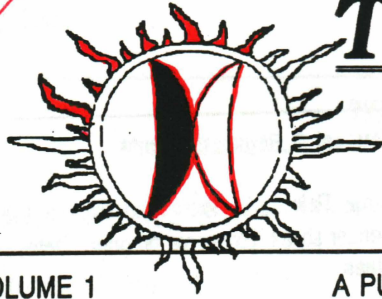
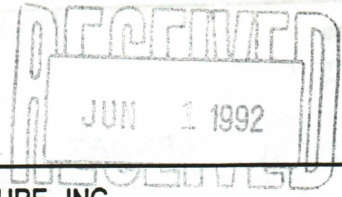


(50) 515
HQ 77.1
E6 2

THE EON ACCORD



May 1992



VOLUME 1

A PUBLICATION OF EXPRESSING OUR NATURE, INC.

ISSUE 3

A LARGER SENSE OF SELF

✿ By: Charliss Dolge ✿

Rather than uncritically accepting the burden of isolation, or shame, negative uniqueness or deviance, or the unexamined prejudices of others, it helps for those of us in the crossdresser/transgenderist community to achieve a larger sense of self by seeing the ways in which we have always fit into the total scheme of things.

Knowledge of our existence and roles as revealed in the various cultural traditions, spiritual disciplines, mythologies and literature since ancient times has the power to expand our own thinking about ourselves in positive and realistic ways.

Somewhere deep within our core even the most fearful, disgraced and self-abnegating of us has that intuition and idea - however fragile and un-affirmed - that this feminine dimension that we possess, with its desires, dreams, needs and energy, is very right and natural, and even sacred. Especially sacred, for it is an expression of Creation itself and it is essential to the spiritual progress of this world - its healing, its peace, and its need for joyful challenge and adventure.

There are those other people in this world who, even though they may not be crossdressers or transgendered people, either already understand this principle of difference and diversity and will affirm you for what you are or they will come to understand it through their contact with you if they recognize you as a person of self esteem, peace, and courage.

It is possible to just will oneself out of the closet, physically, but often we are still in conflict within in unnecessary ways, most often because we internalize the ways we are, or imagine ourselves to be, in conflict with an unaccepting society. In addition to desire and need, we may require an alliance with something that is greater than ourselves - and whether this something greater be pride, as in community, relationship with a guide or mentor, or the active support of friends and sisters, the ultimate nature of this alliance will be spiritual, that is it will

have the power to actually transcend the barriers to honest and open self expression.

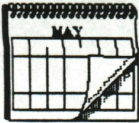
Self expression is growth, and growth, paradoxically, is not adding to something. It is a releasing of something, an unfolding of what is already there or within. This is the true nature of what is already there or within. This is the true nature of what we call change: it is a going-back-to; it is a giving up of the false or convenient, a letting-go of what is easy for others to accept but ultimately destructive of you.

Opportunities, or potential turning points, for change present themselves to us now and then. Sometimes we think we are ready, other times not. Various cultural traditions take it upon themselves to create or indicate the various stages of growth and change, and in this way responsibility is taken out of the hands of the individual. The transition from one way of living to another, if not always expected, is encouraged or at least honored and affirmed. Usually, it is celebrated.

In a real sense, we are people who have always worn skirts or dresses, always used makeup and worn jewelry, and always conducted ourselves in ways that are consistent with self-knowledge, self-image, and gender identification - not just in our clothes but also in our hearts.

Other cultures and traditions, whether they be Native American, Asian or Greek - to name a few - have understood and affirmed this dimension of the heart of certain people and have historically made positive provision and purpose for it. Today, in our culture, this is by and large not true. Today, our "coming out" requires that we seek out and create that spiritual alliance for ourselves.

