

# The IFGE Newsletter

Volume 6, Number 2

The International Foundation for Gender Education

Summer 2000

INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR GENDER EDUCATION

## Transgender issues make front page Wall Street Journal quotes IFGE Executive Director

The July 7, 2000 issue of the Wall Street Journal featured a screaming headline: "Double Bind: Why a Woman in Missouri Is a Man in Kansas, and Why It Matters."

The Journal coverage centered on a recent probate court decision in Kansas, denying a share in a \$2.5 million estate to the widow of the decedent, who died without leaving a will.

The decedent, Marshall G. Gardiner, who had been in the newspaper business and was once a state legislator in Kansas as a Democrat

between 1957 and 1960, married Park University professor J'Noel Ball in 1998. At the time, he was 86 and she was 40. But the widow was a postoperative transsexual.

Probate Judge Gunnar Sundby, held that "J'Noel Gardiner was born a male and remains a male for purposes of marriage under Kansas law, The marriage between Marshall G. Gardiner and J'Noel Gardiner is void."

The judge's decision seems to follow *Littleton v. Prange*, the Texas appellate case that is currently on appeal to the United States Supreme Court. In *Littleton*, the court held that the widow of the decedent could not recover damages for wrongful death due to the

malpractice of Dr. Prange, because the widow, presumably the bearer of male chromosomes, was born male, and notwithstanding her sex reassignment as female, could not legally marry her husband.



IFGE's Nancy Cain

The reporter sought information from the IFGE about the numbers of sex reassignment surgeries that are performed in the United States. Significant impact can result from inconsistent legal treatment of transsexuals in the several states.

The article's mention of the IFGE came as follows: "The issue is certain to come up again because sex-change operations in the U.S. are growing at a rate of about 10% annually, to about 5,000 last year, according to Nancy Cain, executive director of the International Foundation for Gender Education, in Boston."

The Journal's recognition of the IFGE as a source is welcome!



Mystery donor, Laura Caldwell

### Donor revealed for the TG2K matching grant

The mystery has been solved! **Laura Caldwell**, long time member of IFGE's Board of Directors, and for the past four years, Treasurer, was the mysterious anonymous donor who issued the challenge grant to match dollars contributed to IFGE during the TG2000 IFGE Annual Conference.

She was very pleased at the results. She encourages people to donate to IFGE and says

*Continued on page 6*

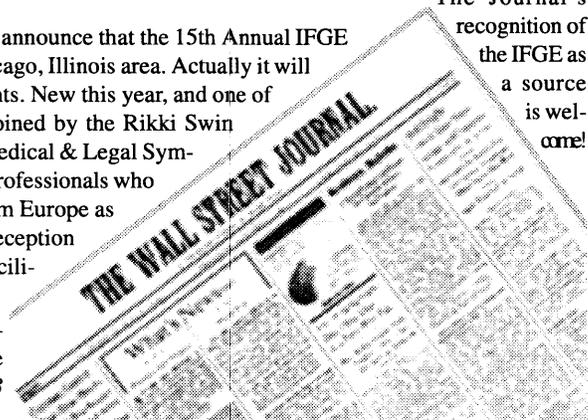
## TG 2001 Convention in Chicagoland March 22-26, 2001

By Alison Laing, Secretary

The IFGE and its Convention Management Team are pleased to announce that the 15th Annual IFGE Convention has been set for March 22 through 26, 2001 in the Chicago, Illinois area. Actually it will be at the Radisson Hotel in the western suburb of Arlington Heights. New this year, and one of the most important features of this event is that IFGE will be joined by the Rikki Swin Institute, Inc. (RSI) in producing the First International Trans - Medical & Legal Symposium. This symposium will include presentations by renowned professionals who deal with the medical, health and legal issues of Transpersons from Europe as well as the U.S. and Canada. The RSI Institute will be holding a reception for the convention as they hold the Grand Opening of their new facilities in downtown Chicago.

Equally important is that the event is being co-hosted by the Chicago Gender Society, and the Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess with It's Time Illinois providing a special

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## The Editor's Needle

**Welcome to the IFGE Thread!**

It takes threads of many colors to weave a beautiful tapestry. The inspiration for renaming the IFGE Newsletter is to harmonize the themes of the sister publications of the International Foundation for Gender Education.

In Transgender Tapestry magazine, one gets the big picture of things, in full color and on glossy paper. Here in Thread, we hope to provide a small chronicle of the pulse of the social and educational efforts of the IFGE in the worlds of business, education, government, and social service.



Joann Prinzivalli

The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. Here at the IFGE, we are taking things one small step at a time.

We hope to be unafraid of the controversial issues in the gender community. There are different theories about the approaches to take in achieving the goals of gender education. There are different views about the cause of gender identity, different ideas about the social justice aspects of our educational efforts, and different methods of accomplishing the goals we strive to attain. Though we are diverse, unity is still possible.

There are local grass roots efforts, and groups that work on a national level, and state-level advocacy organizations. There are all sorts of push-me and pull-you approaches to gender rights advocacy.

There are also the usual reports that need to be given to the membership - that's another thread for us to follow.

There are transsexuals who put down transgenderists who don't understand crossdressers who differentiate from transvestites who pity transsexuals. And there are others who are

attempting to build bridges to the lesbian and gay communities, as well as to other allies in the struggle for a common goal of fairness and justice for all.

Can we in our fractious community find a common purpose, a common thread?

In the very same chapter 22 of the Book of Deuteronomy that contains the sole biblical injunction against crossdressing, we find a warning against wearing a garment woven from mixed threads. Check out those threads, dude!

Too many perfectly religious people pick and choose the objects of their intolerance without considering the ameliorating message of truth, justice and peace found elsewhere in their divinely inspired books. And they do not listen to the reasonable and loving interpretation of the word - choosing instead to condemn what they don't understand rather than reflect on the implication of wearing cotton-polyester blended thread shirts with wool-polyester blend suits. I have not yet seen a demonstration outside a Lobster restaurant over the abomination of eating shellfish. Have you?

In ancient Greek mythology, the measure of life is literally on a thread handled by the Fates: Clotho, the spinner of the web of life; Lachesis, the measurer of life's length; and Atropos, whose cut of the thread marks life's end.

