



Denver

APRIL

'COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER'

1991

Vol. 5

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No. 5

Kirk Authors Book on Hormones

Sharon Ann Stuart

Dr. Sheila Kirk, an obstetrics and gynecology specialist, is the author of a landmark gender community publication entitled "Hormones."

"This is a book that is long overdue," according to Sister Mary Elizabeth, Co-Director of the *Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County, California*.

"This book should be read cover to cover by anyone considering hormonal sex reassignment," Sister Mary Elizabeth adds. "I cannot overemphasize the importance of reading Dr. Kirk's book before starting hormone therapy."

Hormone abuse is a problem that has plagued the gender community for decades. IFGE participants and officials were unanimous in their praise for Kirk's contribution and many felt that it is a breakthrough that will have a far-reaching impact in raising the gender community's consciousness and knowledge of hormone issues.

Dr. Kirk hopes that the medical profession itself will use the booklet as well as other helping professions associated with the gender community.

The sixty page softcover publication sells for \$8.00 and is available from the IFGE.

Dr. Kirk is eminently qualified to advise the gender community on hormone use. A member of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Kirk received her degree from the Boston University School of Medicine, graduating in 1957.

Her internship and the greater part of her residency in Ob-Gyn took place in the University Hospitals in Buffalo. The remainder of her training was completed in Pittsburgh where she remained to continue in private practice.

Kirk's book is written with the lay person in mind and explains hormones from the glands up, so to speak. At the same time no area of critical concern to the reader is neglected, no matter how technical.

The book contains an excellent glossary of medical and pharmaceutical terms and gives equal emphasis to male and female issues.

Dr. Kirk is expected to retire from private practice in July, 1991, after which she plans to relocate to the Boston area where she expects to continue her service to the gender community.

Male and Female Issues: Why Does He Act Like That?

By Dianna Cicotello

Most female relationships are based on connectedness and rapport. There are the feelings and dependencies between two females that tie together into a network of (mostly verbal) communication. When a woman speaks, she tries to get the listener to feel what she feels, usually by building a complete and believable scenario in the listener's mind.

On the other hand, male relationships are based on accomplishments. When males talk to each other, they talk about challenges and the storms they've survived. Their talk is a constant session of bragging; proving their strength and courage by relating stories about their own personal conquests.

This has a base in history. Women had to know they could depend on each other while the men were away, yet still feel that it was a man who was taking care of her. Men needed to prove they were strong in order to find the most desirable woman for their needs. It is this way in nature, it is this way in human relationships.

When communicating, each sex has their own way of expressing their involvement in a conversation. When a man is listening, understanding, and accepting principles, he nods his head.

When women communicate, they rely a bit more on the verbal, "Uh huh," and nodding of the head. This simultaneous agreement makes it a bit harder for women to express understanding and acceptance.

Male culture can be considered "vertical." They need to know where they stand; who is over or under them. They play a game by putting each other down so they can feel higher than a rival. In fact, they fear those who are equal with them, for if a man is close to them, they are terrified of being/becoming "gay."

The woman's world is the world of equality, of fairness. Their world is horizontal. When a man fouls up, his superior ignores his accomplishments, his quests, and the challenges the man has gotten through and simply fires him. When a woman errs, her fellow women take away her connectedness. She must apologize, or she is simply ignored. She must either get back into the continuum, or she goes so far off-center that no one will have anything to do with her. Women's' groups tend to have no leaders nor vertical structure.

Where are we? Somewhere in the middle, for only people who share both sides can work between the cultures. It keeps the world from being absolutely black or white, and therefore we can make the world a better place.

Speaking in a More Feminine Manner

by Anne

After the dressing, speaking is the most important - and difficult - part of being feminine. Alison Laing opened this session by asking why we want to speak in a more feminine manner. The consensus answer was "in order to pass", and to help fulfill the feminine roll. The main goal of this workshop was to establish the necessary basic concepts.

Wendy Parker then ran what amounted to a full-scale workshop in speaking and communicating in 'feminise' - which she later referred to as "their native language", and which requires techniques not dissimilar to those used by singers.

A higher pitch is not only not necessarily better, but may even be worse, with a falsetto being a positive 'give away'. Women consider a lower pitch as being sexier. However, be warned, smoking and shouting actually lower the pitch over a period of time, which you may not want. If you find the median pitch of your voice by gently humming, and then raise this by no more than three tones, this is about the right 'feminine' pitch, and the speaking voice can then be modulated by around three tones up or down from this median. Males tend to speak in more of a monotone but you should speak 'musically', emphasizing rhythm, melody and cadence, slowing down the pace and elongating the vowels, and ending sentences with an upwards inflexion, as women tend to phrase things as questions rather than statements. Some accents (such as that of a southern lady) can help the process - as long as they can be made to sound genuine.

