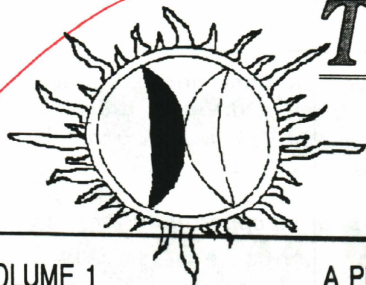


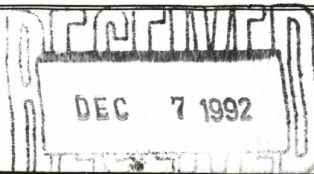
Good stuff in this newsletter.

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# THE EON ACCORD



December 1992



VOLUME 1

A PUBLICATION OF EXPRESSING OUR NATURE, INC.

ISSUE 7

## A New Gender

by Charliss Dolge

"Every small child gracing this planet has, at one time or another, looked around and felt utterly cheated and entrapped in the seemingly unjust constriction of a boy's or girl's body. Casting the eye at the advantages of the other, children quickly learn the game of comparison. How often does the little girl secretly feel her brother to be more beloved and given more attention or value than she? What little boy does not silently envy the tenderness shown by his father to the female members of his family, who are rewarded with sympathy when they are hurt, while he is tersely reminded that boys don't cry?"

Thus begins the introduction to Chris Griscom's book **FEMININE FUSION**. A few other selections from this book are the subject of our EXCERPTS section of this month's newsletter. The book itself is a part of EON'S permanent library.

Ms Griscom continues the introduction: "I have written this book to respond to so many people who are struggling to heal the sense that they are not as worthy as another simply because they are the "wrong" gender according to their subconscious imprints from birth or cultural values and limitations imposed on them by virtue of being male or female.

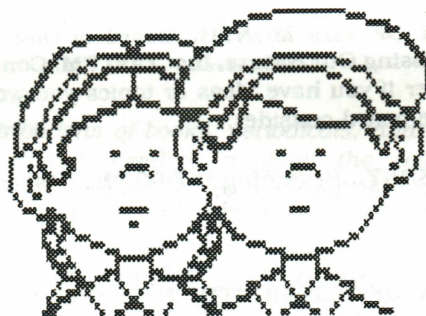
The truth is that we are both male and female! When these two polarity energies **within** us are brought into the most exquisite alignment, they rush together to cause a subsequent fusion that bursts forth into a new energy powerful enough to transform our lives and our world!" Does any of this speak to- or present itself as an attractive possibility for- crossdressers or transgenderists? This fusion of the two polarities? For some, I would think yes, others probably not. It would depend on our goals as individuals. Or on our fears.

For what often rules us is our self definition, or, rather what others have narrowly defined for us as masculine or feminine.

For many an occasional cross-dresser, the mental, or emotional, "dress" is just that: it befits an occasion, that of putting on the outer dress. Otherwise, he may have little interest in maintaining, or even fear about expressing, a femininity that he might view as a liability at home with the family, in his social circles or in the workplace. We all know the crossdresser who states that he is kinder or more attentive when dressed as a woman, but then admits to resuming his culturally typical masculine attitude toward those very same things that received his kindness and attention while he was crossdressed. The explanation for this type of split is usually an elaborate rationalization for survival in the "real world," a place where it is thought that the expression of so-called feminine qualities or energies, and especially behaviours, would cause economic reprisals, social disapproval and ostracism, and quite possibly even personal psychological discomfort in terms of self-awareness.

The concept of "balance" often occupies a central position in this rationalization: the crossdresser can be "feminine" while wearing a dress and makeup during support group meetings, say, or sometimes at home, or maybe even in a gay bar, but the rest of the time he maintains, and promotes, his masculine "side."

(CONT PAGE 2)





**A NEW GENDER (CON'T FROM PAGE 1)**

This split is not the "fusion" or the wholeness that Ms Griscom holds out hope for as a true healing occurrence. This split, this separation is really what is called fission. It is a dividing process that is the antithesis of balance. An unnatural state of internal affairs, it is based on a fear of loss: loss of self as formed and shaped- defined -by others. There cannot be balance, there cannot be peace within, or without, when the masculine competes with the feminine or when the masculine fears that others will discover the inner femininity. To take the terms fission and fusion from the realm of physics- the definitions and, importantly, the far reach of their meanings- and apply them to our spiritual condition is to see that true "balance" is to be experienced in oneness or in unification, not in the split of two-sidedness.