Coming out of the closet, that is, truly coming into our own, should be a transition in the most respected and honored of traditions - an occasion that is celebrated, not jeered, a stage of life that affirms reason, not a challenge to it. (cont page 2)



CALENDAR

MEETINGS-EVENTS-OPEN HOUSE

1ST & 3RD SATURDAY...These meetings begin at 8:00 PM. House opens at 6:00 PM for meeting preparation and for those in need of the dressing room and makeover facilities. Meeting content includes either a group discussion period or a featured presentation of a subject of interest to crossdressers and transsexuals. Refreshments and a light buffet are always available. **The meeting cost is \$5.**

2ND & 4TH SATURDAY...These afternoons and evenings are open dates. Peer support group members may create and schedule their own social and educational programs for these dates, as long as the events are consistent with the goals and philosophy of Expressing Our Nature, Inc. **Contact a board member for assistance with your program idea. The meeting cost for these dates is \$5.**

1ST TUESDAY...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...Class night...currently makeover classes given by Angels Sheedy. A series of five classes that will bring you to the look that is just right for you. This is an active and friendly evening at EON, as many members also just drop by in order to spend time together on an open night. **Cost is \$10 a class, which is then donated to EON.**

2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS...Newsletter Night..if any members want to participate in this project, please sign up. We need articles, news items, and members to take over specific newsletter tasks...labeling, stamping, stuffing, mailing, etc. Snacks and refreshments...plus friendship and the benefits of working together to create a successful and supportive group.

National & Regional Events

1. **18th Annual Fantasia Fair...**Live, learn and explore the diverse aspects of alternative gender styles. Extensive program. **October 16-25, 1992 Provincetown, Mass**

2. **10th Anniversary Be All...**The Be All You Want To Be experience, co-sponsored by four United States support groups, alternating from City-to-City each year. This year **June 10-14, 1992 Detroit, Mich.**

3. **Paradise in The Poconos...**A getaway experience of pure fun...A take-over of an entire country resort. **May 14-17 and September 17-20, 1992 Poconos Mtns., PA.**

4. **The Tiffany Club of New England 12th Annual Provincetown Spring Fling...**At the elegant Boatslip Beach Club. **May 26-June 1, 1992 Provincetown, Mass.**

5. **The Second Annual New Woman's Conference...**Sponsored by the New Woman caucus. For post-operative transsexuals and their significant others. **September 10-13, 1992 Essex, MA.**

6. **Southern Comfort...**A series devoted to the exploration of gender issues and alternative lifestyles. Includes top sex reassignment surgeons, therapists, experienced people from our community and an extensive program of seminars, discussion groups, speeches and workshops for and by crossdressers, transgenderists and transsexuals. Also...social occasions, fashion shows, many vendors, and hollywood makeup artist, Jim Bridges. **September 30 - October 4, 1992 Atlanta, GA.**

7. **The Dignity Cruise II...**On the Sun Viking of the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line. Sponsored by Dr. Peggy Rudd, author of MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES. **September 6-13, 1992**

8. **18TH Annual Fantasia Fair...**Grande Dame of events. **October 16-25, 1992, Provincetown, MA.**



A LARGER SENSE OF SELF

(cont from page 1)

If it helps us to gain a larger, more truthful sense of self and purpose, let us recall our knowledge of those disciplines and traditions that expect and honor us, for those that do speak of universal and everlasting truths that include everything and everyone and not just people like us. We will fit in.

THE THOUGHTS OF MADAM LIBRARIAN

Book Review by Victoria Lynn



VESTED INTERESTS

Marjorie Garber

Routledge, Chapman & Hall Inc.

\$30.00

That Marjorie Garber's new book 'Vested Interest' will have a major impact on how scholars view the issue of cross dressing and cross gender there can be no doubt. The trouble is that it has very little appeal for those who might need it most, namely the cross dresser!

'Interest' is the first book in a very long time to deal with the 'lifestyle' as just that, a lifestyle and still be published in the mainstream book industry. Unfortunately, the reader soon sees that while many other books of this sort might suffer from a lack of information, this one suffers from just the opposite. There is enough in here for a half dozen books. The author begins her work with the bold statement that; "There Can Be No Culture Without the Transvestite" and then proceeds to take nearly 400 pages to prove her point from every conceivable direction! The writing is very heavy going and it is easy to lose yourself. An example would be;

"The absolute insignia of maleness becomes the sin qua non of the male subjectivity of the transexual woman. To offer her a penis, in dead seriousness, becomes the ambivalent task of the specialist in gender dysphoria, the 'sex change' doctor..."

