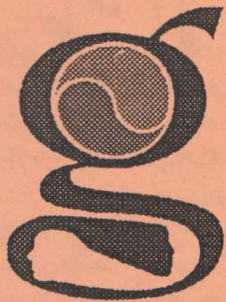


Celebration!

The daily newsletter of MINNESOTA PRIDE CELEBRATION '96,
the 1996 annual convention of the International Foundation for Gender Education

Friday: Learn and Rock



Friday,
March 28, 1996

HERE ARE THIS YEAR'S TRINITY AWARD RECIPIENTS

~ Joan Sheldon ~
~ Sandra S. Cole, Ph.D. ~
~ Jane Fee ~

Highlights This Issue:



Of PRIDE I Sing
Can I Get AIDS
With a Shared Lipstick?
Prince Corrects Reporter

**TONIGHT'S
BANQUET SPEAKER:**
MELINDA PARAS,
Executive Director,
Nat'l Gay & Lesbian Task Force

EuroFantasia 1996 ... is now 1997

The awaited EuroFantasia has been postponed for yet another year. Beset by immense workloads, organizers nonetheless plan to have this international event for the transgendered community in place by next year. More volunteers, however, are much needed to make this dream a reality so it can be back next year.



The Trinity Awards are given annually to individuals who have contributed significantly to the betterment of their community.

DANCE, DANCE, DANCE TONITE!
GLBTS BAND, 9-12:30
AFTER BANQUET!

ROCKIN' THE NIGHT AWAY



Tonight's sure to be a special **TREAT** for convention goers. Following dinner and the keynote speaker, Melinda Paras, we'll boogie down for a night of great music and fun dancing.

Your jammin' sisters are the Twin Cities' GLBTS, playing all your rock favorites. Bandleader Karin has the band all souped up to go and you just might find a familiar face in the group.

Join the fun and PAR-TAY!

Smell the Roses; See the CapSite; "Love is All Around"

Walk across the street for a whiff.

Dayton's Department Store is having its Spring Flower Show over the weekend in its 8th floor auditorium... gorgeous, we hear (the flowers, that is).

Dayton's corner is the infamous corner where Mary Tyler Moore tossed her cap into the air (where you might hear the strains of ..."We're gonna' make it after alllllll...").

You can truly be...



Vanessa S. has written a new song for the transgender community and IFGE. It'll be making its performance debut at the dance tonight.

The lyrics, printed below, are meant to emphasize the main theme of this year's convention: **PRIDE**.

The GLBTS rock 'n roll dance band will be performing tonight from 9:00 till 12:30 following our dinner and keynote speaker. Be prepared to dance the night away — these musicians are **g-o-o-d!**

Be Proud by Vanessa S.

(Copyright 1996)



*(Chorus) Be proud of who you are.
Be proud that you've come so far.
And know that in your heart, you can truly be
Whatever you want to be.*



*Be proud of what you've done
Be proud you're a special one.
And always carry that feeling inside,
And live out your life with pride.*



*Verse 1 For so many years, you felt so all alone
You spent all of your life living all on your own.
But now look around you, it's easy to see
You're part of community.*

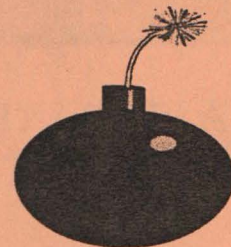


*Verse 2 We're kfh no longer living a shame-filled lie
We can walk down the street with our heads held high
And I'm here to tell you, as strange as it seems,
You can live out your dreams.*

BODY BUILDING... OF A NEW SORT

IFGE convention-goers will get the benefit of the medical profession tomorrow in the "Body Enhancements & Enrichments Options" workshop. It'll feature Drs. Bockting, Schrang, Ousterhout, and Kirk. It runs from 3-4 pm.

Life Insurance Plans Discussed Today: ***HOW DARE YOU SAY YOU CAN'T GET AIDS?***



Life insurance? If it's something that can save your life, you'd want "in" on it, wouldn't you?

One of the things about AIDS that's become increasingly evident is that most people don't give a rat's ass about AIDS education — until it hits someone they love, when it hits too close to home. And the transgender/crossdresser community is no exception. Friday offers you a big OPPORTUNITY to grab onto some information, input, discussions, and group breakout sessions.

This afternoon's HIV/AIDS program says that, "Yes, here's AIDS, folks, and it's ready to take away people we love - in our families and right here in IFGE — it already has."

The program targets transsexuals, crossdressers, and transgenders. I went to a similar session in October 1994. Like the one today, it features Dr. Walter Bocking, licensed psychologist with the Program in Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota — and it was a real eye opener. Discussion particularly centered on the lack of informed and sensitive health care providers. Transgender people have unique health needs and they need to be met by an informed medical community.

