

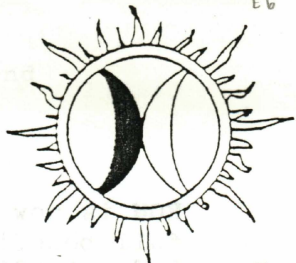


NOV 97 (S) 570 HQ 77.9 E6

EON

THE NEWSLETTER

EXPRESSIONS



THE EON NEWSLETTER IS A PUBLICATION OF EXPRESSING OUR NATURE, INC. 523 West Onondaga St., Syracuse, NY 13204. (315)475-5611. Affiliate: Renaissance Education Association; International Foundation For Gender Education. President: Charliss Dolge; Vice President: Angela Sheedy; Secretary/Treasurer: Audrey McCarthy. Original articles, reprints, news items, and art work are welcome from the EON support group membership, significant others, and the gender community at large.

OF SPECIAL NOTE

NOW (NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR WOMEN, GREATER SYRACUSE CHAPTER) MEETING AT MAY MEMORIAL CHURCH, SUNDAY EVENING AT 7:00 PM, NOVEMBER THE 17TH. ANGELA SHEEDY AND CHARLISS DOLGE WILL BE MAKING A PRESENTATION ON EON, THE COMMUNITY, AND THE GENDER ISSUE. THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO EON MEMBERS WHO WISH TO ATTEND.

SYRACUSE HERALD JOURNAL (SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20) THE PHOTOGRAPHER/AUTHOR JAN PHILLIPS WILL HAVE HER STORY ON EON, THE AUTUMN ACCORD, AND THE GENDER ISSUE. MS PHILLIPS IS A SYRACUSE RESIDENT, FRIEND OF THE GENDER COMMUNITY, AND THE AUTHOR OF THE BOOK MAKING PEACE, ONE WOMAN'S JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD.

..... OTHER DATES TO LOOK FORWARD TO ARE IN THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS SECTION OF THE NEWSLETTER.....

THE INCORPORATION OF EON

EON is now a New York State not-for-profit corporation. The full benefits of this will be realized once our completed Federal 501C(3) paperwork has been filed and accepted. Our attorney, Syracuse lawyer Bonnie Strunk, is to be thanked for all her expertise and kindness is moving us speedily along this route of incorporation. Bonnie will also be helping the incorporators as they file for Federal status.

The incorporators of **EON**, those whose names are on public record, are as follows:

Charliss Dolge...President
Angela Sheedy...Vice President
Audrey McCarthy...Secretary/Treasurer

The incorporators will be serving you as the initial Board Of Directors, which will satisfy the requirement as set forth in the Corporation Bylaws as drafted and recommended by attorney Bonnie Strunk and accepted by the incorporators(the initial board)

The Bylaws drawn up by Ms Strunk call for a minimum of three and a maximum of seven directors. Directors are chosen by Board nominating and voting procedures as defined in the Bylaws. The initial Board will be increased as soon as is reasonably possible.

The Bylaws establish the corporation as a community service organization (not only for our community, the crossdressing, or "gender," community, but for the "straight" community as well because of our education and information efforts in that direction on our behalf) As a community service organization, the corporation is a non-member corporation. As stated above, candidates for the board of directors are selected by a board nominating committee and voted on by the board. These candidates will come from our local crossdressing, or "Gender," community.

EON, INC. will continue to sponsor its peer support group meetings and other events, and will also continue with the newsletter. Membership dues for these services will remain at \$40 per year plus the regular \$3 meeting charge.

EON intends to improve these services, and also to add to them. In order to accomplish this, we will need the various talents, skills, and leadership abilities of those within the peer support group membership. Committed, caring, and

1. **Membership...**which includes publicity, inquiries and follow-up.

2. **Membership Services...**which includes meeting arrangements, programs, facilitating, and hostessing; resource capability for products, services, community events, delivery of general information; newsletter production; office and facility operations; significant other programs.

3. **Public Relations...**which includes medis strategy work; alternative community coalition work; mainstream community group work.

4. **Outreach, Professional...**which includes developing and managing a program that reaches helping professionals and "recruits" them as a resource for the crossdressing community .

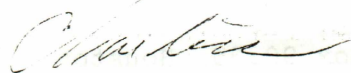
5. **Outreach, Educational...** which includes developing and managing a program that reaches educators and institutions and results in a two-way educational effort.

