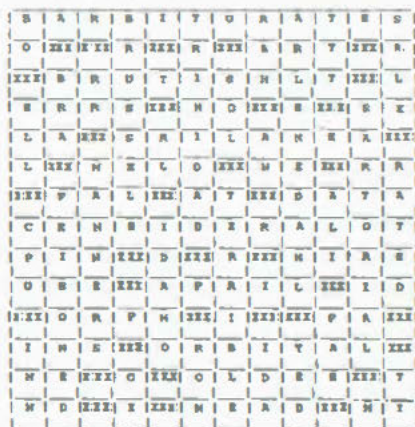
Ingersoll supporters will always remember her as a staunch and loyal supporter of her daughter, Marsha. During a time when many parents would have turned their back on a transgendered child, Judith was there for Marsha, up to and including appearances on television talk shows. Her attendance at Ingersoll functions was very important to her and to all of us as well. She will be missed.

Judith specifically requested that any and all remembrances be made in the form of donations to Ingersoll Gender Center. Good bye, Judith, we love and miss you.





OCTOBER GENDER CROSSWORD SOLUTION



PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR INGERSOLL TRAINING

With thousands of thanks to volunteers Lauren and Alcena, over 500 invitations were sent out inviting therapists, counselors and other caregivers to a training on Transvestite, Transsexual and Transgender issues.

The training will be held on Saturday, November 11, 1995, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at Seattle Counseling Service for Sexual Minorities' 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 and a physician 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 went out to therapists all over the state inviting them to attend. Students and interns at various colleges and universities have also been invited to attend at reduced tuition.

Tuition 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, or if you did not receive an invitation, 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.

The Butler Did it!

By Pat Butter, Executive Director

There is an old Pennsylvania Dutch proverb which goes something like: "*The Hurrieder I Go, The Behinder I Get!*" That seems to be the plain truth of my life at the present time. There don't seem to be as many hours in each day as there were only a few months ago!



When September came and I started my new job, I knew it would involve some adjustment. The problem is that I didn't realize *how much* adjustment it would take. I work at Ingersoll on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and I teach school on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Friday mornings, and believe me it is really a juggling act. I will be glad when I can wake up in the morning and not have to ask myself, "Let's see, am I a teacher or an Executive Director today?" I am sure I will reach the point of balance soon,

but in the meantime, I ask for your indulgence for things which may not be done in a timely manner -- or done at all, for that matter!

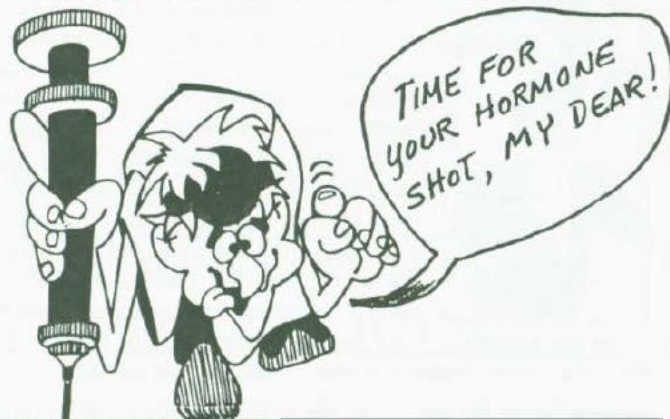
The September Sunday Afternoon at Ingersoll was a great success. Eleven of us watched "Glenn or Glenda", the horrific Ed Wood film from the 1950's. It was made to capitalize on the publicity generated by Christine Jorgenson's surgery. It is a dreadful film (Two years after his death, Ed Wood was selected as the *Worst Film Maker of all Time* by the film industry), but it is a great piece of history and good for a few laughs. *And*, many parts in the film were in fact played by members of the gender community at that time!

We then watched the film *Ed Wood*, a contemporary look at the life of Ed Wood. The film starred Johnny (bad boy) Depp as the crossdressing Ed Wood and earned actor Martin Landau an Oscar for his portrayal of Bela ("I want to bite your neck") Lugosi. Wood was the only director in Hollywood who would work with Lugosi toward the end of his life when his severe, multiple drug addictions made him completely unreliable.

Depp, as usual, played Depp, but he did bring wonderful humor and a certain pathos to the part of Ed Wood, a man who wanted to be as remembered as Orson Welles. The only thing Wood lacked was talent. Landau was superb as Lugosi, portraying him as a commodity which Hollywood discarded when there was no longer any use for him. The touching scenes between Depp and Landau's characters made even Depp look good. Honorary mention must be made here of Bill Murray's portrayal of an aging drag queen/sometime TS. He was delightful.