If anything that we read and contemplate from EXCERPTS speaks to us- even if just a little- let us be willing to honor that truth deep within us that is responding.

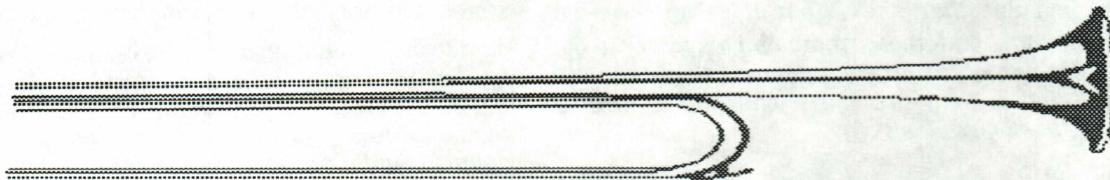
This we can do- even in little and seemingly insignificant ways to begin with- by "dressing" inside even though at the time we may not be dressing on the outside.

This truer balance holds great opportunity for each and every one of us for inner peace and increased expression of ability.



And this is what will make the world a better place to live in for all people. There will be a new gender. It will be called peace.

Happy Holidays To All- And A Truly New Year.



### FALL/WINTER SUPPORT GROUP SCHEDULE

EON has created a calendar for support group activities that includes every saturday of the month from September the 12th through December the 31st. Please consult the two part blue and pink events calendar that has been sent to you under separate cover. Many of these events require pre-registration.

Also, please note:

**1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH...**Board of Directors meeting, Expressing Our Nature, Inc. **7:00 PM**. Contact a board member if you have ideas or topics you would like to have the board consider.

**EVERY THURSDAY...**Beginning at **7:00 PM**...Makeover Classes conducted by Angela Sheedy (see your calendar).

**3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH...**Newsletter Night... Beginning at **7:00 PM**.

### National & Regional Events

**1. FIRST EVENT...TIFFANY CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND...**January 27, 1993-February 1st. Crown Plaza Hotel, Natick, MA.

**2.FIFTH ANNUAL TEXAS "T" PARTY, "TEA FOR TWO"...**February 26-28, 1993, San Antonio, Texas

**3.THIRD ANNUAL FALL HARVEST WEEKEND...**St. Louis Gender Foundation. November 19-22, St. Louis, MO.

**4.Seventh Annual "Coming Together-Working Together" Convention...**Sponsored by IFGE. Meet, learn from, and share insights with leaders and members of our community from around the world. Learn, grow, and be yourself in an atmosphere of pride, dignity, and joy... **March 14-21,(1993) Philadelphia,PA**



# EON Library

## NEW TITLES - BOOKS & VIDEOS:

**BODY GUARDS...**edited by Julia Epstein & Kristina Straub...essays utilizing a wide range of sources; studies of the body, sexuality, and gender.

**THE UNINVITED DILEMMA...**by Kim Elizabeth Stuart...an overview, survey, and community of experiences about transsexuality.

**MY STORY...**by Caroline Cossey...an autobiography of "Tula"...the childhood, the dreams, the work, challenges and liberation of a famous transsexual.

**FROM MASCULINE TO FEMININE- AND ALL POINTS IN BETWEEN...**by Jennifer Anne Stevens...the experiences and wisdom of a transgenderist presented in a very readable, and thought-provoking manner; an excellent "handbook."

**METAMORPHOSIS...**a video produced by Lisa Leeman and seen on PBS following its premiere at the 1990 IFGE convention. Four years in the making, the film follows the life of a transsexual in transition...a moving story with great value for all.

**HUSBANDS & WIVES, BEST FRIENDS & LOVERS...**a video produced by Donna Mobely...face to face discussions with crossdressers and their partners.

**TELEVISION TALK SHOWS...**additions to our video library of more talk shows that have featured discussions with crossdressers, transsexuals, and friends and family.



## ON ORDER:

**THE TRANSEXUAL'S SURVIVAL GUIDE...**by Jo Anne Altman Stringer...a married post-op TS woman writes about the areas of counseling, economics, employment and much more.

**YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND...**Women & Men In Conversation...by Deborah Tannen, Ph. D.....Useful to those interested in cross-genderal speech patterns and anyone fascinated with how we communicate.