If it sounds like it was written by Freud or Jung in drag then you understand the problem. This by the way is a fairly mild example. What we have here is a book that bids fair to be the "War and Peace" of TV/TS scholarly literature.

If you are a professional in the gender field, or have a fairly advanced background in the literature of our lifestyle then you will be able to appreciate the extraordinary work that went into producing this book. If you're new to the scene or have a limited background, try something a little lighter first.

Worth the money but only if you have the where-with-all and back ground to get through it and having done so, get something useful from the effort.

♥ ♥ ♥ ABOUT MADAM LIBRARIAN ♥ ♥ ♥

As you know from reading her book review in this issue in the column "Thoughts Of Madam Librarian", our new contributor to the ACCORD Newsletter is Victoria Lynn.

More about Ms. Lynn:

Vicky's membership in EON has been for more than a year. Once we had our initial supply of literature on the bookshelves, Victoria began compilation, a book list, which she continues to update as new publications arrive.

We thank you, Victoria, for your interest in our library, our group, and for your wit, directness, and your style. Thanks too, for the literature that you donated to your group.

Victoria's - Madam Librarian's - book list is located in our center hall. The literature that it identifies has either been purchased and donated or loaned by members, or been purchased or subscribed to by the EON treasury. Also, some of it has been donated by non-members.

At this time, the library is not a lending library; rather it is a reference library for use and enjoyment on the premises. The EON rooms are becoming more and more comfortable and relaxing as we continue to furnish them, so please feel free to come by and spend time with some interesting books and periodicals as your schedules permit.

Please let us know of any literature that you would like to see us provide, or of any that you would like to share with your group friends. Madam Librarian is in. She awaits your call.

May 1992



FUNDRAISING

By CD

Thus far, EON has been able to create and maintain itself through individual efforts, dues and fees, and financial contributions. financially, it has really been a matter of flying by the seats of our skirts. From the beginning of our facility construction to acquiring furnishings and accessories...from paying utilities bills and the monthly donation to Trinity Parish House to handling the costs for telephones, the newsletters and the meeting buffets...for all these costs we have had to rely largely on individual contributions to the group. Our annual dues and meeting fees have not been enough to sustain us.

Currently we are finishing all the accounting, budgetary, and legal work so that we may soon file for our federal 501(c) (3) tax exempt status. This includes a three year budget based on corporation goals, which in turn are based on providing services for crossdressers, transgenderists and transsexuals.

Clearly, we need to find ways to raise funds other than, or in addition to, our annual dues, meeting fees, and the generosity of a handful of individuals.

Here are two fund raising projects which we will be putting into effect immediately. The support and participation of EON peer support group members is necessary for these projects' success:

\$\$\$ EON FINE ART RAFFLE \$\$\$

Members will be able to buy for themselves - and also to sell to family, friends, and acquaintances - tickets for a twelve item fine art raffle. Sales will be in the months of May through August, the drawing to be held during a "COMING HOME" dinner party in early September.

Tickets are priced at \$5 each, and may be sold to individuals both within and outside the "ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY," to members of Trinity Parish, and to members of other various support groups and organizations.