Another difference is that women use a much wider vocabulary than men, with a greater range of adjectives and adverbs - for example where a man would say 'pleasant', a woman would say 'charming', and where a man would say 'I like chocolate' a woman might say 'I just love chocolate'. Women are more polite and courteous when speaking with others and use much more body language. They keep their limbs tucked in more than do men, and (for example) stand with their legs together rather than apart. However, it is a mistake to be 'limp-wristed', which is more a sign of being gay.

The content of ones speech is all important. Women face each other and make eye contact, leaning forward and touching one another while speaking - something which they see as re-assuring, but which men see as threatening behavior. They also listen more than men, and don't interrupt one another. They will be more intimate and talk of personal relationships rather than about 'power play'.

There is a difference between your 'head voice' and a 'chest voice', with women using more of the 'head voice', speaking as into (and through) a mask. Wendy suggested that you should find a female 'role model' - maybe an actress or TV presenter - and make a tape of her voice, then playing it back and speaking along with it trying to emulate her. Most importantly, when taping yourself doing this, don't be too judgmental and hard on yourself.

Alison Laing apologized to women that we tend to stereotype them when trying to talk in a feminine manner. Realistic feminine speech means adopting a state of mind and constantly remembering that we are female, so that we behave in a feminine way. When using the wider female vocabulary it helps to be aware of a wide range of different colors and smells. Asking for a red dress is not nearly as effective as specifying the shade of red.

Actual voice production is helped by talking with a smile rather than with the lips pursed up into an 'O'. This cuts out much of the lower range of pitch of the voice: and when in close company a little breathiness sound more intimate and sexy. Some accents - such as that of the 'Southern Belle', also help distract from the voice itself, although one must be able to use the accent properly. It helps to break the ice and start conversations spontaneously. The listener then thinks more about his reply than about the voice, which tend to be accepted. A little self-confidence goes a long way, and making eye contact while speaking helps to balance the voice and produce the desired response.

This well-attended workshop was probably one of the most practically helpful for the TV in this week's program, and each of the presenters has written a book on the subject. They also strongly recommended "You just don't understand" by Deborah Tannen.

Crossdressers and their Relationships Rules for Negotiations

Presented by Georgia Green

This seminar presented many of the problems of marital relationships that all couples experience. Ms. Green wanted to give us some things to take home and try.

Designed for all couples, the session's strategies are readily adapted to crossdressers. "Happily, most marriages can be improved," said Georgia.

According to the program, there are three keys to improving relationships: communication, empathy and compromise. Communication is more than talk. Empathy is a special quality of the feminine side. Compromise avoids the win/lose and zero sum games that harm relationships.

Georgia cited several myths about marriage and gave us some "Rules to Foster Negotiation." These are practical little guidelines to make our lives with our partners a little better.

Finally, the group practiced an exercise in listening and talking. This was a practical session, rich with new insights.

New Vision of Gender

by Ari Kane

The Outreach Institute is proud to announce a new all day program for all people concerned with personal growth and gender issues. *New Visions of Gender* will focus on new perceptions of gender, ranging from Gender Blending to new aspects of understanding femininity and masculinity. This program will take place in Boston on Saturday, September 28, 1991.

For complete details and registration please write to the:

Outreach Institute
405 Western Avenue
Suite 345
S. Portland, ME 04106

Fantasia Fair Follies Special Showing

Ari Kane

There will be a special showing of the 1990 Fan/Fair Follies and Fashion Show after the IFGE banquet.

It will begin at 11:00 PM in suite 1707 of the Regency Hotel.

See Nancy Cole or myself for details.

Electronic Bulletin Board Systems

Did you know that there are a number of services, available via MODEM, which allow you to communicate with others in the community and acquire text and information on many issues?

Called BBSes (Bulletin Board Systems), these services are provided at either no, or minimal cost - a far cry from the hourly connect fees required by many of the major national providers (e.g. CompuServe). Some of these systems are connected to others over national networks such as FIDO. Through these networks, one can communicate with others thousands of miles away by making only a local telephone call.

While the latter can be effective, one should weigh the ease of public conversation with many against the "open" nature of messages which are transferred to many, many computer systems and which are read by even more people. Local systems, which do require you to pay for the telephone call, provide a more "intimate" and "friendly" atmosphere.

One need not "choose" one type of system over another, that is, both are available and can be used effectively. Using the networked system to discuss major issues and concepts, and the local (or private) system for more personal interaction, seems to make sense to most.

