



THE **INGERSOLL** **MESSAGE**

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER -- SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
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JANUARY, 1997 □ VOL THREE □ NO. 1 □ PRICE: \$1.00/EA. □ \$15.00/YR SUBSCRIPTION

HOLIDAY MAGIC IS JUST THAT

The 230 people who attended Ingersoll Center's HOLIDAY MAGIC on December 7, 1996, at the Best Western Executive Inn were truly treated to an evening of magic. It was the largest crowd ever to attend Ingersoll's annual celebration of pride and love.

The Grand Ballroom of the Executive Inn was beautifully decorated, the food was wonderful, and the silent auction and raffle contained exciting prizes which were eagerly sought after. The big prize of the evening was a seven-day cruise to the Bahamas.

Besides being the largest number of people to attend the Holiday Happening, it was also the most diverse, as elements from all parts of the Gay, Transgender, Lesbian, Bisexual and Heterosexual communities came together to spend time in a completely open and accepting atmosphere -- and they really partied!

Among the many high points of the evening were performances by Kate Bornstein and Kaitlyn Sullivan of excerpts from their book, *Nearly Road Kill*. Kate then performed a touching solo piece about her mother's funeral. Also, The FtM Conference Committee presented a check for \$1,000 to Ingersoll from the 1996 FtM Conference of the Americas which Ingersoll co-sponsored earlier this year.

Under the direction of Pat Butler, Executive Director of Ingersoll, the largest staff of volunteers (upwards of 25!) worked to make this one of the smoothest running

parties ever. Special thanks and a huge Ingersoll bow go to Christina Fassel who computerized all of the party's paperwork. Guests were treated to a smooth check-in and check-out as they purchased their tickets and paid for their auction purchases. And, for the first time in Ingersoll history, guests had the choice of paying for the evening with cash, check, VISA or Master Card.

At the awards presentation, Kimberly Holmes, one of Ingersoll's two Administrative Assistants, was presented with the Executive Director's Award for over one year of dedicated volunteer service to Ingersoll. Bryant Vehrs, Ingersoll Board Member was presented with the Founder's Award. This year's Judith C. Botzer Award went to George Bakan, editor and publisher of the Seattle Gay News. Special awards were presented to retiring Board members Jason Cromwell and Sandra Johnson for many years of service to Ingersoll. Perhaps the most touching award of the evening was the Life Achievement Award presented to Rochelle Shaffer. Rochelle has worked as facilitator, and phone peer counselor at Ingersoll, and has also been very active with Washington Citizens for Fairness/Hands Off Washington. Rochelle's life partner, Cheryl was there with her as she received the award.

Finally, special thanks must be given to the following. To Marsha Botzer, Ingersoll Founder, for her tireless effort in making the party a success; to David Schreier, Suzanne Adams, Jaye Albright and the other members of the Board of Directors for their help and support; to Jan Peterson and the wonderful staff of the Executive Inn for their special inimitable style in setting up the room and the food; and to Robin Ford, Administrative Assistant, for her unflagging patience and willingness to do "one more thing".

If you missed the party in 1996, make your plans right now for the first Saturday in December, 1997, for the Ingersoll Holiday Happening.

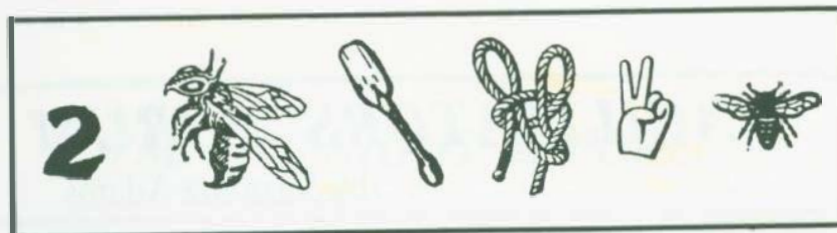
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PHONES ANSWERED TUESDAYS

7:00 PM 10:00 PM

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FOUNDER'S FORUM

By Marsha C. Botzer, MA

Our work goes on -- helping people deal with gender issues and joining people in the great conversation about what it means to be a person.