What makes today's session so important is the fact that there is practically no specific HIV/AIDS prevention education that targets transgender people and their specific needs. And many people feel that one of the impediments to this is inconsistent education from the medical profession regarding HIV/AIDS. Many family physicians are lacking knowledge and sensitivity to transgenders; hospitals are lax in sensitivity training.

Despite increasing awareness, the public still trivializes transgenders. Discrimination is alive and well in all areas from going to get a driver's license to seeking help for chemical dependency. This discrimination adds to the lack of information available to transgenders and crossdressers.

Back in 1994 at the session I attended, it was noted that the IFGE convention in '96 would be an excellent way of getting more transgenders involved in education efforts as teachers of their peers. Well, it's 1996, gang, so let's get going on this! It's your life!



REMEMBER: *HIV/AIDS education must come mainly from within its own community.*

—Editor

COME ON, ALL YOU BIOLOGICAL MALES...

— you know who you are ... or do you? Dr. Richard F. Docter announced his gender inventory survey at Wednesday's luncheon. He is inviting biological males to participate in what will be a long-term research project. Questionnaires were given to volunteers at the luncheon.

Participants will get feedback if they wish. The survey contains 83 questions (demographic as well as questions on stress, gender, and other factors). All responses to the questionnaire are confidential and are used in aggregate form only.

Oooh, That Beautiful Face

In the mood for a make-over or color analysis? Donna Cognac, AIGT, is doing both here at the convention. She has a sign-up sheet at the Registration Desk for make-overs and color analyses which she does in Room 1821. Here's your chance to find out if that Cajun Cowgirl Coral lipstick is the real you.

A "DEFINITIVE" TALK WITH

Virginia Prince

by Collette C.

I led off my discussion with Virginia Prince with a rather stock reporter-type question: "What do you see as one of your biggest accomplishments?"

Turns out, the lady doesn't see herself as being responsible for any "big accomplishments." It was like once she decided to live as a woman full-time, one thing followed another in ways she could never have predicted.

As an example, her original group, called Foundation for Personality Expression (FPE) in the Los Angeles area led to sister groups in other cities which eventually turned into Tri-Ess, as part of a merger with another organization.

All unpredictable.

Virginia demurs as being seen

as some sort of wizard with a master plan which she orchestrated over many years to get us where we are now.

But still, I don't think anyone can deny that her remarkable energy, determination, intellect, and sheer guts at times played a key catalytic role in bringing about the greater awareness and acceptance of gender expression that we enjoy today.

Perhaps the main impression I got from talking with Virginia Prince is that she is very careful about her use of words and expects you to be likewise.

For instance, at one point I volunteered that I spent most of my time in the "male mode." Her face grimaced something awful at hearing this. She then proceeded to let me know that I had just done what she has been trying to put a stop to for some 30 years.

Namely, I had just committed a cardinal sin of confusing sex with gender.

Even though all the dictionaries

say that the two are synonymous, they just ain't at all.

As Ms. Prince explains it, male or female has to do with genitalia at birth and we use these terms to define your sex. Whereas, gender is a matter of how your presentation is scored according to prevailing cultural norms - either as masculine or feminine, man or woman.

So you can see that when I referred to my "male mode," a very big red light went on for Virginia. With my male genitalia, I can't be other than male. That's my sex.

But I can alter my presentation to be either more masculine or more feminine in appearance — and that's gender.

If us T-people aren't careful about our use of words so that the distinction between sexual gender is not blurred, how can we expect the public at large to be?

In Virginia's book, this would be a "big accomplishment" for us.

Celebration! Friday

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If you have news, information, or chuckles you feel would benefit those at the convention (No reprints or long articles, please), drop it off at the registration desk — or come find me and we'll do a chocolate donut... or the moon.

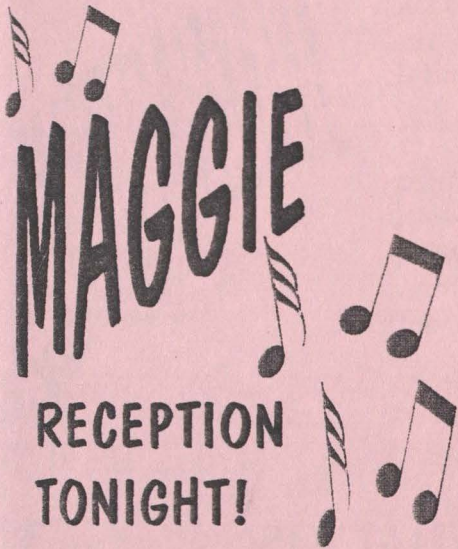
— Linda Wright, Editor

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IFGE Welcomes You !