Several BBSes also have "private" (or closed) "areas" exclusively for the gender (and other) communities. While locating these systems can be difficult, it is often worth the effort involved, as they carefully screen the participants. While you may not know the "real name" of the person with whom you are discussing emotional and sensitive issues, you can feel comfortable that s/he is really a member or friend of the community.

In order to help you locate all of the above types of BBSes, we have three representative samples.

TERRANET BBS

is sponsored by J2CP Information Services and provides over 8Mb (8 Million Characters) of full-text files on gender-related issues, as well as Electronic Mail (E-Mail) conferencing.

Hours: 2:00 P.M. to 10:00 A.M. PST Mon-Fri, 24 hrs. on weekends.

Telephone: (714) 248-2836

Modem Parameters: 2400 baud, 8N1

TelePeople BBS

is a FIDONET BBS providing extensive areas of communication for almost everyone. International "echos" range from technical to adult, and include special areas for the CD/TS/TV and Gay communities. There is a small annual fee for some of the specialty areas to help defray the telephone and equipment costs. E-Mail, both local and Network Wide (i.e. you can enter and receive messages from or to over 10,000 systems world-wide), is available.

Hours: 24 hrs. except mail hours (1:00-3:00 A.M. Mtn. Time)

Telephone: (303) 426-1942

Modem Parameters: 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1

CrossLink

is a private, exclusive, message section available only to members of the CD/TS/TV/Gender-Conflicted community. Text and data relating to community issues, as well as local E-Mail and conversation / discussions are available. CrossLink is a part of the overall BBS; while it is active, it is not the primary use of the BBS.

Hours: 24 hrs

Telephone: For Information, please contact Deirdre O'Connor at the Gender Identity Center of Colorado, 3715 W. 32nd Ave., Denver, CO 80211, (303)458-5378

Bridges to the World

Moderated by Merissa and introduced by Laura Smiley

This seminar featured four invited presenters from various groups. Laura introduced the topic as a development from Merissa's Synergism Seminar from Boston in 1990.

Rena is a *shaman* with the Kiowa tribe, a Vietnam veteran, and a jewelry maker. She opened with a prayer and a special blessing. She then gave a view of a society without the culturally imposed isolation that gender people usually experience. This society is the Native American culture. Rena further described her experience in the recovery of some of the native cultural norms that celebrated gender diversity and expression.

Next, Evonne R. of Pflag, said that she enjoyed meeting us eye to eye. She observed that diversity is our bond. Love and acceptance must be to all. The first step is to learn that we must accept ourselves.

Sue Anderson, from the Gay and Lesbian support groups, spoke on the need mutual support among our various communities. Sue sees the need for a Bridge from the Gay-Lesbian community to the TV/TS community. Our similar problems with coping and *Coming Out* pull us together. We are so very different in some ways and yet we have so much in common.

Finally, Carolina asked "Where is Wonder Woman?" She presented a story of the Navajo Twins who were reunited at the Sand Painting.

The group separated into smaller discussion groups to identify barriers and issues of inter-group communication. In summary we identified several action steps to be pursued; most important, direct interaction between ourselves and the members of the groups in other parts of our wider community of sexual minority groups. The main point of this seminar was that the source of the action is the person we see in our mirror. We must take responsibility to ensure our own happiness.

New Women's Conference

by Ari Kane

There will be a first of its kind *National Conference for New Women* on the weekend of September 20-22, 1991.

Its objectives are:

- To come together and start the process of networking.
- To explore new avenues towards better economics and professional status.
- To share post surgical and medical problems and issues.
- To improve personal social development areas.
- To discuss the diversity of life styles available to the New Woman.

It is strictly for the post operative (M-F).

For details and brochure, please write to:

The Outreach Institute
405 Western Avenue
Suite 345
S. Portland, ME 04106

or see Christina Young at the IFGE Convention.

Who Are We Anyway?

by Bruce Dane

And, how do we make all of this happen?

The daily newsletter staff is headed by *Kerri Reeder* (Communications Coordinator), who has been the ultimate in leaders by delegating authority and responsibility, while making sure that everything happens.

The chief cooks (and computer watchers) have been *Michelle and Bruce Dane* who have seen that everything is entered, checked, shipped, manipulated, moved, edited, typeset, and returned to sender (er, printed). If you have been pleased by the newsletter, Michelle also runs *Ground Zero Publications* [OK, it's a plug - but she deserves it for all her work] - P.O. Box 486, Louisville, CO 80027, (303) 426-1847.

