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EON (Expressing Our Nature)
PO Box 6293
Camillus, N.Y. 13031

EXPRESSIONS

THE E.O.N. NEWSLETTER



VOLUME # 2 ISSUE # 2

DATE February 1991

From The Editor



Well ladies and gentlemen, here it is as promised hot off the presses. Another issue of our celebrated newsletter. This time right on

schedule (I hope). It seems that it gets harder and harder to improve on it with each issue. Not only trying to decide what to include in it and which topics to discuss, but just get started with my opening letter. Keeping everyone up to date on all the latest happenings in and around the gender community is become somewhat of a full time job.

Our own Molly Kennedy recently attended a meeting of the Pride Agenda in Albany and we look forward to a long and productive relationship. This weekend she is again on the road to Albany for the second ever meeting of the New York State Gender Coalition. This time, however, Kia, a new member of the Board of Directors will be accompanying her. Good luck to both. Two more new members of the board need to welcomed as well. Chris Hughes and Mellisa S. were voted in at the last Board

of Directors meeting.

There is a sad note though. Jackie A. has tendered her resignation from the board. We shall miss her. Good luck to her in her future endeavors.

On February 16th, EON, the AIDS Task Force of C. N. Y., Metropolitan Community Church and Trinity Parish will hold a Valentines Day Dance at the Parish House. The dance will run from 8 PM to 12 Midnight. There will be a professional DJ, door prizes, 50-50 raffle, non-alcoholic refreshments and hor d'oeuvres. The cost is a sliding scale: \$2 - \$5 / more if you can, less if you can't. It is sure to be a good time so let's all get out and support the gay/lesbian and alternative communities.

The electrician has completed his work on the third floor and the restoration of the walls and ceiling is scheduled to start soon. We will be needing help for such things as painting and/or wallpapering and more. If you have some free time and we like to be involved with this project, by all means let the board know and we will gladly put you to work. The sooner we can finish the third floor the sooner we can enjoy the luxury of having our own meeting area.

The E.O.N. Newsletter is a publication of E.O.N. Inc., P.O. Box 6293, Camillus, N.Y. 13031. E.O.N. is an affiliate of the International Foundation for Gender Education and the N.Y.S. Gender Coalition.

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The telephone number of the E.O.N. Hot Line is 1-716-251-2316. If you have any questions, comments or special needs and you don't know who to talk to, call the Hot Line and leave a message. Someone will be in touch with you.

All submissions for the E.O.N. Newsletter should be sent to the editor at the following address and must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter issue.

Diana J. Askew
P.O. Box 6293
Camillus N.Y. 13031

E.O.N. MEETING SCHEDULE

1st Sat. of each month - 8 PM
Rap group and socialization

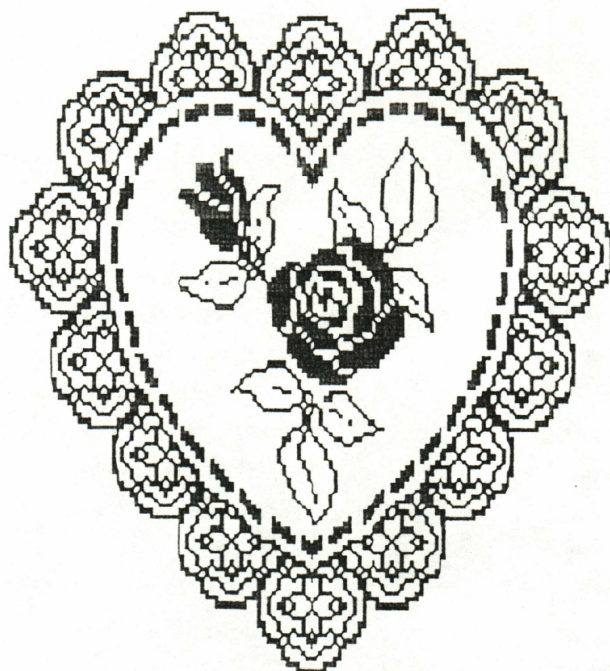
3rd Sat. of each month - 8 PM
social evening which will include a special program - programs to be announced.