MAGGIE
RECEPTION
TONIGHT!



WEDNESDAY
MARCH 27



It's coming
out! At the
Convention!

**Feinberg's
TRANSGENDER
WARRIOR
debuts here**

Who is MAGGIE? How come she's at the IFGE convention?

You'll get a chance to meet MAGGIE tonight at a special reception just for you, hosted by MAGGIE and her members. Jump in and start meeting your convention friends! It's also a way to get to know about the many endeavors undertaken by MAGGIE to ensure that members and others are up-to-date on the latest issues affecting the community and YOU!

So come to this Convention Kick-Off, meet new friends, enjoy good company and dynamite music — TONIGHT !

Leslie Feinberg's long-awaited book, *TRANSGENDER WARRIOR*, will make its debut at the convention. Feinberg was forced to cancel a scheduled speaking commitment at the convention because of illness.

This book, along with book plates autographed by the author, will be on sale at the convention.

MAGGIE RECEPTION TONIGHT !!!

6 - 8 pm, 5th Season Room, 6th Floor ~ Ifgtf Marriott
Great Music, Free Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar ~ BE THERE !

Two "sisters" remembered

"...Our sisters hold up our mirrors; our images of who we are and of who we can dare to become."

Elizabeth Fishel (1979)

MAGGIE and IFGE regret the passing of two of its "finest," Jennifer Richards and Gloria Fredericks.

Jennifer, originally from Philadelphia, became active in the gay and transgender communities in Portland Oregon. After moving to St. Louis, she got involved with what was then the St. Louis Gateway Femmes The group continued to grow, thanks to her guidance. Jennifer was the driving force behind the first regional coalition of transgender support groups — Mid-America Gender Group Information Exchange (MAGGIE). She also served the national community as vice-chair of the Congress of Transgender Organizations from 1993-94.

Jennifer died on December 22 at age 44 of AIDS-related complications. Her last major appearance in the community was at the October 1995 Fall Harvest and, says friend JoAnn Roberts who attended, "Her spirit was indomitable."

Gloria Fredericks was recently killed in a work-related accident.

Last October during the National Transgender Lobby Days, Gloria was the only transgender person to actually see and speak with a U.S. Senator; in fact, the Senator was so impressed with her that he left a Russian delegation waiting while he discussed transgender issues with Gloria.

Since then, she became a 1-woman transgender political action committee. Gloria's energy and dedication to transgender activism caught the eye of many of the transgender leaders involved in creating the GenderPAC

Minding her keys and blues

Reggae or rock, whatever your preference, you won't want to miss tonight's MAGGIE reception. If you like the ivories, come hear them tickled by one of the best.

Lorri Dokkeen, perhaps the GLBT community's most beloved musician in the Twin Cities, comes tonight for an evening of singing and piano that'll jumpstart you into a great convention. The self-proclaimed "cruise director for the evening's activities," Dokkeen will etude you into our nocturnal celebration with 86 keys and a singing style that'll make you feel right at home in our Twin Cities.

And that "at-home" feeling is one that Dokkeen strives for at the piano. "It's such a payback for the many hours of time which have been invested in ivory and yodeling," she says.

What makes Dokkeen stand out is a snazzy sense of humor, a keen ear for the best in music, and everything that stands for "top-notch and just plain good" in the community for which she gives her best - both musically and from the heart.

