

THE *INGERSOLL* *MESSAGE*

INGERSOLL GENDER CENTER — SEATTLE, WASHINGTON
DECEMBER, 1998 □ VOL. THREE □ NO. 11 □ PRICE: \$1.00/EA. □ \$15.00/YR SUBSCRIPTION

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 was the gallows humor that momentarily distracted us from our sadness.

I-677, which would have banned job discrimination against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transpeople, ended up sharing the ballot with a whole variety of citizen-initiated issues. One would have legalized medical marijuana, another let dental hygienists work without a dentist for a boss, still another would have required trigger locks on handguns. There were more, but my way, whose humor I swiped for a title, ran out of G's.

It wasn't funny, actually. We had worked too long, hoped too much, and spent too much of the community's money, to find our defeat amusing. Now we're facing a year in Olympia of hearing legislators tell us they've spoken about rights for deviants such as we.

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

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

If it had passed, I-677 would have protected the jobs of transpeople along with other sexual minorities. There was controversy over our inclusion. I took a day-long, stormy session in February for the I-677 board to decide to bring along transpeople. The board wasn't being prejudiced or elitist. Their research revealed that we would cost them crucial votes. It seemed that few citizens knew us as 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 many others of us as well. Gay, lesbian, bisexual and straight board members were eloquent in pleading our case, and when the vote finally came, it was lopsided in our favor.

In a compromise made in deference to the research, we agreed to be defined under "sexual orientation." The compromise avoided a red flag that might have flown had the controversial "transgender" word appeared in the ballot title.

Transpeople contributed extensive amounts of time and money to the ensuing campaign, first to gather 229,000 signatures and then to convince the electorate to vote for our initiative. Our contributions were recognized and acknowledged in many different ways. Nevertheless, we lost, and that was the bottom line.

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 'No Machines'. All the statewide initiatives were swamped in the NRA tidal wave."

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 compelling. 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.

Nobody even hinted that we didn't win because job protection for 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 the Jewish Federation all endorsed I-677. Prior to their endorsements, Simple Justice, a network of gay Christians, circulated an analysis clearly stating that the initiative covered transsexual and transgendered persons.

Kristen 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 no one in the community talk about this (the inclusion of transpeople) as a reason for the defeat of the initiative...if anything, I've heard members of the organization saying that this has been a good thing -- we've educated gays and lesbians who may not have even thought about the trans-issue...I talked to people in Spokane, and there are transgender people there having a hard

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 which 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 organizers 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."



WHICH ONE OF THESE PEOPLE IS TRANSGENDERED?

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!

Important Ingersoll Doings in JANUARY

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 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

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!

