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e've been busy, moving into new and more spacious quarters; this explains why it's been a while since you saw an issue of CQ.

The new offices will allow us to have design and printing services on the same premises, giving us in-house production, from writing to editing to pre-press production to printing to distribution. There will be more people to man the phone lines and to assist with the many tasks associated with running an organization like AEGIS.

AEGIS is growing by leaps and bounds. Creative and energetic people have appeared and are continuing to appear to take on the many burdensome tasks that need doing. We have successfully launched a magazine which has drawn only raves, produced a bibliography of gender dysphoria which will be published by Garland Press, and distributed the first several of a series of booklets designed to help transgendered persons help themselves. We have started a support group (which is now independently operating, and thriving), maintained a telephone help line, and begun a speaker's bureau. We have made liaisons with service providers and with many individuals and groups in the gender community. We have been involved in the planning and running of Southern Comfort, the first-ever major gender event in the South, and are deeply involved in the planning of the second Southern Comfort.

I am amazed by the talent and energy which the AEGIS staff has shown, and by the ideas that they generate. My hat is off to each and every one of them.

Introductions

After two successful issues of Chrysalis Quarterly, perhaps it is time to introduce ourselves.

I am the founder and Executive Director of AEGIS. I am a youthful and exuberant 42-year-old. I am employed at a workshop for adults with mental retardation, doing case coordination, psychological testing, and applied behavior analysis. I find the work very fulfilling. I am a licensed psychological examiner in Tennessee.

I am working hard to finish my doctoral degree in special education from Vanderbilt University.

Stephanie Rose is Secretary/Treasurer of AEGIS. She is in charge of pre-press production on all AEGIS publications. She singlehandedly designed and laid out the first issue of CQ and the Transition Series booklets. Stephanie was the first person to share my vision for AEGIS, and I will always love her for it. Her hard work is in a large measure responsible for our success.

Stephanie is a desktop publisher by profession. She is a member of Sigma Epsilon, the Atlanta-based chapter of Tri-Ess, and she was very active in the planning committee for Southern Comfort, designing the logo and promotional materials.

Margaux Ayn Schaffer is Deputy Director/Spokesperson for AEGIS and Art Director of Chrysalis Quarterly, and AEGIS representative to the Southern Comfort Convention Planning Committee. Margaux is a graphic artist who specializes in visual identity design and is in charge of the "look and feel" of all AEGIS materials.

Margaux is the model of an enlightened consumer, well-read and articulate. She and I have spent countless hours on the phone and face-to-face, discussing gender issues. Most of the things I have said and written in the past two years were first brought to light in those discussions. Many of my ideas were originally hers.

Victoria Germonde is Production Director for all AEGIS publications. She is responsible for the beautiful production of CQ. A printer by trade, she has volunteered her time to help make CQ the most attractively produced magazine in the gender community. It's wonderful to watch the pages of CQ as they come out of her offset press.

Holly Boswell, a resident of beautiful Asheville, North Carolina, is Associate Editor of Chrysalis Quarterly. Holly is married, and has a 4-year-old son. An editor by trade, she is currently doing graphic work for several books.

Holly is founder and director of Phoenix, a transgender support group which meets in Asheville. Phoenix has been in operation for about four years, and in recent months, membership has snowballed. Holly was active at the Southern Comfort meeting, where she presented a workshop on transgender lifestyle options. She will be the editor for an upcoming issue of Chrysalis Quarterly which will examine the duality of human nature.

Carol Miller, M.Ed., is a licensed professional counselor in Georgia and Mississippi, an advisor to AEGIS. She graciously allows the support group we started to meet in her offices.

There are other AEGIS personnel I would like to mention and thank: Geneva Deveraux, who came up with the idea for the Southern Comfort 1991 Cookbook, and provided the recipes; and Brenda and Tamara, who proof CQ and our other materials. And I'd like to welcome aboard Kerin Hope, who moved to Atlanta from her native Florida in order to be part of our organization.

Are any of us transgendered? Yes. No. I don't know. I'm not saying. The point is, does it matter? Each of us is participating on the basis of our education and experience. We are productive and talented and well-balanced and stable, and we have something to say. Whether all of us were born

women, or whether some of us are new women is irrelevant, and should not influence what you are about to read.

They Infested a City

Dr. Richard Ekins, of the Transgender Archive, graciously sent us several copies of his Archive News. A 1954 press clipping caught my eye, making me aware of just how bad things once were for transgendered persons.

The discovery of a small black book with the names, addresses and telephone numbers of scores of men living in the Midlands led to the exposure of what was described at Birmingham Assizes as "a vicious clique who had infested the city for many years." ... The court was told that the men called themselves by names such as Tiger Lil, the Duchess, Garbo, Rita, Jezebel, and Nina. It was said also that the men held parties at which some were dressed as women... All the 28 men pleaded guilty to serious charges... At the end of the case the judge said, "I feel the police have shown considerable care and assiduity in these investigations and it is extremely fortunate that this disgusting clique has been brought to light."

—News of the World, 1 August, 1954, p. 8

If there has been improvement in the status of transgendered persons, it has been largely due to the dedication and hard work of professionals who have chosen to work with them. Beginning with nothing, they have built a literature of gender dysphoria, created standards of care, and perfected hormonal and surgical procedures and other treatment techniques. They have helped tens of thousands of transgendered persons in their quests for personal happiness and gender consonance.

Nevertheless, there have been and continue to be problems in treatment. In some instances, trans-

gendered persons have been ignored, maligned, mistreated, exploited, or turned away by those who have sworn to help. This has been due to ignorance on the part of a few service providers; proper training in matters of gender is unfortunately rare in education programs. Although dramatic improvements have occurred, it is still difficult for transgendered persons to find service providers who are able and willing to help them.

Ignoring treatment problems will not make them go away. They must be confronted head on, so that those who have been responsible for sexism, prejudice, and unprofessionalism can come to understand how they have wronged transgendered persons and move to remedy their mistakes.

We realize that the cover and content of this issue are controversial, and that not everyone will agree with what we have to say. But if we are able to make our readers realize the errors of the past so that they will be less likely to repeat them, we will consider that we have done our jobs.

Only after problems have been acknowledged can they be solved.

Public Service Advertisements

We have begun a series of public service advertisements designed to make transgendered persons aware of some common dangers. Last issue's "Dangerous Curves" ads was the first in the series, and this issue contains the second. In hopes that they will help us to carry our message to persons both in the gender community and without, we are sending the ads to support groups and publishers around the world. This issue features "This is Your Heart on Hormones," which address the risks and dangers of over- and self-medication. Future ads will deal with other issues, including sexually transmitted diseases and adherence to the Benjamin Standards of Care.

The ads were conceived and designed by Margaux Schaffer. ♀