INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER – SEATTLE, WASHINGTON DECEMBER. 1998 I YOL. THREED NO. 11 I PRICE: SI.OWEA. I SIS.OWYR SUBSCRIPTION

THEINGERSOLL

MESSAGE

THE INGERSOLL MESSAGE PRESENTS ITS ANNUAL POETRY ISSUE

Last January, the Ingersoll Message presented an issue filled with poetry. It seems to have caught on. We are happy to present another issue filled with poetry written by, for and about the 'T' experience.

Many thanks to the contributors -- with a few apologies if we messed up the way you wish the poetry to be placed on the page.

We hope you enjoy our offerings, and also hope that it might stimulate others to take pen-pencil-computer keyboard in hand and try to write of their experiences.



"GUNS, GAYS, GRASS AND GUMS" By Judy Osborne, Ingersoll Board Member

A curious feature of initiative 677's defeat by Washington State voters came, it was lopsided in our favor

In a compromise made in deterence to the restriction of the restriction in the compromise avoided a red flag that might bisexuals and transpoorle and the ballot bisexuals, and transpeople, ended up sharing the ballot with a whole var have flown had the controversial "transgender" word appeared in the ballot

would have required trigger locks on handguns. There were more, but

spent too much of the community's money, to find our defeat amusi was the bottom line. Now we're facing a year in Olympia of hearing legislators tell us the vot have spoken about rights for deviants such as we.

The ballot congestion turned out to be a sheer disaster. In an off-ye election with little else to attract voters, the multiplicity of initiativ brought out some powerful and wealthy opponents

Dentists from Maine to Oregon dug deeply into their pockets to keep t status quo, fearing a loss of income otherwise, and terrified by the notithat dental hygienists soon would be referring patients to dentists. T Federal and State anti-drug establishments weighed in against liberalizin drug laws even in hospice settings. The National Rifle Association, as ye might expect, aimed its biggest financial and organizational cannons at or State All three turned out legions of conservative supporters who werer about to vote for gay rights and who voted down all the initiatives anywa just to make sure nothing would change

If it had passed, I-677 would have protected the jobs of transpeople alon with other sexual minorities. There was controversy oveer our inclusion. took a day-long, stormy session in February for the I-677 board to decide t bring along transpeople. The board wasn't being prejudiced or elities Their research revealed that we would cost them crucial votes. It seeme that few citizens knew us a real people, and almost everybody had their own stereotypical images of us when 'gender identity' was explained to them in neutral terms.

On the other hand, transpeople here in Seattle had worked with gays. lesbians and bisexuals on pride events and political issues for a decade or more. Transperson Marsha Botzer sat on the board, and board members knew may others of us as well. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and straight board members were eloquent in pleading our case, and when the vote finally

In a compromise made in deference to the research, we agreed to be defined

another let dental hygienists work without a dentist for a boss, still anot Transpeople contributed extensive amounts of time and money to the would have required trigger locks on bondaries. The ensuing campaign, first to gathered 229,000 signatures and then to convince the electorate to vote for our initiative Our contributions were recognized It wasn't funny, actually. We had worked too long, hoped too much, and acknowledged in many different ways. Nevertheless, we lost, and that

Five factors appear again and again as the reasons for our loss, in news accounts and in our campaign's own analysis. They are:

In the campaign's own words, "The \$4,000,000 spent by the National Rifle Association in the 'No of 676' (trigger lock) campaign turned voters into 'Nc Machines' All the statewide initatives were swamped in the NRA tidal

We didn't turn out our voters. Our target voters were GLBT people, women and 'Generation X'er', none of whom came out in any force at all. Numbers were very low even in the most gay and Democratic districts.

None of the initiatives struck middle-of-the-road voters as comopelling. In an off-year election without many political-party races, only the partisans of

the individual initiatives came out.

Polling data indicated that the voters who actually voted in this off-year election were far more conservative than the normal mix of voters in our state, almost certainly drawn out by the NRA, American Dental Association, and anti-drug forces.