The threads of our lives are interwoven in the tapestry of life. How plain and unattractive it would be if it weren't for the vibrant colors, the many different flavors, the lool, feel and vitality of a variety in the human experience.

That's what we are about, and that's what your IFGE newsletter is: a small chronicle of the doings at IFGE, in our affiliated organizations and throughout the larger gender community.

**Thread: *The IFGE Newsletter***

A quarterly publication of the International Foundation for Gender Education

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**About IFGE Membership****Student/Low Income** - \$20 per year,

IFGE, ID, BOD voting privilege,

10% discount on IFGE products

**Basic Membership** - \$35 per year

same benefits as Student,

plus 5% discount on IFGE events

**Supporting Member** \$100 per year

Basic plus 5% discount on IFGE events

**Benefactor Member** \$500 per year

Same as Supporting Membership plus one year subscription to *Transgender Tapestry*

**Life Membership** \$2,500

Same as Benefactor plus *lifetime* subscription to *Transgender Tapestry*

**This newsletter is sponsored by Cioe Enterprises, IFGE Convention Management team. Other sponsorships are available. Please contact S. Kristine James at : [SkristineJ@aol.com](mailto:SkristineJ@aol.com)**

**The Treasurer's Weaving:**

***We're healthy, but keep those pledge dollars coming in!***

I was pleased to accept the election of treasurer of the International Foundation for Gender Education Inc. at the March, 2000 annual meeting. I have been active in the community for over 25 year and consider this a privilege to serve the community.



S. Kristine James, Treasurer

**Getting to know the ropes**

Since being elected, I have been working very closely with Nancy Cain, IFGE executive director and Terry Creeden, of Sandberg, Gonzalez & Creeden, P.C. our auditors. I have spent time at the IFGE office, on the telephone and in meetings with everyone and becoming familiar with the way things get done at IFGE.

**Financial health of IFGE**

I am pleased to report that IFGE is financially solvent both for 1999 and for the first six months of 2000. We expect to have the 1999 financials on the website at IFGE.org very soon. The board of directors will be looking at the 2 year financials at their meeting in September..

Effective June 1, 2000 Sara Herwig, director of operations, has been appointed as our full-charge accountant, Nancy Cain will devote her time in fund raising, outreach and the other executive duties required to make IFGE a leader in our international community. Questions concerning memberships, donations, pledges or anything about financial matters, please contact Sara.

**Fundraising efforts**

IFGE had a very successful fund raising activity at our annual meeting and convention in March, 2000. We raised over \$100,000 in cash and pledges through our matching grant program. The matching

grant was given by a very dear friend of IFGE. Of this amount, we have only collected about 50% so if you are one of the people that made a pledge and have not paid as yet, please send us your payment soon. In the next few months, you will be hearing a lot from both Nancy Cain and myself concerning our financial needs and how you can participate.

**Winslow Street Fund report**

The Winslow Street Fund, under the acting leadership of Abby Sapan and our financial advisor Laura Caldwell, has been making some good progress and continues to grow. Like anyone else in the market today, we have had some minor shrinkage in capital gain, but the overall net out come is positive growth. In the next issue of this newsletter, Abby will give us a full report in the next issue of this newsletter. Abby was recently married and she and Laurie make a great couple. We wish them a lot of luck.

S. Kristine James, Treasurer

***Secretarial Spinings:***

**Board of Directors notes**

***Recap of Year 2000 Election***

The Year 2000 IFGE Board elections resulted in the return of several members and the addition of one new person, Diane Ellaborn, LICSW of Framingham Massachusetts, as reported in the Winter 2000 issue of the newsletter.

***Nominations Open***

Nominations for elections for board members for 2001 are now open. Any member of IFGE may make a nomination so long as the nominee has consented and a brief resume and address information is provided. The nominee must be a member of IFGE to run. The nomination form is reproduced on page 14 of this newsletter, and the rules for making a nomination are on the preceding page.

***Next Board Meeting***

The next Board of Director's meeting will be held Saturday, September 30, 2000 at the Southern Comfort Conference, in Atlanta. The meetings are open to the public and IFGE members are especially invited.



Secretary Alison Laing

***Get ready for TG2001 in Chicagoland***

*Continued from page 1*  
session on political activism. Julie Ann Johnson, Chair of the IFGE Board of Directors and active in the Chicago area TG community, will coordinate the local participation, especially the evening activities.

Alison Laing, Convention Co-Chair and Program chair says, "We already have some fantastic speakers and presenters. But there are still sessions space available." If you are interested, contact her via e-mail [Alison@LNG.COM](mailto:Alison@LNG.COM), or PO box 473, Portsmouth, RI 02871-0473. In addition to the

seminars there will be, of course, vendors, special evening events, local shopping, and a trip to downtown Chicago to visit the famous Baton Club. There will be sessions of interest to the MtF and FtM community, TS, CD, SO and professionals. There will be something for everyone.

The convention site is the Radisson Hotel, Arlington Heights, Illinois, where we will have almost all of the convention area to ourselves. S. Kristine James, Convention Co-Chair responsible for Operations, encourages you to register soon to take ad-

vantage of the low room rates which will be at the bargain price of \$79.00 per night plus tax. (call (800)333-3333 worldwide for reservations.) Kristine also encourages you to watch for more information on the web page including the convention registration form. For more information regarding the convention and vendor applications, contact Kristine at IFGE Convention Management Team; P. O. Box 61, Easton, PA, 18044-0061, 610-759-1761 e-mail: [Skristine@aol.com](mailto:Skristine@aol.com).

See you there!

# Getting along: the secret for creating unity from diversity!

By Dana Rivers, Board Member

Even though I'm fairly new to the gender community and to gender politics, I've learned a lot and met a lot of people since losing my job because of my gender expression last fall. Yet, my activist work did not begin with my Good Morning America interview in October. I've been 'involved' for over twenty years in the education, environmental, labor, and political party arenas. Today, I accept that I am part of a minority, or several minorities, depending on how I choose to identify myself. So where do I go from here as a tender-footed gender queer activist? And more important, where do we need to go as a political/civil rights movement? I believe we face some key issues if we are to get to the next level and effect real social change.