6. **Outreach, Other Gender Community Groups...**which includes developing and managing programs of coalition, exchange, supportive activity; mutual proactive educational and rights work.

7. **Fundraising...**which includes developing and managing programs and events.

If you believe that you can make contributions to your community and experience personal fulfillment by dedicating some of your time to achieving the above goals, contact us right away.

Best Wishes,



Charliss Dolge

LOOKING AHEAD

FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS

November 16 (Regular meeting night...8:00 PM) **EON**
Thanksgiving...Parlor Reception and Fireside Dinner. Roast Turkey provided. Please bring beverage and a dish to pass.

Cost:\$5. Help is needed for this event. Please contact as soon as possible.

December 14 (Regular meeting night...8:00 PM) **EON** Christmas Holiday...Parlor Reception and Fireside Dinner. Roast Turkey and Baked Ham available. Please bring beverage and a dish to pass. Cost: \$7. Help is needed for this event. Please contact as soon as possible.

EON SCHEDULE OF EVENTS...Group meetings are held at the Trinity Parish Center on the first and third Saturdays and the fourth Wednesday of each month. Currently, the first Saturday and the fourth Wednesday meetings include a moderated discussion or a featured speaker. The third Saturday is designated as a social event, which may include a class or a special presentation. All meetings begin at 8:00 PM. The house is opened at 6:30 for meeting preparations and to accomodate those who arrive early.

SHARED EVENTS... From time to time, EON participates in the creation of events along with other groups within the larger alternative community. Examples are the Valentines Dance and the June Pride Picnic, which were held at the Trinity Parish Center.

OTHER ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY EVENTS...Other groups and organizations within the larger alternative community often sponsor social and entertainment events, usually as fund raisers for worthy community causes, and these are also social, educational, and participatory opportunities for EON members.

OTHER GENDER COMMUNITY EVENTS...

1. 11/8-10/91...The Fantasy Adventure Weekend, Houston, TX.
Write : Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Box 90335, Houston TX 77090. (713)780-3553

2. Nov.Dec.Jan....Dinners, Socials, Parties, Fashion Shows.
Crossdressers International, New York City. Call:
(212)243-0837

3. 11/20-24...Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme, Chicago,Illinois.
Write: Chi Chapter, P.O. Box 342, Chicago, Ill. 60690

4. 11/9/91...Crossing The Lines Of Gender. Workshop. Wayne, Pa. Contact: Creative Design Services, PO Box 1263, King Of Prussia, PA. 19406 (215)640-9449

5. 2/28-3/1/92...Boulton & Park Society's Fourth Annual Texas "T" Party, San Antonio, Texas. Write: Texas "T" Party, PO Box 17, Bulverde, Tx. 78163 (512)438-7604

6. 4/6-12/92...Sixth Annual IFGE Coming Together Working Together Convention. Houston, TX. Write: IFGE, PO BOX 367, Wayland, Ma 01778 (617) 894-8340

7. 4/92...Second Annual California Dreamin'. Los Angeles. Write: PPOC, P.O. Box 9091, Anaheim, Ca. 92812 (714)779-9013.

AUTUMN ACCORD II

The success of the Autumn Accord II is now a part of the growing history of EON. It was a great success not just for EON but also for the NYS Gender Coalition. There is no doubt that the major credit for a job well done goes to Molly Kennedy, Nina Nicks and Diana Askew. Also of mention should be Pam Burns of CD-Network in Rochester.

The seminars were all excellent and well presented. The banquet was instructive and entertaining, with Dr. Verne Bulough making the keynote address and with appearances from JoAnn Roberts of Creative Design Services and Virginia Prince. We enjoyed a great diner and everyone looked their very best.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was at the concert on Friday night, when Romanovski and Phillips dedicated a song to all the crossdressers there, called Dressing In My Mothers Clothes. Their dedication brought cheers from over three hundred people in attendance and it truly showed how much impact EON has had over the last year and one half. The feeling of finally being recognized and appreciated brought tears to many of our eyes. It was a wonderful moment in our history and we thank Molly and all those who helped to bring us together to enjoy this special weekend. We all had a wonderful time and are looking forward to next years Autumn Accord III.

VIRGINIA PRINCE AT HAMILTON COLLEGE

When we picked up Virginia Prince at the airport, Cheryl and I were glad to see her again and as usual Virginia came prepared to earn her way. We told here about the class at Hamilton College and hoped that she had enough to talk about for at least an hour. With Virginia, it is impossible to not talk about crossdressing, she is the consummate talker and thinker on this subject, and we were to find out that Virginia Prince is never lost for words.