Without the daily and invaluable help of *Jenny Stevens*, none of this might have happened. Jenny has done all of the onerous and dangerous jobs, from staying up all night to nurse a sick copier, to making sure that people get sleep, food, and the much-needed break. We just don't know what we would have done without her. She's become a friend to everyone who has met her - epitomizing the phrase "to know her is to love her!" Oh, and by the way, Jenny was one of this year's winners of the IFGE Scholarship - way to go!

Let us not forget *Sharon Ann Stuart* (and who could?! So many times she has come to the rescue, sitting in front of the tiny, hard to read screen of the portable computer, pounding in story after story (earning byline after byline), all the time freezing to the chair, only her fingers and eyes moving to let you know she's still alive. Sharon... uh... Sharon... Quick! Someone get the defroster!

And, *Anne* - you're wonderful, too. Not only do you write well, and not only are you willing to beat the keyboard into submission, but you are just so... so... great. And you stay so calm, too. How do you manage? Thanks. Just remember to hang around to get into the picture next time.

Brenda Larson, who thought she didn't do much, but who got things done when everyone else was burned out, toasted, fried and otherwise "out of it". Thank you very much. Couldn't have done it without you.

Hey, *Reneè*... Told you that you would get mentioned. You're the one responsible for the photos from the convention. Thank you - we really needed them, and you made them available. That's *Reneè Chevalier*, folks - a great photographer!

We KNOW we've missed many others, but, darn it, we told you to write down your name so we wouldn't forget or misspell (oops) it. It's 6:00 AM, Saturday, as this is being written, and we know that we've missed someone important. We apologize - really we do - for not heaping the well-deserved gratitude on you.

And, of course, there are all the folks around here, from *Yvonne* (who has more than earned respect and praise for her dedication and devotion) to *Roxanne* (who ran around, without notice, to get supplies for the hungry computer) to *Aleta* (who, if she ribs me one more time about my kilt...) to *Jane* (who has, more than once, jumped in to help with menial tasks) to...

Oh yes, *YOU* - yes you who have come here, helped, been friendly, caring, and giving. Without your support, without the "you're doing a great job - thank you," without the "It's 9 O'clock - where is that **** Newsletter?!?" it would not have been worth it. Thank you - We love you all.

Jerry Montgomery Calls for Cooperation

by Sharon Ann Stuart

Jerry Montgomery, Co-Director (with his spouse) of the Montgomery Institute in Atlanta, Georgia, spoke to the IFGE Luncheon crowd on Friday and called for continuing contact and cooperation among gender community groups nationwide.

Montgomery, whose organization is regarded as the foremost transsexual support group in the southeast region, admitted to feeling somewhat isolated in what he described as the Atlanta backwoods. But Montgomery stressed the importance of group interaction through electronic bulletin boards, newsletters, referrals and attendance at regional and national gatherings such as IFGE conventions.

"This convention is a wonderful place to learn and grow," Montgomery said. "There are a lot of things we do not understand about ourselves. We cannot ask outsiders to understand us if we do not understand ourselves," he continued.

Montgomery sees diversity as a plus and notes that the differences in various gender groups lend strength and flexibility to the community as a whole.

"What helps one of us helps us all. Whatever we do for one another now, improves the future for each of us," Montgomery concluded.

Montgomery's group will sponsor their first regional gathering in Atlanta on October 3 - 6, 1991. The event is being billed as *Southern Comfort*.

Socialization

This seminar was part of the TS program presented by Christina Young. In this segment Christina was assisted by Jennifer Matanky.

The purpose of this segment was to provide the participants with some insights into successfully resocializing themselves. The TS person must learn to manage new relationships, to communicate with other women as a woman, and with men as a woman.

Starting places, such as volunteer groups, Church organizations, the League of Women Voters, and environmental groups were suggested.

Christina used the "buddy system." She and her best friend would visit places together but circulate separately.

An important part of Christina's message is "maintain control of the relationship, especially where men are involved. You must communicate to a man the limits of the relationship from your perspective. If the relationship is to become intimate, he must know what to expect and what is possible. No surprises."

Jennifer spoke about how to make new friends. "We need to interact with others; we grow together. But we are vulnerable when we try to establish new relationships." One of the most important phases of transition for the TS is crossing the "Fear Point."

The key, in Jennifer's words, is our projection of ourselves. "Are we self-confident? Can we be caring and sharing?" People want support and caring from others. That is the basis of friendship.

Jennifer also observed that in most cases, a personal relationship is non-sexual in nature. Intimacy does not require sex. If need be, however, it is acceptable to tell him that you have some physical defect that makes conventional sex impossible at that time.

Above all, be certain that your needs and limits are known to your companion. Your partner must know what to expect.

Last Minute Change

Couples-Only Seminar in Room 110 Today.

Georgia Green will lead a continued session on "Discussions Relevant to Couples" from 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.