Welcome, Lorri.



~~~~~  
and was targeted for a role with them to help educate the middle American transgender community about the need to be politically active. She was considered to be a rising star on the national transgender scene.

Clearly, the loss of these two "sisters" saddens us deeply; we are better for having known them, better for the many gifts they have left behind.

**CELEBRATION!** is the daily newsletter of the 1996 IFGE Convention, issued Wednesday thru Sunday mornings of this event. It is available at the registration desk. Contribution info available in tomorrow's edition. *Linda Wright, Editor*

## WHAT'ZIS SNOW???



*"What 'zis snow? How commit comdown?  
I dropped my libstig inna snowbang."  
"It's sparkully powder, matches your gown,  
Now check your g'loshes and y'er handbang."  
(er...handbag)"*

*"Whenzit go bye-bye, leaf us alone?"  
"Aw, you ain't nuttin but a hound-dog  
We're waitin' for 'da shadow, the one that's thrown  
By the squirrely lil' critter, the state's ground-hog."*



*"But whadda' 'bout the Pride? The big shin-dig?"  
"Make merry, my pretties," says we.  
It'll be one HOT big whirly-gig-gig,  
This '96 Pride Jubilee!"*

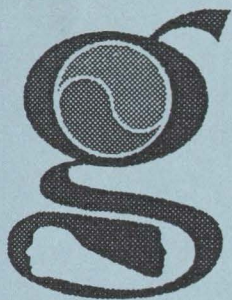
*Welcome to Minnesota!*



# Celebration!

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## Thursday Workshops Cover the Rainbow



Thursday,  
March 27, 1996

### THEY'RE HERE! *TRANSGENDER WARRIOR* ARRIVES

Leslie Feinberg's long-awaited book, *Transgender Warrior*, is now available at IFGE's bookstore here at the convention.

The books come with book plates autographed by the author.

### AND SPEAKING OF BOOKS...

There are plenty of "good reads" at your convention IFGE bookstore. Waltz on in to Ballroom 3 and browse!

### HARK! MARK! THESE CHANGES ON FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Please make these changes to Friday's convention schedule:

10-11 am : Abuse & Use of Cyberspace

*Moved from Deer Lake to Ballroom 4*

11 am-12 pm: Surfing the Web & Other Water Sports

*Moved from Deer Lake to Ballroom 4*

2:00-3:50 pm & 4:40-5 pm: HIV/AIDS Prevention Program

*Moved from Deer Lake/Elk Lake to Ballroom 4*

WINE & CHEESE TASTING PARTY TONITE!  
GRAY'S BAY SUITE 8TH FLOOR, 7-9 pm  
Sponsored by Winslow Street Fund



## I TAWT I TAW...

...if YOU saw dat' puddy, we sure want to know about it. Plus any other convention news you think would interest others.

Share your little gems, gossips, and personal experiences with us in our **Celebration!** newsletter. (The editor doesn't bite and she has a box of candy in her room.)

If you have an article on the convention you'd like to write for us, we'd love to bestow the Honor of the Pen upon you.

Direct your Good Stuff to: Newsletter and hustle it to the registration desk or bring it to Room 1702.

## THURSDAY: HIT THE WORKSHOPS; MEET SOME FRIENDS

Today's the day to make some serious choices on a kaleidoscope of workshops — workshops that'll make conversation lively as the day wears on. Our workshops offer "something for everyone" and we're sure you'll be tempted to attend them all. IFGE's convention is a great place to learn and enjoy!



Today, why not make it a priority to meet 3 new friends at the convention? The convention offers you a better-than-unique opportunity to meet people from many places with many stories to tell. It'll surprise you how "alike" we all are and you'll go away from the convention with warm memories of new friendships.

## *Tonite, you are cordially invited...*

**T**he Winslow Street Fund, IFGE's permanent endowment, cordially invites you to a cheese and wine-tasting party to be held on Thursday, 7-9 pm, Gray's Bay Suite, 8th Floor.

We'll be tasting six California wines, three Chardonnays, and three Zinfandels (red, of course), the highest quality available in the \$8-\$15 range.



The 1994 vintage in California, from which five of our six wines hail, is an outstanding one. Our Chardonnay lineup includes the '94 J. Lohr Rivesstone Vineyard, the '94 Meridian Santa Barbara, and the '93 Chalk Hill Sonoma County. The Zinfandels are the '94 Cline Contra Costa, the '94 Cotierri Chauvet Vineyard, and the '94 Limerick Lane Collins Vineyard.

Please do come and enjoy some nice wines and learn a bit more about the Winslow Street Fund.

## ON THE AIR...

March is Transgender Month and Minnesota Public Radio is highlighting this in a 3-part radio series.

IFGE members at the convention were interviewed by MPR on Wednesday. Among those were Vanessa S., Patricia Winn (members of IFGE) and Dr. Walter Bockting (University of Minnesota and a presenter at the convention).



## RECEPTION BRINGS NEW, OLD FRIENDS

After some afternoon workshops, IFGE kicked off its convention with an opening reception sponsored by our midwest gender organization known as MAGGIE.

