

IFGE Atlanta Action '95 News

Saturday, March 18

Yvonne Cook-Riley To Be Honored

At the ninth annual Virginia Prince Awards for Outstanding Service awards tonight, we are truly honoring one of our own. Yvonne Cook Riley, a long time IFGE...

The event will be a wonderful evening of glamour, laughter and touching moments, hosted by TBA

Lunch with TBA

Lunch today features...

Transgender Political Caucus

For the first time, leaders from all over the country will gather to talk about their political actions, and to work together to create political actions

Text

Kate Bornstein to Sign *Gender Outlaw*

Today, from 2-3 PM at the IFGE Bookstore, Kate Bornstein will sign her groundbreaking book *Gender Outlaw: On men*

, women and the rest of us (Routledge 1994), during the conference. This warm and insightful book asks and answers questions, sharing stories about Ms. Bornstein's way towards a radical new world of sexuality and gender. Widely acclaimed as one of the best new books on transgender, *Gender Outlaw* has been one of the largest forces that define the new shared voice of the gender community.

Take a moment to meet Kate

Wind-Down Brunch Tomorrow

Text

Local News

Saturday, March 18

8:00-8:45	Fulton	Convention Staff	
8:15-8:45	Highlands	Meditation	L. Walker/K.L.Brown
8:45-12, 2-5:15	Fulton	TG Political Caucus	
8:45-10:15	Ansley	Peer Advocacy	S. Cole/H. Boswell
8:45-10:15	Morningside	Emerging From Secrecy	M. Kirkland
8:45-12:00	Piedmont	SO Symposium II	L. Peacock
10:30-12:00	Ansley	Programming/Group	A. Laing
10:30-12:00	Morningside	Visible Leadership	N. Nangeroni
12-2	Habersham	Lunch	S. Kirk/ TBA
2:00-3:30	Morningside	Transgender Alts.	H. Boswell
2:00-3:30	Ansley	Bridging with Others	D. Denny
2:00-5:15	Piedmont	FTM Symposium II	J. Green
3:45-5:15	Ansley	CTO II	A. Johnson
7-12 PM	S. Ballroom	V. P. Awards	S. Kirk/TBA

IFGE Atlanta Action '95 News

Friday, March 17

Kate Bornstein to Perform Tonight

Sometimes two genders just aren't enough.

San Francisco based lesbian transsexual Kate Bornstein has a new one-person play, *"The Opposite Sex... Is Neither"* playing in tonight at the Woodruff Arts Center. Bornstein takes the roles of Maggie, a bumbling goddess-in-training, and 6 people that "have transcended their assigned identities" who Maggie helps by "opening the gate to their higher identities."

"Maggie is amazed that human beings only acknowledge two genders," says Bornstein. "Everything else in nature is on a gradual, shifting scale. Why should gender be rigidly bipolar? In this play I work with seven different characters who are going through some crisis of gender identity that involves both laughter and pain." There is a drag queen dying of AIDS, a character who wakes up in the middle of sex change operation, a female-to-male transsexual happily married to a woman for 16 years, a Christian devotee, a murdered transsexual, and another female to male transsexual who, as a child, was identified as a circus freak.

Al Bornstein was named actor of the year by the Boston Globe in 1969 and then traveled, getting involved in the Scientology "cult," working as a national account representative for IBM, and going through 3 marriages. Nothing worked, so in the mid '80s, Bornstein, now 44, asked "the deep questions" and realized that the only solution was to undergo surgery and become a woman. "It was either that or go suck on the exhaust pipe of a school bus," she recounts. "One of the factors that initially stopped me from going through gender change was my love of women," says Bornstein. "How could I be a real woman if I loved women, I wondered.

"Through therapy, though, I learned the difference between gender identity and sexual orientation. The former answers the question of who I am, while the latter answers who I want to be romantically and sexually involved with." Her new views inspired Bornstein to write her first play *"Hidden A Gender,"* which led to even more questions about socialization, sexual identity and gender, issues she handles in *The Opposite Sex... Is Neither*.

Bornstein's own gender journey is a demonstration of how confusing it can be for someone who doesn't feel that they fit neatly into the existing categories. Even at the tender age of four, "I knew I wasn't a little boy," Bornstein says, "so I assumed I was a little girl. It's easier to know what you are not."

