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## BARBIE'S FIRST OUTING! PART II

BY Rebecca Buchanan
Reprinted from the Femme Forum, Houston Texas

Last month, in part I, "Barbie" was caught crossdressing in her sister's clothes. As the sister's friends demanded that Sis introduce her, "Barbie" waited in horror for her sisters' reaction. And now the exciting conclusion to our story!

"Of course I know her," my sister said, sardonically. I could do nothing, I was in her power. She could expose me to her friends, and I would be ruined – a laughing stock.

"This is my little sister, Barbie," she said, at last, "And she's being very bad, getting my new outfit all dirty out here. Get up. Barbie!" I stood, trembling, still not trusting her.

"She's adorable," said one of the girls. "You two could be twins!"

"YOU march right into that house and take off my dothes girl, Margio said, raising her voice slightly. I just stared at her not real comprehending.

I turned and ran, not being very feminine about it, but not caring. I ran through the back door, up the basement steps, into the living room. There I saw the dolls—ken still in drag laying on the coffee table. I scooped them up and bolted upstairs.

I peeled off Margie's clothes and jewery and wiped off the make-up. I put my own clothes back on and locked myself in my room. I waited for her to come and drop the other shoe: reveal who I really was to her friends so they could have a good laugh. But she didn't About ten minutes later, she yelled from downstairs, "We're going now, Barbie. You better stay away from my clothes. You have plenty of pretty things of your own. You be a good girl or I'll tell Mom about this little episode!" They left the house and I heard the car start up and pull away.

So that was her game, eh? Blackmail! She had me in her clutches. I now had to sweat it out until she got home and confronted me for real.

I didn't have to wait long. She came back home alone, about half an hour later. She came right upstairs and knocked on my door. I sheepishly opened it.

"I nearly had a heart attack over you!" she said, angrily. "Abby thought, she had seem someone run around the house when we pulled up and we thought it was burglar! Then we see my old Barbie dolls in the living room and this girl sitting behind the tree in the back yard. I kind of figured it out by then and tried to get them to leave again, but they had to see who was sitting in the back yard. I didn't say anything because I thought you were going to look ridiculous, but you pulled it off. They thought you were my sister!"

"I'm sorry. I won't do it again, I promise! Just don't tell Mom and Dad!"

"Don't wony, I won't. If you want to dress up like a girl, that's your business. Just take care of my clothes, okay? No more sitting in the dirt behind trees."

"Don't worry, I'll never dress up again, I swear."

"Sure. And what do I tell my friends when they want to invite Barbie to go out with us?"

We both smiled

Did I mention how much I love my sister?

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PHONES ANSWERED TUESDAYS
7:00 PM 10:00 PM

For Crossdressers. Meetings and social gatherings. Safe, discreet, and confidential. A place to be

### FROM THE FOUNDER

By Marsha C. Botzer, MA

(This article appeared in the Hands Off Washington Newsletter in the fall of 1996 It is worth reprinting here.)

#### ARE WE REALLY ANY DIFFERENT?

Hands off Washington has pursued its mission with care and dedication. At its very beginning, the organization decided to offer a place of support for diverse groups represented by the gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to. This means that for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered. The wisdom of this vote for inclusion is written in a success story shared by all the peoples of Washington: the defeat of attempts to deny equality among our citizens.

I am particularly pleased that the Ilands Off Washington included transgendered people in its mission almost from the beginning. While the reasonableness of inclusion seemed obvious to me, I had to recognize the legitimacy of a primary question. Why should gay, lesbian, and bisexual people include transgendered people in a common struggle for justice?

The first answer to this is education. Transgendered people in Washington State do not enjoy the same protections against discrimination as other citizens. Just as lesbian, gay, and bisexual people face discrimination and attack, so do transgendered people. This simple fact is devastating in its effect; none of these groups receive the equal treatment under the law that other citizens receive. A transgendered person can be fired for nothing more than being transgendered.

For transgendered individuals the difficulties often begin at the time they start to face the sense of who they are and what this means in terms of their interaction with others. A sometimes confusing reality about being transgendered is that it means dealing with personal identity and self a bit differently than gay, lesbian, and bisexual people to. This means that for the transgendered person the central question is not about who one partners with or who one is with, sexually, but rather it is about the internal sense of self and identity and how to bring that sense of self into the world. Of course, all people struggle with this kind of internal identity at times, transgendered people have no monopoly on that! But the main point is that for a transgendered person this struggle is the central one.

