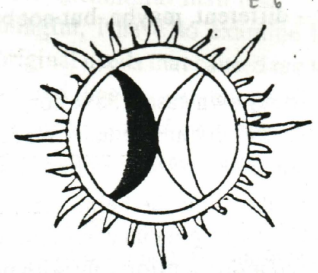


EON

THE NEWSLETTER

EXPRESSIONS



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Editors: Angela S. & Charliss D., Board of Directors: Charliss D.- President; Molly K.- Outreach; Audrey M.- Membership; Kim C.- Secretary; Angela S.- Treasurer; Diana A.; Melisa S.; Cheryl D.

OUR FRONT PAGE

We would like to share with you from time to time some of the best thought and writing that is available from other newsletters within the larger gender community.

There are so many others who have gained such valuable experience as they have moved, over various periods of time, through the often difficult, often joyous, phases of self acceptance, love, resolution, and feminine self-development.

Charliss Dolge, who is also a member of TCNE (Tiffany Club Of New England) shares with you two articles from the July issue of **ROSEBUDS**, the TCNE newsletter. They are by two well-known, and loved, TCNE members.

Enjoy their food for thought!

LOOKIN' GOOD/FEELIN' GREAT

Karen Ann Nielsen...TCNE

For a change of pace, this month's column will deal more with the "Feelin' Great" aspect of our lifestyle than with the "Lookin' Good" part. If you recall, a couple of months ago I mentioned that there was a tie-in between this series and the "Tiffany Girls in the Big Apple" articles. Well, here it is.

The purpose of the "Big Apple" articles goes far beyond describing two of us having a good old time in NYC. The intent was to point up the fact that we spent an entire week interacting with all types of people from all walks of life without any big problems. We dealt with railroad employees

and passengers, hotel and restaurant staff as well as other guests in these establishments, sales clerks, beauticians, taxi drivers, police officers, and a myriad of other folks that you just normally deal with on an everyday basis. Do I think that I passed, or "fooled" all of these people? Of course not! Was I accepted and treated like a lady during this week-long sojourn? Most definitely, yes! Does being "read" but being accepted and treated as a lady bother me? Not any more.

The "trick" (if there is one) to all of this (for me, anyway) was to learn to accept myself for who I truly am. I had to learn that

I am a feminine person and understand that being a feminine person is not a bad thing. It does not make me a bad person -- different, maybe, but not bad.

In my own case, I have come to realize that acceptance of my femininity has actually made me whole and a much happier and productive member of society than that manufactured shell of a macho being that I projected for years. Once I was able to accept that part of me as a positive trait, I became more and more comfortable with projecting my feminine image in public. Yes, I had to work on my appearance, but that part was easy once I was able to embrace acceptance. After acceptance and appearance came confidence. I had to learn that when I went shopping, or to a play or show or anywhere else, I was a good person just going about her business. That I had as much right to be anyplace I wished to be as anybody else in our society. I have the same right to project who I am, as long as I do it with dignity, as anybody else on the face of this earth.

Acceptance of one's self as "different" is not always a lot depends on how much you want that acceptance. For me, if you want it badly enough, it will come, and with it will come the confidence and pride that you deserve in being a feminine person. So, think about your lifestyle. Think about her lifestyle. Think about how much happier you might be if you allowed those lifestyles to meld and blend into one. Once you can accept this, if that is your goal, you will start to find it easier to present yourself (whether in a suit or a dress) as that good person who walks with pride and confidence wherever (and however) you go.

Love,

Karen Ann

WHY DO I CROSSDRESS?

Robyn Goldstein...TCNE

Why Do I Crossdress? Why Do I Crossdress? Why Do I Crossdress? How many times have I asked myself that question? I've read Richard Docter, Virginia Prince, Peggy Rudd, talked to shrinks, therapists, and dozens of other crossdressers. And I've come up with the "Theory of Crossdressing as it Applies to Robyn Goldstein." This is a great theory. It only applies to one person -- myself -- but that person is a very important part of my life! So here it is: it is a two-part theory.

