



Christine Jorgensen with Dr. Richard Docter at the IFGE convention in Chicago

The Editor's Corner

By: Wendi Danielle P.

Hello girls, I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and all has been well during the past month. This month I'd like to talk about an organization. The name of this organization is the International Foundation for Gender Education or I.F.G.E. as it's normally called. I recently attended the yearly convention in Chicago as I did last year, but the two experiences were like night & day. Last year I was searching to find myself and grew tremendously from the experience. This year, I was a much more confident person. I arrived hoping to be a representative of our Arizona groups, a worker and possibly a leader in the IFGE, since I had been nominated for a board member position.

The convention was a busy 5 days crammed with seminars, luncheons, and many small informal meetings with representatives of the groups, discussing common needs, desires and problems. Highlights included speaking engagements by Dr. Richard Docter, Merrissa Sherill Lynn and our guest of honor, Christine Jorgensen (a witty, quick and truly fascinating individual who I'm sure influenced many of us in our decisions to pursue this lifestyle). The seminars covered topics from peer counselling to how to produce a good newsletter and were all very well done. All presentations were audio taped and will be transcribed and published by IFGE.

In retrospect, this convention proved to me that the CD/TV/TG/TS community shares much in common. We all are striving to explore a

side of our nature that we have had to live with all our lives and although we all have our own ways of dealing with the issues and desires we face, there are many common threads from person to person, and group to group that serve to bind us all into a community. The IFGE can be a force to unite that community now and in the future.

During the week, I learned quite a bit about the current state of affairs at IFGE and came to the conclusion that new leadership was needed to propel this organization into a force that has the grass roots support of all of the individuals and associated groups, sharing resources and knowledge for the common good. On the last day of the convention the board meeting was held and the first order of business was announcing the results of the recent board election. I had received enough votes throughout the country and it was announced that I and several others were now official board members. The next order of business was the election of a new chairman of the board. I had given this position much thought during the week and it was known that I was interested. Well, my aspirations came true, almost at lightning speed (or so it seemed), I was nominated, elected and was running my first board meeting in a matter of minutes.



Wendi with Merissa and Christine

Time will tell if my efforts are successful in guiding this widely scattered and somewhat diverse collection of people and local groups through this second post convention year. I plan to concentrate on a few issues that I feel are key to IFGE's success through what I would call it's adolescent period. The following is a reprint of my first communication to the groups around the world that are associated with IFGE.

March 5, 1988

Greetings,

As some of you may have heard, a new chairman has been elected for the 1988-1989 year at IFGE, I am that person, and I would at this time, like to introduce myself to those of you who I have not met. I would also like to open up the lines of communication from myself to all of you.

This organization was conceived from dreams and now it is time that we start acting on those dreams to insure that they are fulfilled. Also, we should provide a fertile and sound environment for both IFGE and all the associated groups to work in harmony, now and in the future, to carry all our dreams through to fruition. Therefore, my main goal during this next year will be to provide guidance and to assure that the programs, services, publications and events established by the IFGE are maintained and enhanced by those responsible for their existence. The following are some of the priorities that I have set to accomplish this goal.

First of all, during the past year, IFGE has had some problems. These problems relate largely to the fact that our publication, "Tapestry", has had some major schedule slippages. This has created several related problems, since "Tapestry" is our main communication forum and also provides much of the revenue on which IFGE depends. This periodical is recognized as the "world class" journal of our culture, and it's timely publication is at the top of my list of priorities.

Other issues that I will be concentrating on relate largely to the services that IFGE provides to our associated groups around the world. Keeping these groups informed of IFGE business and enhancing the services that we offer associated groups will be my second priority. In order to better keep the groups informed, a quarterly update of IFGE activities and committee progress will be instituted. Each IFGE committee will contribute to this report. As the committees formulate new services, such as the national speaker's bureau, the formulation of an expanded publication service and as progress of the 1989 convention occurs we will be informing the local groups via this report.

A third priority that I will be working toward in the next year is the formulation of a structure, made up of associated groups,

that will work with the board of directors in formulating policy, activities and board membership. My goal here is to have a congress of groups convene at the next convention with all associated groups represented. In order to get the ball rolling, I would like to have all associated groups select individuals that will represent them in this congress and forward these names to IFGE c/o my office.