Incidentally, this does not mean that transgendered people are not sexual, it just means that for them the issue of personal identity must come first, ahead of any discoveries about who one is attracted to or how one will

behave sexually. There is no hierarchy of importance here, only a difference of personal experience.

With a sense of the experience of transgender in mind, here are some reasons for including this group in the work of achieving civil rights for all. These are hard-won reasons born in the same search for self and place that has animated the long fight for equality.

First, there is the simple fact that those who oppose the justice and equality we seek make no distinction between lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgendered. We are all seen as unworthy to participate in the full freedom of our place as Citizens. This may appear as a small thing, but the result is a bond of oppression that calls for a common and united response.

Second, there is a long history already in place of transgendered people participating in the struggle for equality. There have been transgendered persons serving on the phone banks, the committees, and the boards of all our various groups. They have been giving their help gladly for years, in the hope that everyone will be safe. Transgendered people are no more saintly than anyone else, but many of them have been doing the work of equality just like others who have put their life's energy toward freedom.

Far more important than the two previous points is this: transgendered people are linked to gay, lesbian and bisexual people by their mutual search for an understanding of what it means to discover oneself and to bring that self into the world which has rarely made a social or cultural place for them. What a lesbian, gay, or bisexual person means when they say the word "I" is the same question that drives a transgendered person. We are brought together by our profound confrontation with the meaning of person and self. We do not ask to be place in this position of wonder and struggle, it comes with the act of being in the world. This is our common bond and the reason we have nothing to fear from our association and our joining together in social and political action.

(The following was written as an addendum to the article from the Fall, 1996 HOW Newsletter)

And so we come to the struggle to see the passage of 1677 in the Fall elections. It is only with the help, caring, and commitment of all people in the lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, gay, and our friends and allies in the heterosexual communities that we can make it so, and strike down one more wall which keeps us from our communion with the world at large.

# I-677 SIGNATURE DRIVE GOES OVER THE TOP; LOWRY TO CO-CHAIR 'VOTE YES' CAMPAIGN

With the Initiative 677 petition campaign successfully completed, former governor Mike Lowry has announced he will help co-chair the statewide campaign to win voter support this fall.

If approved at the polls in November, the measure would end job discrimination based on sexual orientation.

In a prepared statement, Lowry said, "Volunteers from the Hands Off Washington coalition councils around the state caravanned in their cars to Olympia, to the steps of the state capitol, to turn in the 16 boxes of signed petitions to the secretary of State (for verification)."

All told, Hands Off tallied 230,000 signatures on 17,071 petitions, he said. Organizers originally had hoped for 225, 000 names to provide a cushion for duplications and inaccuracies.

# S E P T E M B E R

All Mondays in September: Amazing Changes, an AA group
for all TS, TG, and TV people 6:00-7:00 pm
This is group is closed to families and SO's

All Wednesdays in September: TS Group (Referral Only) 7:30-9:30 PM
All Thursdays in September: Drop In Group (Open) 7-9 PM
All Fridays in September: TV/TS Support Group (Open) 8-10 PM
Phones answered Mondays & Fridays 6-8 pm and Saturdays 10-12 noon
September 8, Ingersoll Board Meeting, 7:30-9:00 pm.
September 9: FTM Support Group, 7:30-9:30 pm
Topic: Tricks of the Trade
September 23, FTM Therapy group, 7:00-8:30 pm (Ste. 103)
September 23, FTM SO Support Group, 7:00-8:30 pm (Ingersoll)
September 27: FTM Support Group, 11:00-1:00 pm

## FTM CALENDAR

# SEPTEMBER, 1997

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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# REFERRAL THERAPISTS

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SANDRA L. JOHNSON
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(206) 322-2012
JUDE PATTON
CMEC, CMFT, PA-C
(206) 787-5094
EASTERN WASH.
K.K. (ROBBY) ROBBINS
(509) 459-8111



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# THE BUTLER DID IT! BY PAT BUTLER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

#### PASSAGES

Day passes into night; Summer passes into fall; Child passes to Adult; Work passes into Vacation and back again; Male passes into Female and Female to Male.