Last Wed. of each month

EON is sponsoring a fund raising Pancake Breakfast at the Parish House on March 9th we need volunteers and "stuff" for the breakfast. If you feel you can donate any time and/or "stuff" let us know as soon as possible. The proceeds from this breakfast are going back into EON for the third floor and other programs directly affecting you our members. This is your chance to really become involved. Please don't pass up this opportunity to be involved with your brothers and sisters in EON in a good cause.

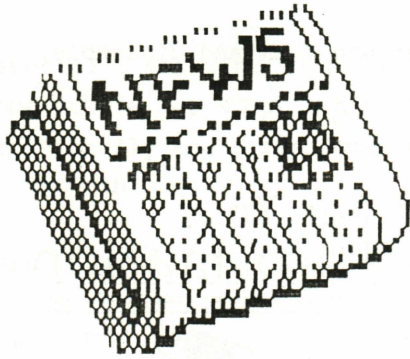
Well, that's about it for this issue. There are a lot of interesting things to follow so as they say ON WITH THE SHOW. Until next month I remain lovingly,

Your sister
Diana Joell Askew



Happy Valentine's Day

From the Board of Directors



From the News Desk

From the Scripps Howard News Service

Ex-cheerleader on probation for impersonation

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. ---- A 26 year-old man who disguised himself as a high school girl and became a cheerleader has been sentenced to two years' probation.

Charles Daugherty, who now dresses as a woman all the time and calls himself Shannon Ireland, will undergo mental health counseling as part of his overall sentence.

"This is not an offense that involved physical injury, assault or use of a weapon," said District Judge Richard Hall.

"It is the kind of offense that deserves probation."

But the judge emphasized the psychological counseling was a requirement of the probation, not just a suggestion.

"**THAT'S NOT** until you think you're done, but until Dr. (Robert) Tinker tells you you're done," Hall said.

"And we expect that counseling to be

successful, at least to the extent that you show up regularly."

Daugherty vaulted to national notoriety last September when he was arrested after enrolling in Coronado High School in Colorado Springs as a girl.

He used the fictitious name of Cheyen Weatherly.

In eight days, Cheyen had a run of successes that would make most teen-aged girls envious - if not make their heads swim.

She joined the school choir, made the girls cheerleading squad and gossiped with the girls about good-looking guys.

BUT AS QUICKLY as it began, it was over. Cheyen's 160-pound, 5-foot, 8-inch frame and the stubble poking through pancake makeup had some students and teachers curious.

School officials called the police, who recognized Daugherty from a long list of shoplifting and other minor complaints, including female impersonation.

The case drew national attention. Talk-show host Sally Jessy Raphael listened to Daugherty's tale of childhood abuse that, he said, made him forsake his male identity.

Less sympathetic, Esquire magazine ran his picture hulking over sweater clad cheerleaders and installed him in its Dubious Achievements Award gallery.

And an Iowa disc jockey asked, "What do women look like in Colorado Springs that this guy can impersonate a cheerleader?"

FOR HIS PART, Daugherty would like to put it all behind.

Wearing pink sweatpants, a ski jacket and brown wig, he answered questions from reporters as he left the court house.

Yes, there had been modeling offers.

No, they didn't interest him. Yes he wanted to finish high school.

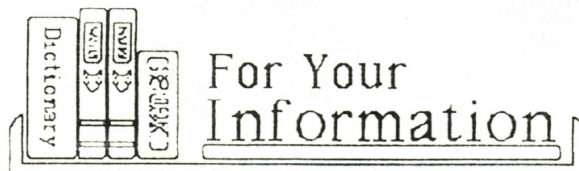
No, he didn't know where.

As reporters waited for more outside the probation office, Daughtery arranged the terms of his sentence, but then sneaked out a back door.

Reprinted from the Syracuse New Times
Real Astrology
by Rob Brezsny

Leo (July 23 - Aug 22) I dreamed I was gaping at hundreds of overly beautiful people in a place called a Genetically Engineered Singles Bar. The year was 2012. While drinking a soy milk shake laced with anti-aging drugs, I met a Leo who seemed to keep changing genders. One minute she was a man; next minute he was a woman. "Are you terribly confused," I asked, "or just awesomely well balanced?" "All depends on the company I keep," she/he said. "If I'm around companions who love life, I confidently express both flamboyantly masculine and dazzlingly feminine talents. If I'm around anyone

else, I forget who I am and dissemble."