But Bornstein still feels that her gender identity is very much a work in progress. "I'm living my life as a woman because it's

convenient in a two-gender world," she says. But she'd be happier if our society and language took account of all the variations that exist.

Starting by speaking out on gender issues, and by performing her own monologues, Bornstein is now a frequent interview and talk-show guest. "What was heretofore my biggest shame was what people were curious about," she discovered.

For Maggie, the goddess-in training in the *Opposite Sex* -- and for Bornstein -- gender is something far more fluid than the rules of our rigid society allow. "My hope in doing this piece is that people will question gender and talk about it," she says.

Tickets for tonight's performance, which is sponsored by Atlanta Gender Expressions (AGE) are available at the registration desk for \$22.50

Sources

Toronto Eye, July 16, 1992, Theatre, Nigel Hunt

Toronto Now, July 16, 1992, Theatre Scenes, Jon Caplan

Lunch With Holly Boswell

Holly Boswell, one of the leading voices in the movement to expand the range of alternatives we have in expressing transgender, will speak at lunch on the topic *"Rainbows Of Gender."*

"We each have the right and ability to create our life and our gender expression as an individual work of art," says Boswell. "Part of my job is helping empower people to create their personal expression of transgender, using gender symbols as a paintbrush to build a beautiful life. This is what I will speak on."

Boswell is Director of Phoenix Transgender Support in Asheville NC, one of the first open gender support groups in the US. Over the past few years, through her writing and her participation as a board member and Transgender Track Chair of Southern Comfort, she has spread the message of a new model of transgender, one not lined to physical sex, but rather to an internal vision of identity. As a founder of the Kindred Spirits circle, she has helped expand the spiritual circling movement.

People all over the country have been assisted in exploring new gender expression by Boswell. We invite you to join us for lunch today to find out why her warm presence has helped many to bloom and blossom into healthy expression of transgender.

Transgender Memorial Service

Each year, many transgendered people fall, from hate crimes, from AIDS, or from their own hand, believing they have no other option.

Today at 5:15, we will gather to remember those people who have fallen in the last year, and to honor their transgender spirit. Lynn Walker, founder of The Open Door Church in NYC, will lead us in a moving ceremony of remembrance.

Aphrodite Jones, author of an upcoming book on Brandon Teena, a young transgendered man who was raped and killed last year after his birth sex was disclosed by the police, will speak on the continuing quest for justice in this case.

Please gather and join us to remember those who have fallen.

Female To Male Symposium

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Wives, Partners, Significant Others:

Text

Local News

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8:00-8:45	Fulton	Convention Staff	
8:15-8:45	Highlands	Meditation	L. Walker/ K L Brown
8:45-12, 2-5:15	Fulton	IFGE Board Meeting	
8:45-10:15	Ansley	Consensus & Groups	L. Walker
8:45-10:15	Morningside	Starting a Support Grp.	H. Boswell
8:45-10:15	Piedmont	Wives/Partners Leaders	S. Cole/L. Peacock
10:30-12:00	Morningside	Open Door Church	L. Walker
10:30-12:00	Piedmont	SO Symposium I	L. Peacock/S. Cole
12-2	Habersham	Lunch	S. Kirk/ H. Boswell
2:00-3:30	Morningside	Life Cycles, Gender Dynamics	A. Johnson
2:00-5:15	Piedmont	FTM Symposium I	J. Green
3:45-5:15	Ansley	Newsletters	H. Boswell
3:45-5:15	Morningside	Leading/Healing	A. Sheedy
5:15-6:00	Ansley	Memorial Service	L. Walker

2:00-3:30	Morningside	Life Cycles, Gender Dynamics	A. Johnson
2:00-3:30	Piedmont	FTM Symposium I	J. Green
2:00-5:00	Piedmont	Wives/Partners Leaders	S. Cole/L. Peacock
3:45-5:15	Ansley	Newsletters	H. Boswell

IFGE Atlanta Action '95 News

Thursday March 16

Congress Of Transgender Organizations To Meet

It's a Congress that brings together people to try to make something happen, sharing info and coordinating activities, so it is.

Annual Transsexual Pizza Party

Pizza & Coke will help to create an informal atmosphere to share the issues faced by transsexuals.

