

## A Message From the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher

Hello, and welcome to the premiere issue of *Chrysalis Quarterly*.

CQ is an exciting new magazine which will explore gender issues which have been largely overlooked or neglected, and we will look at old ideas in new ways. Although our primary focus will be on transsexualism, our content will be of interest to everyone in the gender community. Our approach will be critical, but moderate. I think you will be pleasantly surprised by the quality and timeliness of CQ.

CQ will contain articles, letters, editorials, reviews, fiction, and poetry. We also welcome your advertisements and subscriptions. We solicit your contributions.

CQ is the house organ of The Atlanta Educational Gender Information Service (AEGIS). AEGIS serves as a clearinghouse for information about gender dysphoria. Our purpose is to educate the general public about this phenomenon, but even more so, to help persons who are gender dysphoric become aware of their options and make educated and considered choices about how they will live their lives. AEGIS will provide free referrals to support groups and gender clinics; to those not within easy commuting distance of a support group, we will provide referrals to

psychologists, physicians, and electrologists, whenever possible.

One of the meanings of the word aegis is shield. A second is protection. A third is sponsorship or auspices. By education and by dissemination of information, we hope to live up to our acronym, for safety lies in self-determination, and self-determination lies in knowledge.

The theme of this issue of CQ is Health and Transition. We have taken a look at various diseases and disabilities as they can impact the process of self-transformation. We have interviewed and obtained first-hand reports from persons with various infirmities and from professionals who treat transsexual persons with such conditions. We have looked at what the scientific literature has to say on the subject (we found so much information that much of it has spilled over into the next issue). But mostly, we have tried to convey the sense of dignity, courage, and trepidation with which persons with infirmity and gender dysphoria face their future.

I would like to thank those who have contributed to this issue, and especially those of you who have subscribed and taken out advertisements, sight unseen.

*Dallas Denny*  
*Editor-in-Chief and Publisher*

## A Word on Terminology

The Editor-In-Chief has worked in the field of mental retardation for nearly twenty years, and has become sensitized to the application of stigmatizing labels to individuals.

Current thinking by many in her field is that persons have mental retardation. They are not "retarded," not "the retarded," but "persons with mental retardation" or "persons who have mental retardation."

Like mental retardation, transsexualism is a stigmatizing label. Those with transsexualism are not "transsexuals." Rather, they are persons who have transsexualism.

Consequently, rather than conceptually turn people into something less than human beings—"transsexuals"—we at AEGIS will strive to use, both in our publications and in our speech, the terms "transsexual people" and "persons with transsexualism."

Transsexual will refer to a characteristic of the individual and not the individual himself or herself.

The bulk of those in the crossdressing community have chosen the terms crossdresser and CD to replace the pejorative term "transvestite." Rather than use the term "person who crossdresses," we will adhere to this apparent preferred usage.

—*Dallas Denny*