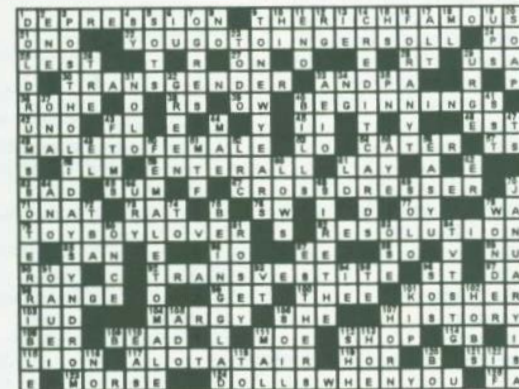
By Pat Butler

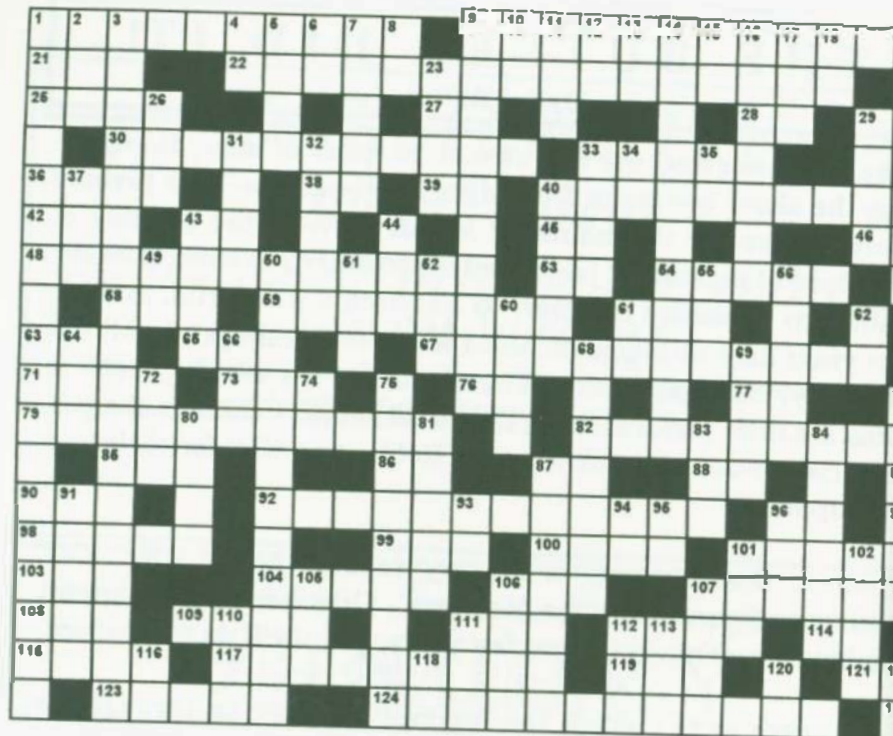
"The time has come, the walrus said, to speak of many things..." I use the above quotation from *Alice in Wonderland* as a prelude to my column for the month of January. With the increase of work-load at my 'other' job, I find it necessary to resign from my position as Executive Director. It has been 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.





Across

- 1. Chemical imbalance can cause this.
- 9. 'Lifestyles of _____ and _____'
- 21. Lennon's wife.
- 22. Looking for help with gender issues?
- 24. Italian river.
- 25. Archaic word which means 'in case' or 'unless'.
- 27. Small preposition.
- 28. Abbreviation of Left's opposite.
- 29. American initials.
- 30. Moving from one gender to another.
- 33. Sometimes, a family doesn't include a Ma _____.
- 36. Architekt: Mies Van der _____.
- 38. First two initials of a request for an answer.
- 39. What you say when you're hurt.
- 40. Opposite of endings.
- 42. Spanish one.
- 43. Tallahassee's state.
- 45. Two letters which sound like a sailor's answer.
- 46. Bl _____, W _____, B _____, Gu _____.
- 48. What Christine Jorgenson was.
- 63. _____t, _____ig, f _____w, s _____w.
- 64. To go overboard in agreeing with.
- 67. Abbr. for a gender person.
- 68. Another word for 'cinema': f _____.
- 69. What you might say to a number of people outside your door.
- 61. P _____, S _____, Re _____, Be _____.
- 63. Not happy.
- 65. The total.
- 67. Likes clothes of the the other.
- 71. Two small prepositions.
- 73. Tattle.
- 76. Two compass points.
- 77. B _____, T _____, S _____, R _____, C _____.
- 78. Seattle's address.
- 79. Some gays and women find it fun to look for _____.
- 82. What you make in January and break in February.
- 85. Francisco, Diego, Antonla, and Bernadino have _____ in common.
- 88. Jovian moon.
- _____ S _____, T _____, B _____, G _____, P _____.
- 89. Greek letter.
- 90. Man's name; comes from French word for King.
- 92. Another word for #67 across.
- 96. Abbr. for holy title.
- 97. Irish name for your dad.
- 98. Home on it.
- 99. Obtain.
- 100. Old word for 'you'.
- 101. Ceremonial cleanliness.
- 103. Birth control device.
- 104. Margaret's nickname.
- 106. How to address an MTF.
- 107. A chronicle from the past.
- 108. Rub _____, Scrub _____, Blub _____.
- 109. Decorative items used to make a necklace.
- 111. Curly and Larry's partner.
- 112. What you do 'til you drop.