Part One is very mechanistic. At an early age, I had a need to try on my mother's clothes. This need may have been a need for a young child to have control over his environment, a need to play-act, a "genetic" need, a need for comfort, or some other reason. In any case, I did it and it felt good, so I continued to do it. At some point this behavior got associated with masturbation and this cemented the behavior into place. As the years went by, it took more and more elements of feminine apparel to produce excitement (just like an addiction), and the crossdressing therefore took on a life of its own and steadily increased. The major drive, therefore, is sexual excitement.

Part Two is more along the lines that I've heard expressed by many members of the crossdressing community. The basic assumption is that I have a feminine part of my personality that finds expression by crossdressing. It is supported by the fact that I started crossdressing well before puberty and that

I want to crossdress to relieve stress, relax, and because I enjoy it, even if erotic sensations are not present. I have built the beginnings of a feminine identity, and this identity needs to grow and be developed before I can "merge" the masculine and feminine within me.

I feel that it is important to know why I crossdress, because understanding it will help me manage this sometimes obsessive and compulsive behavior. Also, understanding will help me in trying to predict how my crossdressing will evolve. When I retire, will I want to crossdress all the time? Will this behavior "plateau," or will I someday count myself among those who are "transgendered"? Will the crossdressing be "cured" by boredom?

If the mechanistic, behavioral part of my theory is the major component, then I should try to curtail and limit my crossdressing. Also, sex with my wife is better than going into a ladies dressing room to try on some gorgeous dress and getting aroused. So I should stop going out in public and just confine my crossdressing to the bedroom and fantasy. I should not try to bring my crossdressing into the real world.

If the other part of my theory is more relevant, I should try to nurture and develop my feminine side with the eventual goal of becoming a more "whole" and complete person. In addition, I should do this as fast as possible, with no restrictions on how often I dress or who I make friends with or where

son, of course, to protect my family). How-
I am basically masculine now, by developing the
part of my personality I will become more feminine,
possibly obscuring some parts of my masculinity. This will
be extremely upsetting to my wife and family.

Both parts of my theory come together if I consider that
crossdressing behavior evolves. The reason I originally
started to crossdress may be different from the reasons that I
continue to crossdress. The original needs that caused me to
crossdress may still be present. The crossdressing was
reinforced by a sexual excitement. Any reinforced behavior
stays around even if the reward (sexual excitement) dimin-
ishes. Remember the rat that continues to press the pedal that
formerly delivered food? He continues to press the pedal
even though food no longer arrives. But I would like to think

that I am something more than just a rat or machine that
responds to external stimuli in a programmed manner. I want
to believe my behavior is more meaningful than that. To
believe that it is more meaningful, I have to examine in
greater depth what were the original needs that caused me to
crossdress. I haven't fully worked that out yet, but partly I
think that it is just natural for a percentage of the population
to have transgender tendencies and that I am one of those few.

Sometimes thinking about these questions makes me very
emotionally and physically exhausted. When that happens,
I just mentally say "The hell with it -- I am just going to enjoy
it." When I (temporarily) stop trying to figure myself out and
just accept myself, I feel a lot better. Since I like to feel good
and not depressed, this might be the last article you see from
me in which I try to answer the question "Why do I crossdress?"

HERE COME THE JUDGE

Well, it finally happened to me, I got caught speeding when I was dressed. I was not only dressed, but I was dressed in my most outrageously flamboyant outfit. You know girls, the blue spandex, clinging to your body, lace top with lace arms, you better be wearing a gaff type outfit, with the 5" silver stiletto heels.

It happened on the 690W bypass to Auburn, when I was returning from a frustrating night out where I had attended a dance with five other EON members. I thought I looked pretty enticing, at least enough to have someone ask me to dance. But Noooooooo! Because we live in the gender dysphoric time warp, where you are there but no one really acknowledges it, where people see you but don't really know how to approach you, absolutely none of the EON girls except Charliiss was asked to dance.