During the past year, I've noticed that we in the transgendered community sure do struggle to get along. I have seen people torn to bits in chat rooms for having an opinion about ENDA or the Human Rights Campaign. I have been criticized for being supportive of GenderPAC's Executive Director Riki Wilchens. I've seen cross dressers put down transsexuals, who put down other transsexuals if they are too open, or too political, or go to the "wrong" surgeon, or who don't want surgery at all. I have seen drag queens stick their noses up at "straight" trans-people, and I have seen people who "pass" and "don't pass" avoid each other like a plague. I've heard from people-of-color who say that they

***Third, we have to get out of the closet. It is especially important that trans-people who have made their transitions successfully, who have jobs and families, who are living with loving life partners do this.***

are not welcome at gender meetings, and I have seen gender-people scoff at Two-Spirit believers. I have heard FTM's complain that MTF's get every social and political break there is, and I have been to a meeting where an organization which was created to represent all of us, FTM and MTF alike, didn't want to change its gender-specific name.

The effect of this infighting and backbiting is predictable. We have not been able to secure much support from other civil rights groups, or from political leaders at most state and national levels. Trans-people have been marginalized by lesbian and gay people who see our civil rights struggle as a 'fringe issue' that has little to do with them. Yet, we



Dana Rivers

are lumped together by homophobes as being gay. Few people understand the difference between transsexuals, cross dressers, and drag kings and queens, and what's more, few people seem to care that there is any difference.

So how do we change our social and political fortunes? How do we get to the next place, so that we can walk and talk and dance and sing as we truly are?

First, we have to be more tolerant of each other. Some of us have been fighting this fight for decades. There are lots of war stories and wounded veterans out there. There are countless gut-wrenching tales with heroes and villains in each. I have been pulled aside at conferences, or sent private e-mails, and told that once I know what happened back in '96, or '92, or '85, or '73, or '69, I'll understand. "Understand" usually means I'll agree with the person who pulls me aside. If I don't agree, I don't understand.

Gender politics is full of these stories. And while remembering our history is very important to our movement, even essential, we need to allow each other the chance to mature and grow from our experiences. We also need to get along with people even if we don't agree with everything they believe in. We need to remember that our memories, as vivid as they might be, are only accurate from our perspective. I live by a credo that there are damned few 'bad' people out there. Most are good

people doing their best. I may not understand, or agree with everything they do or say, but I do believe that they are pure of heart. We are essentially all fighting for the same thing.

Second, we need to build coalitions, both within our community and within the civil rights movement. This means we will be working with people who do not look like us, or talk like us, or have the same experiences that we do. They may identify as queer, straight, gay, lesbian, trans, or not identify at all. But simply put, we need their votes and money and voice. That is why I like being part of the LGBTQQ-XYZ movement. I would add whatever initials it takes to get us working together. We can support basic rights for all, and still be passionate about the specific needs each identity-based group has. History suggests that very few political victories have ever been won without strong coalitions.

Third, we have to get out of the closet. It is especially important that trans-people who have made their transitions successfully, who have jobs and families, who are living with loving life partners do this. It is a shame that too many of us are comfortably hidden away in cozy lives. The reasons are harmless sounding. Some had surgery years ago and now just want to "blend in". Others only dress a few times a year in public. Many don't want to get caught or are afraid of any number of re-criminations if they are found out. Some of us smugly say that we are over that part of our lives, and that we just want to live a normal and peaceful life now that we are finally 'real' men or women. While some may get away with hiding, or living 'stealth', our sisters and brothers are murdered and discriminated against at an alarming rate. This is not about being comfortable, or even safe. This kind of false security only appears safe. We need to be out and visible. It is about being responsible.

I put my life in front of the media so that others could see what it is like to be a good teacher who has a gender issue who gets discriminated against because fanatical extremists wanted me out of their community. If the school board could have burned me at the stake, rest assured they would have. We cannot afford to sit idly by while others are hurt. Our decision to hide out condemns someone else to a life that is less safe than ours. And, we are only one loud mouth or innocent statement away from being 'outed' anyway. Does this mean there will be more tragic incidents because there are more of us to hurt? Maybe. But at some point, picking us off one by one

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# Let me help you "Out," sister

By Jane Ellen Fairfax,  
Board Member (Honorary)

"Tell someone I'm a crossdresser? What do you think I am? Crazy? I could lose my job! My wife would divorce me! I'd have to leave town! And as for joining a support group, how can I know who to trust? For all I know, they could be looking for guys like me to blackmail!" Questions like these race through the minds of many crossdressers as they consider reaching out for information and support. When they discover Tri-Ess, and begin to consider joining, they wonder about the security of the mailing list. Concerned about the consequences of discovery to their

livelihood, social standing, and family welfare, they may be apprehensive about leaving home in a dress. With time some become very open about their crossdressing, while others share it on a need-to-know basis and others remain home-dressers. Even after years of participation in Tri-Ess, however, most retain some security issues, and are unwilling to cross certain boundaries.

Now there are those in our community who believe that every crossdresser should be "out." They are quick to point out that the fear of exposure is often worse than the reality. According to them, most people mind their own business and avoid precipitating

trouble. Even the crossdresser exposed at work, they argue, may land on his feet. In their minds, any crossdresser in secrecy is a voice lost in the struggle for human rights. The grand goal of an accepting society transcends the security needs of the individual. If the crossdresser will not emerge on his own, he should be forced "out." While these people make some valid points, their thinking strikes me as short-sighted, inconsiderate, and just plain wrong.

Such end-justifies-the-means thinking ignores the varying realities crossdressers face. It's much easier to be out and about in an enlightened city than in Redneckville. Local laws differ. While most jurisdictions have abolished laws against crossdressing, there are still places where public crossdressing can earn a stint as guest of the local sheriff. Working conditions vary. The crossdresser who works out of his home is probably less at risk than his counterpart who works for Bubba's Haulers. Because of moral, religious and political values, some families are more tolerant than others. Even within a single family, attitudes vary. In the face of these widely-differing realities, imposing a rigid "everybody out" approach seems the height of folly.

Pushing a crossdresser out of secrecy may be self-defeating, even if the goal is raising social consciousness. Given support and nurturing, even the most closeted crossdresser may come to see that fear is his worst enemy. By taking "baby steps" he may extend the bounds of his comfort zone. In time he may feel ready to raise his voice on behalf of our community. If, on the other hand, a crossdresser is "outed" and has a bad experience, he may go right back into the closet, never to emerge again. As a community, we have lost his good will. What have we gained?