The prizes are:

GRAND: A LARGE STAINED GLASS WINDOW WITH A NATURE MOTIF, A COMMISSION BY EON TO ARTIST TIMOTHY AVERY. RETAIL VALUE OF \$500. **2ND:** A LARGE BRASS CASE KALEIDOSCOPE WITH TABLE STAND AND CONTAINING A MULTITUDE OF STAINED GLASS PATTERNS. MADE BY ARTIST CORKI WEEKS. DONATED BY THE STUDIO GALLERY, SYRACUSE. RETAIL VALUE OF \$125. **3RD:** LARGE SIZE LIMITED EDITION PRINT, EMBOSSED, "IN THE SPIRIT," SIGNED BY ARTIST, BERNARD STANLEY. DONATED BY SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS. RETAIL VALUE OF \$80. **4TH:** LARGE SIZE LIMITED EDITION PRINT, MUSEUM QUALITY PAPER,

"DAVIS-KIDD" BOOKSELLERS POSTER, SIGNED BY ARTIST, LANCE HIDEY. DONATED BY SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS. RETAIL VALUE OF \$50. **5TH:** BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPH, MOUNTED, "DOUBLE TAKE-MARILYN MONROE ON FIFTH AVENUE," DONATED AND SIGNED BY ARTIST, HARRY FREEMAN-JONES. RETAIL VALUE \$45. **6TH-9TH:** VARIOUS ORIGINAL PRINTS WITH NATIVE-AMERICAN, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES. DONATED BY SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS. RETAIL VALUE OF \$20-\$40. **11TH-12TH:** VARIETY OF ART PRINT CORRESPONDENCE CARDS, PACKAGED, DONATED BY SYRACUSE CULTURAL WORKERS. RETAIL VALUE OF \$15 EACH.

Tickets will be printed letter-size format, to accommodate prize descriptions, with a bottom stub. This raffle has the potential to raise a minimum of \$2,000 for EON. After recovering our cost of \$350 for commissioning the stained glass window from Timothy Avery, we would net \$1,650.

Here's how it would work: EON has 53 members. It would take 20 members selling 20 tickets each at \$5 per ticket for sales of \$2,000.

So please respond when you are approached about participating in this raffle. **There will be a wonderful surprise prize for the one who sells the most tickets.**

\$\$\$ EON COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE \$\$\$

This is the "stand-by" fundraising method for groups since time immemorial. Last year, another alternative community group raised \$1500 during a saturday rummage sale held at Trinity Parish House. We've got this one planned for June 13.

So, look around the house - in the basement, the attic, garage, loft...your closets and cupboards. You'd be surprised (maybe) at what sells...decorative items, teapots, cutlery, rugs, shoes and gloves...jeans, picture frames and toasters...old eyeglasses and serving trays, dog leashes, watches and lamps, plastic dishes and glass bowls...earrings, watering cans and clay pots...a side chair in need of reupholstering, ash trays, wood boxes, refrigerator magnets, canes and toboggan caps...books, magazines, bells, playing cards and wrapping paper...Get the picture? It's worth more than thousands of words like these. **And a good deal of money to EON.**

So...please care enough to look around (don't forget under the bed) and carefully box up your "unneeded and in-the-way" and trundle it down to your support group meeting place. Come the day of the sale we'll need some possessors of smiling faces to help set up the tables in the parking lot or parlor (rain or shine) and rake in the money from our well-advertised rummage sale. We'll have music, coffee and lemonade too! And how about hot dogs... (cont pg 5)



AN OPERA WITHOUT THE MUSIC

By: CD

It is, of course, just words. Incomplete. And there is so much of this going on in our world – so much of "just words," so much going on in the head and so little coming from the heart. The heavy, burdened heart, unexpressed or strictly censored and living only within itself, reflects the fear of what is really just illusion – our dependency on others for life itself.

Life itself is in our heart and not in the other. It is that only thing that can be shared with the other.

Imagine the ones you think you depend on saying these things to you:

It is enough that the artist execute his painting and then only show it to his family. Never to the outside world.

Actually, it is enough that the artist paint his picture and not need to show it to his family...

However, truth be known, there really should not be a need to paint the painting...

The truth is that it is really enough that the artist just have the idea of the painting...

For you see, I need to believe (and you need me) that the idea... that the thought ... that the feeling... that the words are enough and the music unnecessary...

That, truth be known, it is enough that you might think or feel "feminine."

But, come on now... this insistence on music, on form and color, on dancing and celebrating... this...this need for self expression and happiness...

