

Atlanta Action update

Friday March 17th, 1995

IFGE BESTOWS TRINITY AWARDS AT GALA BANQUET

Certainly, one of the highlights of the annual IFGE convention is the Trinity Awards. The "Trinities" are the community's Nobel Prize, acknowledging heroes and heroines, the people demonstrating extraordinary acts of love and courage.

This year's recipients are:

Dallas Denny, Founder, Director, American Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS).

James Green, Editor, *F2M*, largest circulated publication on female-to-male transgender issues.

Laura Caldwell, spearheading IFGE's Strategic Plan, Vision 2000.

Leslie Feinberg, author of *Stone Butch Blues* and *Transgender Liberation: A Movement Whose Time Has Come*.

Sharon Ann Stuart, Director of the Military Law Project for the Int'l Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy (ICTLEP).

Linda Peacock, board of directors, IFGE and Tri-Ess, heads Spouse's/ Partner's Int'l. Conference for Education (SPICE).

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

(Watch your daily newsletter and the bulletin board in the Sherwood Room for program changes.)

FRIDAY, 3/17

8am: Convention staff meeting
(Fulton Room)

**8:15-8:45: Nonsectarian Worship/
Meditation Period (Highlands
Room)** Coordinators: Lynn Elizabeth
Walker & Kim Lee Brown

9-5: IFGE Board of Directors Meeting
(Fulton Room)

Coordinator: Linda Buten, Chair

**8:45-10:15: Starting a new Support
Group (Morningside Room)**

Focuses on how we can best identify these needs (from closet through integration), achieve outreach, organize and network, provide effective support. Presenter: Holly Boswell

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COMIN' OUT SWINGIN'

I can honestly say I wouldn't want to get into an argument with this woman. "Dem's fightin' words," I thought.

The fist-pounding Martine Rothblatt, speaker at Wednesday's luncheon, had so much info to convey, my head was on overload when she finished.

Author of "The Apartheid of Sex: A Manifesto on the Freedom of Gender", Rothblatt wasted little time in getting into the guts of gender.

Following the beliefs put forth in her book, asks Rothblatt, "Is the categorization of people from the moment of birth as either male or female a form of sexual segregation as pernicious as racial apartheid?"

Rothblatt cites current academic opinion and research to argue that the answer is yes -- and that the time is right for a new sexual revolution.

Her book calls for the adoption of a new sexual model -- one that accommodates every possible shade of gender identity. It shows that traditional male and female roles are dictated neither by genetics, genitals, nor reproductive biology but rather by social attitudes that have their roots in early patriarchal culture and subsequently institutionalized by modern law.

In the name of the countless people of unique gender who continue to suffer on the procrustean bed of sexual duality, Rothblatt calls for a new acceptance of human sexuality -- in all its prismatic variety.

This concise, clear, "make-no-bones-about-it" book is nestled nicely in the IFGE bookstore at 11 the reception desk. Pick up your copy today -- it's a a"must for your bookshelf.

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8:45-10:15: Consensus as a Group Goal (Ansley Room) Non-hierarchical systems of group governance, alternatives to Robert's Rules of Order. Avoid the tyranny of the majority, or the tyranny of a despot. Based on the experience of the Metropolitan Gender Network, the Transsexual Menace, the Religious Society of Friends, Asian spiritual traditions, and the works of M. Scott Peck. Presenter: Lynn Walker

8:45-10:15: Successful Leadership for Social and Support Groups for Wives and Partners (Piedmont Room) Methodology, resources, skills and techniques used to provide optimum outreach to wives and partners of transgendered persons. Listening skills, avoid burnout, successful formats, interesting topics for diverse members, techniques that work, things to avoid, when to make referrals, development of guidelines and recommendations. Sandra S. Cole, Ph.D., Linda Peacock

10:30-Noon: The Open Door/NYC (Morningside Room) The birth and evolution of an interdenominational transsexual spirituality and church. Presenter: Lynn Walker

10:30-Noon: Significant Others Symposium, Session I (Piedmont Room) Frank and open presentation and discussion of wives and female partners issues, with call for action. Coordinator: IFGE Wives and Partners Committee

Noon-2pm: Lunch (Keynote Speaker Holly Boswell) (Habersham Room)

2-3:30: Gender Dynamics, Life Cycles (Morningside Room) Action and understanding as one way of looking at masculine and feminine roles. The process of visioning what is possible and willfully making that vision into a reality. The process of experiencing, feeling the world around you, and allowing those experiences and emotions to affect your knowing of the world. Discussions and exercises. Presenter: Anne Johnson

2:30 pm. "Developing and Implementing a Telephone Hotline Outreach Training Course: Crossroads' 1-year Experience." (Ansley Room). Presentation of

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LET'S GO SHOPPING!