We didn't raise enough money to overcome the single misconception that early polls identified as our problem: the mistaken idea on the part of most people that gays couldn't be fired just for being gay.

transpeople was included in the initiative. From the very beginning we knew we could be scapegoated if we lost, but we weren't.

Not even the religious right chose to make an issue of transpeople to any great extent Spokesperson Robert Larimer briefly raised the issue of men teachers showing up for class wearing dresses, but his argument fizzled and the right quickly abandoned it

Instead, the religious right attacked gays as "sodomites" and "public health risks" and led voters to believe that the initiative would open the door for "pedophilia to necrophilia to porn addiction to be added through court rulings by liberal judges " In a last-minute ad, former Seattle Seahawk hero Steve Largent, now a congressman from Oklahoma, brought out the old but still-effective argument that we were seeking some kind of undefined "special rights "

Right after the election, Marsha Botzer and I attended a post-mortem in the campaign office. Jan Biachi, the Executive Director of the organization running the campaign, conducted the meeting. She began on a positive note by ticking off the good things that had happened, the first of which was that including transgender in gay, lesbian, and bi political issues has ceased to be controversial, at least in the State of Washington.

That good news was further amplified in a memo analyzing the loss, which said, "Another good result was that the transgender issue never took off as a serious threat to the initiative. We did educate many people and drew in a new group of volunteers and workers."

The Washington Association of Churches, the state's Catholic bishops, and he Jewish Federation all endorsed I-677. Prior to their endorsements, Simple Justice, a network of gay Christians, circulated an analysis clearly tating that the initiative covered transsexual and transgendered persons.

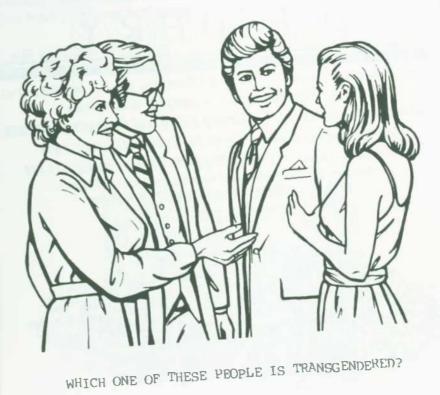
Cristen Pula, one of the two field organizers for the initiative, had direct contact with grass-roots opinion all over the state. She told me, "I've heard to one in the community talk about this (the inclusion of transpeople) as a eason for the defeat of the initiative... if anything, I've heard member of the rganization saying that this has been a good thing -- we've educated gays nd lesbians who may not have even thought about the trans-issue. I talked > people in Spokane, and there are transgender people there having a hard

Nobody even hinted that we didn't win because job protection for time of things. I think we've increased the dialogue through the initiative process and people working together."

What's next? Not another initiative for now. Instead, we'll concentrate on opposing bills that would restrict our freedom and equality, several of what almost certainly will be introduced in the next session of the Legislature. Beyond that, we'll be mobilizing transpeople to help elect more progressive candidates to the Legislature.

Soon after our defeat, I-677 organizer's sent an open letter to the community which, among other things, listed the many positive results of the campaign. The letter concluded with a more extended view of the future:

"Today, these results seem trivial posed against the pain and the magnitude of the loss. But in the days ahead, these results will be the threads that stitch on the wounds, that knit the community together and that weave another path to victory on this course we have set for justice."



EMERALD CITY 206-827-9494 PHONES ANSWERED TUESDAYS 7:00 PM 10:00 PM For Crossdressers. Meetings and social gatherings. Safe, discreet, and confidential. A place to be all you want to be!



All Mondays in January: Amazing Changes, an AA Group for Gender-involved people: 6:00-7:00 pm All Wednesdays in January: TS Group (Referral (Inly) 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 January 12: Ingersoll Board meeting 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm. January 13: FTM Support Group. 7:30-9:30 pm.