Be we community activists or home-dressers it behooves us all to protect the right of our peers to self-determination. This is the exact position Tri-Ess takes. We leave it up to the individual member to decide his own approach based on the realities he faces. Whether he wants to tell the world about his crossdressing or prefers a more private approach, we support him all the way. We accept his decision regardless of where he lives, where he works, or how many people he has told. Let me make myself clear. If a member has told ninety-nine percent of people about his crossdressing, the sister or brother who tells the other one percent has violated his security. Only by maintaining a non-threatening environment can we ensure our members the right to explore their crossgendered side and grow as whole people.

## Maintaining Security - How You Can Help

- 1) Commit to the principle that every crossdresser has the right to determine whom to tell about his crossdressing. No grievance justifies "outing" a peer.
- 2) Never publish a brother or sister's contact information, picture or article anywhere without permission.
- 3) Let your peers know whom to ask for when they call. When they tell you their own preference, honor it.
- 4) If you are not sure who has answered a call, ask "Does the name 'Tri-Ess' mean anything to you?" If the answer is "Yes," proceed with your conversation.
- 5) Don't assume that, because a colleague is relatively open about his crossdressing, the whole world knows. If in doubt, ask.
- 6) Always ask permission before photographing a brother or sister.
- 7) Chapters and members should ask how members want mailings addressed, and scrupulously honor instructions.
- 8) Speak out against the practice of "outing" wherever you encounter it.
- 9) Restrict access to chapter mailing lists to those who absolutely need them. Before releasing any contact information on a member, the officers should be sure it is OK with the member.
- 10) In working with the media, act in a way that insures the security of all. Tri-Ess will provide its media policy on request.
- 11) Curb the desire to gossip. Heed the wise words of Benjamin Franklin:  
"Man's tongue is soft and bone doth lack,  
But a stroke thereof can break a man's back."
- 12) When in doubt, let love be your guide. Treat others as you would want them to treat you!

## Getting along: the path toward unity

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will no longer be an option. Every oppressed group in the history of this country has had to grow through this painful phase. It is our turn to do the same.

New as I am, I have enough experience to know that we can all do something more. We can add \$5 or \$10 or \$20 per month to what we donate to organizations. We can do something more with our board of directors position or committee seat or membership. We can write to an incarcerated sister or brother. We can speak up in our communities and churches. We can ask our families to do the same. We can write letters to the editor, and we can call our elected representatives. We

can become a voice that speaks of unity rather than division, and we can stop attacking each other because we are not all ever going to be the same or think the same.

I challenge all of us to frame our opinions in chat rooms and e-mail lists and in meetings and the media such that we put an end to personal attacks. Our movement has momentum based on the energy of many brave pioneers. There is enough credit to go around so that we can all feel good about how far we have come. Some of us have busted our buns, others less so. But in the end, it is our collective energy that will carry us. Nothing less will do.

# IFGE welcomes new people to the fold . . .

By Nancy Cain, Executive Director

**Dallas Denny, M.A.**, has signed on as the new editor of the Transgender Tapestry. Dallas has a long history with the trans-community, most recently she has become the Secretary of Gender Education and Advocacy (GEA), which is a new national organization focused on the needs, issues and concerns of gender variant people in human society. GEA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization incorporated in Georgia. She is founder and was for eight years Executive Director of AEGIS, the American Educational Gender Information Service. Dallas has written many books and articles on gender identity. She also founded and grew the National Transgender Archive, the world's largest catalogued collection of material about gender identity. <DallasD@ifge.org>



**Dallas Denny**



**Larissa Glasser**

**Larissa Glasser, M.L.S.**, has become the new Art Director for the Transgender Tapestry magazine. She is a novelist, a librarian at the Harvard and at Cambridge libraries. She was also a Managing Editor for *The Harvard Review*. She is also a songwriter and the lead guitarist in a heavy metal band. <LarissaG@ifge.org>

**Denise Leclair** has joined IFGE as the Director of Sales & Information Systems. Her responsibilities include managing the bookstore and managing the computer systems here at the IFGE home office. She has been a regular volunteer for over a year, helping to keep the computers running and in good shape. Denise comes to us from Fitchburg State College, where she was a lab manager. She has her own computer consulting business and she was a DJ for the last fifteen years. She is a long time member of the Tiffany Club and has been active at many local events. <Denise@ifge.org>



**Joann Prinzivalli**

**Joann Prinzivalli** has been appointed the new editor of the IFGE Newsletter. Joann is a lawyer and is involved in several transgender organizations. She is one of the founders of the Metropolitan North Transgender Alliance (MeNTA) in White Plains, New York, and was recently elected to the Board of Directors of The LOFT, the TLBG organization that serves the lower Hudson Valley. Joann is also the editor of *Crossdressers Monthly*, published by Crossdressers International, and *Our Special Joy*, published by the Chi Delta Mu Chapter of Tri-Ess, and has written and lectured on transgender issues to mainstream audiences as well as transgendered people. <JoannMP@ifge.org>

Please join me in welcoming these new people to IFGE!

## . . . and we bid a fond farewell to Rose Ryan

**Rose Ryan**, executive assistant and interim bookstore manager has left IFGE. She has found another job more closely related to her skills and more in line with her background.

Rose, whose background was in therapy, was a welcome addition as a volunteer over three years ago. She started right in, helping out where she could. Her work eventually evolved into a position where her talents could be best put to use.

I know many of you have had the chance to talk to her over the past few years. She is a good friend to the community. Please join me in wishing her the best of luck, she will be missed.



**Rose Ryan**

## **Laura Caldwell solves the match grant mystery**

*Continued from page 1*

that it's not all that painful to do. Her own commitment to IFGE is profound.

She has worked tirelessly to revamp and rebuild the accounting system, ensured that we were properly registered as a public charity with the State of Massachusetts and has helped out wherever she could.

She was a familiar face in the office over the last several years. She is a good friend and supporter. We all love her dearly.

The results of the matching grant fund drive were in excess of \$100,000, including her donation.