Thanks to an Admirer

The Entire Staff would like to thank the *ANONYMOUS* donor of all those lovely roses.

They are beautiful – just like you – whoever you are!

F2M Program Notes

Roger Peo will be making a special appearance to speak to the Female-to-Male Group on Saturday at 10:30 A.M. in room 112. He will be discussing therapists and their relationship to the F2M.

Jerry Montgomery will be making a presentation concerning referrals to various doctors and clinics for the F2M transsexual on Saturday at 2:30 P.M. He will also discuss results of the surgeries as well as the patients' satisfaction levels.

Gender Awareness & Information Network (GAIN)

GAIN is a network for helping professionals organized by the *Human Outreach and Achievement Institute*, which offers unique programs as well as information on gender issues.

GAIN's programs enable health care professionals to network among themselves on counseling and therapy issues.

For membership information please write to:

GAIN/Outreach Institute
405 Western Avenue
Suite 345
S. Portland, ME 04106

The Pool Party

by Anne

So where does everyone go, when it's late at night and snowing outside?

Where better than a beach party - especially when the nearest beach is some 1000 miles away?

The indoor pool at the Regency provided a very acceptable alternative, however, and the lasses (and a few lads) took the opportunity to show off a wide selection of leisure and swim wear.

A few very hardy souls even ventured into the water and actually got their bathing suits (and their wigs) wet!

The main object, however, appeared to be having a good time, and between enjoying the liquid refreshments and showing off their outfits and figures, the girls were successful in achieving this.

A few questions remain unanswered.

How do some of you manage to get into a bikini and still look fabulous? (GGs look out. If Da'nelle ever decided to enter a bathing beauty contest, she would walk all over the competition).

How do some of you get away with outfits that I would not dare even wriggle into? And why isn't life more fair?

Never mind. A great time was had by all. Thanks to those who thought of it, those who made it happen, and those who came along to enjoy it.

(But next time - let there be some sand on the beach).

The Professional Track

by Meera Dane

A closed day-long session for mental health professionals only, the *Professional Track* dealt with the myths and definitions of gender identity, along with exploration on helping therapists deal with gender-confused clients – outside the counselors' own personal biases.

We've all heard the myths before; "All transgendered people are homosexual," "All are homophobic," "These behaviors are weird, perverse.. even (shudder) deviant." The sessions dealt with how these attitudes affected the gender-conflicted individual.

There was also some clarification on the roles people struggled with when defining their own gender identity. There is an old saying, "The vision is false, the beauty is real," which perhaps could be translated in a way to express the concept of how we each see masculinity and femininity differently. These are the scripts we act out when we are living as either gender, and it was discussed as to how these conceptions were the real roots of many problems.

A major portion of the session dealt, primarily, with how to help crossdressers in therapy, and how to understand their points of view. Therapists need to understand the "Do what feels good and what you want, vs what is 'right' or 'good' as defined by society" conflicts. Discussion ensued upon the role of the therapist when dealing with gender-conflicted individuals and their chosen partners (husbands, wives, significant others, etc.)

There was talk about education being the role of the therapist, and how s/he is expected to explain the available choices as opposed to picking his or her own personal path for the patient. Also discussed were the compromises and sacrifices that had to be made for continued happiness when dealing with a patient's loved one.

Group conversations were held on the current hypothesise of the reasons behind gender identity conflicts, as well as the issue relating to the concept of "control." Safety, security, and social disclosure were also topics discussed in depth and detail.

The conclusion of the session covered the "*Hormone Magic Syndrome*," and how many conflicted individuals feel that hormones can solve everything. It was stressed, however, that therapists are guided by the "Standards of Care," which mentions there are psychological and physiological effects from using hormones. The helping professional must have no doubts about recommending them because they can cause severe and permanent damage.



Anne

Vocal Techniques for Crossdressers

by Sharon Ann Stuart

You are six feet, six inches tall, weigh 280 pounds and play middle linebacker for the Chicago Bears. When you talk your voice sounds like it's coming from the bottom of Carlsbad Caverns. Can you learn to speak like a woman well enough to fool Mike Ditka?

Probably not, according to Wendy Parker, who presented a popular seminar in the House of Commons room entitled "*Speaking In A More Feminine Manner*." However, Parker does feel confident that any male crossdresser or transsexual who desires to develop a more feminine speaking voice can do so using proven techniques and without the controversial surgery to shorten the vocal cords.

Parker, a noted musician, advised her listeners to speak with the musical scale in mind.

"There is a tendency for us (men) to try raising our voices a full octave when we want to imitate women's speech. But that's too much and it puts our voices into the falsetto which sounds phoney," Parker stated. "You need to find your normal, relaxed voice level and then raise it no more than three tones," Parker continued.