As a fan of "Schlock" films, especially 1950's sci-fi, I have a real soft spot in my heart for Ed Wood. His film *Plan Nine from Outerspace*, ("honored" as arguably the *Worst* film of all time) is in my private collection and will be shown on an upcoming Sunday.

Join us on October 15, 1995, as Sunday Afternoon at Ingersoll presents "Ghosts, Goblins, Goodies and Gendertalk" We will have a video available if anyone wants to watch it, special treats, and, as always, stimulating talk.



SPOTLIGHT ON PUBLICATIONS

At Ingersoll Center

Crossdressing with Dignity

By Peggy Rudd, Ed.D. Can a man cross gender lines and maintain a sense of self-worth and dignity? An informative addition to Dr. Rudd's first book, *My Husband Wears My Clothes*. Published by PM Publishers. 148 pages.

Available at Ingersoll after meetings or by mail.

At meetings: \$13.50 per copy/tax included

By Mail: \$13.50 plus \$2.50 p/h (8.2% sales tax if app.)

The Cook's Corner

It's the time of the year when we start thinking about food to warm the tummy and the rest of the body. The recipe listed below is quick and easy. It is not necessarily low in calories and fat, but eaten in moderation it is fun and nourishing.

Daddy's Quick Pull-Apart Cinnamon Buns

(my daughters loved these on Sunday mornings before church)

Ingredients: 2 packages/cans of Pillsbury's Buttermilk biscuits
1 cube of margarine (reduced or non-fat will work)
1/2 cup of brown sugar
Cinnamon or allspice to taste
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
1/2 cup raisins (optional)

Instructions: □ Pre-heat oven to 325 (Please note that this is a much lower temperature than the suggested temperature on the package of biscuits. It is necessary to make sure the biscuits cook all the way through).

□ Use a non-stick pie tin (or spray a regular pie tin with PAM)

□ Slice the cube of butter into "pats" and arrange around the pie tin

□ Sprinkle the brown sugar and spices evenly around and add the walnuts and raisins if you wish.



□ Arrange the biscuits on top of the butter, sugar and spices. You will have to squeeze the biscuits to get them all to fit. This okay.

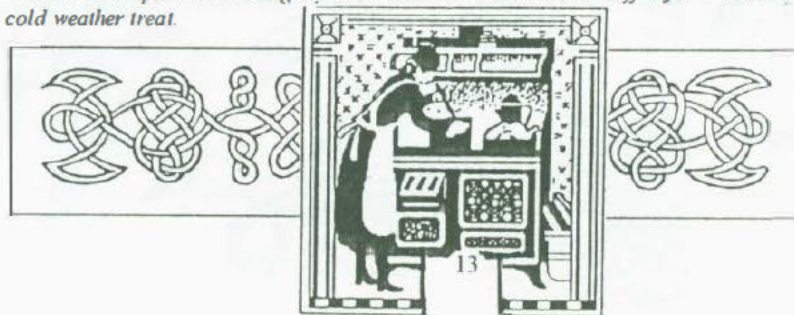
□ Put pie tin into the preheated oven and cook until the biscuits are golden brown -- usually 20 - 25 minutes, depending upon the oven.

□ Remove the Pull-Apart from the oven and run a table knife around the outside of the Pull-Apart to make sure it is not stuck to the pie tin.

□ Then immediately invert pie tin onto a large plate (This can be easily done by placing the plate upside down over the pie tin and, using a kitchen towel to keep from burning yourself, carefully turning the plate and tin over. The Pull Apart should slide easily onto the plate.