Prof. Paula Rust had arranged a diner reception for us upon our arrival and after our hair appointment at Bravvs, we went to the campus and diner. We had a nice diner in the faculty dining chambers and some lively discussion between Virginia and some of the faculty and selected students.

After dinner we walked across campus to the lecture hall. Not knowing how many would be attending the lecture, we were shocked to find standing room only. Virginia was truly in her element. Young minds, students, a classroom and Virginia Prince spell ACTION. The class sat for 1½ hours listening to Dr. Prince talk about the difference between sex and gender. It was a fantastic presentation and we were very well received by everyone. Virginia was almost overwhelming and the class intensity was higher than any I have experienced.

We thank Virginia for being with us and all the fun we had showing her around Syracuse. We were sorry to see her go and look forward to seeing her again.

THIRD FLOOR UPDATE

We are almost there girls. Everyone seemed very impressed by the progress of the third floor during the Autumn Accord weekend.

We have completed most of the painting of the walls and finished the ceilings. The floor in the main corridor has been rough sanded and we will be finishing it off with another sanding and a coat of poly to protect it from those high heels.

Plywood has been placed in the lounge and conference area and the office. The office is now useable and the phone line has been extended and locks placed on the main and office doors. The only major thing to do is to figure out where we can get the money for carpeting and move in the furniture afterwards.

Many thanks to Charli and Velvet for all the work they have put in on this project. The hours and days of work have made a big difference in making EON, Inc. and its headquarters a beautiful reality.

BENEFITS OF "BE ALL" WEEKEND, 1991

A common complaint about "Be All" and other similar "T" community convention weekends is that they cost too much. Attendance at the three to four day convention will probably cost each person about five hundred dollars. If one thinks about short-term benefits, that certainly is a high cost. But let's think about it differently. First, the cost.

If one put \$10.00 per week in the pot for the next year, the cost would be covered. And let's face it: most of us probably waste that much each week. A single college course at most institutions costs more than \$500.00, and we probably all spend that much each year on personal "needs" such as electrolysis, make-up and lessons, cigarettes, or clothes.

Second thought: the long-term benefits. On the selfish side, you get a chance to express yourself fully for an extended time period, even to the point of living fetish fantasies. This has definite cathartic benefits. Also, you have a superb opportunity to learn about yourself. Professionally run seminars on hormones, surgery, make-up, clothes, public appearance, etc., are very informative. But perhaps even more significant learning takes place outside the classroom through talk with and observation of other members of the "T" community. Seeing where others are in their lives relative to gender orientation helps to clarify one's own position, and self understanding is crucial to mental stability.

On the collective community side, you contribute to the nationwide movement effort to reduce public naivete and bias, and helpfully lessen discrimination. You will also get the chance to meet personally the nationally recognized leaders of the gender community movement. Although it is useful to read the books written by Dr. Virginia Prince, Dr. Richard Docter, or Dr. Joann Roberts, it is even more enriching to sit and talk with them one-on-one. This I did for hours during the "Be All" weekend. We discussed local group structure and operation, theoretical explanations of cross dressing, current research goals, and even swapped "T" community jokes. To realize the amount and quality of work being done by Yvonne Cook and Merissa Lynn at IPGE, the commitment to high quality research by Richard Docter, and the ever-ready help and advice from Joann Roberts and Virginia Prince is enough to bolster one's personal commitment to our national movement. Also, it's great to make new "T" friends from all over the country.

So let's start putting away the "ten-spots" now--one each week. "Be All" happens every year on the first weekend in June. Let's ride together to Detroit in 1992.

Cheryl D.

OUR GROUP CALLED E.O.N.

Well, it has been almost eighteen months since a few people sat together and said lets have a meeting in a hotel room, anything to start some way to get together. We'll split the cost with everyone attending. Those that said they were going to attend and didn't, their costs were absorbed by those who did attend. We paid almost twenty dollars each to meet there because we had two rooms and about eight people. But we all left happy and content that we were truly starting something, and it had showed that night, when a few members that needed help, got the help they needed.

Then, somewhat of a miracle happened. We found that the AIDS Task Force building had a meeting room with attending kitchen and three bathroom areas for changing. We had truly been blessed by the Lord above, to have fallen into such a state of grace. We had some great meetings there and we were all introduced to going out on the town together. We also had the first outcropping of problems, mostly with setting up rules about what was acceptable behavior within our section of the community. We wanted to be very responsible because we knew there would be many who questioned our intents, so we created a few rules. Rules usually cause some torment in such a diverse and intelligent group of people such as we have in E.O.N.