Parker also advised using a range of three tones up and three tones down the scale to create the musical quality which is common in feminine vocalization.

Other hints for better feminine speech included ending sentences with a raised inflection; using hyperbole in speech (That's a lovely jacket you have on); using more expressive gestures while keeping the limbs close in; leaning forward and establishing good eye contact; talking about subjects of feminine interest, e.g. relationships, clothing, children, cooking; talking in the mask, i.e. talking forward in the mouth and using the lips rather than letting the sound come from deep in the chest.

Parker advises reading "*You Just Don't Understand*" by Deborah Tannen (Morrow Press, New York, 1989) for those who wish to pursue feminine vocalization in greater detail.

Parker's best advice to those who would speak more femininely was to adopt a female role model and study her vocal habits. This can be done with the aid of audio recordings, or preferably video recordings, as feminine speech encompasses facial expressions as well as sound. Parker said her feminine voice model was Sigourney Weaver.

Listeners agreed that Parker had, indeed, succeeded admirably in mimicing his vocal idol. Now if she can only learn to emulate Weaver's body.

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Hollywood Premier

Jim Bridges is proud to present the most comprehensive, instructional make-up videos, made exclusively for the TV and TS community.

Featuring the finest techniques of beauty authority, Jim Bridges learned how to perform dynamic transformations with these easy to follow, step by step instructions.

Filmed on one-inch "beta" state of the art equipment, and professionally edited and produced, these videos provide exceptional clarity and value.

Wives and Female Partners Program

A dozen wives and partners met Friday to share common concerns for the most important people in our lives - our cross-dressing mates.

Coordinator Cynthia Phillips framed the discussions by presenting some observations based on her own 33 years of experience with her spouse, Linda, as well as countless hours spent counseling other cross-dressers and their wives in local support groups. Constantly stressing the need for communication, Cynthia encouraged us to share our fears, hopes, questions and concerns with our spouses.

"Always remember," she pointed out, "your husband loves you, desperately wants your love and acceptance, would not deliberately do something to hurt you and certainly does not want to lose you. He can't help who he is."

How to cope with certain areas of stress, and the need for setting limits with which both are comfortable were just some of the topics covered in three lively sessions.

Friday's program culminated with a viewing of the film "Husbands and Wives, Best Friends and Lovers." This warm hearted discussion of relationship issues by four crossdressing couples dispels misconceptions and conveys a message of love and hope in the ongoing struggles in our lives.

Saturday morning's sessions will begin with a discussion of the film, moderated by marriage and family therapist Susan Gurvech. Cynthia will wrap up the program with a further discussion of spouses' concerns Saturday afternoon. [Note: Please see schedule change.] All wives and female partners are strongly encouraged to attend. This is our opportunity to participate in the same kind of supportive group that our crossdressing spouses find so valuable.

Do come.

RAFFLE DRAWING

Don't forget the
Drawing for the
Exquisite
LITTLE GIRL
Print

[on display in Registration].

Each entry costs only One (\$1.00) Dollar.

Proceeds go to the IFGE
"Winslow Street" fund.

The drawing will be held during tonight's banquet.

Winner MUST be present to win
Get Your Tickets Now!



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Sunday, April 14, 1991

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Lind Receives Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award

by Sharon Ann Stuart

Betty Ann Lind of Alexandria, Virginia, is the recipient of the 1991 Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award.

The Prince Award is the highest and most prestigious award conferred by IFGE and within the gender community.

Previous recipients of the Prince Award are Virginia Prince herself (1987); Merissa Sherrill Lynn (1988); Ariadne Kane (1989); and Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE (1990).

For Lind the Prince Award is the culmination of a lifetime of crossdressing that began in childhood in a hotel on a "tree" street in the city of Chicago. Following a bout with rheumatic fever around the age of five Lind experienced his first skirts when female playmates dressed him as a girl for pretend games and named him Betty after a popular cartoon character, Betty Boop.

Crossdressing experiences continued throughout Lind's childhood and early adulthood. Along the way Lind earned a Master of Arts degree from the University of Minnesota.

Lind co-founded the Minnesota chapter of FPE in 1964. She served as the Mid-Atlantic Co-ordinator for Tri-Ess from 1976 - 1980 and has been the editor and publisher of "Our Sorority" from 1978 to the present.

Lind has held many offices in various crossdressing organizations. Most recently she has been a member of the IFGE Board of Directors since 1987.

Lind is no stranger to awards within the gender community. In 1980 she was honored with the Tri-Ess National Service Award. She was also recognized as Miss Fantasia Fair that same year. In 1978 Lind received a Service Award from the Outreach Institute.