...These forms of diversity and expressiveness are indeed a plague to our higher purpose and must be finally dealt with... They betray order and peace and are unnecessary to the goal... Adolph Hitler(Munich speech, 1938)

♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪ ♪

FUNDRAISING (cont from pg 4) \$\$\$ SPENDING THE MONEY \$\$\$

Any ideas? Well...say there are twenty members – the same twenty members – participating in both fundraisers and say that we raise \$3,000 total, which shared equally means that each one of us can go out and buy a \$150 dress...or:

EON MONTHLY UTILITIES BILL \$100....payable to Trinity Church...until we have the \$300 to buy an install our own electric meter. (board member Ann Harper is searching for a good used meter)

EON MONTHLY DONATION TO TRINITY CHURCH FOR MAINTAINING THE PARISH HOUSE \$50.....payable for ever and ever (but not bad considering that we have a twenty year lease from the church for a dollar a year)

EON MONTHLY TELEPHONE BILL
\$52.40..for basic service... \$20.00..for other charges..

EON MONTHLY FOOD AND REFRESHMENT BILL FOR MEETING AND KOFFEE KLATCHES \$70

EON POSTAGE FOR OUTREACH \$20

EON MONTHLY POSTAGE FOR NEWSLETTER MAILINGS AND PRINTING \$84....for current activity

EON FUTURE NEEDS (soon we hope) some more furniture, television, vcr, video tapes, literature, outreach brochures, full length mirror for dressing room, ceiling light for business office, area rug for meeting room, on-going need for supplies, etc. plus....debt reduction for wall-to-wall carpeting...\$645 balance due debt reduction for sub-floor material and electrical work...\$860 balance due

EON FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE Soon, we hope, this will be an idea whose time has come. A percentage of income from dues, meeting fees, and fundraising events will be funneled into a trust in order to create principal for producing income for future needs such as emergency grants for members in need, outreach projects, real estate, and future opportunity or emergency. It will be necessary to solicit contributions from within and without our community in order to jump-start this fund and to achieve a realistic interest-producing fund whose principal need never be touched. This is one of the ways we can commit ourselves to those who will follow us and who will be in need as we once were.

Our participation in fundraising, our meeting attendance, and generally our supportiveness will not only enrich our own feminine spirit – it will make a difference for those who may need us next week, or next year...positive femininity knows that what goes around, comes around. Let us all be willing to create even just a small amount of loving and positive energy together.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, BABE

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, BABE

By: Angela Sheedy

Last month's article dealt with some of the instruments for makeup and application. I hope that you have taken the trouble to acquire some of the necessities that were mentioned.

I don't know how you feel about first encounters, but as a person who deals with people every day, I know how important it is to establish positive contact with everyone you meet throughout the day and this means eye contact.

Psychologically it is a fact that girls and boys talk differently when talking with another person of the same gender. Girls talking to each other, are open and interested in what the other person is saying, and establish eye contact with each other throughout the conversation. On the other hand, boys who talk together almost never establish direct eye contact during their conversations because they have never been gender trained over the scrimmage lines that, direct eye contact is established to assert power over the other person, such as in a stare-down situation between two defensive animals.

If you are observant, you will notice how two women in a room will look at each other when talking, and any two men talking will have one looking and talking and the other looking in another direction or at another object in the room and listening. For those of us who wish to emulate a more feminine nature, it is important to remember some of the more subtle qualities expressed by women.

The eyes are probably the most expressive and commanding part of our bodies and are a "reflection of the soul" so we will discuss how to make them the most attractive.

Basic eye makeup includes eyeshadows, eyebrow pencils, mascara, and an eyeliner pencil in liquid or pencil form. Other materials such as glitter or sparkles are for special uses or occasions.