And if we're not lucky, Riki Anne will do her sexuality session, including the scratch & sniff part!

Evening Event: Agathas?

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New Seminar: Programs For Professionals

After a successful two day workshop on The Splendor Of Gender in Tampa last November, Max Anderson is doing a program to help others organize programs for Mental Health Professionals.

This seminar replaces From Social Group To Support Group, which was to be hosted by Anne Johnson.

Local News

Thursday, March 16

8:00-8:45	Fulton	Convention Staff	
8:15-8:45	Highlands	Meditation	L. Walker /K.L.Brown
8:45-10:15	Ansley	Proactive/Legislation	J. Osborne/A. Daniels
8:45-10:15	Morningside	Davis House	D. Davis
8:45-10:15	Piedmont	Androgyny	M. Kirkland
10:30-12:00	Ansley	Classroom Outreach	S. Cole/D. Davis
10:30-12:00	Morningside	Transgender Trends	H. Boswell
10:30-12:00	Piedmont	Anti-Defamation	C. Martin
12-2	Habersham	Lunch	S. Kirk/ Winslow St.
2:00-3:30	Ansley	Creating Programs For Mental Health Professionals.	Max Anderson
2:00-3:30	Morningside	Men/Women/Convers.	C. Richard
2:00-3:30	Piedmont	New Faces Of Gender	M. P. Allen
2:00-5:00		Coke Tour	
3:45-5:15	Ansley	CTO meeting I	A. Johnson

"A spectrum allows for a person to define themselves anywhere along a continuum, and recognizes that your place on that continuum might change over time," says Rothblatt. "On a spectrum, DuFour would be closer to Dolly Parton than to James Woods, James Woods closer to Camille Paquin than to Dolly Parton. To be allowed to define yourself is the way instead of being told where you fit, would demolish this insidious form of oppression."

Laura Colewell, an IFGE board member for two years in helping IFGE establish a firm financial footing and in researching the truth about the range of transgender people who support IFGE, from closeted professionals to transsexuals.

Dallas Denny is the founder of AFOIS (American International Gender Education Society), an organization

IFGE Atlanta Action '95 News

Wednesday, March 15

Martine Rothblatt to Speak at Luncheon

THE APARTHEID OF SEX: A MANIFESTO ON THE FREEDOM OF GENDER

Arguments for Abolition of the Two-Sex System

The gender classifications of "male" and "female" are one of our most basic societal structures, discrete groupings that, until recently, were assumed to be indisputable. In *The Apartheid of Sex: A Manifesto on the Freedom of Gender* (Crown Publishers, 1995), Martine Rothblatt asserts that this assumption is not only scientifically inaccurate, but is personally damaging and legally improper as well. "Gender categories are useless as ironclad predictors of personality, intellect, reproductive abilities, or temperament; what is true 'most of the time' has no scientific validity," says Rothblatt. "Furthermore, being labeled at birth as 'female' or 'male' is an act of oppression; that label dictates, for the rest of your life, the behavior that society expects of you," says Rothblatt.

The Apartheid of Sex systematically refutes the specious reasons given to support our current system of gender, the most obvious being that the classification arises from differences in reproductive capabilities. "Reproductive capabilities - and whether or not we exercise them - vary from person to person. If a woman is infertile, or chooses never to have a child, is she less of a woman?" queries Rothblatt. "Today, eggs, sperm, and surrogate mothers are a commodity, available on the open market. What your own body can't create can be purchased." Other arguments - that the categories arise from XX or XY chromosomal pairings; behavioral or intellectual differences; the variance in body types; or differing hormone levels are also dismantled.

The Apartheid of Sex does not say that there are no differences between people, but rather that those differences are more far-ranging than two categories can encompass. "The range of behaviors and body types among men alone is larger than the average difference between men and women," says Rothblatt. "Men and women overlap. What does Prince have in common with Schwarzenegger? Vanna White with Martina Navratilova? Stallone with Boy George? A category so broad has no meaning, and its members come with no inherent, absolute distinctions."

The Apartheid of Sex proposes, instead, a gender spectrum. "A spectrum allows for a person to define themselves anywhere along a continuum, and recognizes that your place on that continuum might change over time," says Rothblatt. "On a spectrum, RuPaul would be closer to Dolly Parton than to James Woods, James Woods closer to Camille Paglia than to Donovan Leitch. To be allowed to define yourself in this way, instead of being told where you fit, would demolish this insidious form of apartheid.

