

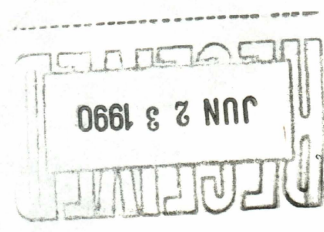


EON (EXPRESSING OUR NATURE)

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THE JUNE 1990 NEWSLETTER

Hitting My Stride (an apology) I'm sure that most of you expected to receive your June newsletter before this late date, especially since our special meeting announcement that was sent out much earlier mentioned that the newsletter was due to be out the week of June 11.

I apologize to all of you. Your EON newsletter editor, Charliss D., apparently has not yet hit her stride, that rhythm and coordination that produces relatively effortless and predictable results.

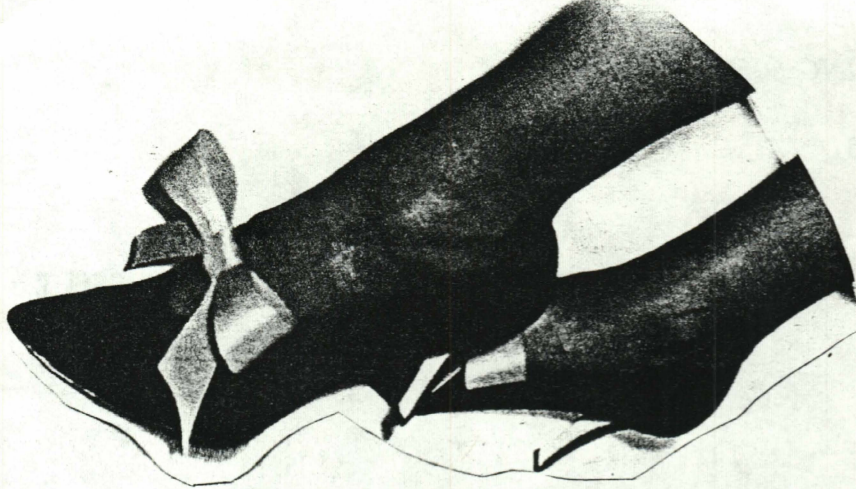
The EON open group is a relatively new crossdressers' support group, as opposed to the older, original, EON couples group.

And I am relatively new also, that is, in terms of being out of the closet, being about and active with other crossdressers, sharing, and assuming responsibility, not only for my personal life and destiny, but for certain tasks within EON as well, especially this newsletter.

Truthfully...let me level with you here...a lot has been going on within me since my first outing last November. Perhaps, by sharing a little of this with you, we can all, including myself, be helped a little bit. After all, that's what it's all about...isn't it?

I'll begin this brief(I hope)sharing by quoting Donna, my significant other: "Pay attention to what makes you feel better." The immediate background to this piece of wisdom-other than Donna's own extensive experience in areas of intentional(emphasis on intentional)personal growth is this:as I took a small break from writing the beginning part of this newsletter, at about this point, I went outside to where Donna was cutting the grass(no, I am not wearing a skirt as I write this) and remarked to her that I was feeling better, much better, now that I finally had some words down. Hence her remark.

How simple! How often overlooked, this truth! I had spent most of the previous week at the BE ALL convention in Pittsburgh, much of the following week on a stressful business trip, in addition to attending to a family birthday occasion and several other personal matters. And then there is that ever-present reality of the weekly advertising



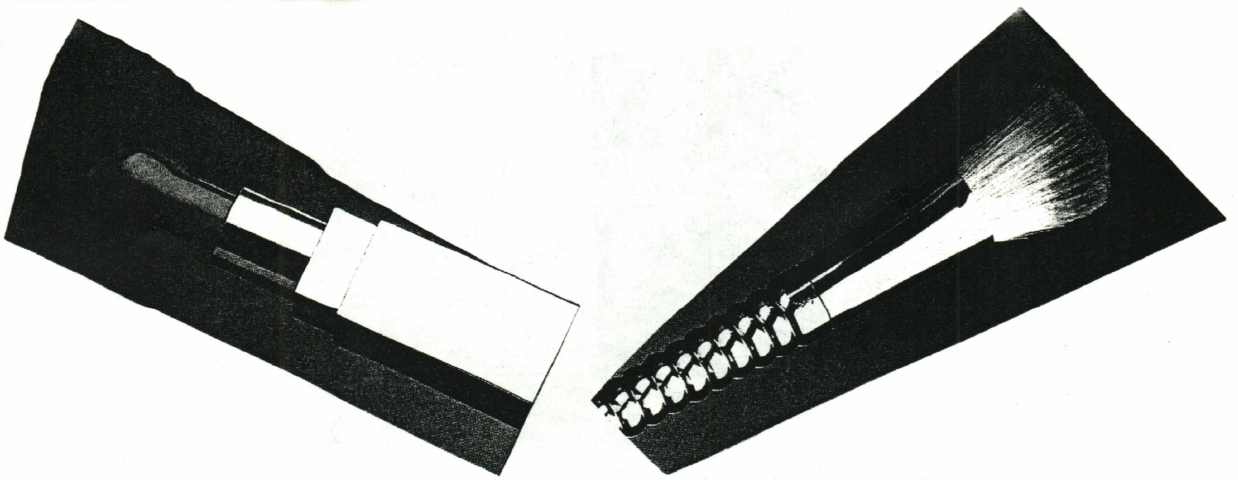
deadline for the publication that I represent, the way that I earn my living...the way that Charliss can have her nice skirts and dresses and wear them to nice places