Eyeshadow colors are important and should be matched to compliment your natural skin tones and hair color, not necessarily by the color of your clothes. If you have fair skin and light hair to reddish hair, earthtone colors work well. Casual dressing calls for browns and pastels; special occasions can call for golds or greens. If you have auburn to black hair and a darker complexion like a beige or olive, casual colors include dark browns and charcoals to violets and deep blues. Special occasions may require more vibrant colors like black, purples, and frosted colors. If you aren't sure of what works best for you, consult with someone who knows about skin tones and makeup or just practice with different colors until you have come up with a combination that you feel makes you look most attractive. Remember, we are trying to accomplish three things in two different looks. This may sound confusing, but if the same steps are followed in coloring the eyes, only the colors themselves change, making it a lot simpler.

In almost all cases, eyebrow colors should be about the same color as your natural hair or a very close shade on the darker side of natural.

Eye liner should be black or brown, but maybe deep blues or greens and purples for fancy affairs and pastel colors for casual times.

Mascara, which is applied to the eyelashes should be black or brown, but again, can be clear for daytime or casual use. Other colors such as blue and green are available but are more useful in creating a dramatic look.

Next month we will elaborate on the application of each of the above items so you will be able to have "the look" with beautiful eyes.



WE WERE THERE

By Ann Harper

We planned to start out early Saturday morning and when we decided to travel "en femme" it meant that I had to get up before 5:00 AM. After the usual transformation time and some last minute packing, I went to Charliss's apartment to pick her and Angela up. We had a cup of coffee and some delays but soon were on the road heading for Boston to attend a dance that was sponsored by the Tiffany Club. This was the start of a very important experience, one that I will never forget.

It was a trip that took approximately 6 hours and we used the time wisely to get to know each other better. Charliss and Angela had traveled together before and had shared many good experiences in our community. I was the newcomer so the time we had was spent bringing me up to date on the history of EON and our own personal experiences. You really get to know someone well when you are sitting in a car that long together.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

After Angela finished putting her makeup on in the back seat, she was hungry. We decided to stop at a Friendly's just inside the Mass. border. Other than a few glances from some of the other patrons, we had our lunch and got back on the road. We had deadline, for Angela had made an appointment at 4:00 to have her hair styled. We thought it best if we delayed our motel checkin and went directly to Waltham. The hair salon was downstairs from the IFGE offices, so being a few minutes early for the appointment, we went upstairs to visit with Merissa Lynn who was still at work late on a Saturday afternoon. She shared with us the organization's current agenda and the importance of the planned activity of the Congress of Delegates. She also relayed how they were using professional conventions to set up an educational exhibit booth to expose doctors and therapists to the gender community. This is one dedicated lady. Charliss took the opportunity to bring Merissa up to date on the progress EON is making in the Syracuse area.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

Angela's hair appointment did not happen because of a missed communication on their part so we had time to visit Vernon's. We shopped until 5:00 when they closed and set out to find the Comfort Inn in Delham. We took the scenic tour so a 20 minute ride turned into about 45 minutes, but we made it. By this time we had put in a full day and I had a 12 hour 5 o'clock shadow. But the reason for the trip was still ahead and we could not tire out. Angela went to her room to get ready and Charliss and I went to find the banquet room where the function was to be held. The organizer of the event, Erica, was eating with three other

members in the dining room, so we visited for a few minutes. We then sat down in the lounge for a bit of refreshment. This was the first of many encounters with a wedding party that was sharing the motel facilities with our group. They looked, but did not touch.

It was getting late so Charliss and I returned to our room to change our clothes and replace our makeup. The process took longer than we thought but around 9 o'clock we went downstairs to find the party. Walking through the restaurant we were greeted by our very own reception line. A group of guys from the wedding party were standing at the top of the stairs that lead to our banquet room. I think they were amazed not only by how many of us there were but also how great we looked. We smiled as we passed. They laughed and said something we could not hear. It actually was a pleasant exchange, it seems there's strength in numbers.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

As we entered the party, I had a great feeling. We had spent all day just to be here and seeing 70 or more crossdressers assembled in one room, made it all worth it. This group was a tremendous cross section of our community. There were young CDs and old CDs, there were pre-ops, wives, vendors who supply us, and best of all: WE WERE THERE. As we walked around saying hello, I felt welcomed, a feeling that comes with a shared interest. There were hot and cold hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar setup. We had a little to eat, a few drinks and just enjoyed being there. There was a DJ that was playing good music to dance to, so Angela and I spent some time on the dance floor. As the night progressed, we were able to meet or renew friendships with at least half of our sisters. Everyone in the room had a story and it was fun learning about each one of them.