...at the IFGE convention! Yesterday marked the opening of the Vendors' Show, a chance to take a look-see around and shop right here. Where is it? Come to the registration room. The Show's right there, waiting for you!

This year's vendors are:

Dr. Oosterhaus, Plastic Surgeon, San Francisco

Renee Abrahams, Jewelry

Jim Bridges Boutique

Mary Catherine's Breast Forms

Jane and Michelle - Glamour Shots

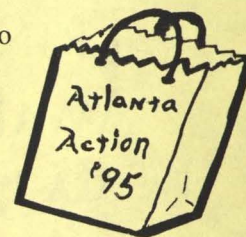
AEGIS

Ann West, Shoe Express

TRIESS/SPICE

Southern Comfort

and of course no convention would be complete without the one and only **IFGE BOOKSTORE !!**



SO YOU WANT TO BELONG?

Most people want to belong to something that will make a difference. The new IFGE wants to make a difference too, and to make this difference we need you to become a member.

When you registered for the convention, you were given a new IFGE brochure. We hope you have read it as it outlines for you all the we are trying to accomplish.

We need your help to reach our goals, so please join. We have made it affordable to become a member and support programs for the community. One of the inserts in the brochure is about the various levels of membership and the benefits each level provides. Please read that insert and then decide which is best for you.

All who join IFGE, whether at the \$25, \$100, or \$500 level will receive:

- a Quarterly newsletter about what's happening at IFGE, what people are doing in the community all over the country, research projects, people to acknowledge for their time, effort, and contributions, etc.
- a 10% discount on IFGE products (excluding *Tapestry*)
- voting rights

We hope you will join and become part of a growing group of people both inside and outside the community who believe in freedom of gender expression and who are willing to voice their viewpoint.

by **Sharon Saypen**,
Membership Chair

Crossroads' outreach team's training class and manual for its phone outreach activities. For groups seeking to increase member teamwork and involvement. Will include a mini-workshop on handling phone calls. Presenter: Milesa Phar. **2-5:15: Female-to-Male Symposium, Session I (Piedmont Room)** Frank and open presentation and discussion of female-to-male issues, with call for action. Coordinator: IFGE FTM Committee

3:45-5:15: Producing an Effective Newsletter (Ansley Room)

The entire process, considering your readership and publishing goals, technical formats, printing strategies, encouraging contributors, editorial policies, budgeting, mailing. Presenter: Holly Boswell

3:45-5:15: Leading In A Healing Way (Morningside Room)

An experiential workshop. Spiritual retreats and healing circles are becoming more prevalent in the transgender community. Learn why and how these activities work. Three step healing process: Methodology technique, beneficial use of song, dance, ritual. Presenter: Angela Bright Feather Sheedy

5:15-6: Memorial Service (Details pending) Coordinator: Lynn Walker

SATURDAY, 3/18:

8am: Convention staff meeting (Fulton Room)

8:15am-8:45am: Nonsectarian Worship/Meditation Period (Highlands Room) Coordinators: Lynn Elizabeth Walker & Kim Lee Brown

8:45-5: Transgender Political Caucus (Fulton Room)

8:45-10:15: Successful Peer Advocacy (Ansley Room)

How the transgendered peer support person can do more to educate, assist and positively influence professional caregivers as they work with clients and partners in the transgender community. Connecting with professionals, credible and effective outreach, locate capable caregivers, make resources, be responsive to clients and caregivers. Presenters: Sandra Cole, Ph.D., Holly Boswell



The Opposite Sex
IS NEITHER

PERFORMANCE &
BOOK SIGNING

The evening approaches, anticipation is high, the curtain rises... This is the evening that **Kate Bornstien**, author of *Gender Outlaw* will perform her one womyn (no typo folks) play on gender, *The Opposite Sex Is Neither*. The event takes place across the street at the **14th Street Street Playhouse**. The play begins at 8:00pm. Trust me, if you haven't seen her you are surely missing out on a candid, witty and touching evening of theatre.

Remember, **Kate Bornstien** will also be doing a book and *Tapestry Journal* #69 signing at 11:00AM in the bookstore tomorrow in the vendors room.

Tickets for her performance are available at the registration desk. This is her first Southeastern performance and should be charged with positive energy. Come On! Validate yourself and bask in the proud glow of this talented artist.

*Ode from a
Starlit
Crossdresser*

Twinkle, twinkle, little star
How I wonder who I are
Wish I may,
Wish I might,
Wear that dress
I bought last night.

WAS IT ONLY A
DREAM?