Lastly, events will be another priority on which I will be concentrating during the next year. We all look forward to attending events that relate to our culture, and we are now starting the planing process for the 1989 IFGE convention to be held in San Francisco. Suggestions are now being welcomed on this convention's form and content. We have learned that we need to have a more varied and diverse agenda that will appeal to a larger cross section of our community, and your inputs will hopefully make the '89 convention a tremendous success. Continuing on the events subject, the possibility also exists for seminars or regional events sponsored by associated groups, to be sanctioned as IFGE co-sponsored events. Associated groups are encouraged to contact us to arrange for speakers, etc.. Please direct any comments, suggestions or inquiries regarding events to our programs committee.

In conclusion, I would again like to reiterate that I am opening up the channels of communication with all our associated groups. I encourage comments, ideas, criticisms and dreams (IFGE was once only a dream !) to my attention. I am only one person, but hopefully I can at least be an ear to listen to your thoughts, a voice to convey them and a body to push for them in the year to come.

Sincerely,

Wendi Danielle Pierce
Chairman of the Board

So, as you all can now see, a lot has transpired in my life during the past few weeks. These new responsibilities are a challenge that I am looking forward to and I hope that you all will support me in achieving my dream, that of guiding the IFGE through it's adolescence and into a strong, resource to serve our community. Until next month girls, GO FOR IT!

The First Lady's Notebook

By: Terri [REDACTED]

Okay, I've got the job of First Lady; now, where do we go from here? In order to answer this question, I decided to look at some of the newsletters our chapter & A Rose receive from networking sister organizations to get a better picture of what has been and what is being accomplished elsewhere. Since these publications are made available for your perusal at every meeting, I highly recommend that you pick through them at your (p)leisure. They are for your information and many hours of effort have gone into them. What I found out was that some of these groups really have their act together! They have moved out into the public and gave forged their own niche in the community, meeting in restaurants and renting ballrooms for social functions. Appearances have been made on radio and cable television, food drives have been organized for AIDS victims, video libraries have been established, and elaborate vendor indexed buyer guides are available in some areas. I even read about a bowling team! It is with great respect (and jealousy) that I salute those Danielle Boones out there for blazing the trail which we now find much easier to follow.

We have started to make our own inroads here in Arizona. We have begun to reach out and contact the community via the radio waves and the spoken word, and we are beginning to warm the cockles of the merchant heart as we compile our own directory. And there are more projects on the back burner, such as a unification of sisters from all over the state by holding monthly meetings in different cities, co-sponsorship of Valley speaking engagements by notable personages, and fund raisers of our own. The bowling team, I'm afraid, will have to take a back seat!

These goals are rational and attainable, but will require effort and commitment to that effort. The more sisters we can get involved the stronger effort we can put out, and everyone will grow as a result. So, to answer the opening question: There's only one way to go - up!



A Rose Update

By: Jackie [REDACTED]

On Saturday March 5th "A ROSE" held its second meeting and it was a great success! There were 17 members present, including several "Alpha Zeta" sisters. We had to tend to some business and hold elections that evening..so be it..and it was done! The new President is Wendi Pierce, Vice President is Cindy [REDACTED] and the one with the pocketbook (Sec/Treas) is Jackie [REDACTED]. In keeping with Club Ideals the rest of the evening was nothing but Party..Party..Party! Good food, good wine & good people! There were several people dancing to the beat. I hope we didn't wear a hole in Wendi and Judee's carpet! Right in the middle of all the fun and excitement I saw several people getting into some seemingly very deep conversation. Also, at the next party, everyone should wear sunglasses. It will help cut down on the blazing glare of camera flashes! (For those of you who desire not to be photographed, rest ashore that no one will take your photo without asking.). Mae had a new "dew" and a new frock, she looked very pretty. She also said that she was going to stay until everyone left, what happened Mae?

The real purpose of "A Rose" is to be able to get together and have a good time. Your involvement, suggestions and recommendations are very much desired. We would like to be able to provide something for all members. Currently, there are twenty paid members and approximately ten others who will be paying their dues (including Wendi!). Dues are \$20 per year which includes membership & a copy of the monthly newsletter. At each meeting there is a three dollar cover charge. Two dollars goes to the hostess who provides food & mixers, not to mention her home, and one dollar goes to the Club Treasury. All the money taken into the treasury will be spent on Club functions and it's members. Currently we are spending funds for the Newsletter shared with Alpha Zeta and for membership advertising. Towards the end of the year the Club may sponsor and pay for a group party or diner if there is money available. It is YOU the MEMBER that decide what we, as a group, do! Till next month, YOURS IN "HIGH HEELS"... "JACKIE"



Alpha Zeta Update

by: Diane

The regular monthly meeting of Alpha Zeta was held at Cindy's house on Saturday, February 20th. The meeting began at 8:45 p.m. Alpha Zeta welcomed Brenda and Donna as new members to the group. We also welcomed Melissa from Los Angeles, who is visiting the Valley of the Sun. Members in attendance included, Terri, Wendi and Judee, Norma, Ericka, Melissa, Jackie, Sandy, Joanna, Angela, Cindy, Vanessa, Renee, and Diane. Following introductions, First Lady Terri called the



Diane at ASU

meeting to order. As the first order of business, Terri announced that she will keep all of Diane's appointed officers, because they're doing a good job. These appointments include Wendi (Newsletter Editor), Lynda (Special Events Coordinator) and May (Membership Committee member).