**I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A WOMAN...**by Jerry/Jerri Mc Clain...a novelist, husband, father...and crossdresser changes his name and lives as a woman...encouraged by his publisher to do so and write of his experiences.

**SPEAKING AS A WOMAN & WHAT IS FEMININITY...**two separate videos produced by Allison Lang...techniques of speech & the social construction of femininity.

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Contributions of books, periodicals, and video tapes are always needed to offset the cost of these important materials for use by members of the support group, their families, and the supportive public. Considering the importance of the many fine educational materials that are available, whether books, video tapes, or periodicals, financial contributions for this purpose are also most welcome, and needed.



# Excerpts

The following passages are from the book FEMININE FUSION, by Chris Griscom...Simon & Schuster, 1991.

" The world has become too obsessed with external, material reality to remember that the subtle nuances of energy flows offer the crucial guiding light that directs our lives into channels of fulfillment and purpose. Thus far we have been shaped by a world chartered through masculine energy, the energy of form and volition. There is another kind of energy that is invisible to the eye but is the very source material of all potential. This is the feminine energy, divine spiritual consciousness that expresses itself through formless essence rather than structured matter.

We must now look deeper than just the reality of form ( the masculine energy ) in order to find ourselves anew. Our educational, social, and planetary systems have become too sluggish and stagnant to propel us onto the next evolutionary plateau. We need desperately to quicken our understanding of the laws of energy so that we can penetrate the seemingly insurmountable problems we face and bask in the peace of solutions. These unknowns are likely to defy all our technological prowess because they have been placed squarely in the path by our very souls in order to awaken an octave of reality more complex than just the plains of matter. In short, the next evolutionary ladder is quite uncomprisingly that of the spirit! And this is the feminine energy.

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...The stimulation of hormones that brings us through puberty very much expresses feminine alchemy. At different times in our lives, the hormonal levels alter to such a degree that they can actually influence our predisposition to masculine or feminine expression. A man whose testosterone levels are low will tend to be much more mellow than one whose male hormones are literally driving him to release that thrusting yang ( masculine ) energy. Likewise, the woman whose hormonal levels show a higher mixture of male hormones will posture within the more driving force of male expression.

The endocrine system is the secret designer of who we are and how we convey ourselves to the outside world in terms of our pervasive masculine or feminine energy. In the future we will learn to use the

technology of consciousness to balance the masculine and feminine essences released by the endocrine system in such a way as to dissolve the aging process and influence even the shape and texture of our bodies. As we begin to understand how the subtle energies of the master endocrine glands, the pineal and the pituitary, extend beyond the spiral of matter into the unmanifest octaves of spiritual essence, we will realize how the soul itself is a partner to the influences of culture, family, and genetics in sculpting the human psyche.

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...When a man no longer needs to uphold a constrictive stereotype of who he is or what he will receive from anyone outside him, he can let go of the limitations that impede his growth and his fulfillment. When men are willing to share with each other on a soul level, there will no longer be war on this planet. As these yang ( masculine ) energies are tempered by an upsurge in creative expression, we will be able to smooth out destructive energies by retuning the channel of our communication to one that has less static, that can be received clearly by the other.

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...It is clear that different individuals have specific personalized hormonal systems and that often many of the difficulties we have within our urinary-genital or reproductive tracts seem to relate to subtle hormonal imbalances. Science has no way of observing what is influencing the endocrine system to release those hormones that affect our personalities and our emotions, as well as our physical bodies. Yet here is one of those truths- if the yin ( feminine ) energy is allowed, then the body, too, will follow suit and secrete the hormones that are related to feminine expression. But if there is fear or denial of that feminine energy, the body will withhold biochemical influences that would enhance the expression of an energy that is viewed by the unconscious as dangerous.

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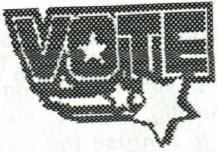
... Whenever you are hungry for love, simply stop a minute and ask your body what it feels like to be loved. The body retains hundreds of different imprints of the sensation of love. When you start generating what it feels like to be loved, you do not have to have a partner. When you do not have to have a partner, that is when you get one.