The strong attendance at the reception included a BIG contingent from our sister state of Iowa who made a special trip here for this one evening to give a big boost to the "official" MAGGIE presence. It included the group's overall coordinator, Anna Appleby as well as Iowa Artistry President Stephannie Vandemore.

Everyone happily availed themselves of the excellent buffet and other refreshments.

The reception was honored to have transgender pioneer Virginia Prince very much in attendance. She'll be giving a talk on Friday morning, reflecting on her 30 years living full-time as a woman. The MAGGIE people in attendance, along with others, saw their reception as carrying forward our memory of two of our inspiring leaders whom we have recently lost, Jennifer Richards and Gloria Fredericks. And we know that



## SAY HELLO TO YOUR

# VENDORS!

*IFGE is proud to announce this  
year's convention vendors:*

*Don Murnane Wigs  
Personal Images  
Reliable Medical Supply  
Repeat Boutique  
Aurora Screen Print  
McCann Photo  
Basket Barn (PRFDE)  
RJ Salon  
Jim Bridges*

both of these amazingly wonderful people were very much here in spirit with us and delighted with all that is going on here in moving the transgender agenda forward.

*~ Collette*



## SMILE!

When you're decked out in that glitzy finery for the dinners and festivities, have your picture taken! McCann Photography will be on hand in the Garden Room on Friday and Saturday (late afternoon, early evening) to snap you at your finest. Give it a whirl!



## Winslow Street Fund Boosts Gender Community

An oft' overlooked but vital part of IFGE is its Winslow Fund.

The Winslow Fund, established in 1992, provides an endowment to benefit the gender community in a variety of ways. The annual income generated from the fund investments are given as grants for worthy purposes and causes that advance outreach, education and support in the gender community.

Three trustees administer the WSF, handling the annual grant-making and monitor fund investments. WSF's purpose is to give financial support to those individuals and organizations who make significant contributions to the gender community.

Where did WSF's funds go in 1995?

- *ICCLPT - Transgendered Law Conference*

- *S.P.I.C.E.*
- *F to M Convention (James Green)*
- *National Gender Research Project (Dr. Richard Docter)*
- *IFGE Zip Box for Transgender Magazine ??? in Printing Production*

Funds given to the above totaled \$3,000. It's vital that IFGE - through its Winslow Street Fund - support these endeavors since its benefits transcend the organization itself and ripple throughout the entire community.

## GET SPICED ON SATURDAY!

"S.P.I.C.E. - The Gift of Unconditional Love: A Spouses' and Partners' Meeting" will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday, March 30th in the Crystal Lake Room.

Moderators are Annalee G., Frances Fairfax, and Evelyn Kirkland, all members of the Planning Board of the Spouses' and Partners' International

Conference for Education. We will be addressing topics of concern to genetic females in committed relationships with heterosexual crossdressers.

Frequently, the most difficult part of dealing with a crossdressing spouse/partner is trying to sort facts from fictions, fears from feelings. Successful coping strategies can be developed when sufficient information is garnered. Our first goal is to offer sympathetic comfort to women who are distressed by what they perceive as a threat to the marriage. Relationship problems can be complicated still further by gender issues.

Our major goal is to help people work through their issues to find reasonable solutions. We provide information and communications skills to heal the wounds and build relationships. Programs on Saturday will include a brief "herstory" of spouse/partner involvement in the gender community, an overview of S.P.I.C.E. 96, and discussion of issues of concern to the participants. Optional workshop on forming a wives/partners support group available upon request.

-Frances

# Celebration! Thursday

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— Linda Wright, Editor



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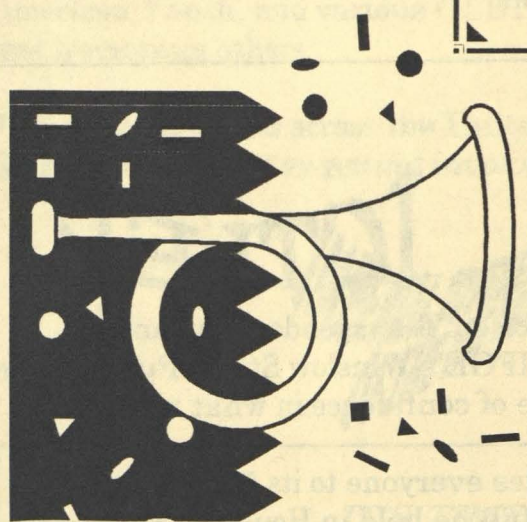
## Saturday: More Couples, Family Workshops



Saturday,  
March 29, 1996

### Sunday Reminder:

A non-denominational Judeo-Christian worship service and an alternative Spirituality Worship Circle will be held at 10 a. m. tomorrow morning in the Pine Lake and Cedar Lake rooms.



**CELEBRATION TIME!**

IFGE AWARDS CEREMONY

IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN COURT OF THE ICE CASTLE

- ~ Virginia Prince Award
- ~ Trinity Awards
- ~ Media Awards
- ~ Partners in Diversity Awards

TONIGHT:  
IFGE BRINGS OUT ITS  
BEST & BRIGHTEST!  
IMPERIAL COURT  
TO ENTERTAIN!

10TH ANNIVERSARY AWARDS BANQUET TONITE!  
COCKTAILS at 6, DINNER at 7, CEREMONY at 8  
AWARDS & THE IMPERIAL COURT!



## MOMMAS & PAPAS WOULD APPROVE ...

Get set to do your "California Dreamin" because next year's IFGE convention will be held in CALIFORNIA! Long Beach, to be specific.