Vanessa reported on the meeting with Professor Whitam's Sociology class at A.S.U. to discuss crossdressing. Those presenting information to the class were Wendi, Diane, Terri and Vanessa. There were 106 students in the class who were enlightened about crossdressing. It was one of Vanessa's first times in public. What a way to start! Following the class, some of the students joined the professor and his guests at Long Wong's for drinks and more talk.

Terri announced that JoAnn has requested that members of Alpha Zeta address her Psychology classes at Paradise Valley College. Those interested in participating should contact Terri. The classes will be held on six Saturdays this Spring, starting on March 19th. Each session will be approximately one hour.

Wendi reported on the Rose meeting held on February 6th. There were 25 persons in attendance at the gathering. The next meeting is scheduled for March 6th. Wendi also reported that she would be attending the I.F.G.E. meeting in Chicago at the end of February. Wendi is running for Board member, and will represent Alpha Zeta and A Rose at the meeting. Wendi also passed around copies of a business card for A Rose, which she

designed. Business cards will be made available for those interested, with their names printed on them, for a cost of 50 cents per page (about 8 per page). Wendi also announced upcoming events including the Poconos Fantasy Weekend from May 13 to 15; and the "Be All You Can Be Weekend" in Detroit from June 9th through the 12th. See Wendi or Diane for more information.

Wendi further reported that video tapes of the past few Fantasia Fairs are now available. Also, a doctoral candidate from New York, Glenn Humphries, has requested volunteers to answer a survey. Those interested please write: Glenn [redacted] [redacted] Box 11, New York, NY 10001.

Wendi passed around copies of the back page of the newsletter containing recent photographs. Also, she announced that 8" x 10" glossy copies of the group photograph are available for a \$5 donation.

Diane announced that she had contacted a shoe store in town, The Unbound Sole, which carries larger sizes of women's shoes. They ask that if you are interested in trying on shoes to call in advance and use discretion when coming into the store.

Terri announced that she would like to start work on a Directory of local services and establishments open to crossdressers. She would like to start with wig stores. If you know of a wig store in the Phoenix area, please contact the owner or manager to see if they would like to have crossdressers as part of their clientele. Bring the information to the next meeting so we can move ahead with the directory.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Alpha Zeta Monthly Meeting

By: Diane

The next Alpha Zeta meeting will be March 19th. at 8:00pm. It will be at The Best Western Suites, 1651 West Baseline Rd., in Tempe. The room will be the Pinnacle Peak Room (#197). This is the same place that the Christmas party was held so if you attended that event you shouldn't have any problems. The room is toward the back of the complex near the tennis courts, call Diane or Terri if you need more directions on how to find it.

The evening will be highlighted by a viewing of a tape of a recent Sally Jesse Raphael Show, which had Naomi of Chi Chapter, a FI and a TS all on one stage. (ed: talk about a spectrum of crossdressers). Also on the agenda will be a report of our PVCC

speaking engagement and a discussion of the logistics of getting Virginia Prince to appear at a combined event with ourselves, A Rose and possibly ASU.

We will also have a St. Patrick's Day theme for the evening and since "GREEN" is the traditional color of the Irish, all are encouraged to wear the green and bring a green food item for the buffet. Please contact us prior to the meeting to coordinate food fare. See You there!

Alpha Zeta Treasury Report

Balance as of 1/31/88.....	339.83
Paid Out.....	0.00
Income.....	0.00
Interest.....	1.55
Balance as of 2/29/88.....	341.18

**A Rose Monthly Meeting
By: Wendi P.**

The monthly gathering of A Rose is tentatively scheduled for April 2nd. Details and the location have not been finalized at this time, but suggestions are welcome. Also if this evening is a problem (Easter is the next day), we could move to the second Saturday of the month, April 8th, to accommodate a larger gathering. Please contact Wendi, Cindy or Jackie to provide us with your inputs.