The point, I think, is this, that in the midst of everything else that was going on, and there seemed to be so much of it, I was waiting for the whole newsletter to materialize in my mind's eye before I even sat down to begin it. This procrastination created some anxiety that I felt each day that I was doing something else. And yet, somewhere in my own being I knew the remedy for this unease...I already knew from long personal experience the truth Donna had to remind me of: I'll feel better - in fact get things done, things I want to do, need to do, deeply desire doing - if I will only take action, not succumb to the temptation to believe that " I'm so busy...so much is going on...and on...and on...," if I will only take just that first, small step, that first short sentence if you will.

That aspect of me that is capable of managing my own complex life(with help) knows the veracity of the old Zen master's remark that the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. However, that part of me that is still learning and growing, adding and exploring new dimensions to its life, at times feeling lost and confused, can easily forget truth, forget what makes me feel better(a lower anxiety level) and can get caught up in that old control issue - the need to see everything completed, unfolded, at once in order to feel ok.

Thus, I really do need the help of others in order to manage my own life, which is increasingly becoming more complex(more varied, abundant, and challenging) I need the types of relationships where we share our experience, strength and hope with each other. I need this type of relationship with all kinds of other crossdressers, and with other people as well(the Zen master was not a crossdresser, nor is Donna) All growth experience, all management experience is sharable and pertinent...

HITTING MY STRIDE.By the time I came out last November(it was the Tiffany Club's Thanksgiving banquet) I thought I was doing pretty well. I felt that I had hit my stride in life. Sure, there were upsets and challenges at times, some unforeseen complications now and then, and, sure, I was still secretive about my crossdressing and pretty much in the dark



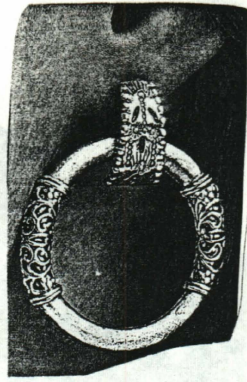
about it myself, in many ways troubled by it and feeling pretty much alone with this great longing and powerful desire. But all in all things were going well. My work was going well, I was able to travel freely and widely. I was adding some new and very important relationships to my life. I had, over a period of time, encountered ways to free myself from some old ideas about myself and life that were limiting and restrictive. I felt good. Very little could cause me to break my stride. Generally, I knew where I was going. It was ok if I couldn't see the future in all its specific details. Do the right things, the right things will happen...operate from principle.

This stride seemed to be in effect for some time after the major experience of coming out. It didn't throw me. This first experience was of course a very emotional one for me, filled, as all my subsequent social crossdressing experiences have been, with gratitude, wonder, joy and good times, and always a sense of release and inner peace.

Something big, new, exciting and long desired had been added to my life. Since then, I have had to plan my social and business life more carefully in order to attend our events, meetings, and other get-togethers. I have had to risk sharing this highly unusual aspect of my life with my significant others, for purposes of honesty and intimacy, and so I will not have to create stories about my absences and trips away from home. No matter how well this sharing seems to work out, there are always new stresses for both that need to be dealt with. How I need to look at money matters has changed too...there is a new management challenge when new wardrobe needs - and desires - have to be dealt with. And the events we attend can cost quite a bit of money too: in my case, Tiffany's Thanksgiving banquet, Awards banquet, Spring Banquet; I.F.G.E.'s Coming Together affair; Paradise In The Poconos; the Be All; and the Albany and Rochester parties.