*And you see Laura ...
on a train that is passing by.
(Lyrics from the song, "Laura".)*

Desperately seeking Laura, my investigative instinct told me I wasn't trying hard enough at this convention. I first met Laura at the registration desk. Beaming, smiling, the words were, "Hi, my name is Laura." Not quite your Laura material, I noted on my investigative notepad... very short curly brown hair, jeans, deep voice. We exchanged pleasantries, noting that Laura had once traveled to my home digs, the Twin Cities, indeed knew all the hot spots. We parted.

But I couldn't forget Laura. Throughout the convention, I searched for him? her? Ah, it was the eyes, you see. I asked around. Laura was still at the convention, people said, but recognition would be a big factor. I would know, I vowed, I would know by Laura's eyes.

The search continues. Tune in tomorrow for "The Continuing Quest for Laura." Hoo ha.



THE IFGE LOGO

After long months of brainstorming and image enhancing meetings IFGE released this week their membership packet enclosed in your convention folder. On front you will notice a design; the icon of IFGE.

The line below provides a firm foundation. The gender 'G' has a Yin/Yang symbol representing the balance of the spirit within. Its tail swirls into the profiles of a man and a woman representing the expression of one' inner spirit. IFGE.

stereotyping is a potential rainbow of gender expression. Explore the full implications of gender liberation. Slide presentation and discussion. Presenter: Holly Boswell

3:45-5:15: Congress of Transgendered Organizations Annual Meeting, 2nd Session (Ansley Room) Agenda to be determined. Convention participants are welcome to attend. Coordinator: Anne Johnson, Chair CTO

7-8: Reception and cocktail Party (South Ballroom) A reception line consisting of our awards recipients and our community's most prominent leaders will greet you, followed by a cash bar and the warm company of your brothers, sisters, and friends. A lovely way to begin your evening.

8-Midnight: Formal Banquet and 9th Annual Dr. Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award Presentation (South Ballroom) Honoring: Yvonne Cook-Riley Annual formal banquet followed by the presentation of the 1995 Virginia Prince Lifetime Contribution Award. This night the transgender community will honor the one person who has made the greatest lifetime contribution in service to that community. The evening will conclude with entertainment, music and dancing.

8:45-Noon: Significant Others Symposium, Session II (Piedmont Room)

Frank and open presentation and discussion of wives and female partners issues, with call for action. Coordinator: IFGE Wives and Partners Committee

8:45-10:15: Emerging From Secrecy (Morningside Room) Personal growth is the key concept in this talk. The painful "coming out" process will be viewed as the necessity for exchanging value systems. This is continual emerging and growth in a transgendered person. The rate of this change determines somewhat who our leaders will be. Presenter: Maryann Kirkland

10:30-Noon: Effective Programming for the Local Group (Ansley Room) Education, socialization, integration, personal skills and interests, and recreation. Participative workshop. Presenter: Alison Laing

10:30-Noon: Visible Leadership (Morningside Room) This workshop will emphasize not only leading within the transgender community, but also on acting as ambassadors to the general public. There will be a review of the benefits and drawbacks of both individual visibility and invisibility, and a discussion on how to minimize drawbacks and maximize benefits of individual visibility. Presenter: Nancy Nangeroni

Noon-2pm: Lunch (South Ballroom)

2-5:15: Female-to-Male Symposium, Session II (Piedmont Room) Frank and open presentation and discussion of female-to-male issues, with call for action. Coordinator: IFGE FTM Committee

2-3:30: Bridging the Gap with other Gender and Sexual Minorities (Ansley Room) Why's, wherefore's, and how's of becoming involved with other gender/sexual minority groups. Will include a panel discussion with local members of these groups. Presenter: Dallas Denny, M.A.

2-3:30: Transgender Alternatives (Morningside Room) Beyond traditional notions of sex role

WINSLOW GRANTS AWARDED

Yesterday, the Winslow Street Foundation Fund held its annual luncheon. This year's grants were distributed as follows:

- \$500 grant to **International Conference on Transgendered Law and Employment**
- \$1000 grant to **SPICE**; part of this is from the Ellen Summers Memorial Fund, as requested by Patti Sommers.
- \$1000 grant to **Female-To-Male Conference** scheduled for this year and chaired by James Green.
- \$500 grant to *Tapestry Journal* for purchase of equipment.

The Ellen Summers Memorial Fund has received \$1500-\$2000 from 60 givers. Funds are still coming in. This Memorial has been designated by Patti Sommers for the Winslow Street Endowment Fund.

God Squad MEETING SLATED

Any transgendered clergy, spiritual leaders, seekers, philosophers, and thinkers are invited to ccome to the Highlands Room for about 15 minutes today at 2pm. We will discuss the memorial service and the establishment of a network.