We continue to open our doors to fresh ideas and new ways of expressing gender and identity: New seminars, new groups, (including an FtM therapy group) and new materials. We have never locked ourselves into any one attitude about gender. We do not favor surgery over non-surgery, or transition over blending; all ways of finding the most satisfactory life are open. What we want is to be a partner in an individual's search for self and expression.

We continue to provide support groups and are always open to new ideas. The work of the Center is set by what is needed in our communities -- not by pre-conceived notions.

This last year we have been very active in the service of our political and social needs. We have met with state and local officials, including Governor Lowry and Governor-elect Locke. We have put the needs of the Transgender Community before them, and presented them with specific items and protections that concern us.

As always, what really makes Ingersoll successful is the passion and dedication of our volunteers and friends. Without these people, many of whom we honored at our holiday party, Holiday Magic, we could not do the magnificent work we do.

I want to thank all of you who came to our party and to thank you for supporting the work of Ingersoll Gender Center. This year, a portion of the party's proceeds will go to Washington Citizens for Fairness/Hands Off Washington, so that there might be civil rights and safety for all people of Washington State. WCF/HOW has been a great friend of Ingersoll and we are pleased to be partners with HOW in the great work of fairness for all.

FACILITATORS' FORUM

by Suzanne Adams

Several years ago the Emerald City Social Club for TG's met at a hall across the street from a red neck tavern. For about seven years all the girls avoided the tavern, yet some summer evenings when they had finally figured out that we met on Thursdays, some of the patrons of that tavern spilled out onto the sidewalk to give us a few cat-calls and whatever. Back when phones were attached to cars, the only phone for blocks was in that particular tavern, and it took a tremendous amount of courage for one of us girls to go in there when a phone was absolutely needed. That kind of courage is what this article is about.

Two years ago the owner of that red neck tavern took the courage to come to our meeting hall and invite us girls to the tavern for a drink. Can you imagine that he was every bit as scared coming into our place as we were of going into his? But he did it, and his non-discriminating values have seen more than one obnoxious customer booted out of his place for even attempting to give any of the TG's a hassle. Since then the tavern has been a regular visiting place for all of us with Emerald City, and in fact several of us attended the owners wedding two weeks ago. Yes, a real wedding in a Catholic church with mainstream parents, grandparents, and kids and everything. There we were, dressed in our finest and mingling with mainstream people at a wedding and reception -- the only ones more photographed were the bride and groom!

As much as you think it might have been a challenge to attend a mainstream function such as this, and have to face the embarrassment of trying to fit in, just imagine what courage it took for that couple to invite our community to something as private and special as their own wedding. I'm sure that grandma is still wondering why her grandson invited us, but everyone else there finally figured out that we were just real people like themselves, and now realize that the newly married couple certainly don't have a problem with discrimination.

It took a lot of courage for each one of you to finally decide to address your gender issue, and becoming part of Ingersoll has, I hope, been helpful for you to discover many others just like yourselves. One thing we should always remember however, is how difficult it is for others to recognize and accept us. It doesn't always end in acceptance like at the above wedding, but keep in mind how much courage it takes for someone to accept us.



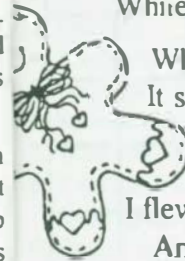
'T WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE...

(With apologies to Clement Moore)

'Twas the night before Christmas
Outside Ingersoll.
Not one "T" was stirring,
Not one "T" at all.



The fireplace sagged with its big load of socks:
With pantyhose, knee-highs and tubes worn by jocks.
The good little "T's" were asleep in their beds,
But no visions of sugar plums danced in these heads.
The girl "T's" were dreaming of 46 C's,
While boy "T's" were hoping for working wee-wees.
The girls were all wishing for long hair on their heads,
But the boys just wanted it all over instead:
On their faces and fingers and lots on their chests,
While the girls were just trying to get rid of the pests.