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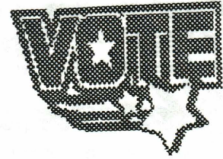
...One day soon, perhaps, we will all learn to honor the body's great gift of life and accept its male/female duet with more grace. There is profound anxiety about the presence of feminine energy in many, many men. They have a sense of the feminine within them that longs to be expressed. Unfortunately this feminine urge causes men to project heavily onto women because the woman inside the man is so

(CON'T PAGE 8)





# THE SILENCE



The following is reprinted from a pre-election issue of the **NEW YORK TIMES**, September 1992.

Where you read the words black, gay, lesbian, or homophobia— read crossdresser, transgenderist, transsexual. Identification brings the problem of discrimination and hatred close to home. However, even without this exercise in word exchange, what is described in the following article is still disturbing and outrageous.

How we treat ourselves is how we will treat others. Let us hope that the gender community will always be willing to break the silence that can too often surround any vulnerable and hurt minority.

## " PUTTING HATRED TO A VOTE "

by Anna Quindlen

Cause and effect is always an iffy kind of thing, but reasonable people may discern a relationship between Ballot Measure 9 and the firebomb murders of Hattie Mae Cohens and Brian Mock in Salem, Ore.

Four people, barely out of their teens and already devotees of white supremacist groups, have been charged with lobbing a Molotov cocktail into the apartment where the black lesbian and white gay man lived. The murder indictment said motive could be found in "defendants' perception of the race, color and sexual orientation " of the victims.

And maybe part of that perception came from the ballot measure to be decided next Tuesday. The people of Oregon will decide if their State Constitution should be amended to "discourage homosexuality" and classify it as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse." In other words, bigotry will be put to a popular vote.

Trickle-down homophobia is what happens when government and community leaders trash gay people crudely or subtly, purse their lips and talk about "life style choice" or open their mouths wide to use scripture to justify their prejudice. The folks who cooked up the anti-gay referendum let loose a message of hatred and, lo and behold, it turned into a skinhead's firebomb.

That's why leaders of this country have to confront homophobia every chance they get. Both George Bush and Bill Clinton should have decried Ballot Measure 9 publicly and repeatedly, but neither of them has.

When the President of the United States is talking about swastikas painted on the walls of synagogues or crosses burned on the lawns of black households, he should include the other great prejudice in America, the one that has led to rampant gay-bashing, both rhetorical and physical.

He should never give a laundry-list speech without completing the list. When the President is talking about justice for all, intoning "young and old, rich and poor, black and white, male and female," he needs to remember to add "gay and straight."

Where you read the words black, gay, lesbian, or homophobia— read crossdresser, transgenderist, transsexual.

Trickle-down tolerance is why we have leaders in the first place. It makes a difference that the Catholic Church, which has been no particular friend of gay rights, nevertheless has publicly opposed Ballot Measure 9, with the Oregon Catholic Conference saying "it may contribute to attitudes of intolerance and hostility."

It makes a difference that Gov. William Weld of Massachusetts has given gay state employees the same spousal bereavement rights as heterosexuals. It makes a difference that Gov. Pete Wilson of California has signed a law that protects homosexuals against job discrimination.

The gay-bashers can say what they please about special privileges, but all gay people really want is the right to rent and enlist and work and walk about like the rest of us. To teach if they're qualified, to  
(CONT PAGE 8)



# The Thoughts of Chairman Pooh

by Victoria Lynn

Wherein the authoress will (more or less) review the book **"THE TAO OF POOH"** by Benjamin Hoff.

What, you ask yourself, do the miscellaneous feminine arts we collectively refer to as crossdressing have to do with a very old Eastern philosophy, or for that matter a small brown bear of very little brain? Ah grasshopper, you've much to learn. Crossdressing has nothing less than EVERYTHING to do with the Eastern philosophy of Taoism, and the adventures of said small brown bear are an excellent way to demonstrate them.

In the first place, crossdressers, perhaps more than any other people, are uniquely fitted to appreciate the fine points of Taoism (pronounced Dow-ism). The basic tenant of this philosophy is to be yourself. Be what nature intended you to be and nothing else. What better code for a crossdresser? Nature made you a certain way. Find out what it is and act in accordance with it—you'll be happy. Avoid it, ignore it, or feel guilty about it—you'll be miserable.

In his book **"THE TAO OF POOH,"** Benjamin Hoff uses the stories of Winnie The Pooh and friends to illustrate some of the basic points of Taoist philosophy. Now, those of you who've read them understand that, at first glance, Pooh Bear was not given to deep and meaningful thoughts. But scratch the surface of these thoughts and you'll see that our hero was probably the most successful of the characters in the stories because he acted in accordance with his nature and NEVER tried to outthink it. In short, the perfect Taoist. To illustrate, a short quote:

"When you wake up in the morning Pooh," said Piglet at last, "what's the first thing you say to yourself?"