This really ticked me off. I might have as well stayed at home and looked in the mirror all night, admiring my figure and having recently lost 25 pounds by starving myself to look good in the spandex outfit, Angela took on a whole different attitude. Upon leaving the dance, a gentleman acquaintance who I had met previously asked me if I had had a good time. Angela looked at him with fire darting out of her deep azure blue eyes and said "NO!" When I told him what had happened, he agreed that it was too bad, but the fact is that most of the gays and lesbians who were attending the dance, just didn't know quite how to take us girls. As I left the dance, I thought about how this entire situation had truly "drawn on my reservoir of charm", and I headed for my red Chevy S-10 pickup.

As I drove home, thinking of my frustration, I guess my brain and foot became detached. The 5" heel was now pressing with a vengeance on the accelerator, making it beg for mercy. As I approached the area on 690 where I go home every night after work and wave to the State Police car with his radar set up, I realized that the linkage between foot and brain had been bypassed, and a gasp emitted that sounded like "Oh, S___!" Yes ladies, I was about to test if it is really against the law in Onondaga County to be a male dressed as a provocative, sensuous, attractive, outrageously alluring female.

Normally when I get a speeding ticket, my hands start to shake as I pull my license and registration from my wallet and hand them to the officer. By the time I get it back from him along with the ticket, I am having an epileptic fit, thinking about how my insurance will skyrocket and I will never get out of the assigned risk pool. This time it was different. I thought, if I make it through this, what's the big deal with assigned risk, and I became super-calm and super-cool.

When I handed the papers over to the State Trooper upon request, he looked at them, walked toward the front of the truck, checked the lights and checked the vehicle ID number against the registration. In the meantime, a second trooper was working his way around the left side of the truck with a flashlight, finally shining it into the cab and onto my shapely well turned legs with the 5" heels. My heart began to pound, finally, I might be asked to dance. But Noooooooo! Instead, the first officer returned with the ticket and asked me where I was coming from. I told him that I had been at a dance. He asked me if I had been drinking, and I replied that I had not had a drop all night, not even a dance. He asked me if I was on my way home, and I told him as fast as I could get there. He agreed, but asked me to slow down to below 70mph for my own safety, which I agreed to do.

Interesting! No arrest. No harassment. No problem. I pulled away from the side of the road and proceeded home feeling quite calm, cool and collected. As I was driving I satisfied myself with the thought that I had at least made the night interesting for a couple of gentlemen.

Now my biggest problem is, what do I wear to court?

p.s.- Never try to hide your true identity when confronted with this situation. Always be honest and courteous. The officers were in this case, and I have a very high regard for their actions.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Charliss Dolge

BELIEF VS EXPERIENCE (WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND) ...A long time ago it became clear to me that I was in deep trouble because of my inability to manage my life on my own. Why that was so is a long story in itself (but I'll bet that others among us could identify with it)

What happened at that point was that I chose to adopt a simple, very general, belief as my own solely on the basis that some others said that their own experience with it worked for them and that it would for me too. Not to worry, they said- it will transform your life only in that way which will be right for you as an individual.

They were right. It was like the American ads proclaimed for the movie GIGI after it had first played to enthusiastic audiences in France: A MILLION FRENCHMEN CAN'T BE WRONG! My life got better, much better. This was because I got better.

This very simple, general belief gradually, but steadily, translated itself into my own personal experiences. It became something I experienced as I went along meeting challenges, reaching goals, re-creating my personal life. It became other than something I had borrowed from someone else.

It was similar to being handed a blank page with just the title at the top of the page. We take the title- the belief, the principle, if you will, and run with it. We fill the page with our own story, our individuality.

Since "coming out" just a little over a year ago has been a very challenging personal experience for me- certainly a positive one, but not without its fears, anxieties, and uncertainties- I have had to rely totally on my past experiences with this belief or principle as I start over once again in my attempt to re-create my life.

As a transgendered crossdressing person, I am really a teenager without really that much experience in moving about and relating to that grown-up world out there in my chosen role. This often scares me, for many reasons. Yet, I have tasted the joy, the adventure. It can be truly exciting. How many people do we know who really experience this quality of adventure- with all its possibilities?

The belief, the principle, that this teenager still employs in order to create and enjoy her rightful place in this challenging world we live in? Here it is:

Ask for help with what you want to do from others who have done it before you or are doing it now and do not decide in advance where the help will come from or in what form it will appear or when it will or should appear and accept that the asking itself may take many forms. Above all, remember that the decision to do this sets in motion the process whereby whatever it is that created you as the individual that you are employs the experience and good will of others so that your personal fulfillment may become a reality, which then enables you to further expand as one possessing experience and good will.