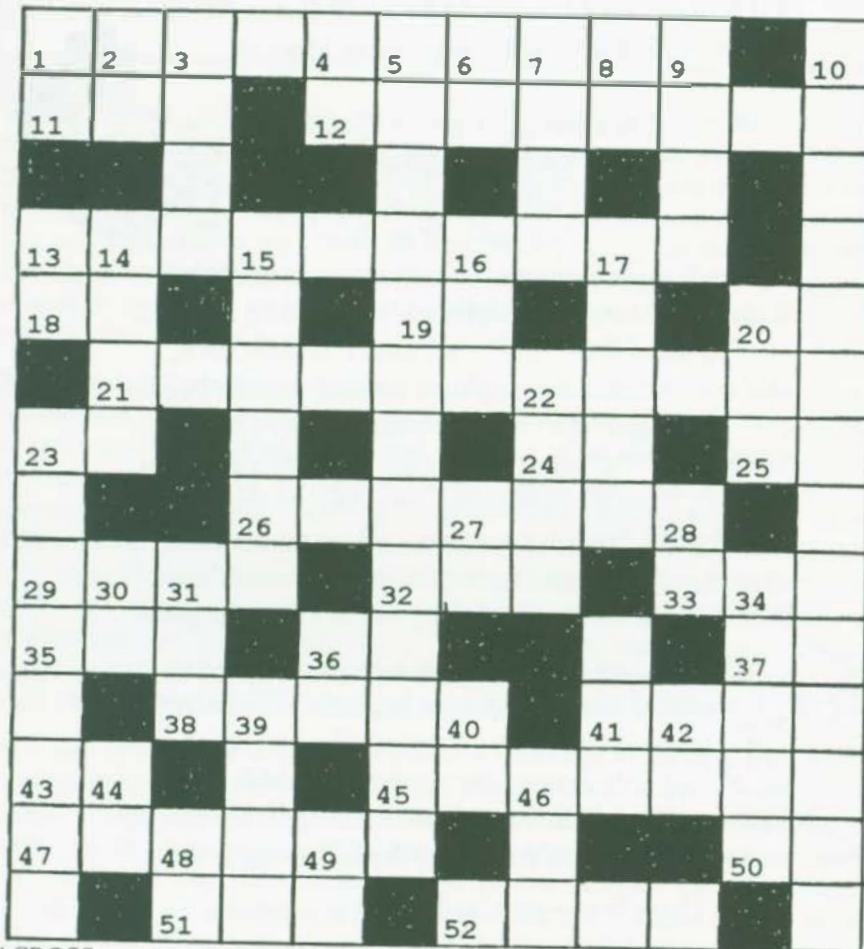


When out on the lawn their arose such a clatter,
It sounded like drag queens beginning to chatter.
I threw on a robe to cover my Teddy, while
Angrily leaving my warm little beddy.
I flew to the window and looked through the screen,
And below I was treated to the following scene:

There in my yard, as bold as you please,
Was a great big ole sleigh pulled by eight glitzy TV's
They were dressed all in sequins, high heels and feathers
And were struggling to pull that big sleigh together.
Some were complaining, while others were "shooshing";
Still others were saying they all should be pushing.
Finally, they stopped and abandoned the sleigh
And went out for coffee, singing "Jingle all the Way."

But I heard them exclaim, 'ere they drove out of sight:
"Happy Holidays to Ingersoll,
And Bringusall a Good Night!!"