So to Laura from all of us, Thank You! It's people like Laura who really make a difference!

**SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION**

**CALL FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR:**

**Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award ▼ Trinity Award ▼ Partners in Diversity Award**

Dear IFGE members and friends of the transgender community:

The IFGE Awards Committee is seeking your help in searching for candidates for the year 2001 Virginia Prince Award, the Trinity Award, and the Partners in Diversity Award. These awards will be presented during the 15th Annual IFGE Convention to be held in Chicago, IL.

The Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award is the transgender community's top award, and is given to a person who has made a significant lifetime contribution to our community.

The Trinity Awards honor our heroes and heroines, people who have performed extraordinary acts of courage and love.

The Partners in Diversity Award recognizes a company, corporation or government agency that has adopted comprehensive policies of diversity regarding employment and service to customers or clients.

Your participation in the awards process by nominating worthy candidates is very important. You will find information and forms to guide you in your consideration of candidates for these awards. Please read the guidelines below carefully, and fill out the nomination form and return it by August 15, 2000 to:

**IFGE Awards Committee**  
**PO Box 540229**  
**Waltham, MA 02454-0229**

OR you can email your nominations to:

**nancyjc@ifge.org**

Please include the words "Awards Nominations" in the subject field.

OR FAX your nominations to: (781) 899-5703.

The forms may be copied for anyone who wishes to make a nomination. Thank you for your participation in this process and we hope to see you at the convention in 2001!

IFGE Awards Committee 2000-2001

**VIRGINIA PRINCE LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD**

Previous recipients:

- 1987 Virginia Prince
- 1988 Merissa Sherrill Lynn
- 1989 Ariadne Kane
- 1990 Sister Mary Elizabeth
- 1991 Betty Ann Lind
- 1992 Naomi Owen
- 1993 Carol Beecroft
- 1994 Ellen Summers
- 1995 Yvonne Cook-Riley
- 1996 Sheila Kirk, M.D
- 1997 Eve Burchert
- 1998 Jamison Green
- 1999 Phyllis Frye
- 2000 Jane Ellen & Mary Frances Fairfax

**TRINITY AWARD**

Previous recipients:

- (1991) Mariette Pathy Allen, Stanley Biber, M.D., The Boulton & Park Society\*, Yvonne Cook, Sheila Kirk M.D., Ellen Summers
- (1992) The Be All You Want To Be Convention\*, Eve Burchert, Richard F. Docter Ph.D., Wendi Danielle Pierce, Jennifer Richards, Janice Van Cleave
- (1993) Holly Cross, Jane Ellen Fairfax, Phyllis Randolph Frye, Rev. Canon, Clinton R. Jones, Peggy Rudd, Christina Young
- (1994) Marsha Botzer, Marilyn Irving, Ginny Knuth, Alison Laing, JoAnn Roberts, Wendy Parker
- (1995) Laura Caldwell, Dallas Denny, Leslie Feinberg, James Green, Linda Peacock, Sharon Ann Stuart
- (1996) Sandra Cole, Jane Fee, Joan Sheldon
- (1997) Linda Buten, Nancy R. Nangeroni, Vern Bullough, RN, Ph.D.
- (1998) Holly Boswell, Judy Osborne, Sharon & Abby Saypen
- (1999) JoAnne Law, Maxwell Anderson, Kate Bornstein
- (2000) Anthony Barreto-Neto, Dawn Wilson, Mary Boenke

\*Groups and events are no longer eligible for this award

**PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY AWARD**

Previous recipients (see nomination form)

**THE AWARDS SELECTION PROCESS**

The Virginia Prince and Trinity Awards are the transgender community's highest awards. Although these awards are sponsored and coordinated by IFGE, they are not intended to be IFGE's awards. Nominations are open to the entire transgender community. The final selection is made by a committee of respected members and friends of the community who have agreed to serve on the Selections Academy and vote for the recipients. The members of the Selection Academy are not necessarily members of IFGE, and must not be a current Director of IFGE. Since the nominations are made by the transgender community at large, and the final selections are made by the Academy, these awards are truly the Transgender Community Awards.

**SCHEDULE FOR PROCESSING THE VIRGINIA PRINCE & TRINITY AWARDS:**

1. Eight months before the Annual IFGE Convention, a call for nominations is sent to IFGE members and members and friends of the transgender community. Nominations are returned to the Chair of the Awards Committee.
2. Six months prior to the Convention, the Awards Committee prepares and mails ballots for the two awards to the Selection Academy.
3. Each member of the Selection Academy completes their ballot and returns it to the Awards Committee. The votes are counted and the recipients of the awards are notified prior to the Convention.
4. The Awards are presented at ceremonies during the Annual Convention.

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## NOMINATION FOR THE VIRGINIA PRINCE LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD 2001

### CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY FOR VIRGINIA PRINCE LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

The Virginia Prince Award is given to a person who has made a lifetime contribution to our community. The recipient **must**:

1. Be a living member of the transgender community.
2. Be a leader or pioneer who has been instrumental in the development of the community.
3. Have actively served the transgender community for a minimum of ten years.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For the one nominee whom you believe is most deserving, please supply:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit 1-3 paragraphs in support of your nominee.

Return to:

**IFGE Awards Committee**

**PO Box 540229**

**Waltham, MA 02454-0229**

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

## NOMINATION FOR TRINITY AWARD 2001

### CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A TRINITY AWARD

The Trinity Award acknowledges heroes and heroines of the transgender community, people who have performed extraordinary acts of love and courage. Everyone is eligible to receive this award; they need not be transgendered themselves. They can be any living individual or couple. Look for little known or unacknowledged people who have done something extraordinary.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For the one nominee whom you believe is most deserving, please supply:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit 1-3 paragraphs in support of your nominee.

Return to:  
**IFGE Awards Committee**  
**PO Box 540229**  
**Waltham, MA 02454-0229**

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

## NOMINATION FOR THE PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY AWARD 2001

### CRITERIA OF ELIGIBILITY FOR A PARTNERS IN DIVERSITY AWARD

This award was established to recognize companies, corporations and government agencies that have adopted comprehensive policies of diversity regarding employment and service to customers or clients. The policy must be all-inclusive, specifying non-discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, disability, as well as transgender. The Awards Committee will seek documentation to verify the eligibility of any nominees and make recommendations to the IFGE Board of Directors, who will determine the final selection.