When A Woman Becomes A Man

by Charles L. Ihlenfeld M.D.

Reprinted from SEXOLOGY MAGAZINE, June 1972 issue.

The process involves taking hormones and undergoing surgery - perhaps even constructing a penis

Many people are aware that there are certain individuals called transsexuals who seek treatment to change their sex -

especially men wanting to become women. Some people are surprised to learn that occasionally there are women who want to become men.

A few studies show that the males seeking such a change outnumber the females by almost 8 to 1, although the figures usually given is about 4 to 1. The reason for this smaller number of female cases is not known. Nevertheless, female patients as a group present both similarities and differences when compared with the males.

The female transsexual, like the male, suffers from a conflict of gender identity - the sense of being either male or female. The male patient has been described as feeling like a woman living in a man's body. With equal conviction, the female transsexual feels like a man living in a woman's body.

As happens to the male, the female either becomes frustrated trying to live in the feminine role or risk ridicule and shame by disguising her body and living as a man. Both males and females share a common desire to lead lives as normal as possible in the role of their mental, not physical, gender. Firmly established at the age of 4, sex identity is fixed and unchangeable by the time patients seek help in adolescent or adult years.

One fact distinguishes the female homosexual from the female transsexual: The lesbian does not question her female identity; she simply prefers other women as sexual partners. The female transsexual thinks of herself as a man and thus considers her relations with women as

normally heterosexual rather than homosexual. The fact that our society is much more tolerant of masculine women than effeminate men does not comfort the female transsexual.

Transvestism as we know it in the male is practically unknown in the female. The blurring of the gender line permitted by "unisex" fashions is used much more by males than females. Indeed, the female wants nothing more nor less than complete identification as an unquestioned male. To bring this about, we must physically alter the body to correspond to the unalterable state of the mind. At best that is difficult, but we have no reasonable choice at present.

One interesting and frequent observation is that the female transsexual finds moving into the opposite role much less of a social problem than does the male. In everyday living and working, the male transsexual finds that his beard and deep voice threaten to reveal his secret. The female on the other hand, merely needs to cut her hair, bind her breasts, and out on male clothes. She makes a most convincing appearance as a clean-shaven young man with a rather boyish complexion.

One patient came for treatment after she was well established as a male employee in a business office. She wanted male hormones to stimulate hair growth on her face. The men in her office were all growing beards, while she could not even produce sideburns.

The treatment of both male and female patients is divided into three phases. In

the first phase, which may last from one to several years, the patient is given hormones of the desired gender after undergoing a thorough physical and psychiatric evaluation.

Hormones Produce Changes

Here the female transsexual receives male hormones that bring about many of the physical changes experience by a normal male at puberty. The voice cracks and deepens. The face starts to sprout fuzz, and whiskers later. The skin thickens and frequently develops acne. Heavier and darker hair appears on the arms, legs, and abdomen. The clitoris becomes more sensitive and enlarges somewhat. There may be a slight, but relatively insignificant, decrease in breast size. Finally, with sufficient and regular treatment, menstruation ceases.

If they have not done so earlier, most patients gradually or suddenly move into a male social role during this phase. The same things that make it difficult for the male to pass as female - the voice and beard - soon make it almost impossible for the female patient to remain in the female role. Thus, during this first phase, the patient has every chance to learn first hand about living as a man. If she likes it and is successful, she takes the next step.

The second phase is surgery, which is simply a medical confirmation of what has by this time become a social fact: The patient is a man. Surgery, itself, has three parts.

Generally, breast reduction is done first.

Then the ovaries or the uterus, or both, are removed. Finally, some patients undertake the long and expensive series of plastic surgical procedures necessary to produce an artificial penis.

In most cases, this new penis looks very realistic. If all goes well, the patient is able to urinate through a tube constructed in the middle of it. Sometimes a plastic splint or a piece of bone enables it to appear somewhat erect.

There is no way for the artificial penis to change from flaccid to erect during sexual activity, as happens with the normal male.