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1. A handsome, older man.
- 11. It takes _____ to tango.
- 12. Festival of lights.
- 13. _____ another Winter festival.
- 18. Car. Ore. _____
- 19. Southern state (init)
- 20. Exist _____
- 21. Holiday desserts: _____ Plum Pudding.
- 23. _____ to _____



ACROSS (continued)

- 24. Drill Instructor (init)
- 25. North of 19 across.
- 26. African American Holiday
- 29. Not female.
- 32. FiM's hate to be called this.
- 33. Scratch.
- 35. Caviar.
- 36. Barnum's initials.
- 37. Transcendental number
- 38. Early pagans
- 41. The pointed parts of elves.
- 43. Out's opposite.
- 45. Holly, Ivy and _____ oc.
- 47. What to do with a hot iron.
- 50. Not "Ig": _____
- 51. Fine.
- 52. Requires _____

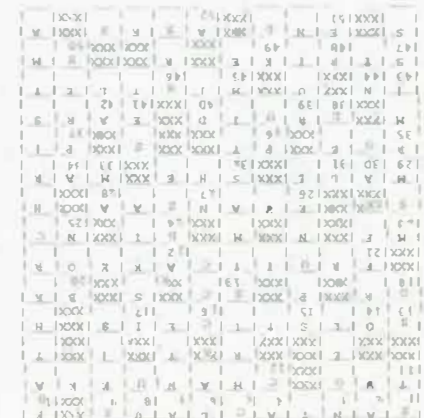
DOWN

- 1. Jolly Old _____ Nicholas
- 2. Exclamation
- 3. The First _____
- 4. Alternating Current (init)
- 5. Decemember 24th through January 6th
- 6. Spanish "the"
- 7. What the "A" stands for in AM.
- 8. 2 vowels which sound like 2nd person pronoun.
- 9. Boards with curved ends.
- 10. Another name for Santa _____

- 13. You old _____ and _____
- 14. Composer of "Carmina Burana"
- 15. Brave: _____ t _____
- 16. Letter which sounds like "Yes" in Spanish -- times 3.
- 17. The name of a new car _____
- 20. Two of these make a french candy.
- 22. A type of axe.
- 23. Titles
- 27. Northern State (init)
- 28. See #7 down.
- 30. Cinemagraphic process: Todd _____
- 31. Pulled around on a leash.



- 34. "Before" in French.
- 36. Letters used to indicate odor.
- 39. Destroy.
- 40. One too many: _____ U _____
- 42. Pacino and Gore
- 46. Under the knife (init)
- 48. With regards to (abbr)
- 49. Androgynous Western singer's first two initials.



SOMETHING NEW HAS BEEN ADDED! Ingersoll Center now accepting MasterCard and VISA

As of December 7, 1996, Ingersoll Center will have the capability of taking your MasterCard or VISA in payment for publications and services. With the implementation of this new service, those wishing to purchase publications over the phone will be able to do so by simply supplying the office with their card number and expiration date. The same also holds for those wishing to use their cards to purchase publications through the mail.

Those attending Ingersoll Support Group meetings have often asked if we were able to take charge cards for group fees. The answer is now yes. As of January 1, 1997, you will be able to pay for your group with your card. Facilitators will receive training in accepting your card and the whole process will take only minutes to accomplish.

With the revising of Ingersoll's presence on the Internet, the possibility of being able to order publications by card over the through the IGC Web Page is being examined.

It is hoped that this addition will make it easier for each client to be served by Ingersoll Gender Center.



CAMERA

The hole you left is still there.
And the pain drifts through it
like acrid smoke.
It makes my eyes hurt and burn --
No wonder there are tears.

Sometimes, the hole starts to close
Like a camera's eye
And my world comes into focus.
And then:
a sound, a smell,
a wisp of melody
Snaps the eye open as though
trying to take a picture
in a room with no light.

A room with no light:
That's me when I remember you.

WINTER

Winter has its hands on me.
It came in behind Autumn's rust-colored rustlings.
Softly, its grays and blacks replaced the pale blues
Of Spring and Summer.

I did not hear or see it come.
I felt sharp fingers probing my warm parts
And instinctively, I curled up into a ball --
But not before my heart was edged with frost.