A Rose Treasury Report

Balance as of 2/6/88.....	277.00
Paid Out.....	22.00
Income.....	166.00
Interest.....	0.51
Balance as of 3/6/88.....	421.51

National Events

Spring 1988 Pocono Fantasy Festival

On May 13-15th this fully catered event takes place in Stroudsburg, Pa.. Highlights mentioned include parties, contests and a secluded resort environment. For more information Contact:

Joyce [redacted]
[redacted]
Jackson Heights, NY. 11372
(718) [redacted]

Tiffany Spring Fling

The last weekend in May the Tiffany club will sponsor it's annual spring outing in Provencetown. For more information contact:

Tiffany Club
Po Box 19
Wayland Mass. 01778

Be All You Want To Be Weekend

June 8-12 will be the dates for this annual event. For more information Contact:

Crossroads Chapter
PO Box 1298
Flint, MI. 48601

Shangri-La West Summer Fun

In July the Shangri-La Club will be sponsoring this annual event in Stallion Spring, Ca.. For more information Contact:

Shangri-La Club
PO Box 18202
Irvine, Ca. 92713

Writer's Corner

This month we have two items that were submitted for publication. First an article by Cindy M. that tells "the rest of the story" and then a poem by Vanessa.

Here and There

By: Cindy Ann [redacted]

I sit here eating left-over party munchies, trying to grasp what I can from the best teacher in the world, hindsight. I am in amazement of not being amazed in the changes in myself. These changes are coming naturally like they are meant to be. I really feel that I am living my program, one day at a time.

Hi! My name is Cindy Ann [redacted] This is my first time to put something personal into the newsletter. A thumb-nail sketch of my self would be that I have been a crossdresser all of my life, complete to "Mom" having cute pictures of me in drag at three. From this humble beginning, to a not too distant past was filled with things like: confusion, hate, and self-pity. I was not happy much of the time. I only mention the negative because it was something I had to go through and learn from. Today I am

grateful for the pain because it was my motivation to recover.

Let me come back to where I started. About three years ago, I wrote my first letter to another crossdresser. Her name was Melissa. I stumbled along for another year until I mustered the strength to really meet another crossdresser. Her name was Wendi. Things have snow balled since then in that I have met hundreds of crossdressers and perhaps a dozen with/girl-friends of this support system. Anyway, this month I had the pleasure of having dinner with both of these people at the same time. With us was also a GG (Judee), who is active in this para-culture. She is a highly in touch, sensitive gal with enough left over to give much appreciated input to the group. This dinner was a direct look at some of my milestones of crossdressing. It was real positive.

So much of my life has been spent being apologetic to people for not being like them, now I have a new philosophy. I'm peddling as fast as I can. I still have questions I have to answer. I also have something I used to believe only belonged to others, acceptance! It's a wonderful feeling to be free of something I call, "me too". This includes trying to be like (please) others.

I AM!

Your Sister,

Cindy

Ripples

by Vanessa [REDACTED]

I see her there, looking back at me.
The lovely lady by the edge of the stream.
Kneeling, Relaxing in the cool wet sand, and
into the water with a graceful hand.

Adrift comes a flower taken up in her grasp.
Then with it's stem, in her hair it is clasped.
Dew droplets glisten on it's petals so fair.
This colorful compliment to her beautiful hair.

In the shimmering waves, it flows ever down
Well past her shoulders, a light golden brown.
Her fingers run through it with delicate ease.
Now tossed about gaily in a warm summer
breeze.

Her lips full and supple, and so ruby red
& the loveliest dark eyes that mine ever met.
Her face is the fairest of any I've seen,
When I look upon her I feel it's a dream.

We stare at each other; my heart beating
faster,

and I take a pebble to toss in the water.
Then stone sends ripples in every direction.
Only to fade and return my reflection.

Food For Thought

This month our cuisine column returns with a tasty side dish that makes breakfast or any meal complete. You all have made fried potatoes before but this variation is sure to please.

Wendi's Fried Potatoes

- 4 medium peeled, sliced potatoes
- 1 chopped fresh onion
- 1/2 bell pepper (optional)
- 4 tbsp virgin olive oil
- 1/4 tsp paprika
- salt & pepper to taste

Heat olive oil and add onions, potatoes and peppers. Sprinkle on paprika salt and pepper. Cover and fry at medium heat for 30 minutes, stir as needed to blend in the seasonings and brown all sides of the potatoes, Enjoy!

Personal Adds

Volunteers Needed: Doctoral candidate in Clinical Psychology seeks individuals interested in participating in research on crossdressing. Privacy completely respected. Contact: Glenn [REDACTED] Box 11 NY, NY. 10001

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