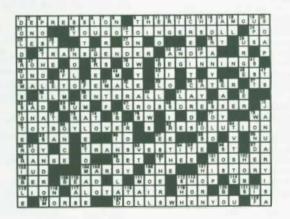
THE BUTLER DID IT! ByPat Butler

"The time has come, the walrus said, to speak of many things..." I use the above quotation from *Alice in Wonderland* as a prelude to my column for the month of January. With the increase of work-load at my 'other' job, I find it necessary to resign from my position as Executive Director. It has been a wonderful, exciting four years here at Ingersoll, and I leave with feelings of sadness, relief, joy, and gratitude. There are far too many people to thank for their love, care and all 'round support of me in the job. I especially want to thank Marsha, Robin, and Kim for their love and support.

I believe that Ingersoll is in very capable hands with KEE coming on board as Office Manager. Give her all the support you have given me in the last few years, and she'll do well indeed.

I will continue to publish *The Ingersoll Message* up through the March, 1998, issue, and then will turn that over to someone else to take over.

Thanks again for a great time.



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TO WRITE POETRY IS TO PAINT WITH THE S



THE SPLENDIOR OF GENDER

We're all open enders Considering blenders, benders Transcenders; Avoiding offenders, Eschewing pretenders, And Post Modern Menders.

We're the best of contenders In straps or suspenders: Defenders of genders Oppressed by big-spenders.

But be sure our quest renders Superstar Splendors in genders. anon.



Rap --Crap! Rap IS Crap! Don' be a SAP!

It's all JIVE, Goodness Sakes ALIVE!

> Big Deal, It's a STEAL!

Anyone can Rap, lt's a Trap!

They just want yo' MONEY; They don' really care, HONEY!

They jus' wan' yo' MONEY They jus' wanna scare SONNY!

They got nothin' better to DO Than lay a scare on YOU!

Decrease your intelliGENCE, Just lay down yo' money GENTS!

If ya' really wanna give it AWAY, Jus' slide that jack on over my WAY!

I won't insult YA', I won' play you for a fool! I just want your cash too, It's a money money making TOOL, And I ain't any kind of FOOL.

DEACHES By christie karis

GOLDEN STRANDS OF CRYSTAL HUE ENFOLD MY SEA, CARESS MY SHORE, ENVISIONED SPACE FOR SOLITUDE, MY CASTAWAYS ARE WELCOME TOO!

AMIDST THE DIN OF CITY STREETS, O'ER THE EARTH MY PUFFY FLEECE, TO PONDER THIS, THE CONTRAST VIEW, MY GOLDEN SANDS I GIVE TO YOU.

THIS ORB YOU CALL THE EARTHLY PLANE, YOU'VE CHOSED TIME TO MERGE AGAIN THE LINES, THE PLANS, AND ACUMEN, BY WALKS AMONG THE MICE AND MEN.

FOR IN THE PLACE WHERE LILIES GROW KISSED BY SONGS OF ZEPHYRS, KNOW THAT HERE THE YIN AND YANG ARE ONE, THOUH WONDER LEAVES YOUR WORK UNDONE.

CHILD, DO NOT FEAR TO REACH INSIDE TO FIND THE SELF, FOR WHICH IS MINE, TO SIT WITH ME, TO STROLL THE SHORE; TO DANCE AMONG THE STARS, AND MORE.



I GIVE YOU BEACHES TO EXPLORE, TO GIND AGAIN, YOUR LOST LENORE, DISCOVER GARDENS YOU SO ADORE, WHERE ALL IS ONE AND NOTHING MORE. (What Do You Do, in) The Washington Ram By Marian McDowell

Up where I live, it has been known to rain Matter of fact, rumour says every day Oh yes I live up where it is ever green But I travel where it's bright but grey

What do you do in the Washington rain?Someone said to me in L A one day.How do you live with the Washington rain?What can you do when it rains every day?