The Apartheid of Sex likens sex assignment to the enforced apartheid of South Africa. As recently as 28 years ago, racial classification in the US was seen as critical; race had to be indicated on birth certificates and marriage licenses, intermarriage between races was illegal; and blacks and whites couldn't use the same toilets. "These laws were reversed not only because they were discriminatory, but also because it was realized that skin color says nothing definitive about a person," says Rothblatt. "Gender is no more relevant for social and legal purposes than race was, and I'm hopeful that the mistaken belief that it is seems to be eroding. As the sexes dress more similarly, as unisex colognes become the rage, and as thousands more people choose, each year, to alter their gender identities, we move toward a society that realizes that sex is in the mind, not in the body."

Trinity Awards Tonight

Six of the gender communities own will be honored tonight at the Ninth Annual Trinity Awards. The recipients include:

Sharon Ann Stuart, Vice Chair Of IFGE, also serves as one of the leaders of the International Conference on Transgendered Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP). Stuart's contributions include...

Linda Peacock, an IFGE Board Member, is the partner of a transgendered person and has worked, as a board member of the Southern Comfort Conference and one of the founders of the Spouses & Partners Involved in Cross-dressing Education Conference (SPICE), a yearly meeting dedicated to the issues of people in relationship with the transgendered.

Leslie Fineberg, a self-described "passing woman" or "drag king," is both the author of *Stone Butch Blues*, the coming of age story of a "he-she", and an effective activist for the rights of all to express their full range of gender. Fineberg's participation in Camp Trans, a transgendered information event at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival is just one of her many educational and outreach activities that have brought her to 47 states in the last two years.

James Green, an IFGE board member, is a leading voice for female to male transsexuals, publishing and advocating for both the woman to man transgendered and the transgendered community as a whole.

Laura Caldwell, an IFGE board member, has been active in helping IFGE establish a firm financial footing and in researching the truth about the range of transgendered people who support IFGE, from closeted crossdressers to transsexuals.

Dallas Denny is the founder of AFGIS (American International Gender Education Service), an organization

based in Atlanta that serves all transgendered people by providing high quality information. This includes the highly regarded Chyralis Quarterly, a magazine dedicated to professionals, and a number of groundbreaking books under the "Sullivan Press" logotype. AEGIS also maintains the National Transgender Library & Archive. Denny's unwavering commitment to disseminating academic and professional information for the transgendered have earned her a place of honor.

Text 17

Local News

Transgender Town Meeting

Wednesday, March 15

8:00-8:45	Fulton	Convention Staff	
8:15-8:45	Highlands	Meditation	L. Walker /K.L. Brown
8:45-12, 2-5:15	Piedmont	Speaking/Presenting Camp	E. Burchart
8:45-12, 2-5:15	Ansley	Town Meeting	L.Walker/ M. Pedone
12-2	Habersham	Lunch	S. Kirk/ M. Rothblatt
2:00-5:00		CNN Tour	
7-12 PM	Crown	Trinity Awards	S. Kirk

Saturday, March 18

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8:45-10:15	Ansley	Peer Advocacy	S. Cole/H. Boswell
8:45-10:15	Morningside	Emerging From Secrecy	M. Kirkland
8:45-12:00	Piedmont	SO Symposium II	L. Peacock
10:30-12:00	Ansley	Programming/Group	A. Sang
10:30-12:00	Morningside	Visible Leadership	N. Nangeroni
12-2	Habersham	Lunch	S. Kirk/ TBA
2:00-3:30	Morningside	Transgender Arts	H. Boswell
2:00-3:30	Ansley	Bridging with Others	D. Denny
2:00-5:15	Piedmont	FTM Symposium II	J. Green
3:45-5:15	Ansley	CTO II	A. Johnson
7-12 PM	B. Ballroom	V. P. Awards	S. Kirk/TBA

Sunday, March 19

9:00-11:00	Fulton	Convention Review	
9:00-10:00	Ansley	Religious Services	
10-1	Habersham	Brunch	
1:00-5:00	Fulton	Minneapolis Pride Plan	