Passages. Moving from what is/was to what will be. To quote a Disney song: "It's the Circle of Life." Looking back over the last few columns I have written for *The Ingersoll Message*, I see a common thread running through them, and that thread is Change. More than just change, each column seems to focus on learning to accept change; to welcome it as an old friend, not as a disrupter of life.

I remember my three daughters growing up. Change was to them an essential. It was something eagerly sought. To remain in one place for any extended period of time was boring, no fun, icky – to use their words, which come to mind over the years. Even Summer, with its long days of play and no school finally ceased to hold enchantment. True, it took about two months, but somewhere around August 15, I would hear, "There's nothing to do" or (heaven forbid!) "I wish school would start again."

When did I stop looking forward to change? It happened somewhere between experiencing the loss of so many friends and loved-ones to AIDS and a realization that I have more years behind me than in front of me. To be sure, I have never been one to embrace change with an open and loving heart, but it seems that it used to be easier. Could it be that I just didn't notice it? That I was oblivious to it when it happened?

But it does happen. As I have hammered home in the last few months in prose and poetry, change is the only constant (a contradiction at best). I remember something I read in a book when I was a child. It is a book that I have re-read at least a hundred times in my life. The speaker is an older woman who says to a younger woman, "Blessings brighten as they take their flight... otherwise they wouldn't be blessings..."

If this is true – and I believe it is -- each moment in my life in the last few years has been a wondrous blessing. I know this because each time a blessing takes flight. I notice that the trailing edge is pretty tattered and finger-stained where I have held on to it until the last moment.

# 'HEY, GOOD COOKIN!'

# Baked Chicken Casserole Ingredients:

4 boneless chicken breasts, skinned
1 medium onion, diced
2 cloves of garlic, diced
1 cup of slice fresh mushrooms
(1 small can of sliced mushrooms may be substituted)
1 can of pork and beans
2 tsp Curry powder
Salt and pepper to taste

# Preparation:

In a large skillet, sauté orions until translucent then add garlic. Add chicken and brown it. In a blender, put the pork and beans (remove the token strip of fat and discard it) Add the curry powder and sale and pepper. Blend until the mixture is a smooth, sauce-like liquid. Arrange the chicken in the pan and pour bean mixture over it. Cover pan with lid or with foil and back in a 350 degree oven for about 45 minutes. Remove the lid for the last 15 minutes.

# Presentation:

Serve in the skillet or remove to a large bowl. Serve with a tossed green salad and crusty French bread rolls. Makes great leftovers! The sauce tastes delicious over noodles or mashed potatoes.



### TO YOUR HEALTH

Eating at Arby's Restaurant? Though Arby's has its share of high-fat items, the fast-food chain has developed a light menu that features healthful meals

Sandwiches such as the Roast Beef Deluxe, Roast Chicken Deluxe, Roast Turkey Deluxe and Roast Chicken Salad contain less than 300 calories and 10 gms of fat. Other low-fat menu items include a plain backed potato, Grilled Chicken BBQ sandwich. Old Fashion Chicken Noodle Soup, a garden salad and a side salad

Many of Arby's high-l'at items contain more than half the recommended daily and sodium intake for an adult. Among the less healthful items are the Bac'n Cheddar Deluxe sandwich, with 539 calories and 35 gm of fat, the Roast Beef Sub, with 700 calories and 42 gm of fat, and the Philly Beef'n Swiss with 755 calories and 47 gm of fat.

If you're trying to reduce your sodium intake, be aware that the Italian Sub, Philly Beet'n Swiss, Roast Beet' Sub and Turkey Sub sandwiches have more than 2,000 mg of sodium

### BEST BETS

Roast Beef Deluxe Roast Chicken Deluxe Roast Turkey Deluxe Roast Chicken Salad Grilled Chicken BBO

### WORST BETS

Bac'n Cheddar Deluxe Beef'n Cheddar Philly Beef'n Swiss Triple Cheese Melt Roast Beef Suh





1818 15th Avenue (15th and Denny)

Can you give some time to help Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender youth as a Board member or Volunteer? If so, call Lynne at 322-0415 for further information and application materials

FROM THE STONEWAL NEWS NORTHWEST, SPOKANE, WA.