- 19. _____ hesterton's initials.
- 20. _____ ing (and Queen) of the beasts.
- 21. _____ fledgling news reporter would feel _____ of _____ of _____ time.
- 22. _____ e, C _____ e, _____ rible.
- 24. _____ nickname for your mother's daughter.
- 26. _____ vented dot-dash code.
- 27. _____ did you play with _____ were a _____ child?
- 28. _____ scale tone name.
- 31. _____ n.
- 32. _____ anuary can bring _____.
- 33. _____ at you can go into #1 across.
- 34. _____ tributary of the Amazon River.
- 35. _____ #1 across and #1 down are sometimes referred to as this.
- 36. _____ o _____, P _____ o _____, Pan _____, Bu _____, Mls _____.
- 37. _____ ritish drunks.
- 38. _____ wo vowels.
- 39. _____airy tale creatures.
- 40. _____ egative response.
- 41. _____ ometimes a person and drink one too many toasts _____.
- 42. _____ Short greeting.
- 43. _____ What Nevada city and Attorney General have in _____ mmon: R _____.
- 44. _____ Richard Gere's initials.
- 45. _____ Abbr. which means 'that is to say'.
- 46. _____ These can cause #1 down.
- 47. _____ Where you go after middle school (Init.).
- 48. _____ Ingersoll is a great place _____.
- 49. _____ A computer key.
- 50. _____ A metric abbreviation.
- 51. _____ What we all have along with our 'downs'.
- 52. _____ This bar will clean you.
- 53. _____ One kind a list.
- 54. _____ Prefix meaning 'three'.
- 55. _____ A strong desire.
- 56. _____ Latin legal expression: '_____ contendere.'
- 57. _____ Blue and yellow.
- 58. _____ Four of the five word builders.
- 59. _____ Vietnamese name.
- 60. _____ l _____, a _____, e _____, u _____.
- 61. _____ A preposition and an article.
- 62. _____ What you get from #14 down.
- 63. _____ The Concorde.
- 64. _____ Abbr. for girls-to-boys.
- 65. _____ Woman's nickname.
- 66. _____ Same as #57 across.
- 67. _____ What Chicagoan's call their railway.
- 68. _____ Girls-to-boys.
- 69. _____ Abbr. for boys-to-girls.
- 70. _____ In Seattle, the Lesbian Resource Center (Init.).
- 71. _____ What those in favor say.
- 72. _____ What credit-givers say: 'We'll make it _____ on Yo _____.'
- 73. _____ What you have in addition to your 'highs'.
- 74. _____ Ho _____, Co _____, So _____, Go _____, Bo _____.
- 75. _____ H _____, P _____, H _____, d _____, Ref _____.
- 76. _____ A Pl _____ is a stringed-instrument.
- 77. _____ I _____, J _____, B _____, Treas _____.
- 78. _____ It takes a D and a _____ to produce the offspring.
- 79. _____ I _____, All alone.
- 80. _____ I _____ a cold and dark month.
- 81. _____ 'To be announced' (Init.).
- 82. _____ Small preposition.
- 83. _____ The opposite of being sad is _____.
- 84. _____ I _____, To ponder.



- 80. Not more than one time.
- 81. Woman's nickname.
- 83. H _____, Th _____, Ch _____, R _____.
- 84. Who are welcome at Ingersoll: (init.)
- 87. The plural of a Jewish woman's name.
- 91. All five building blocks - mixed up.
- 93. 'Moonlight in _____' (abbr.)
- 94. Pr _____, st _____, N _____, ce _____, P _____, ce _____, P _____.
- 96. _____ n _____, _____ d _____, _____ nse _____, _____ ll _____.
- 96. Emergency letters.
- 101. A sometimes nickname for Christopher.
- 102. Two antique kitchen fireplace implements.
- 105. 'Much _____ About Nothing'.
- 106. Dirt.
- 107. Why Rhino's are slaughtered.
- 110. _____ y _____, T _____ e _____, _____ t _____, _____ ter _____, F _____ t _____.
- 111. French seasickness: _____ de Mer.
- 112. Letters to quiet you down.
- 113. Garden implement.
- 116. Another negative answer.
- 118. Another small preposition.
- 120. First name of a perfect '10'.
- 122. Conditional word.



TO WRITE POETRY IS TO PAINT WITH THE S



THE SPLENDOR OF GENDER

We're all open ends
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.



RAF CRAP

By Marian McDowell

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,
It'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.



BEACHES

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,
THOUGH 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 RAIN

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
Is 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



ENTITLED

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.