Lind's popularity in the crossdressing community is universal and her name is known to crossdressers, transsexuals, their families and to helping professionals. She enjoys a reputation of caring and concern for her sisters that is seldom matched.

Asked Saturday afternoon, prior to receiving her honor, what message she might convey to the gender community following nearly fifty years of crossdressing, "Strength through unity," Lind replied. "All groups, no matter what their orientation, should work together for the common good. We are either going to survive together, or we will each hang separately," Lind added.

"The gender community needs to become part of the mainstream. We are not psychotic or abnormal in any way", Lind asserted. "We need to develop our economic and social resources. We need to acquire that power for ourselves. Once we acquire

power, once we have earned power, we will arrive at what they call the American Dream - the right to pursue our own happiness in our own way," Lind concluded.

Yvonne Cook, a Trinity Award recipient and IFGE official, was asked to comment on Betty Ann's contribution to the gender community.

"Like myself, and many others, Betty Ann has found a level of service within the gender community that grew out of her need to fulfill a dream," Cook said. "In pursuing and fulfilling her own dream Betty Ann has reached beyond herself and now she's helping everyone fulfill their dreams," Cook concluded.

Prince Award Citation For Betty Ann Lind

The following citation was read by Ariadne Kane to IFGE participants attending the closing banquet on Saturday night regarding Virginia Prince Award recipient Betty Ann Lind.

To Betty Ann Lind:

There are many plaudits, many praises and many notes of gratitude to be given to you. All of them fall short of what we want our message to be today. To be sure, those praises and thank-yous do accompany this statement to you. However, in order to make the words we express to you truly meaningful, something else is needed. Perhaps the one most important message we can give to you and to all who read this is simply expressed in this way.

Betty Ann - you have led a special and unique life, fully committed to your sisters. For over three decades you have given of yourself, your wisdom, your immense vitality and undivided attention to the transgendered community. You epitomize "The Many Little Kindnesses" you have urged others to keep in mind. You personify completely - devotion, steadfastness, and uninterrupted love in your service to this community. You have given totally to so many of us in so many ways through your participation in so many clubs and organizations. Your service to the severe demands of numerous committees, boards, and the leadership of the transgendered community is without peer.

Your accomplishments will never be forgotten, your example in sharing and giving will never be lost. Our gratitude and love will always be evident to you by our Kindnesses to those who walk with us and follow in our footsteps.

Thank you for your remarkable love - always know you have our enduring love in return.

A Time For Friends

by Jenny Stevens

As a member of the gender community, and as a member of the local GIC for about four years, I never could have thought that this much love could be found in one place. The warmth and compassion found here is to be compared to none.

As this is my first IFGE (hopefully not my last), I would just like to say to the recipients of the *Trinity* awards "Thank You for the devotion and unselfishness that you have shown" I would only hope that as I move closer to my goals in life that I might be as strong as you have been. I respect you all and honor the fact that I have met you and had the privilege of attending the *Trinity* awards. As the convention comes to an end, I hope to see more of you all and hope to get to know you all better in are travels and in sister publications.

As a recipient of one of the two scholarships given at the convention, again I must say I am honored and privileged, and only hope that I might live up to the quality and goals of the IFGE. I look around and look into the faces of all that are here, and see the happiness in their eyes – happiness that might not have been if it were not for the IFGE and the other organizations that have made it possible for us to see not only who we are but to be proud of who we are – Even in light of our critics. I know who I am and what I will be, and I am proud to be part of this community.

Now we start to pack our bags and move on to our next stop in life (going home). I will look back at the time I have spent in the past week and think of the friends I have made and the people I have met and regard this as one of the dearest moments of my life.

To Yvonne - I thank you for the experience. To Kerri - thank you for being there when I needed someone to talk to. To Bruce and Michelle - it's not over yet; I will see you on the *GIC Newsletter*. You two have given me new hopes, and thoughts I did not think possible.

In closing, I would like to remind everyone to be careful on your way home. And come see us again - soon.
P.S. Good luck Trevor

Youth

Submitted by Jane Fee

Youth is not a time of life; it is a state of mind; it is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigor of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life.

Youth means the temperamental predominance of courage over timidity of the appetite, for adventure over the life of ease. This often exists in a man of 60 more than a boy of 20. Nobody grows old merely by a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals.

Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. Worry, fear, self-distrust bows the heart and turns the spirit back to dust.

Whether 60 or 16, there is in every human being's heart the lure of wonder, the unfailing child-like appetite of what's next, and the joy of the game of living. In the center of your heart and my heart there is a wireless station; so long as it receives message of beauty, hope, cheer, courage and power from men and from the infinite, so long are you young.