Sea creatures, space voyagers, students from the '60s and sequined gowns brought cheers and donations on July 5, 1997, as Spokane's drag queens—along with other members of the Imperial Sovereign Court and their friends—more than \$500 at the annual Zenith Awards show to benefit children with AIDS.

Marquise Montgomery, surrounded by seven hunks, won first place for her production medley from "Grease" and promptly donated the \$100 m prize money to the fundraiser, according to the event's coordinator, Eunice Kennady Smith. Although money collected was to benefit the Court's general fund, the kids came out on the long end with \$504 of the \$904 raised in tips and donations, said Smith.

ISCS supports a number of philanthropic programs through its general fund and special benefit shows. The Zenith Awards commemorate Spokane's 23<sup>rd</sup> empress, Zenith Rockafeller, who died last fall, three years after inaugurating the benefit.

Sequined gowns, valued at up to \$300, were auctioned during the evening.

Runners-up in the production category included musical numbers saluting Star Trek, Golden Eye and The Little Mennaid.

Shanc Kennady Smith won the first place trophy in the singles category, Misti Montgomery placed second and Silky Smooth Ice of Seattle, was third.

Slipper Awards, to signify promise in future Court activities went to Kayla Montgomery and Misti Montgomery (not related). For her role as the Little Mermaid, with sequined and satin flippers ala Bette Midler, Eunice Kennady Smith was dubbed "the Divine Ms. Queen, NepTuna" for the evening.





### N.O.W. PASSES TRANS-INCLUSION RESOLUTION

After three years of ongoing debate and a final four days of intense dialog, the National Organization for Women (NOW) passed a transgender inclusion resolution at its national conference in Memphis, Tennessee. The measure's success owed a great deal to the personal support of NOW's President, Patricia Ireland, who had arranged for Gender PAC's Executive Director, Rikii Anne Wilchins to address NOW's National Board the preceding Thursday, as well as to the intensive consensus-building effort by NOW Lesbian Rights Coordinator, Kimberlee Ward, and NOW-NJ State President, Bear Atwood.

"This was a landmark resolution whose time has clearly come. It's not just the resolution, but the acknowledgment that the transgender community is today's cutting edge. Transgender people are now doing the pioneering work in exposing artificial constructs of gender and breaking down the stereotypes and barriers which divide us all" declared NOW Action Vice President and activist. Rosemary Dempsey.

GenderPAC's Terri McCorcal, who had helped steer the resolution over three years, agreed. "In its own way, this was as historic a moment as NOW's affirmation of lesbian inclusion over 25 years ago. After all the debate, seven amendments, and scores of small compromises and dialogs, it was a truly emotional moment when nearly every hand in the convention went up in support. Women who had worked on this for years were crying and hugging in the aisles."

The resolution had been originally introduced and unanimously passed at NOW-NJ's State Conference in 1994. The next year, a dozen activists from the Transexual Menace showed up at the NOW's 1995 National Conference in Columbus, Ohio, and gathered hundreds of signatures on pentions. The resolution was introduced from the conference floor, only to be tabled to the National Board, where it languished in spite of apparently overwhelming support. The breakthrough came with NOW-NJ's Bear Atwood was able to arrange an invitation for the representatives from the GenderPAC and allied groups to address NOW's state presidents at their annual state coordinators conference in San Francisco last January. As a result, a number of state presidents came out in support of the measure. In addition, Ms. Ireland herself was present at the presentation, and an

invitation to address the full National Board came shortly thereafter. The text of the resolution follows below.

### OPPRESSION OF TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the National Organization for Women (NOW has worked for the elimination of all forms of oppression in our society targeted at groups who are systematically mistreated; and

WHEREAS, The transgendered and transsexual communities confront oppression daily and are systematically mistreated because of artificial gender constructs in our society; and

WHEREAS, There is a lack of understanding and information on issues affecting transgendered and transsexual people; and

WHEREAS, One of NOW's goals is to eliminate all sex stereotypes including so-called gender roles; and

WHEREAS, NOW affirms and honors the right of people to self-identity;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NOW and its sub-unity encourage education and dialogue within NOW and other organizations on gender and sex stereotypes including those who are transgendered and transsexual people.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NOW reaffirms its commitment to end all sex and gender stereotypes.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that we acknowledge that gender is a patriarchal social construct used to oppress women.



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