And then the EON planning sessions with Angela, Cheryl and Jackie all require time and adjustments. Angela herself is doing so much to get EON off the ground and running for the benefit of us all, and the two of us spend a lot of time going over these particulars.

Furthermore, at times I feel lost in the woods as I get more and more involved with life itself as a crossdresser



who can experience a wide range of ideas and emotions about where I am going with all of this...where I want to go first of all, and how to fit it all in with everything else that I value in my life. At the same time, other new things happen in my life, especially regarding the responsibilities and challenges in my work life. And more.

You guessed it. I lost my stride. I really got caught up in the web of complexity. It got to the point where it all seemed to be too much.

The good news is this: it can be different. I can start my day over again. I can give up control of the whole picture and experience the peace of just taking one step at a time...just doing the footwork. "Pay attention to what makes you feel better." What makes me feel better is work, footwork...that one step, one day at a time. I know this crossdresser will always be where she is supposed to be, today and tomorrow, if she just pays attention to what makes her feel better. She will then keep her stride.

KUDOS Your newsletter editor wants everyone to be aware of just how hard Angela S. is working for the benefit of us all. Talk about doing the footwork...For those of us who made it, or will make it - depending on when this newsletter is received - to the very first general meeting of the EON open group, we have Angela to thank for approaching the management of the Quality Inn in Syracuse and securing the meeting rooms for us. She also is responsible for securing the banquet facility and the catering service for EON's AUTUMN ACCORD, which will take place the weekend of November 3rd. In addition, she is currently exploring and arranging possibilities of other en femme activities for all of us that weekend. As our EON representative to I.F.G.E., Angela also spends much time in maintaining our relationship to this very valuable organization. There are so many ways in which this organization can be of service to EON, and so many ways in which we in turn can assist it with its important goals for our crossdressing community.

Angela also has a reputation for spending a lot of time with others on a one to one sharing basis, and your editor,



"Cheryl wears pretty light blues and perky pinks...oh God...my God...earth tones!" You looked just great, Cheryl. Charliss loved you. So did everyone else.

NEW HOTLINE NUMBER FOR ROCHESTER CD NETWORK To find out, as quick as quick can be, what is happening with this group - meeting times, parties, how to reach someone if you have a particular need - call this number: (716) 251-2132

NEW PROGRAM FOR COUPLES Sponsored by Theseus Counseling Services (617) 277-4360, The Outreach Institute (617)277-3454, and Mannsview Inn, Vermont. A program titled HOPEFUL, it is described in part as "...a weekend program where participants will explore various dimensions of gender(not sex) roles, both individually and as couples...the focus is on couples who have learned to live with crossdressing but who want more out of their relationship...a program for couples who wish to grow from coping to loving..."

THE "BE ALL YOU CAN BE" CONVENTION by Angela Sheedy As I was sitting in the midst of 250 lovely women gathered together after dinner in the banquet room of the Sheraton hotel, being serenaded by 25 tuxedoed gentlemen who comprise the Renaissance Choir, which is a group of gay men from

Pittsburgh who sing under the direction of a conductor, I looked to my left and poked Charliss in the ribs with my finger to get her attention. Charliss was rapt. I asked her: How can we ever tell the other EON members back home about this, and have them believe us? Charliss agreed...this was something that had to be experienced. We both knew, at that moment, that we were both having a great time, one to share, one to remember - a time that earlier in our lives only our wildest fantasies could envision. A time that we will share with 250 other TVs and TSS whom we now call friends...and sisters.

The BE ALL was truly a grand affair. We thank you Sheila Kirk and all the other grand people of our community who understand our dreams...who work with such caring, diligence, and creativity in helping all of us to realize them.

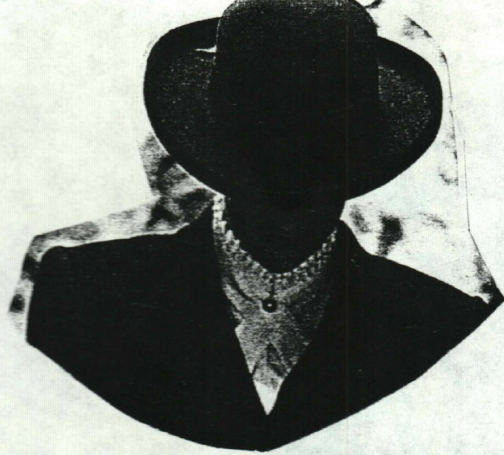


for one, wishes to acknowledge the benefit she has received from Angela's willingness to share in this way.