Nor does the new penis have the feeling found in the normal penis. Nonetheless, most female transsexuals seem willing to accept these compromises as they seek to make their "manhood" as nearly normal as possible.

Following surgery, all transsexual patients enter the third and permanent phase of their treatment: Lifelong maintenance of their new condition. At the beginning of this stage, legal matters receive attention. The legal change of name is generally done first. Then official papers - birth certificate, Social Security card, driver's license, school certificates, business and professional papers - are amended where possible to conform with the change that has already occurred.

Final Adjustments

During this phase the patient's dosage of hormone is adjusted to the level required

permanently to maintain physical health and a feeling of well-being. This final stage lasts for the rest of the patient's life.

With treatment the female transsexual is able to lead an almost normal male's life. Many of the patients marry normal women whose families are usually unaware of the situation. Some of these wives have babies by artificial-donor insemination.

The "husbands" support their families just as other men do. They are considered normal men by their neighbors and friends.

They succeed this way because they are now living the role that expresses their innermost feelings. As men, they have nothing to hide. They are able to express their masculinity naturally. In short, they have brought themselves - body and soul - together at last and forever.

Why Crossdress

by Cheryl D.

On my first morning at the IFGE Coming Together convention in Boston in March of 1990, Virginia Prince confronted me abruptly in the convention registration office with the question, "Why do you do this?" I responded with some lame rationalization which brought the response, "Oh phooey, you just haven't examined yourself yet." This shook me into thinking instead of just feeling good.

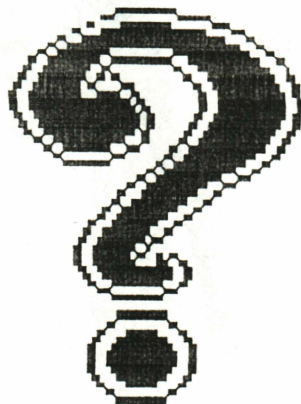
Some often used justifications for

crossdressing are that we do it to compliment women or emulate them. Such claims are unacceptable to most women, and it is not difficult to understand why. For one thing, you do not need to dress as a woman in order to emulate feminine behavioral qualities (cross-gender competencies), and we weaken our own position as men when we rationalize our crossdressing as a clinical act benefiting someone else. Probably no man honestly believes that he is crossdressing for the good of women. He is doing it for his own good, and if women benefit, so much the better.

Personally I do not feel that I must justify my act of crossdressing to a non-crossdresser, although I do owe them some proof that my crossdressing does not endanger them. I crossdress because I want to, and because it's fun. So the real question of importance is not why I crossdress, but rather why I enjoy it.

I suspect the ultimate answer is rooted in many diverse areas, certainly including those of human rights and freedom. Those who live under restrictive political regimes are often ready to leave behind everything they know and own -- homes, friends, jobs, family -- just to gain freedom of expression. That priority outweighs other things. But first, let's consider that crossdressing is enjoyed simply because it is fun.

I do lots of activities that are fun and enjoyable: playing golf, grouse hunting, trout fishing, gardening -- and nobody has



THE ROCHESTER GAY MEN'S BENEFIT CONCERT - March 9, 1991 7:30 P.M.
Everson Museum of Art
Harrison & State Sts.
Syracuse, N.Y.

Special appearances from "MONTAGE" - A Lesbian Vocal Ensemble and "THE
ROCHETTES" - Tap Ensemble

Sponsored by The Syracuse Cares Committee - Tickets \$15.00 Community Box Office
Charge by Phone - (315) 435-2121

IFGE's 5th Annual Coming Together Convention - April 8-14, 1991
Denver, Colorado

For Information and Registration
The International Foundation for Gender Education
P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778
1-617-894-8340

Host Organization
Gender Identity Center
of Colorado
Box 11563, 3715 32nd Ave
Denver, CO 80211
1-303-458-5378

Regular Meetings

Albany - 2nd Saturday of the Month - 145 club 8:00 PM
4th Friday of the Month - Club Room

E.O.N. - 1st and 3rd Saturday of the Month - 8:00 PM
Last Wednesday of the Month - 8:00 PM
Trinity Episcopal Church Parish House
Onondaga St. & Midland Ave.

Rochester CD Network - 2nd Friday of the Month - 6:00-11:00 PM