We had a name and now we had some rules. And God said "I should give them a bigger and better place because they are going to need it. They are doing good work." And so, our next move brought us into contact with Fr. Avery, soon to be cannonized as a saint of the gender community, and the beautiful and unusual home we share with other groups who like ourselves, help to make up our cluster of alternative lifestyle groups.

We have a chance to live here for the next twenty years, as long as we all grow and prosper. Many of us will not be together in those years to come, but our intentions about E.O.N. must never change. We are a unique group much like a sorority. We will always be sisters, and the trials and triumphs that we share together must be designed to make E.O.N. a stable force in our community and one that also adds it's voice in support of the Gender community in general.

The example is sustained for us when we get financial aid and encouragement from other groups in the gender community, that have been around for years and worked to make their groups a reality that will last a long time.

With every nail that gets pounded on the third floor, and every meeting that we have, and every conversation where we can learn and help, we are making E.O.N. a support group that will last to help so many others, even after we may have moved away, or departed from the group for some other reason. There aren't many people out there in the big world that even know about our issues, let alone care. On the other hand, we have to care for our own and let them know just how special they are, actually blessed.

After all, how did we come this far this fast if we were not very special people, who care about each other. So, taking this into account along with what we look forward to in the way of God's future blessings, this all seems so much like a miracle, its too good to be true. Except for all the work and the rules.

THE ACCORD...ACCORDING TO VELVET

As I sat in the EON office on a rainy day musing over this newsletter and the third floor work, I became aware of a sense of how much more all this is compared to where it had been such a short time ago.

More than isolated instances of getting dressed at home alone...more than getting to meetings to dress and socialize...more than these things it is taking on the proportions of a real community consciousness.

At and around the Accord, I listened to caring, concerned people talk about the issues that confronted them in their hearts- not in their heads; people who had, even by their presence only, refused to deny this basic element of their true self that so many ignore and even fight with within themselves to eliminate.

Some of these people had been involved in a lifelong effort at acceptance for themselves and others. Some saw it as an occasion for affirmation...some only as a chance to go out and enjoy themselves.

However, everyone seemed to have a sense of belonging and unity, even at a time when the local gossip was fraught with dissonance.

Change often brings problems, or, quite simply...nothing is easy. I think, in the long run, we may all be glad that this may not be the easiest time for EON.

Also, as always- hard times or easy- anyone with crossdressing interests or gender concerns is welcome here.

VELVET SANDERSON

"THINK ON THESE THINGS"

Excerpted from the presentation made by Wendy Parker during the 1990 Coming Together-Working Together Convention and Reprinted in TAPESTRY, titled **THE GENDER COMMUNITY: WHERE ARE WE GOING IN THE NINETIES? A SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DISCUSSION.**

A major goal of the nineties should be bringing together the visible "T" community with the invisible "T" community. Pogo once said, "We have met the enemy and he is us". There are two major problems here--apathetic detachment and dogmatic infighting.

There is a kind of malaise by many in this invisible community regarding active involvement in the gender community. The social crossdresser will go out for a weekend adventure in the safe haven of a social club, perhaps quietly resentful of the almost certain ridicule of the general public, but too fearful or unconcerned to do anything to change those attitudes. With this apathetic attitude so prevalent, the question I pose today is: **Does the community we so casually refer to even exist, or is it merely wishful thinking on our part? Are we just a collection of individuals focusing on our own selfish goals, or do we have a larger altruistic agenda?**

Then of course there is the question of bringing together the visible community, with all its petty bickering and divisive philosophic posturing. How can we hope to educate the general public with so much energy wasted on infighting among splinter groups? The public regards us with a good deal of suspicion based on archaic stereotypes promoted by media, mistrust, and misinformation.

How will we reach great numbers of unhappy, isolated people making their own lonely discovery of true gender expression? Without access to support groups or knowledge of educated professionals, many are so consumed by guilt or shame they begin to consider suicide as a serious alternative, especially among teenagers. In 1989, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services task force on youth suicide estimated that Gay teenagers may comprise as much as 30% of the total number of youth suicides. I feel that gender related issues are often lumped in with this figure.

Don't we have an obligation to those people as well as ourselves?