In a new twist, next year's convention will be a multi-organization event. A wide array of workshops and other events are already being planned.

It'll be an IFGE convention you won't want to miss.

We'll give you more details in tomorrow's issue of the convention newsletter.



### *Whatta' dress!*

One of the Twin Cities' best consignment shoppes is right here at the convention! Visit the Repeat Boutique, one of this year's vendors. Owner Lou is a great friend of the transgender/crossdresser community. As a special courtesy, she closes up her shop one evening each month to the public and opens it up to the members of the community so they can shop in private and get a lot of good advice on being "fashionably correct." Welcome, Lou.

## Sheila Kirk To Receive Virginia Prince Award

**L**ong-time IFGE activist Dr. Sheila Kirk is this year's recipient of the Virginia Prince Award. The award is presented annually to a member of the transgender community who has contributed significantly to the community through dedication, service, inspiration, and tireless efforts.

Noted lecturer, researcher, columnist, and author, Kirk is Board Certified in Obstetrics and Gynecology. Among her many awards are IFGE's Trinity Award, the Outreach Award, and Ms. Fantasia Fair. She's served on the IFGE Board of Directors and is a former board member of the Outreach Institute and TransPitt.

*Congratulations, Dr. Kirk!*

## HERE'S THE LATEST FROM.....

# ICTLEP

The International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy thanks IFGE's Winslow Street Fund for the generous grant plus the vote of confidence in what we do.



ICTLEP invites everyone to its 5th Annual Conference. It'll be held in Houston, Texas on July 3-7. Over two-thirds of past attendees have been non-lawyers, just like you.

ICTLEP seeks your financial support. No amount is too small (or too large) — whatever is comfortable for you — to support this worthwhile organization, on a monthly basis. Mail your contributions to ICTLEP, P O Drawer 35477, Houston, TX 77235-5477. Phone 713/777-TGLC.

Also, "It's Time" t-shirts are available in the vendor area. They feature all those fine folks in DC last October.

*Phyllis*





*Say Hello to the  
Imperial Sovereign  
Court of the Ice Castle*

Our entertainment tonight is a whirling production of the Imperial Sovereign Court of the Ice Castle, founded in 1991 by Michael Spivak and Shannon Domonique (aka Ed Miller).

The ISCIC is a non-profit philanthropic organization devoted to the needs of the GLBT community and its friends. Its status as a 501.c3 within the State of Minnesota is pending.

We're currently in our fifth reign, with our recently-elected monarchs Emperor V Jeff Crump and Empress V Tiffany Cartier assuming their reign in February. Organizations benefiting from our money-raising efforts include numerous local AIDS organizations, Breast Cancer Research, Native American Youth, and various GLBT youth groups, the IFGE, and numerous others.

There are 69 courts across the United States and Canada.  
*Show your support by getting involved!*

Jeff Crump

**IMPERIAL SOVEREIGN COURT  
OF THE ICE CASTLE**

**EDITOR'S CHOICE  
AWARDS**



**PRESENTED  
TONITE**

IFGE presents its newly-created Transgender Tapestry Editor's Choice Awards this evening.

These awards were initiated to honor positive portrayals of the transgender community in the mainstream media.

There are 3 awards this year:

*Julie Andrews, Victor/Victoria*, for her portrayal on screen and stage.

*Star Trek Deep Space 9*, for LT. Commander Jadzia Dax, the alien symbiot who transitions back and forth across genders with each new body.

*To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar.*



**IT'S TIME, AMERICA**



I.T.A. invites you to visit the Crystal Lake Room from 9 till 2 today as it presents our common identity and our many allies. Join I.T.A. for a video, handouts, and discussion with Karen Kerin, Executive Director. Learn about the strategy for winning in Congress, legislatures and the courts. Get familiar with the two-prong winning strategies with our allies that we didn't know we had.



## ***VIOLENCE, HEALTH CARE NEEDS FOCUS OF SURVEY; IFGE HELP IS REQUESTED***

The first comprehensive survey on violence and health care needs in the transgendered community is now underway and YOU should know about it.

The survey is being undertaken by the University of Michigan Medical Center Comprehensive Gender Services Program under the guidance of Sandra S. Cole, Ph.D., who is here at the convention.

This is the first "foot in the water" attempt in understanding and documenting things heretofore swept under the carpet in the area of health care needs and violence in the transgendered community.

While those needs are apparent to all of us, the "powers that be" have no hard, cold data to look at in making assessments on what, if anything, should be done. As Dr. Cole points out, "Society and the government will not believe anecdotes and rumors - only facts."