Previous recipients: 1996 American Airlines, The State of Minnesota; 1997 Xerox Corporation; 1998 MAC Corporation (Canada); 1999 Lucent Technology; 2000 Apple Computer, Inc.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For the one nominee whom you believe is most deserving, please supply:

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit 1-3 paragraphs in support of your nominee and also submit documentation verifying the company's diversity policy.

Return to:

**IFGE Awards Committee**

**PO Box 540229**

**Waltham, MA 02454-0229**

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

A Natal Woman's Perspective

# Acceptance? Try to see it from the other side

by M.

*This essay was written to me by a correspondent who is the wife of a crossdresser. It provides an interesting perspective on the issue of how things must seem from the outside. Permission has been granted for reprinting (as long as the text is not altered).*

To get a true understanding of how your wife may feel, imagine a reversed situation where you would be the one embarrassed.

Say for instance, she decided after 14 years of marriage that she wanted to join a nudist colony. You didn't like it, but you figured it was just a phase, so you let her do it begrudgingly. You were sure that she'd become uncomfortable with it and stop on her own.

You refused to go with her despite all her prompting because you are not comfortable with it. But instead of it being a phase, she goes the other way and decides to do it more frequently; you begin to see an obsession forming and often you come home to find her walking around the house in the nude. This really upsets you because you are afraid the children will see her, and you don't want your kids to think of their mom in that way. She usually gets dressed ONLY when she thinks you're coming home... but on a few occasions, you've surprised her and caught her even gardening in the nude! What will the neighbors think!

Then one night when the kids are all at a friends house, she comes home from work in the nude. Apparently she just stripped off all her clothes when she got in the car, and drove home like that. You get pretty irate about it, and she doesn't understand what the big deal is because she got dressed in the driveway before walking into the house. She says, "I don't know why you are making such a big deal about it. No one saw me." Yet you find it hard to believe that people didn't gawk at this woman driving naked.

Your imagination runs wild.. What if the neighbors saw her dressing in the car! What if someone you knew had seen her! What if the kids had seen her! She dismisses your anger by telling you that there is nothing wrong with what she is doing, just because YOU see it as wrong. That you should come to one of her NAKEDNESS meetings where you could meet other couples who are comfortable with the whole thing.

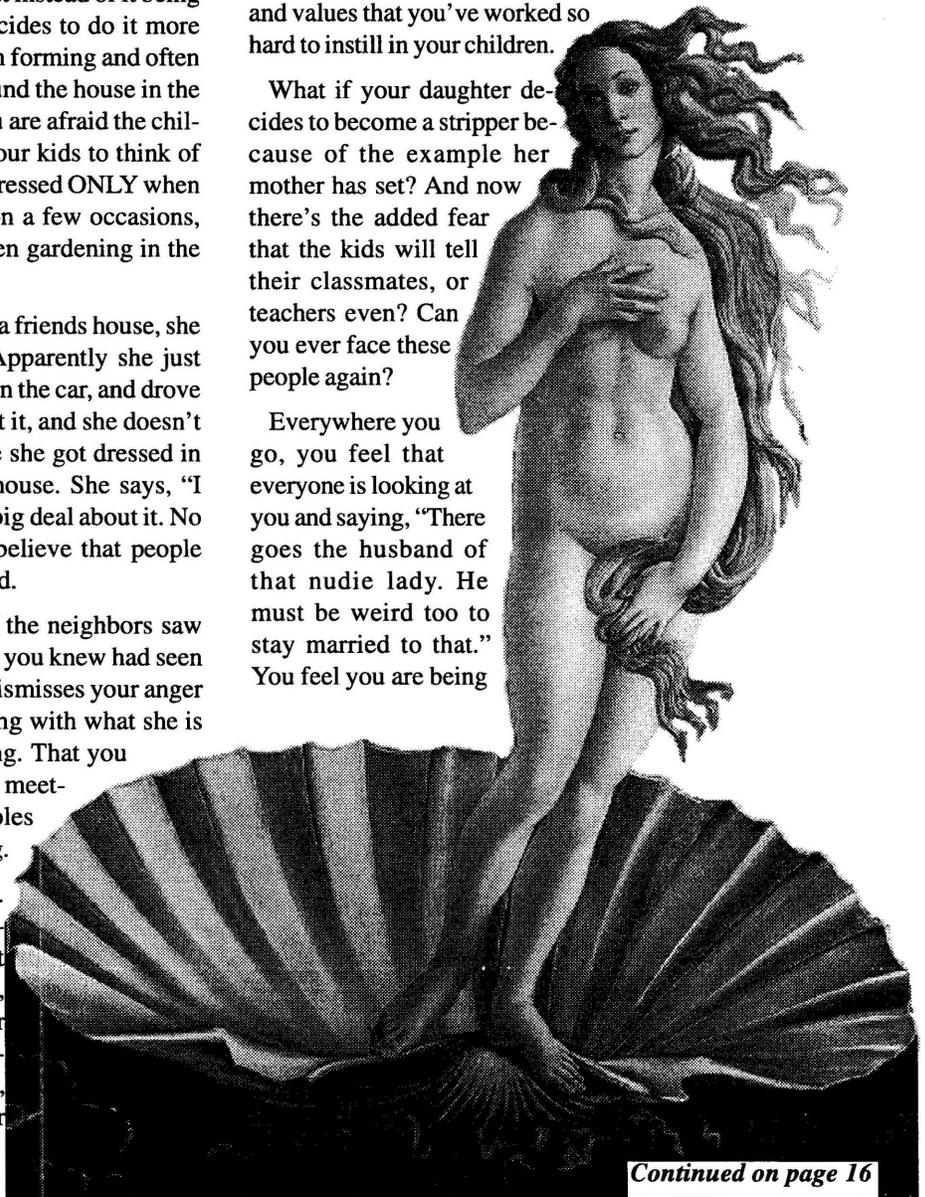
Next she starts getting more daring. She'll go to the office with no bra or panties on. You know people notice at least the bra part. But similar to your situation, she just views it as "underdressing" or "under undressing" in this case. You argue a lot over it. To her it's no big deal, but to you... it's not how you want your wife to be viewed by her co-workers.