It's really quite simple. "What goes around, comes around."

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.

THE AUTUMN ACCORD II is scheduled for October 4,5 & 6 at the Hotel Syracuse. This event will provide a weekend that includes meals, a special banquet, seminars and workshops, plus social opportunities where EON members will be able to meet many out-of-towners from our gender community.

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. 9/20-22/91...A National Conference For The New Woman. Essex, MA. Write: Outreach Institute, 405 Western Ave., Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106. (207)775-0858

2. 10/3-6/91...Southern Comfort, Atlanta, GA. For Crossdressers. Write: Sigma Epsilon, PO Box 7241, Tallahassee, FL 32314. For TS. Write: Montgomery Institute, PO Box 33311, Decatur, GA 30033

3. 10/18-27/91...17th Annual Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA. Write: Fantasia Fair, 405 Western Ave, Suite 345, South Portland, ME 04106. (207)775-0858

4. 11/8-10/91...The Fantasy Adventure Weekend, Houston, TX. Write: Gulf Coast Transgender Community, Box 90335, Houston, TX 77090. (713) 780-3553

5. 4/2-3/92...Benefit For IFGE 92 Convention, Houston TX.
Contact: IFGE Dinner, 6804-E HWY 6 South #334, Houston, TX
77083. Contact: Jackie Thorne @ (713)780-3553

NOTE: The Significant Others of EON members are welcome at EON meetings. Significant Others include spouses, other family, lovers and partners, and friends. They are expected to be familiar with the EON EXPECTATIONS OF MEMBERS POLICY (CODE OF CONDUCT DURING MEETINGS AND SHARED EVENTS)

IN THE WIND

1. Angela Sheedy is offering a series of five make-over sessions to be held prior to start-up time during our meeting nights. Angela has attended the Jim Bridges workshops and has these products available. The cost for each session is \$10.00, which Angela will donate to EON for our third floor project at Trinity Parish Center. This is an opportunity to perfect your feminine image and to help your group financially. So far, Angela has not had any response to this offer. The workshop registration form for these sessions is included in this newsletter.

2. Angela is also trying to promote a group weekend outing to Toronto. This is a fabulous city for En Femme shopping, theatre, sight-seeing, and dining out. It also has a very hospitable gender community with which we would be in contact for assistance as visitors. Contact Angela at (315) 673-2821 if you are interested.

3. RENAISSANCE FAIR. Ever busy trying to create a good time for EON members, Angela would like to receive responses to a planned outing at this event in Sterling, NY. Contact her about this too!

4. COFFEE HOUSE NIGHT. Charliss has been talking with Steve Phillips (SYRACUSE CARES COMMITTEE) about creating a twice-monthly alternative community social event that would be an alternative to the bar scene. This would be a non-alcoholic event held at Trinity Parish Center on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month. More on this as it develops.

5. Charliss has been approached to make a presentation to GLAS (Gay And Lesbian Alliance Of Syracuse) Herself a member of GLAS, she would formally present this group with educational information about EON and the gender community.

6. A Dining Out/Night Out group is being proposed by Charliss. Those participating would dine out at various restaurants on a rotating basis on a regularly scheduled basis. For those interested in experiencing a complete En Femme evening, dinner would be preceded by a shopping trip to selected department stores and shops, and followed by a visit to a nightclub. Participants could choose all or any part of the evening out. If interested, contact Charliss Dolge at (315)422-6220.

3rd FLOOR RESTORATION

I do not know if you are as pleasantly surprised as I am, but the second floor lounge area is shaping up beautifully. Thanks to the all-out efforts of some of the members, we are going to have a super area in the upper floor of the Parish House.

It is wonderful to look up there and realise that what we are doing for ourselves and others is the realization of a dream come true. A real place of our own. A place where members can come and get dressed at their own liesure and talk. A chance to make strong and lasting friendships and to learn where we are going. But most of all, a chance to express our feminine nature in a comfortable and accepting environment.