"What's for breakfast," replied Pooh. "What do you say, Piglet?"

"I say, I wonder what's going to happen exciting today," said Piglet.

"...It's the same thing," said Pooh.

Now, I ask you, how can you go wrong with a philosophy like that? If you look for adventure, you will find it. Conversely, if you look for trouble, you'll find that too. This, by the way, is a decidedly "unPoohish" thing

to do.

Now apply this to our curious habit of dressing in the clothes usually reserved for the opposite sex. To a Taoist (or a Poohist, if you prefer) the simple solution would be to just do what comes naturally. But for most people that is too simple. We have to confuse the issue. We do this by thinking like other Winnie The Pooh characters. To wit:

Our first mistake is to act like Owl. We have to know WHY we cross dress. What is this thing in us that makes us different? We must have a label, write a textbook, develop a program, dissect and define, etc., etc. Now, a certain amount of this is fine, but, even if you're dressed when you do this, your head is so busy with IMPORTANT things that you can't do the MOST IMPORTANT thing: you can't enjoy your cross dressing.



Sooner or later we might act like Piglet or Eeyore. We get scared and nervous. Will we look OK? Are we good enough? Can we pass? Boggled down in our self-doubts we take the Piglet path and apologize for not being better at what we do, or we take the Eeyore path and demean our efforts before others get a chance to. When we are convincing others that our performance doesn't measure up (or can't in the case of Eeyore) then it's very difficult to enjoy it ourselves. Piglet is too scared to be happy and Eeyore...? Well, Eeyore enjoys being miserable. He's too afraid of risk to try anything else.

After a while we might move on to another character. We could be a Rabbit, fed up with our inner conflict and so insecure in our own world that we will go to any lengths to upset the apple carts of others. We will attack and harass, but always in the guise of "doing what's best." A kind of "if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem ...and MY way of doing things is the ONLY solution." This approach has a great short-term advantage, but sooner or later Rabbit is always undone by his narrow attitude and selfishness.



An alternative to Rabbit (and the type that Rabbits really dislike) is Tigger. Tiggers can do anything. They surmount any obstacle, crash through any defense and roll over all opposition. They attack any problem with the tact of a sledge hammer and the subtlety of an artillery barrage.

Tiggers are very good bouncers but they never seem to notice the things (or people) that they land on. The trouble with Tiggers is that they look forward too much. They never look behind them to see the damage they leave in their wake. Not everyone can be a Tigger, which is probably for the best.

Now if you see yourself in any of these little character studies, don't feel bad. We all act like each of them at one point or another. The trick is to act like Pooh as often as possible! We are all an Eeyore, Rabbit, or Owl to some degree. Why? Because we are human, that's why.

To escape from Poohism for a while, think about a lyric from a song written twenty or so years ago by Harry Chapin. The song is: MR. TANNER. It's about a man who owned a laundry and also possessed a beautiful baritone singing voice. The refrain goes:

"He sang from his heart, and he sang from his soul,

He did not know how well he sang,  
It just made him whole."

Most crossdressers could learn a lot from Mr. Tanner. Not to mention a small brown bear of very little brain.

Speaking of Pooh, it's probably time to see how he would have reacted to being a crossdresser. Consider the following discussion between our hero (or rather heroine) and Piglet:

"Pooh, what are you doing?" Piglet asked as he observed Pooh struggling into a dress.

"I'm putting on a dress, Piglet." Pooh had by this time won his struggle and was now attempting the same with a pair of black high heels. "I have felt an urge for many years to dress like a lady and since I can think of no reason why I shouldn't..." He stopped for a second to apply a little lipstick. When he was satisfied with the result, he continued "I will."

Piglet had a rather worried expression on his face. Sort of the kind you'd get if you bit into an apple and found half a worm. "But...Pooh, why are you dressing like a woman?"

"Because I want to," said Pooh, accidentally gluing his eyelids together with false eyelash adhesive.

"But don't you need a better reason than that?" asked Piglet.

"My dear Piglet," said Pooh, as he adjusted his wig. "There IS no better reason than that."