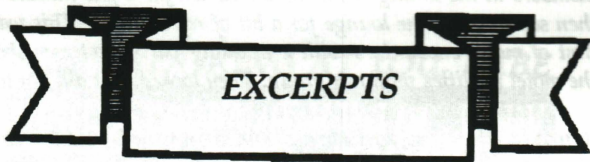
♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

We decided to go upstairs to the lounge to have a drink since it seemed many of our group was moving in that direction. We again encountered the wedding party. Some of them could not stop looking but again we outnumbered them so nothing was said. That's when I noticed 2 young ladies who kept smiling at us. I smiled back and waved. They laughed a little so I thought it best to find out if they had any questions. Angela and I did some outreach work for the next hour or two. They were very inquisitive about our life style for they had never had contact with any crossdressers. These girls were great. We knew we made a positive impression on them and hopefully promoted a better understanding of our activity. It was very important for me to demonstrate to these girls that we were not freaks or perverts. It was very gratifying knowing we accomplished this.

♥ ♥ ♥ ♥

The lounge had to close but our group wasn't finished with the night. About 25 of us went upstairs to one of the rooms to have a nightcap. We invited the 2 girls from the bar to join us because they still were asking questions. We sat on the bed, some sat on the sink vanity, 2 lucky ones had the only chairs, but we continued to have fun sharing our experiences. A little after 2 o'clock, we called it a night and returned to our rooms. It was a long day and falling asleep was not a problem.

(Cont Page 8)



WE HOPE TO MAKE THIS A REGULAR FEATURE, WHEREIN WE WILL SHARE SOME OF THE WISDOM AND EXPERIENCE OF OTHERS, FROM THOSE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY, THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH IT, AND ANYONE ELSE WITH A MESSAGE THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO OPEN OUR MINDS AND EXPAND OUR THINKING. MEMBERS SHOULD FEEL FREE TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR CONSIDERATION IN THIS SPACE.

The following is an excerpt from a talk given by Wendy Parker at the Coming Together Convention, 1990, and published in Tapestry, Issue # 56.

**THE GENDER COMMUNITY:
WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE NINETIES?
A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DISCUSSION**

"... The time to make known our existence as a community is now. The time to state who we are is now. The time to state our goals as a group is now. This time is now because gender issues are being catapulted in the limelight of public recognition. This has given us an opportunity which we can not lose.

... Back in 1846, Henry David Thoreau said 'Beware of all enterprises that require new clothes,' but that same year on her return from a shopping spree, Mrs. Thoreau modified that by saying 'Beware of enterprises that require a matching handbag and accessories' (I'm kidding). 144 years later, IFGE is saying 'Beware of enterprises that discriminate about clothes.

... In the 90's we might find ourselves politically where the gay movement was 20 or 30 years ago in terms of finding an identity and embracing a sense of pride... Realize that our femininity is not based on a whim or passing fancy, but it is a core part of our identity.

Don't let others complicate your life by making you feel guilty about this. Rather than find yourself alone, develop a sense of pride in who you are as an individual and who we are as a community.

As enlightened, expansive thinkers, find new and creative ways to undo 10,000 years of male dominated history and being a softened, nurturing sense of femininity to life and to the world. When you

reach that state of grace with yourself, you find peace. You realize that passing is not as important as simply being. You realize a sense of confidence coming out of this feeling of self-worth. You then exchange the verbs "passing" for simply "being".

