

EON Newsletter

PO Box 6293 Camillus, N.Y. 13031

November 1986

The Halloween party at Kelley and Bette's house on the 25th was truly a sight to behold. The imagination, not to mention the time and effort, that went into the costumes was amazing. The house was decorated for the occasion with all manner of ghoulish items. The evening can only be described by seeing the numerous pictures that were taken. At the next party, ask to see some of them.

The November party is fast approaching--it will be on the 15th and will be held at the home of Carol and Ellen. The theme for this month will be the "1950's", but as Ellen says, the "1960's" will be close enough. The possibilities for dressing for this party are almost endless so put on your thinking caps and start creating. If you are planning on attending, please call Carol or Ellen by November 10th with your reservations and for explicit directions. The number is 635-1718. As per usual there will be a \$5.00 donation per couple and bring a snack to pass. This party promises to be a really good time.

As mentioned last month, the wife's support group will be meeting on November 4th, this time at Ellen's house. One thing that will be tried is that the wife's meet in one room and the guy's in another. This may provide each of the groups the opportunity for candid discussion without taking up too many evenings. This type of format is not cast in stone so we will let the membership decide if this is something that should continue. Please plan to attend and give us your feedback. We want to know whether you want just the gals, just the guys or both. For more information, call Ellen at 635-1718.

After seven months of excellent leadership from Jan, the newsletter is being edited by Joanne. As before, we will strive to have the newsletter out by the first of the month. This means, however, that any articles must be received by the 25th. All articles will be edited, if necessary, to conform to our obviously strict standards. It also should be noted that where an author is listed, the opinions stated are only those of the author and do not represent the views of EON.

NOTES from Kelley

We are looking for hosts for our January and February parties, so please let Kelley or Bette know if you would like to be hostess for a month.

We need a couple to organize and coordinate our bi-monthly block parties. They have been very successful, informative and entertaining. Again, let Kelley or Bette know if you could work with these block parties.

In April of this year, a weekend in Ithaca (sponsored by the Butterfly group), was a huge success. Kelley has heard that the Ramada Inn of Ithaca gave this gathering of our groups an A rating--which is the best we could receive. In other words, they would welcome us back.

We should ask ourselves if we should plan a similar weekend for April 1987. And, if so, who will make the initial contacts and begin to put it together. Let's talk it up and get some volunteers.

EON, as a group, is still receiving mail and requests for information about joining. We therefore need another couple to represent us to these people in any initial contact. Kelley has mentioned in a previous newsletter that there is only one other group like ours. We are unique because of the active, high caliber people (couples) we are attracting. We are gaining some notoriety and more crossdressers and their partners are seeking us out. If you feel that, as a couple, you would be able to represent EON to prospective new members, please come to the business meeting scheduled for December 5th.

Business Meeting--December 5th

- Topics
- 1) Admission of new members.
 - 2) Nomination of officers for 1987.
 - 3) Should we become members of IFGE?--see recent news.
 - 4) Should we be represented at IFGE convention?
 - 5) Election of a couple to assist with screening.

A Vocabulary Lesson
by Carol

Ever notice that every specialty has its' own vocabulary? It took me several months and some embarassments to learn how to communicate in the Navy. Like avast means to stop. OK? Many of you are not aware that we too have our own vocabulary. Now we learn early the big difference between sex (female) and gender (feminine). They just aren't the same, at least for many of us. They call this "transgenderism". We recently learned a few more terms--hope you enjoy them;

Our group--EON--could be called a group of "gender blenders". Are its' members "gender benders"? The lawyers are known as "gender defenders" and the bankers "gender lenders". A drag queen is nothing more than a "gender pretender" while the bartenders at Provincetown were "gender bartenders". A TS surgeon is a "gender ender", and in other cases a "gender mender". Clothing, too, has its terminology. A girdle is a "gender slender", a garter belt a "gender suspender", and a padded bra is a "gender extender". A retail store that caters to TVs is a "gender vendor", the catalog department is staffed by "gender senders".

May I wish all of you a "gender December".

Did I see a sign on Route 6 near Provincetown that read "The Cross Gender Highway"?

PROVINCETOWN-1986--"Another World"
by Ellen

Writing an article on our Provincetown weekend is hard, because you just had to be there. I felt that we were in another world where everyone (well, almost) was accepting, kind, a world where you could let it all hang out and be whatever you wanted to be. We went with Bette and Kelley and joined the Tiffany Wive's Support Group of about 16 couples. Carol and I had gone last year (that was our first outing anywhere) and had been so warmly welcomed by that group that we wouldn't have missed this year.

Where to begin. The Tiffany group had a lovely cocktail hour and dinner Friday night where everyone dressed to the hilt. Saturday we wandered through the quaint shops, art galleries and enjoyed the indescribable scenery of the cape. During the day, people dressed however they wished. Early evening, the guys met for a drink and the gals had a "meeting" to discuss our group, our concerns and generally "rap" about the similarities and differences between their group and ours. It was informative and supportive. That night we all dressed up and went out to eat at the many lovely restaurants Provincetown offers. I must comment here that the "four of us" went to a place without the rest of the group and were treated royally by both manager and waitress. Afterward, most group members met at a niteclub to see a female impersonator. She was very funny to our group and a large group of lesbians.

After this, we all met in one of the motel rooms for a pajama party and the discussions were so lively that many didn't return to their rooms until 4:00 am.

On Sunday, we said our farewells, drove out to the National Seashore to see the dunes and the beautiful ocean, and then reluctantly drove back to this world. We won't miss next year's Provincetown weekend and we hope many EON members will join us then!

Thoughts by Joanne Thomas

What is it about putting on a dress or a skirt and blouse that appeals to me? What makes me want to try to squeeze my flab into a girdle, stuff a bra and slip on a slip? Why shave my face so close that it's nearly raw and then spend an hour stroking on various colors that only make me look garish at best? It can only be a compulsion--one I can't explain--not to myself and not to my wife of 14 years.

I've been doing the above listed "odd" activities since I was nine years old--a total of twenty-seven years now. Recently, my introduction to others who share this obsession and their mates, has caused me to think more about this compulsion we politely call "cross-dressing".

Who am I trying to fool with my activities? Since I alone had seen myself until recent years, I can only say I was fooled (or was a fool). I had never tried to fool anybody else. I know that any article of femininity or make-up when worn was enough to alter my mind-set for a period of time. Besides looking different, I walked differently, moved differently, reacted differently, and maybe even thought differently. Why? Is it the clothes that make the woman? I hardly think so, yet there I was (am). It's so easy to think "feminine" thoughts while sitting in a pretty, flowing dress with stockinged feet crammed into high heels, and a hint of perfume hanging around my hair. I would lick my lips and taste the lipstick and glance down at the painted nails and I can almost believe that Joanne is real--that she exists someplace other than in my over-active imagination.

My compulsion has taken me a long ways recently--I became a member of an organization where the men dress as women and the real women try to understand--and it doesn't seem that odd to me. With luck and the help of my spouse, this compulsion won't get the better of us. We are who we are and we should try to make the best of it--if that means dressing as women, so be it. I enjoy making "Joanne" as real as possible and I'm thankful to the friends I have met at EON who have helped "her" become more at ease with being a cross-dresser.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- November 4th--Wives Support--see article.
- November 15th--50's party at Carol and Ellen's
See accompanying article.
- December 5th--Business Meeting at Kelley and Bette's
8:30 pm. See accompanying article.
- December 19th--Christmas Party at Kelley and Bette's

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