I can't think of one either but in the finest traditions of the Taoists, or rather the Poohists, I'm not going to try. Enjoy yourselves ladies.





**EXCERPTS (CON'T FROM PAGE 4)**

hungry to be alive. In the midst of stifling his inner female the man tries desparately to get the females around him to act out his feminine energy the way he feels it should be expressed in accordance with how it lives covertly in him. The man unconsciously identifies with all the women in his life, seeking his own feminine experience through them. Since his repertoire comes from his maternal inheritance as well as his own multi-incarnational memories, his attempt to project onto the outside woman is unsuccessful, and he is left with a deep anxiety he cannot recognize. It could never be a perfect fit. In an attempt to find the woman within himself, he becomes intertwined emotionally with the woman outside him. He thinks it is somehow about her, when it is only about what is inside himself. At the same time he is projecting onto her, he is weathering her projection onto him of her inner male.

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...The massive media invasion of our visual world sets the standard for the "skin deep" variety of beauty - so much so that we cannot appreciate anything more subtle on our own. The hitch is that we lose the ability to recognize beauty without outside confirmation. Such insecurity eats away at the roots of beauty as an art of expression and leads us directly into the wasteland of mediocrity.

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...There is nothing unspiritual about changing the body if it is done with the lightness of creative adventure...There is a tremendous difference between hating your body and choosing to enhance something because you think it looks beautiful.If you choose to alter something physical about yourself, it is important that you actually ask permission of the body to undergo such a procedure. Your body needs to be assured that it won't be violated. ...Part of the reward for being in body is the joy of variety as it teaches you to become the designer of the self...

Within the framework of your soul's experience, you are beautiful. As you honor **your** expression, others will find you fascinating and attractive. You must simply become brave enough to choose for yourself what is beautiful to **you!**

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**THE SILENCE (CON'T FROM PAGE 5)**

move in next door if they're financially able. Oh, and they'd like us to remember that theyre much, much more than the mechanics of their sex lives, just as we hetero types are.

Silence is not good enough; if you need to remember why, reread the words of the theologian Martin

Niemoller about the Nazis, the ones that begin "They came first for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist" and end with " Then they came for me and by that time no one was left to speak up." Silence gives consent- to the bigotry, the bashings and ultimately the firebombings.

In his memoir, "Coming Out Conservative," the conservative activist Marvin Liebman recalls Ronald Reagan's distress when his son wanted to become a dancer. "Aren't dancers sortof...funny?" he asked. Mr. Reagan was soothed when Mr. Liebman invoked the names of Baryshnikov and Fred Astaire. But Mr. Liebman was ashamed.

He writes: " I had stood quietly and achingly a gay man in the closet, competent to deal with Ronald Reagan's fears about his son, unable to deal openly with the facts of my own life. I had failed to tell him that many of us were "funny" and that there would be nothing degrading about it if "unfunny" people, like him, did not make it so.

For too long we dared not speak its name. Now, too often, people speak it and then lie, making monsters where there are only men and women. This puts an enormous responsibility on the leaders of this country. Trickle-down homophobia cannot exist if they speak out, loud and clear, for the rights of all people. If they speak the name, and pronounce it right. Call it gay. Call it human.

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NOTE: Ballot Measure 9 was defeated on election day, November 3, 1992. However, 43% of the votes cast were for passage of the measure. Whenever those of us in the gender community talk about building bridges of understanding to the gay community, and when we speak of coalitions of the communities, let us not forget to include ourselves as those about whom we are willing to break the silence. This is the minimum we must do for ourselves if we ever expect to hear the voices of friendship during our times of need.



here's looking at you BABE!

If you have blond hair, no significant beard or you have had electrolysis and removed your beard, this article may not have as much significance to you, but then again, it might help with technique.

**Foundation.** The pallet that the makeup artist works with is the face and specifically, the prepared face. This is what the colors are placed on and what provides the base for that beautiful picture you want to see in the mirror.

Unlike most women, the crossdresser's face has to have the beard removed first. There are many ways to shave closely, but to sum it up, you should not feel any stubble when you are done.

Sit down in front of your trusty makeup mirror, and get yourself in the right mood by applying a thin layer of moisturizer cream on your entire face and neck area. Massage it into your face slowly, and feel the smooth softness, and lovely smell, helping to create that soft feminine feeling.

Try and remember that for natural and cooling purposes, the fewer the layers of foundation, the better.