There are a multitude of people to thank for this progress and I know if I start naming everyone then I will surely leave someone out, which would be unexcusable, so I will just thank you all for a job that is being well done. It is so heartening to see us all together up there, working so hard to accomplish our dream. It is so rewarding to know that the time we spend together preparing the area for EON will be put to such good use and that so many will benefit from it. It is also great to be working side by side with people who as time goes by, become more special each time you see them.

Thank you ladies, you are doing a great job. Lets keep up the good work.

Work parties are being held on the third floor every Tuesday and Thursday nights, starting at 6:00pm. Please plan on trying to make some of them and take part in something really special.

JIM BRIDGES MAKEUP LESSONS - AUG. 17 MEETING

The next social meeting of EON, scheduled for August 17, Saturday at 8:00pm, will feature a presentation and video by Angela Sheedy of the very special and unique line of Jim Bridges Makeup and Techniques. You will not want to miss this program. Jim Bridges, who has a very special shop in Hollywood, Ca. for Tv's and TS's, has put together a series of two videos that demonstrate the Bridges To Beauty Technique and Secrets Of The Stars and how they get that special look.

Jim started out as a stunt man in Hollywood, working on the Big Valley. He was a stuntman for Lee Majors and Barbara Stanwick. After falling off a few horses, Jim recieved injuries which required him to find a new position. The studio sent him to school for makeup and hairdressing and he has worked on assignment with many film stars in many movies, Jane Fonda (Klute), Liz Taylor and Gina Lollabrigta to mention just a some of them.

He and his crew attend every major crossdressing event in the U.S. and have helped many of us to be all we can be.

Angela, who has taken calsses with Jim and handles his makeup, will demonstrate this very unique technique and have the frist showing of one of the Bridges vidoes.

If you really want to improve your makeup technique and be amazed at the totally wonderful results, please plan on attending this meeting.

Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter of
The Renaissance Education Association, Inc.
Presents: 2nd Annual Hawaiian Luau

Featuring: Traditional Hawaiian Feast, Dancing afterwards in the
GOODTIME OLDIES LOUNGE

Entertainment By: Female Impersonator BRIDGET NICKLES, a special
appearance by MISS GAY PENNSYLVANIA plus the Harrisburg Hula Hula
Hipsters and other World Renowned Talent.

There is no doubt! Last year's event was a memorable one!

DON'T MISS THIS ONE!

When: Saturday, August 24, 1991

Where: Sheraton-Harrisburg East, 800 East Park Drive (at Exit 29 off
I-83)

Time: 8:00 p.m. Exotic Tropical Cocktail Hour (Cash Bar)
9:00 p.m. Hawaiian Feast and Entertainment
11:00 p.m. Dancing in the **GTO CLUB** (50's, 60's music) 'till
closing

Dress: Summer Casual / Hawaiian Costumes

Cost: \$30 per person to August 17th (\$35 after August 18th)

Buffet menu: Carved Ham, Sweet & Sour Chicken, Oriental Pepper Steak,
Miniature Shrimp & Scallop Kebobs Teriyaki, Mahi Mahi Macadonia, Seasonal
Fresh Fruit, Ambrosia Salad, Hearts of Palm Artichoke & Mushroom Salad,
Vegetable Stir-Fry, Pineapple Upside Down Cake, Banana Coconut Mousse,
Native Bread, Coffee, Tea or Sanka

Rooms August 24th at Sheraton are \$65/night (plus tax) single or \$70/night,
double Phone Sheraton at 717-561-2800 and specify that you are with
"Renaissance." For any additional information contact Heather Brown at
717-249-5841. For guaranteed Luau reservations, return bottom portion by
August 17th.

cut here -----

LSV Renaissance Hawaiian Luau Reservation Form

Mailing name ----- Name Tag Name(s):

Address -----

City, St, Zip -----

Please Reserve _____ seats @ \$30/person by Aug. 17th (\$35 after Aug. 18th)

Total Enclosed: \$_____ (Payable to: LSV-Renaissance)

Mail to: LSV-Renaissance P.O. Box 2122 Harrisburg, Pa. 17105