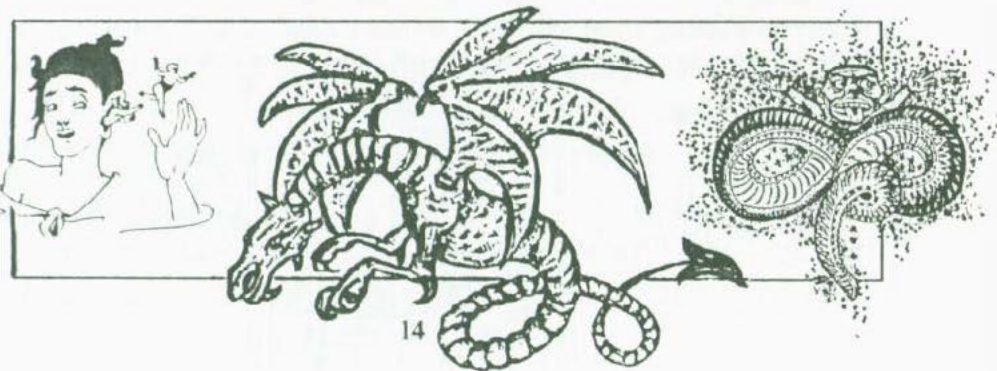
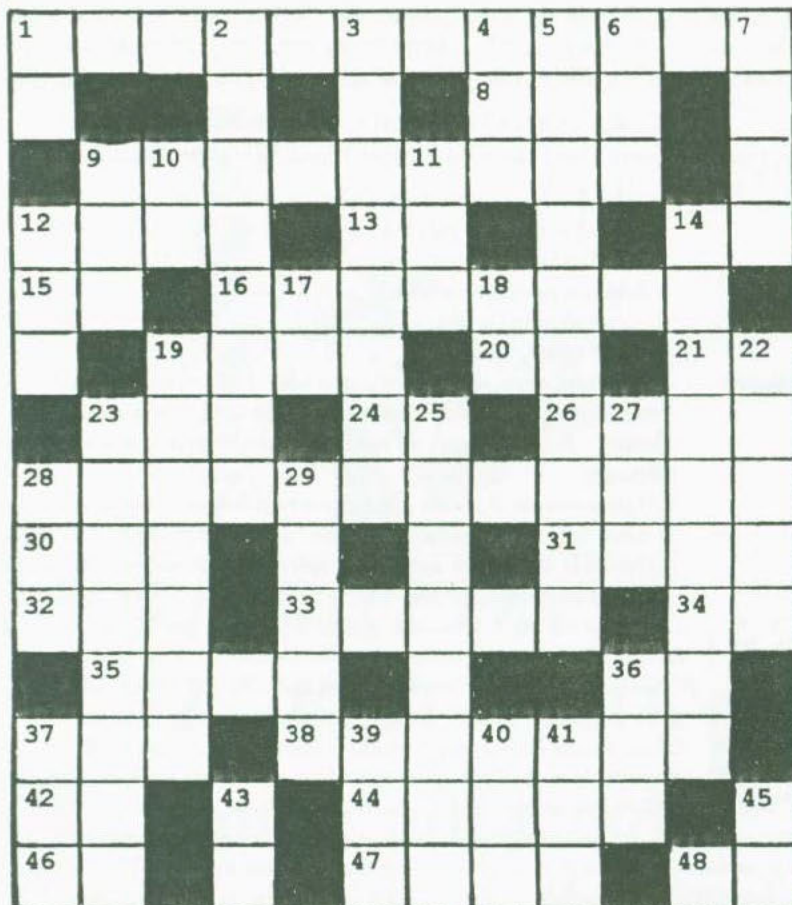
□ After you are sure that the Pull-Apart is on the plate, turn over the pie tin and if any of the topping is still in the pan, use a spoon to remove it and place it on the Pull-Apart

□ Allow Pull-Apart to cool slightly and serve with hot cocoa or coffee for a wonderful cold weather treat.





OCTOBER GENDER CROSSWORD



14



Each one of us who travels further than the obstacles in our life

Will know a different kind of life from that time on.

ACROSS

1. Sedative
8. Painting, cooking and conversation are said to be this.
9. Stupidly, grossly
11. Strays from the moral path.
13. Homonym for 'know'
14. TS's want to change __ x.
15. CA's largest city (init)
16. Name for Ceylon. (2wds)
19. Pinochle hand.
20. Nebraska's address
21. Luxury car (init)
23. Buddy
24. Toward
26. Info and an android
28. To think constantly about Sex Reassignment Surgery (3wds)
30. Safety, map and straight
31. Contract
32. Employ
33. After the other goes out like a lion
34. Mind's inside
35. Prefix referring to a Muse
37. "Out's" partner
38. Space path
42. Compass point
44. Age comparative
46. North Dakota's address
48. Squeezed in between RE and FA.



DOWN

1. Needs a roll-on
2. Segher's city
3. Biber's city
4. Cheer
5. Red-headed 50's actress
6. Telephone for hearing impaired
7. 'No', 'on', and 'for' go with this
9. Two cups full
10. Burlington Northern __
11. Terran sun
12. Old British
14. Pertaining to a tailor
17. 'I enjoy being a gi __'!
18. 'I enjoy being a m __'!
19. Social behavior
22. Cast
23. Corrupted, perverted
25. Heinous, awful
27. Muhammed and Baba
28. Computer part (init)
36. Balance or face value
37. Pub
39. Read Only Memory (init)
40. Sweet as Apple Cider
41. The informal theodore
43. Over the rainbow
45. Hawaiian plant



INGERSOLL MESSAGE

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-----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])