Winter has its hands on me.
I feel blue-gray robes of cloud and rain
Draping damply across my bones.
They tell me that I'm no longer young.

I did not want to see/feel/hear it come
Until I remembered that only in the dank of dying leaves
Can there be the promise of shoots of crocus and daffodil horns
To start again the circle.

Winter has its hands on me.
But I know that even in the oldest bush
There remains heart wood which, in its green-ness
Bears the promise of new growth -- new life.

pheebe

THE INGERSOLL MESSAGE DOES COMBINED ISSUE

For the first time in its almost three-year history, *The Ingersoll Message* was forced to print a combined issue for December, 1996 and January, 1997. The month of December was blighted by intense preparations for the year-end party, illness and incredible weather conditions which combined to make it impossible to get the December issue to press before it was time for the January issue.

We apologize for the inconvenience and for our subscribers, we will extend your subscription for one extra month this year.

The collective New Year's resolution of the entire Ingersoll staff is to have future issues of *The Ingersoll Message* in the mail by the last working day of each month.

PUBLISHING EVENT IN JANUARY, 1997.

Beginning in January, 1997, Ingersoll Gender Center is proud to announce the publication of a new series of publications which will be called "The Ingersoll Little Gray Books". Readers will find both new and familiar titles in the series.

Among the familiar titles will be revised versions of Gender Dysphoria, A Sensitive Approach, The Brussels Experience, The Trinidad Experience, The Montreal Experience, and the Benjamin Standards of Care.

Among the exciting new titles will be several new books for FtM's, including Breast Reconstruction Surgery and Tricks of the Trade, by David Schreier, Director of FtM Resources. David and others have agreed to continue to write and update Ingersoll's literature for the FtM Community.

The first book in the series to be published will be Breast Care and Other Health Concerns for Transgendered People. This book, written by Robin Ford and Pat Butler, uses the latest information from the American Cancer Association and is slanted toward pre- and post-op members of both the FtM and MTF Communities.

Ingersoll hopes that the publications such as these will continue to educate and support any who decide to enter into the exploration of the world of Gender.

Do you have an idea for a Little Gray Book? We are also looking for writers and contributors with suggestions for future books. Contact the Ingersoll Office with your ideas. Who knows? You may become a published author!



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Important Ingersoll Doings in JANUARY

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

All Thursdays in January: *Drop In Group (Open)* 7-9 PM

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

Phones answered Mondays & Fridays 6-8 pm and Saturdays 10-12 noon

Now on Wednesdays, we feature *FTM Phone Night*, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

January 13: *Ingersoll Board meeting* 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

January 14: *FTM Support Group*. 7:30-9:30 pm.



'You-ness'

You speak to me of your 'You-ness'.

You speak to me of the new-ness of your 'You-ness'
And I laugh at the rhythm and cadence of your
coined words.

"How about the blue-ness of the new-ness of your 'You-ness'?"
I ask.

You smile, but I can see that I have hurt you,
And you turn away, afraid to share more.

Suddenly, shame swabs my face and I realize that I have
Thrown your cup of trust in your face.

I sputter and trip over my cascading words trying to somehow
cover over, calk up those insensitivities I can not retrieve --
Cannot call back.

And then, the gracious 'new you' dries the shame from my face
and in an instant, I understand
The new-ness of your 'You-ness'.



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Editorial and article contributions are welcomed.

Editor: Pat Butler

Contributors: Marsha Botzer,
Suzanne Adams Jaye Albright

Ingersoll Gender Center Board of Directors:

Jaye Albright, President

Marian Beddill, Secretary

Marsha Botzer, MA

Suzanne Adams, MA

Patrick Butler

Bryant Vehrs, MA

Jude Patton

Denise Ottoson

David Schreier

Opinions expressed in the Ingersoll Message are strictly those of the writer. They do not necessarily reflect those of Ingersoll Gender Center or the Board of Directors

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I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP UP WITH INGERSOLL EVENTS, PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST.

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