Without specific documented facts in such a well-defined survey, all existing information is anecdotal and influences nothing in societal sensitivity, says Cole.

If you're concerned about personal safety in society and improved availability of supportive health care, participate in this survey so that your voice can be heard. Cole states that the survey will consist of voluntary respondents from IFGE, its local chapters, and other sources. Responses are strictly confidential.

Here's a chance to contribute to an important effort to learn about the real issues concerning violence and health care needs and experiences.

Without hard facts, the transgendered community will be less able carry its needs and message to a well-meaning but often confused public.

Cole says the data will provide the medical profession with the ability to detect specific health needs. It will justify funding for training health care providers, to help the medical profession detect life situations, and more.

"The health profession needs to also hear our life stories, says Cole, " and the demographics people will ask, 'who's responding, how old are they, where do they live?"

- ⇒ Your responses will help influence future funding for gender health care clinics.
- ⇒ Your response will help document needs for gender education and how to train professionals to better serve the community.
- ⇒ Your responses will help alert professionals to detect abuse and violence against transgendered individuals and to respond with proper services.

Here's your chance to help us bring new information for social and health care change into the public arena. Solid information that is, according to Cole, "irrefutable."

## **Celebration! Saturday**

**CELEBRATION!** is the daily newsletter of the 1996 IFGE convention, *Minnesota Pride '96*. It is available daily (Wednesday through Sunday) at the convention and may be picked up at the registration desk. It will list any announcements or last-minute changes you should know about.

If you have news, information, or chuckles you feel would benefit those at the convention (No reprints or long articles, please), drop it off at the registration desk — or come find me and we'll do lunch ... or the gumball machine.

— Linda Wright, Editor



# Celebration!

*The daily newsletter of MINNESOTA PRIDE CELEBRATION '96,  
the 1996 annual convention of the International Foundation for Gender Education*

## Sunday: Time to Get in Your "Parting" Shots



Sunday,  
March 31, 1996

BOY VOYAGE!

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR  
IN CALIFORNIA!

Mark your calendars now because next year's convention is slated to be held in California! The 1997 California Dreamin' event and the IFGE national convention

will be held at the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach.

The event, labeled "California Unity," is a transgender community event, something new for an IFGE convention. Other organizations participating are PPOC, Alpha Chapter Tri-Ess, Born Free, and Neutral Corner. Other organizations may also be joining in.

The Hotel Queen Mary, a luxury liner, provides a unique convention setting.

Many TG/CD/TV/TS tracks are in progress for next year's convention. There will be a spouse-conducted S.O. program and special programs on political activism and community building.

Currently in the planning stages is a 1-day leadership training course.

Event co-chairs are Joan Goodnight, PPOC, and Alison Laing, IFGE's executive director.

Perhaps having a convention on an ocean liner will help all of us pick up the call and swim with the sharks in some oft' infested waters of life.

SEE YOU NEXT YEAR IN CALIFORNIA!



# AUDIENCE INSURRECTION

Rose Prescott

Gender therapists face a sophisticated clientele, famous for manipulation. ("What!? A hundred dollars an hour for a solid year, and you're not going to give me my letter? Do you think I'm coming to you for my health?" No, that doesn't happen to us very often.)

Saturday morning, Sandra Davis, PhD, gave a presentation entitled "Gender identity disorder is no longer a mystery." Perhaps she should have called it "Gender identity disorder explained." Mysteries demand a *solution*, not an explanation. Her talk met with a disputatious audience.

She began with the child-parent-adult model of the psyche. As we grow, people influence us for better or for worse, and we incorporate them into ourselves as "interjects" -- our perceptions of other people, internalized, which come to the fore when we're being the appropriate part of ourself. When we're being childish, memories of our parents have a stronger influence.

If that first important experience is a woman, we might become convinced we should be women.

And then the comments started.

Another therapist suggested that perhaps theory was being presented as fact here; we might be better served with a few grains of salt.