And to them this is what I had to say: Listen close cause I won't tell you again! Up there it don't rain all day every day But when it does, we just wear a big grin

Now what you do in the Washington rain ls just stand in the rain wearing a grin Then what you do in the Washington rain Is wash away all your troubles and pain

Just let it rinse your soul clean again Go on and let it make you sane again Then you wait till the warm sun shines again And when it does your new life can begin

Come on up home to the Washington Rain I make my home in the Washington Rain Get yourself clean with the Washington Rain Begin again in the Washington Rain

Come on and stand in the Washington Rain



By Marian McDowell

I am a father, it is no bother. I got a daughter, an' this I taught her. got to go to school, 'Bide by the golden Rule

And to Look both ways, that honesty pays got to pay the toll, and to Rock 'N Roll,

I thought she was cool, but she's the Devil's tool

I said, let us go see the Stones, An' she let out, with some big groans,

An' said to get "Out of my face, I would rather hear Ace of Bass.

The Stones are so old, that thay are growin' mould An' I have too been told, that they are ready to fold

Do I look like a big fool? I don' dig no geezer drool. it's a ger-i-a-tric crock, I don' wan' no Geezer Rock."

> I was so stunned at being shunned. But I fought back,

Thought 'bout givin' her head a shot, but a bully I am not.

Haven't you heard that "Moss grows bad, on a Rolling Stone?" Am I a nerd? Don McLean, Dad, also an old bone.



(A work in progress) By Linda

Visions and dreams and thunder roles. She found her live in the evening throes. Elephants, Tigers and Rambucks lie Waiting for the day they will die.

A golden-haired princess stands in the snow Covered with blue light from head to toe. A prince appears with a tear. For he knows only one is there.

She, with he begins the journey to find the key. They wade through the loam to the base of the dome.

They climb the tower that winds to right; The one that is familiar and full of fright.

And when they reach the top, now she can see. That the tower, the tower, the tower is Free. The tower the tower the tower is me.



When first I began this strange little jaunt, The very last thing on my mind Was anything -- even accessories --That as 'practical' could be defined.

I wanted the frills and the flounces, The cocktail dresses and more --And the warm and the fuzzy and comfy? I would say would be strictly a bore!

So, I filled up my closet with heels and such; And with cute party dresses galore. And I sorta went broke and I froze all the time, And my feet were incredibly sore.

So, as I got into transition I decided I'd better transit, So I bought some jeans in whites and in greens That were WARM and looked good 'cause they fit.

> The closer I got to my womanhood The less dress-up I wanted to play. And it seemed really silly, Not to mention expensive To wear party dresses all day.

Now the things that remind me of all these changes Are the simplest things in the world. In my little white flats and less makeup, I find I'm much closer to being 'girled'.

MAR CIRL DEMND THE GLASS By Marsha Botzer

She's always in the mirror, Hidden just behind the glass: Calling to me softly, Yearning to be free.

She's been kept imprisoned there For what feels like a thousand years --A lifietime of hopes and fears, And cried a million tears.

She lays down with me every night, Softly, sweetly, caressing, Nuturing my soul, Dreaming to be free --The best part of me.

I can stand your pain no longer. You're a perishing flower Dying of broken heart, Imprisoned behind the glass Can you ever forgive me For keeping you there?

One warm, summer morning, I smiled and took your hand It's been there for me all along; It took all the courage I had.

You've been locked away Inside me for so long And now you're finally free. You're the bet part of me, Your happiness gives me such joy. You make me feel alive. For the first time That I can remember, it feels so good to Be Me! By Marian McDowell

It is Valentine's Day, 6 1995. To compose a verse so gay

I will now strive.

But not, oh so gay, That true sentiment is lost. What I want to say, Must be sincere at all cost.

Too often, this day Have I let pass With no word to say; I regret, alas.

I have no proud name, Not even a small fortune Nor a bit of Fame. Can't even sing you a tune.

And I know that my love For you is often suspect. But I give what I have: All my love and respect.

I swear it's true, even though At times I've been a fiend, And then it may not seem so. But you are my best friend.

Many times I've failed In my anger at you and Heaven. Both I have railed --To You, I pray to be forgiven.





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