Start with the under eye concealer. It should be one slight shade lighter than your normal complexion because the area under the eyes is usually a little darker, especially if you are older than 24. Most major cosmetic companies carry a line of concealer, but I would advise that you go to a good cosmetic store to buy it, not off the rack at the drug store. The concealer should be placed under the eyes and smoothed out to the cheek line. With a Q-Tip you can apply it to right under the lower eyelash line, just remember not to let any get on the base of the nose area because it will make your nose look wider at that point.

Now for the beard cover, known by the name of camouflage cream. This is the very best cream for hiding a dark beard.

It can be bought from a cosmetologist or a cosmetic supply house. They may have to order it for you and it comes in a large variety of shades to match your own skin color. Apply samples to the underside of your wrist to get a good color match to your face. Do not apply it to your whole face, unless you have a beard like a werewolf. Apply it only to those areas where the beard is the darkest, the chin under the mouth, the area above the upper lip and along the sides of the face to about where the jawbone meets the head. Not on the sideburns unless the beard is very dark and not under the chin where no one is going to look unless your 6'4" and not on the cheekbone area. Apply enough to cover the beard and then take a flat sponge and pat the area outward to blend it into the surrounding area of the face. Also take the sponge and blend the edges of the eye concealer outward.

Now we are ready for the foundation. The liquid foundation can be bought at a good cosmetic counter. Do not skimp on the costs, buy the best you can afford and get two colors. One as close to your natural color as possible and one that for contrast, is at least two shades darker than your natural color.

If you can imagine an oval area going from the center of your forehead, spreading down along the sides of the face and coming together again at the chin; this is the area to apply the lighter shade of foundation. The darker shade is applied down the sides of the face starting below the sideburn areas and under the chin.

Next month, CONTOURING.

LOVE ya,  
Angela





# Communication

by Anne Harper



We were pleased to have Dr. Roger Peo visit EON on October 24th, to deliver a brief presentation and monitor an open discussion. We touched on issues that are specific to crossdressing, and he shared with us insights learned from his counseling practice that specializes in helping individuals deal with gender confusion. He emphasized the need for sex education at all levels before society will be able to accept people who express their gender identity in different ways. He also referred to a number of books that are instrumental in providing a better understanding of gender differentiation. These authors explore the behavior patterns, some which are learned and others that are innate, that cause the dichotomy that exists between the typical gender roles in our society. As this information finds its way into the mainstream, we see a recognition by more people that the differences between male and female can be understood. It is from this better understanding of these differences that we in the crossgender community can derive a purpose.

In his presentation he spoke about "You Just Don't Understand; Women and Men in Conversation" written by Dr. Deborah Tannen. This book addresses the different ways men and women communicate with each other and how it causes misunderstanding. Dr. Tannen describes men being more concerned about hierarchy, status, definition of power, and being able to assert their independence and freedom within that order of things. Women on the other hand focus on connections and building relationships that are interdependent and intimate. Men need to boast to establish position and are always seeking respect. Women need to be liked and feel that if they boast they will jeopardize that sought after affability. Men are more comfortable dealing with facts and believe that good conversation is impersonal. They are task orientated and hold their relationships together with activities. Women strive to have conversations that are personal and speak about feelings. They are able to hold their relationships together by intimate talk. Now that doesn't mean that women do not value freedom and independence or that they are not interested in activities in their relationships, but their desire for intimacy and connections become more of an issue. Neither does it mean that men cannot be intimate and do not need to express personal feelings in their relationships, but their desire for status and independence is primary. So it

becomes a difference of focus and degree. These different modes of operation that are evident between men and women cause a subtle conflict that is unintentional yet the problems that originate from these differences effect almost every relationship. Dr. Tannen writes:

"We look to our closest relationships as a source of confirmation and reassurance. When those closest to us respond to events differently than we do, when they seem to see the same scene as part of a different play, when they say things that we could not imagine saying in the same circumstances, the ground on which we stand seems to tremble and our footing is suddenly unsure."

Dr. Peo pointed out that in a marriage these different ways of looking at things with their different responses creates a complex problem when the husband is a crossdresser. He suggested that the crossdresser understand his wife's concerns and her way of communicating when discussing his crossgender activity. Many times the crossdresser demands his independence and freedom to crossdress, while at the same time undermining her sense of connection with the man she married. She needs to hear his personal feelings and emotions about their marriage relationship, not reasons and facts why he needs to crossdress. Dr. Tannen relates in the book:

"Women and men would both do well to learn strategies more typically used by members of the other group, not to switch over entirely, but to have more strategies at their disposal."