THE PRINCESS

(A work in progress)

By Linda

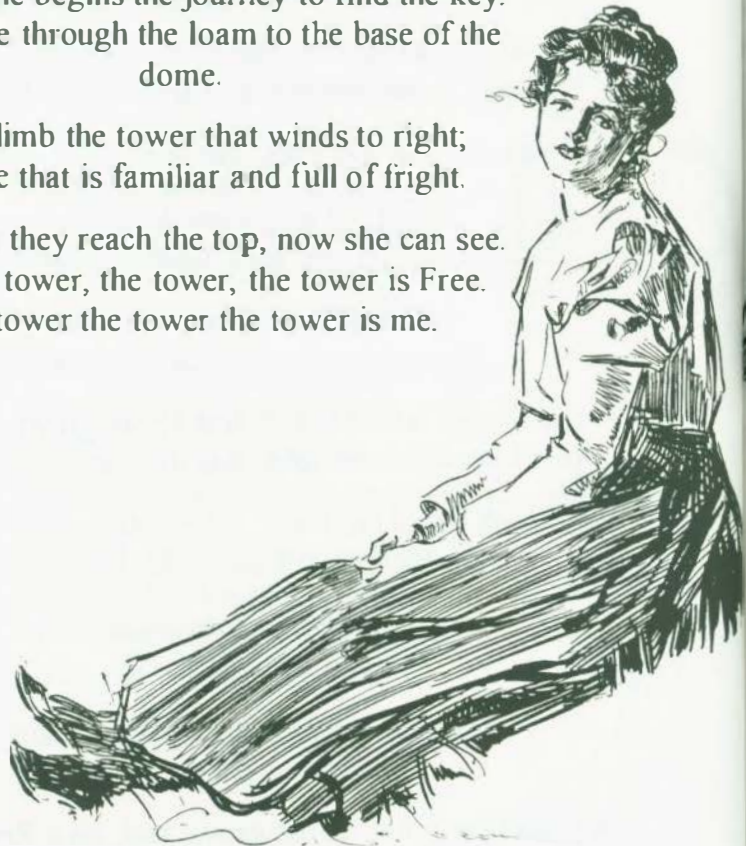
Visions and dreams and thunder roles.
She found her live in the evening throes.
Elephants, Tigers and Rambucks lie
Waiting for the day they will die.

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.



UNTITLED

By Barb

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'.



THE GIRL BEHIND THE GLASS

By Marsha Botzer

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

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

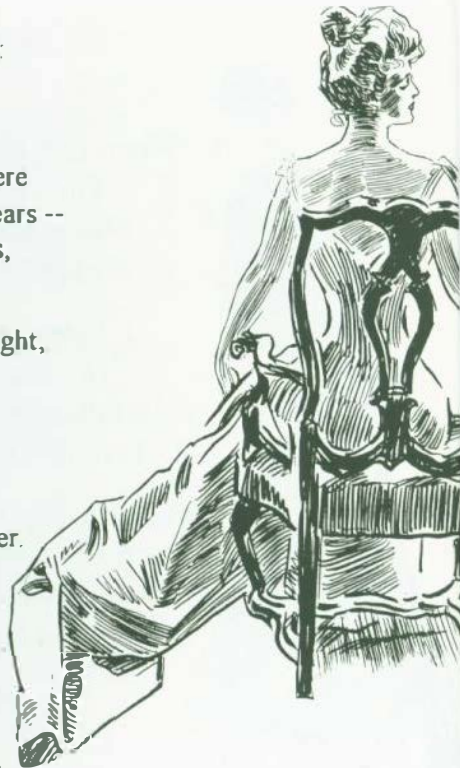
She lays down with me every night,
Softly, sweetly, caressing,
Nurturing my soul,
Dreaming to be free --
The best part of me.

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!



VALENTINE'S DAY 1995

By Marian McDowell

It is Valentine's Day,
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.



Contents copyright: 1998

Published monthly by

Ingersoll Gender Center
1812 East Madison
Suite 106
Seattle, WA 98122
(206) 329-6651

Mail Subscriptions available: \$15.00- (includes 3.00 p/h per year)

Individual copies, \$1.00

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ZIP _____

- I WOULD LIKE TO KEEP UP WITH INGERSOLL EVENTS, PLEASE ADD ME TO YOUR MAILING LIST.
- PLEASE SEND ME AN INFORMATION PACKET (ENCLOSE \$1.00 p/h AND S.A.S.E. (#10 BUSINESS SIZE))