WE WERE THERE

(cont from page 7)

The next morning and the rest of the day as we traveled back to Syracuse, the three of us talked about EON's future and our resolve to develop events like the one we had enjoyed so much. We talked about our personal goals and aspirations, about what it means to us to be in this wonderful gender community. This is the experience I won't forget. The affirmation of myself as a crossdresser and my commitment to be comfortable with my cross gender personality were the positive thing I received from our trip to Boston. Sure we had fun, it was a good party, but so much more happened. I shared so much with Charliss and Angela and I in the process grew. It was a wonderful trip.





**EON'S WINDOW
TO THE WORLD**



High above at the far end of our center hall and recessed in a sort of a cove is that small window which has so appealed to us from the very beginning of our move to Trinity Parish House. At once, Angela Sheedy saw its potential for a display of stained glass that depicted our logo, the two crescent moons surrounded by the circle of the sun. "Someday," she mused... "Someday, it will be there, and the sunlight will shine through it and the colors will be magnificent. And look," she continued, turning toward the wall opposite, "the colors will splash right here...right here as the light spills through the stained glass."

Oh yes, Angela. How right you were...and the evidence of this will be here in about three weeks.

Timothy Avery, the artist who created the stained glass window as the grand prize in our FINE CRAFT AND ART RAFFLE, has taken the measurements, received approval for his idea of the color scheme, and by the time you have read this is already under way with the construction of the window - which will be fitted against the existing pane.

Considering our "friendly discount," the cost of this piece of architectural artwork is \$150. After a period of thoughtfulness during the meeting at which Timothy made his presentation, we came to the decision that we would indeed have him create this window for us sometime in the future - that is, when we could afford it.

Now, Cheryl Dann was present at this meeting - a Thursday night in the conference at EON. Something was going on behind the sparkle of those eyes of hers, playing around somewhere at the corners of that small smile that was forming as she studied the color rendering of the window.

Those who know Cheryl know of her commitment to this group of unusual people - its vision, its drive, and the space it is developing for itself as its center of activity. And, if you've bought any of her handcrafted sterling jewelry, or even just seen it on display during some of our meetings, you will know something of her aesthetics, and that many of her creations include the form of the EON logo.

Thanks to Cheryl (you're right, she donated the window) each and every one of us will soon be able

to enjoy this creation, this piece of jewelry that looks out to above our space at EON.

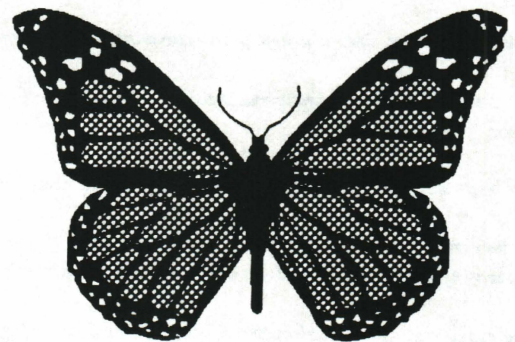
Thank you, Cheryl. And Angela, and Timothy. And thank you everyone, for what you are and what you do, and what you all hope for - for yourselves and others - is the very inspiration for anything that ever happens within the space of our life at EON.

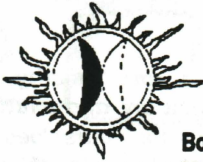
RELIGIOUS HABITS

As the French say, there are three sexes - men, women, and clergymen. **Sydney Smith, Lady Holland's Memoir (1855)**

The deliberate cultural misreading of priest's garments as women's clothing was perhaps most memorably, if irreverently, expressed by Tallulah Bakhead, when she encountered a robed thurifer swinging his incense vessel in an Anglican church: "Love the drag, darling," Tallulah is said to have remarked, "But your purse is on fire."

Quoted from Marjorie Garber: **VESTED INTERESTS: CROSS-DRESSING & CULTURAL ANXIETY.**





Expressing Our Nature, Inc.
523 West Onondaga St.
Syracuse, NY 13204
(315)475-5611/475-7013



Board of Directors: Charliss Dolge, President; Angela Sheedy, Vice President; Audrey McCarthy, Sec./Treas.; Sara Harris, Member; Ann Harper, Member; Kathy Peckham, Member.

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.