One day she comes home and tells you that while working in the office on a holiday weekend, her co-worker who is the wife of your best friend and neighbor, walked in on her, and she was working in the nude! You are just beside yourself with humility. How will you ever face them again?

The relationship really starts to splinter when she slips up and leaves nude photos of herself at the nudist colony laying around and the kids discover them. You two have to tell the kids what's going on. "Kids, your mom is a nudist." But then she goes on to explain to them that there's really nothing wrong with wanting to be nude. You shouldn't be ashamed of your body. The kids seem accepting of it... and now your imagination soars. You envision your household becoming a nudist colony, and fear the damage to morals and values that you've worked so hard to instill in your children.

What if your daughter decides to become a stripper because of the example her mother has set? And now there's the added fear that the kids will tell their classmates, or teachers even? Can you ever face these people again?

Everywhere you go, you feel that everyone is looking at you and saying, "There goes the husband of that nudie lady. He must be weird too to stay married to that." You feel you are being



Continued on page 16

# Dreams?

By Anthony Barreto-Neto

Yesterday's aspirations and dreams  
have become today's reality;  
that seems enough to say.

Can it be explained? then why, I wonder  
if I got what I dreamed for,  
or merely played out my part on stage

My thoughts reminisce, my mind explores;  
what do you think I was thinking ?  
was it conscious, a deliberate thought or dream  
or did it slip up on me and insert itself into my thoughts?  
where did it come from, I ask myself,  
and did I really get what I dreamed?

Am I another lost Dr. King who has a dream  
but has no ideas, no illusion of its fulfillment?

Maybe I could dream again  
for something closer to what I did dream,  
make a conscious effort to place it in  
a corner of my mind that retrieves;  
then I'll know when it happens, if it is really what I dreamt to begin....

Does it translate itself and mildly pull me along in its trail,  
morning after morning, following a dream of someone else's mind?  
Nevermind, as long as it worked I'll drift in and out as I go.  
but what if its path is contrary to the person who made it first.

Maybe then I will be lost in a maze, trying desperately to find the right curve  
to take me back to the time of dreams, and mellow in its tender flesh;  
or maybe I will find myself looking back  
at the lonely face in the mirror and jump in to help her, or him, or who?

Dreams, yours, someone else's, how do we know how different they are?  
Maybe you brewed mine as I yours and we haven't figured it out yet,  
we don't know they're different because they are dreams,  
and one can dream sometimes, such strange things.

We can dream that we can actually be a part of a system, hmm ,did I say that,  
or world where we really make a difference, or at least influence an event;  
or do we just listen to the distant flute, find peace and safety where we  
are not dreaming but awake in the reality of the moment?



## SF PRIDE FESTIVAL SPEECH BY DANA RIVERS

June 24, 2000, San Francisco CA

One year ago, I was an award-winning high school teacher working near Sacramento, California. The end of my eighth year in the classroom was over, and I anticipated a summer full of new adventures. Little did I know then that in the weeks and months to follow, my life story would be splashed across the pages of every major newspaper and television screen in the country. The reason? I am a transsexual woman. My decision to follow my doctor's advice and begin living life in my appropriate gender role hurled me from the complacent world of straight white male privilege into a whirlwind of discrimination and ignorance. Since those fateful days a year ago, I lost my job, my home, my marriage, and my financial security. Were it not for the compassion of friends and family, and a deeply rooted spirituality, I believe that my very dignity would have been swept away.

Why is this? Why was I subjected to the ridicule of elected school board members who stated publicly that getting me out of the classroom was a "holy issue?" Why were there no laws to protect me, as a transgendered individual, from their moralistic tirade? While most students and parents in the community supported my efforts to remain, it took just a few bigoted zealots to create an atmosphere of intolerance at my school. The time for quiet acceptance of this behavior is over. Our collective silence on matters of gender-based discrimination must end and the reason is not just because what happened to me is wrong. Regardless of whether we are straight or queer, consider that my problems are your problems. What happened to me can happen to you.

When a queer person is victimized by discrimination, the perpetrator is rarely motivated by who we are sleeping with. Rather, it is often the victim's gender expression that causes the problem. Whether it be a flaming gay man, crew-cut butch lesbian, or a young person that chooses to dress and act gender-queer... these people are from my tribe, as they are from yours. They are subject to the same heinous behavior that I was subjected to, and in far more tragic circumstances, that Brandon Teena and Matthew Shepard were subjected to. My friends, it is our silence, which is far too often mistaken for acceptance, that allows this to happen.

-Copyright by Dana Lee Rivers 6/24/2000

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# CALL FOR NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FOR: IFGE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## *Nominations due by October 1, 2000*

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

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

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

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

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

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

Once you have determined whom you wish to nominate:

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

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

Please send your nominations to

**IFGE Board Nominations Committee**  
**PO Box 540229**  
**Waltham, MA 02454-0229**

OR e-mail your nominations to: [nancyjc@ifge.org](mailto:nancyjc@ifge.org) - please include the words "Board Nominations" on the subject line.

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

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

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

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Your address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

For the nominee, please supply:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit 1-3 paragraphs in support of your nominee.

Return to:

**IFGE Board Nominations Committee**

**PO Box 540229**

**Waltham, MA 02454-0229**

OR e-mail to: [nancyjc@ifge.org](mailto:nancyjc@ifge.org) - please include the words "Board Nominations" on the subject line.

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

Local Profile - New York City

# A unifying theme at the Pride parade

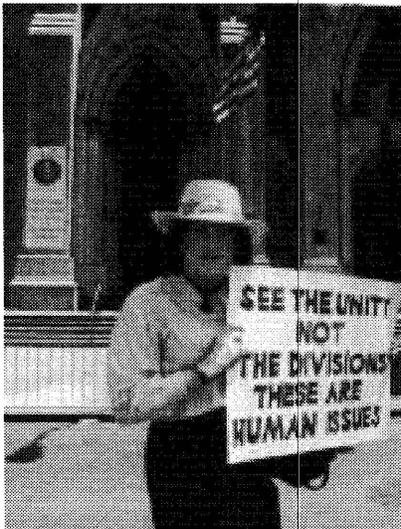
There are several transgender-oriented groups that meet in or near New York City. This year's Heritage of Pride parade on June , was an event that drew participants from across the transgender spectrum.