Our discussion that night was very interesting and beneficial. Dr. Peo introduced a book that has direct influence on our communication with our closest relationships. We thank him for exposure to this type of information and elevating the content of our meeting.





# MICHELLE DE SHANE

Joined EON September 10, 1992

Charliss took the phone call from Michelle's friend Annie on the afternoon of November 13. Michelle had passed away the night before. During the week, she had slipped in and out of a coma. At one point, she instructed Annie to call us after she had gone. Tell them I'm grateful, she said. Tell them it meant a lot to me.

Michelle was dying of AIDS long before she joined our group. She hardly got to use our facility. She spent some time with us in the office over a cup of coffee. She browsed some books and magazines the few times she came in to be with us. We talked.

We visited on the phone a lot, when she was in the hospital, and when she was at home— and then when she was back in the hospital again, and again. She wanted to talk about what we had in common, what we were.

We sat in her hospital room, and together in her home, and she talked about what she would do differently if she could begin again. Not that she was bitter, for she wasn't. Nor was she resentful. Instead, it was as if she were reminiscing about a reconstructed past that included people like us in it. How it would have been like that. Not alone. She had a good time with it. As though she had been close to people like herself for all those years, as she tried so hard, time and again, to live her trans-gendered life as she should have been able to except that she was beat down so hard, time and again.

Finally, she was so happy to have found us. At age forty two and with quite a story behind her, she found her way home.

We always knew we had a reason for being here. Thank you for helping us to remember, Michelle. We will remember you.



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**Board of Directors:** Charliss Dolge, President; Anne Harper, Vice President; Angela Sheedy, Treasurer; Marsha Simson, Secretary

## STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

### **WE BELIEVE IN:**

**THE RIGHT OF THE TRANSGENDERED PERSON TO FULL PARTICIPATION IN AND ACCEPTANCE AND AFFIRMATION BY SOCIETY AS A WHOLE. THIS IS THE RIGHT TO DIGNITY.**

**THE RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE SUBJECT TO OPPRESSION TO COME TOGETHER IN UNITY AND TO CREATE MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT FOR OTHERS OF LIKE KIND. THIS IS THE RIGHT TO PEACEFUL COMMUNITY.**

**THE RIGHT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL TO DEFINE THEMSELVES AS THEY WISH TO BE AND TO SEEK OUT THEIR PERSONAL INTEGRITY WITHOUT HINDRANCE. THIS IS THE RIGHT TO SELF LOVE.**

### **WE FURTHERMORE BELIEVE:**

**THAT PERSONS WHO ARE TRANSGENDERED AND/OR OF SAME-GENDER SEXUAL ORIENTATION ARE ENDOWED, BY VIRTUE OF THEIR DIFFERENTNESS, WITH A SPECIAL CHARISMA AND UNIQUE VOCATION TO TRANSFORM THE PERCEPTIONS OF OTHERS AND THE WORLD ITSELF BY BEING EXEMPLARS OF TOLERANCE AND LOVE.**

**THAT OUR HAPPINESS, PERSONAL GROWTH, AND SENSE OF FULFILLMENT AS INDIVIDUALS CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED WHEN WE PERSEVERE IN HONESTLY OPENING THE REALITY OF OUR SELVES TO OTHERS. EON EXISTS TO HELP CREATE AND TO PROMOTE THAT COURAGE.**

*Expressing Our Nature, Inc. is a non profit community service organization for crossdressers, transgenderists, and transsexuals.*

*Services include: peer support group membership; regularly scheduled program and discussion meetings each month; weekly class nights; special social events for members, family, and friends.*

*EON also maintains offices, meeting rooms, and a library which are open to peer support group members at various times throughout the week.*

*The peer support group is an open group, that is, all are welcome regardless of gender identification or sexual orientation. EON stresses a holistic and non discriminatory approach to personal development within the peer support group.*

*EON also engages in educational outreach activity aimed at: colleges and universities; groups within the gay/lesbian and womens' movement; the social justice community; other public organizations.*

*The Newsletter is a monthly publication. Cost of The Newsletter is included in the current annual peer support group dues. articles, news items, reprints and original artwork are welcome. All submissions will be subject to editorial policy.*