"Why aren't more men convinced they should be women?" a transsexual asked. "Why aren't more women convinced they should be

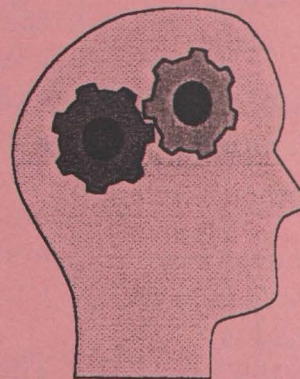
men? The people who influence us are half-and-half, after all"

A friend-of-the-community asked "Why am I *not* transgendered? What made the difference?"

One person returned to an earlier question to ask why there were not more transgendered? Dr. Davis said that in her opinion -- and in her practice -- there *were*. Remembering my days of invisibility, I cannot but agree!

In the end, with vigorous audience participation, much was learned. Some of it was not in Dr. Davis' intended syllabus -- but a talk that provokes discussion is in many ways as good as one that provokes agreement.

There was discussion. There was community. The rest is detail.



## Warm Fuzzies

"This group has done a *great* job -- I haven't heard a word of dissent. Every group has internal politics, but there hasn't been a hint of that showing during the convention."

— Angela Brightfeather Sheedy



# The Warrior Speaks

(following are excerpts of Leslie Feinberg's just-released book, TRANSGENDER WARRIORS.)

"When I say I am a gender outlaw in modern society, it's not rhetoric. I have been dragged out of bars by police who claimed I broke the law when I dressed myself that evening. I've heard the rap of a cop's club on the stall door when I've used a public women's toilet."

"Today, a great deal of 'gender theory' is abstracted from human experience. But if theory is not the crystallized resin of experience, it ceases to be a guide to action. I offer history, politics, and theory that live and breathe because they are rooted in the experience of real people who fought flesh-and-blood battles for freedom."

"The earliest written edicts I could find against cross-dressing and sex-change were in Deuteronomy. Did that make Jews responsible for the rise of this bigotry? If hoped not, since I was sick to death of blame."

"While there is no blueprint for the struggles ahead, we can learn both from engaging a common enemy and from the crystallized experiences of the past."

"Each person has the right to control their own body. If each individual doesn't have that right, then who gets to judge and make decisions? Should we hand over that power to the church or the state? Should we make these rights subject to a poll?"

"As trans people, we will not be free until we fight for and win a society in which no class stands to benefit from fomenting hatred and prejudice, where laws restricting sex and gender and human will be unthinkable."

"We have a right to live openly and proudly. When we are denied those rights, we are the ones who suffer that oppression. But when our lives are suppressed, *everyone* is denied an understanding of the rich diversity of sex and gender expression and experience that exist in human society."

CHANGE  
Rose Prescott

Friday midnight, I was walking down Seventh to my parking ramp. Nobody was laughing or staring. Could I be passing?

A beggar approached. "Sir, can you spare a quarter?"

Which shows that people at all levels of society could benefit from learning proper pronouns for the transgendered. If he'd said "ma'am" he would have gotten the quarter -- perhaps a dollar.

We have outreach yet to do.

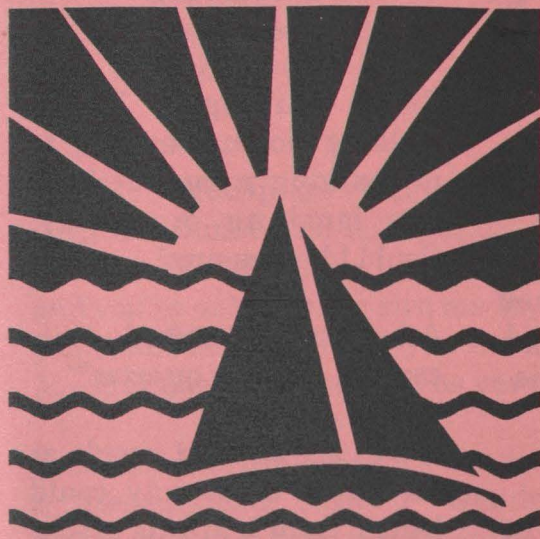
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DANKE

We'd like to thank all of you who attended this year's IFGE convention.

Your dedication to the work of IFGE is a credit to our organization and is certainly a testimonial that you believe that together we can make changes to improve the quality of living for all of us.

See you next year and have a safe trip home!



California in '97

IFGE 1997
Convention
April 15-20, 1997

Celebration!
Sunday

On Becoming

*(lyrics from "The Rose") **

*Some say love it is a river
That drowns the tender reed
Some say love it is a razor
That leaves your soul to bleed
Some say love it is a hunger
An endless aching need*

*I say love it is a flower
And you it's only seed.*

*It's the heart afraid of breaking
That never learns to dance
It's the dream afraid of waking
That never takes the chance
It's the one who won't be taken
Who cannot seem to give*

*And the soul afraid of dying
That never learns to live.*

*When the night has been too lonely
And the road has been too long
And you think that love is only
For the lucky and the strong*

*Just remember in the winter
Far beneath the bitter snows*

*Lies the seed that with the sun's love
In the spring becomes the rose.*

(Words and music by Amanda Bloom)

CELEBRATION! is the daily newsletter of the 1996 IFGE convention, *Minnesota Pride '96*. This is the last issue for the convention. If you have missed previous issues, extra copies are available at the IFGE exhibit in the registration area.

Thanks to the many people who contributed information or articles to this publication.

Linda Wright, Editor