When the aerals are down, and your spirit is covered with snows of cynicism and the ice of pessimism, then you are grown old, even at 20, but as long as your aerals are up, to catch waves of optimism, there is hope that you may die young at 80.

The Crossdressers Creed

by Norma Jean

- I will learn to like myself.
- I will accept myself for what I am.
- My need to dress as a woman or to be a woman is healthy.
- Self-loathing, loneliness, self-abuse, substance abuse, and depression are negative things that I will not tolerate.
- Crossdressing is right for me, or, womanhood is right for me.
- What I am is not a problem. Any problems that exist are with others and their reaction to me, and not with who I am.
- I have only one life to live and I will enjoy it as I deem it to be enjoyed.
- I have a fundamental American right to my freedom and to my right to pursue happiness. I have an American Constitutional right to my freedom of speech and expression. I have my right of choice.
- I will cease trying to justify or explain myself to the world.
- I will live in peace and harmony with the rest of society. My behavior will always be the example for that society. I will never be intolerant or hateful towards others. I will always be intolerant of intolerance.

Civil Rights is Like Being Pregnant

Civil rights is like being pregnant.

You can't be a little bit pregnant.

Every member of society, regardless of age; color; caste or creed; cultural or ethnic background; economic status or position; education; gender or gender identity; medical diagnosis, illness or condition; nationality; physical appearance or attributes; race; religion or religious preference, sex, sexual status, sexual orientation or preference; social status or upbringing, should be entitled to be judged and to live under a government of laws, free of prejudice and the weakness of a government of men or women acting without laws to regulate their treatment.

Sister Mary Elizabeth

Inter-Faith Coalition For Human Rights

Luncheon Dedication

In response to requests we reprint the text of Da'nelle Martin's dedication prior to the lunch on Friday. The passage is taken from "*Stairway To Heaven*" by Robert Plant of the group *Led Zeppelin*.

"We are all part of a circle.

The beinning is the end.

We here are all part of that circle.

A microcosm of the macrocosm.

We are that circle. (No beginning, no end).

And as we wind down the road

Our shadows taller than our souls.

There walks a lady we all know

Who shines white light and wants to show

How everything still turns to gold

And if you listen very hard,

The truth will come to you at last.

When all is one and one is all,

To be a rock and not to roll."

Biber's Babies Lunch With Father

by Sharon Ann Stuart

Dr. Stanley Biber (pronounced By-burr) surveyed the room full of smiling faces at the IFGE luncheon in the House of Lords room on Friday and could not resist noting the intimacy which he has with many in the gender community.

"I see so many smiling faces out there," Biber began, speaking from the dais. "so many faces that I know and have worked on," he continued (to laughter), "and other parts as well."

Mistress of Ceremonies, Dr. Sheila Kirk, informed the assembly later that Dr. Biber has performed an estimated 2,600 male to female sex reassignments since his first procedure in 1969. A number of Biber's patients, who are known variously as Biber's babies, Biber's girls, Biber's Dolls and Biber's Beauties, were on hand to share lunch and to honor their father and life-giver.

One of the smiling faces Biber spotted to his left in the room brought back memories associated with a more turbulent time. Virginia Prince, one of the principal leaders in the hetero cross-dressing and gender community attended a professional conference of surgeons with Biber held at Stanford University in the early 1970's. Biber recalled the efforts underway at the time to establish credibility for transsexual surgery and he recounted how Prince had introduced the issue of transgenderism.

Biber and other surgeons formed the Benjamin Gender Dysphoria Association as part of the effort to promote research in sex reassignment surgery, ensure responsible treatment standards, and establish the credibility of transsexual surgery.

Biber recalled the encounter with his first transsexual patient, who was a referral from Dr. Harry Benjamin, the pioneer of transsexual surgery in North America.

Biber, who practices in Trinidad, Colorado, also serves the residents of that community as a surgeon as well as the national and international transsexual community. Biber is skilled at both male to female and female to male conversions. While much research remains to be done in perfecting surgical and treatment methods, Biber notes that much progress has been made and he expects future improvements, particularly in the female to male SRS.

As the IFGE membership looked on four of Biber's babies honored their father and lifegiver, recognizing him as a Trinity Award winner. Wendi Pierce who presented the Trinity Award to Biber in absentia Tuesday evening made the presentation in person on Friday, flanked by Biber sisters, Dan'elle Martin, Marsha C. Botzer, the Founder of the Ingersoll Gender Center in Seattle, Washington, and Kay Metzger. The ovation was standing, the applause was ladylike, the smiles were universal and the tears were genuine.

PHOTOS