Another EON member who has worked hard for our benefit is Cheryl D. While Cheryl has relinquished these duties for personal reasons, at least for the time being, we need to thank her for her past efforts on our behalf. Cheryl saw to the copying of our newsletter, announcements and invitations for distribution to our mailing list. Not only did she spend her time making all the necessary copies, she did all the addressing and mailing as well. Cheryl also gave of her time to answer all the newcomers' mail that was in response to our EON advertisement in THE SYRACUSE NEW TIMES newspaper. We thank you, Cheryl, for being in on all of this from the very beginning and for your companionship as we worked together.

Jackie Alexander is an EON member who is also a TS in transition. She is a professional who is very good at hair styling, wig styling, and makeup artistry, and she has been of great help to those of us who have sought her out. Jackie has always been generous with her friendship and her capacity to share. This is one woman we should all get to know.

PARADISE IN THE POCONOS Charliss D. and Cheryl D. attended this May event, sponsored by JoAnn Roberts and her wife Betty, and which was held at a charming Pennsylvania country resort and inn. This was strictly and truly a fun time. Talk about letting down your hair! Actually, Charliss had hers done up by one of the stylists who was present for the occasion. This event will be forever memorable for Cheryl, who on this special occasion made the major transition from blue eyeshadow and pure red lipstick to an earth tones palette. It should be known, however, that this change originated with necessity rather than choice. Cheryl had arrived at the resort with everything that she needed for several days worth of transformation...except for her makeup, all of which was still at home, resting securely, but alone, in its own pretty little piece of luggage. When Charliss offered the solution that they both wore the same size makeup, and that she had plenty of it, Cheryl cried out, quite passionately "But...but...you wear all those...those...those earth tones..." (Gag me with a spoon!)



Right now, nothing would make me happier than to know that next year I could share this wonderful experience with more members of EON. Please...newcomers and others who have never attended a BE ALL convention...I share your dreams and your feminine desire to "Be all you can be"...plan to experience next year's BE ALL. It will be one of the best things you can do for yourself.

IFGE REPORT by Angela Sheedy While at the BE ALL event, I attended an IFGE board meeting. The meeting was held to discuss committee reports, and IFGE representatives were welcome to attend. Some of the matters discussed concerned the marketing, convention, and finance committees.

Denver has been chosen for the IFGE 1991 COMING TOGETHER convention. Plans are in process to make this a very special event, and the contracts have been signed with the host hotel.

Over \$20,000 was allocated to the finance committee to hire assistance in the publication duties of the TAPESTRY magazine, among other office duties at the IFGE headquarters.

Recently, \$27,000 was donated to the IFGE general fund. These monies will be invested to create profit and add to the fund in the future.

PERCEPTIONS OF A NEWCOMER part of a larger piece written by Cheryl D. after reflecting on her first convention experience, the IFGE COMING TOGETHER. "...How one views the world affects how one treats it, and hence how it reacts. If we as males view femininity as separate from us, it soon will be. The senses can thus form the walls of a perceptual prison, obscuring the fact that one person can be both masculine and feminine. Fear needs to hold on to separate, non-integrated, non-complex ideas, for it lends security to one's assumptions. But to be obsessed by only one interpretation of the facts is to deny complexity, and the essence of tyranny is the denial of complexity..."

Editor's note: Wow! And all this time I thought crossdressing was just about feeling good wearing a skirt and heels.



EVENTS CALENDAR

EON...We are still working at finding our regular meeting place and schedule. Mark the weekend of Nov. 2,3 & 4 for the AUTUMN ACCORD banquet in Syracuse. This will be our first event! Out of town crossdressers will be able to check into our host hotel on Friday. There will be en femme activities planned for Saturday. Saturday evening will feature the catered banquet in a lovely facility, complete with music, entertainment, and speakers.

TGIC, ALBANY...Regular meetings are as follow: Socials - 2nd Saturday - 145 Club, 8pm. 4th Friday - Club room, 8pm

ROCHESTER CD NETWORK...Meets the 2nd Friday of each month.

AUGUST (TBA)...4th annual MARDI GRAS (Canada) Contact: Kandi Kane, Box 185, Perkinsfield, ON, LOL 2J10 Canada

September 14...Rochester CD NETWORK SOCK HOP, Dinner, music, entertainment.

September 20-23...PARADISE IN THE POCONOS, Creative Design Services, PO Box 1263, King Of Prussia, Pa 19406 (215)640-9449

October 12-21...16 th annual Fantasia Fair (Provincetown) Fantasia Fair, Lincolnia Sta., PO Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312

November 14-18...TRI-ESS NATIONAL CONVENTION, San Francisco. TRI-ESS PO Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275