Among the groups having representatives at the Parade:

- American Boyz
- Chi Delta Mu Chapter of Tri-Ess
- Crossdressers International - NYC
- Gender Identity Project
- The Imperial Court of New York
- Metro Gender Network
- Metropolitan North TG Alliance
- NYAGRA

While some of the transcommunity marched with in the gender section, others marched together with other organizations.

One of the themes of the parade was echoed by James Dale, former Eagle Scout and assistant scoutmaster, and the plaintiff in the case recently decided by the US Supreme Court, regarding embracing the larger community as we move forward.



CDI president Nancy Lamar striking a pose (above) in front of Saint Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue, near the start of the June 26th Heritage of Pride parade.



Pictured at the top , the representatives of Metro Gender Network proudly carry their banner proclaiming transgender pride and empowerment.

Below, we show one of the Gender Identity Project's banners being carried down Fifth Avenue, proclaiming (somewhat wordily despite the abbreviations) that "You don't have to be 'L' 'G' or 'B' to be 'Queer.' Celebrate the Transgender Experience."

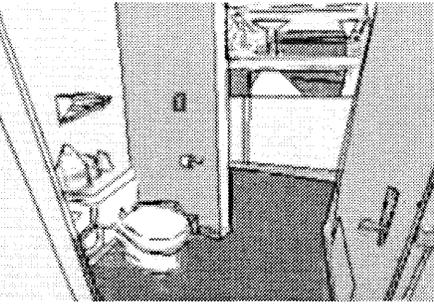
Despite the small numbers relative to the entire parade population- our total of marchers in different contingents throughout the parade can be numbered in the hundreds out of the hundreds of thousands of marchers, the transgender community of New York City showed solidarity, as members of every significant TG group were somewhere in the parade.

Photo Credit: Kelly McDaniels



# Boston bathroom issue clarified by IFGE staff

Times are changing in Boston, the city that once banned Christine Jorgensen from performing in the 1950's. The City's Metropolitan Boston Transit Authority (MBTA) recently spent \$8,000 to build a third bathroom with a separate shower in a former porter's closet at a maintenance facility to accommodate a transsexual employee.



A view of the bathroom, from the shower

Still, when the story broke in early June 2000, it became the talk of the town. Transit officials were careful to point out that the bathroom wasn't built just for the transsexual employee. Any other employee who needs privacy also can use the space.

The Boston Herald coverage on June 6th extensively quoted IFGE Director of Operations, Sara Herwig for background on the whole "bathroom issue" as it applies to transsexuals who transition on the job.

From the article:

"Current medical standards of care require that people undergoing a gender change live in the identity of the new gender for at least a year before the final

surgery is allowed that will complete the change, said Sara Herwig, director of operations for the International Foundation for Gender Education in Waltham.

"Herwig stressed that she was unfamiliar with any of the details of the MBTA situa-

tion, but said "the bathroom issue" is the most common problem for employers who are dealing with workers making a gender transition.

"The person who's transitioning is absolutely stuck in the middle with no place to go," she said. "Some companies don't understand that."

"The process may take years as the transsexual saves to pay for treatment and surgery that is rarely covered by health insurance, she added."

Executive Director Nancy Cain spent some time fielding questions that came from the broadcast media. She appeared on three local television news programs, as well as the NECable News.

Nancy also appeared on WBZ's David Brudnoy talk show and discussed the issue with callers. Their comments ranged from "it's just not right" to "hooray for the MBTA!"

## Acceptance? Seeing the other side of things

*Continued from page 11*

judged by her actions. After all, as a married couple you two are supposed to be two halves of a whole.

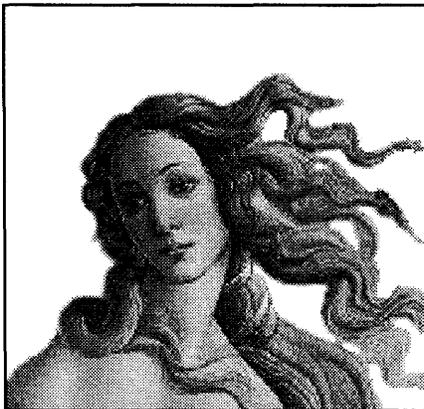
You start to drift apart from her. You've been to counseling together, but you're beginning to think that divorce is the only answer. You want your normal life back. You don't want to be pointed out and laughed at any more. You are angry with her for the kids finding out. You feel that she had NO RIGHT to do that. You are really angry with her for destroying your comfort zone. Everything was so perfect before this nude thing.

You feel she must've known before you were married. You feel betrayed and deceived. You begin to cast blame. You blame the nudist camp for influencing her to get deeper. You berate yourself for not having good judgment; you should've put your foot down when she first mentioned it. But because you let her sample the waters, thinking she'd come to her senses, your life has been destroyed. At least life as you knew it. Blissful life that it was in comparison. You fight all the time now.. and she just cannot see things from your view, nor you from hers.

She begs you to go to the NAKEDNESS meeting with her. Finally, she convinces you to go. The meeting is held at a nudist camp type hotel on the beach. Mostly everyone is

walking around nude. You are incredibly embarrassed for them. Even the waiters and waitresses are naked. There are a few who are dressed, one of which is you. You feel so out of place. Your wife tries to make it comfortable and light, but the more comfortable she is... the more uncomfortable you are.

This is like Alice In Wonderland... you've fallen into another dimension where normality doesn't exist. Your mind is stretched to the limit. "What is reality? Is this for real? How can it be with all these naked people walking around acting like they're the normal ones, and I'm the weirdo?" The meeting is very uncomfortable for you because all these other men can see your wife naked. It makes you feel very vulnerable and embarrassed. To you, in your mind, your wife and her body should be for your eyes only. Even though she's not cheating on you... you feel betrayed.



In the meeting for spouses, you learn more about what makes her want to be naked, you come out understanding what drives her.. but you are still uncomfortable. She wants you to join the colony and be nude with her.... but in your heart, you know this will never be something you can adjust to. Yet you fear losing her to those people. How long before she will be engaging in some perverse sexual act. You envision all kinds of open orgies happening. So what do you do?