AEGIS NEWS

QUARTERLY 1/96 #6 ISSN 1077-162X

Vision 2001: A Gender Odyssey

In 1994, IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education) published its analysis for its future and the future of the transgender community. They called it Vision 2000.

To its credit, IFGE solicited the opinion of the community. However, Vision 2000 has been criticized for looking at other transgender organizations as "the enemy," to be outcompeted rather than cooperated with, and for not addressing or underaddressing issues such as oppression, class, race, homophobia, transphobia, and exclusionary policies, which have haunted the transgender community. When the direct political action group Transexual Menace did an action about Vision 2000 at IFGE's annual convention last March [see *AEGIS News, 1*(4) for an account], it was clear that what was being called into question was the leadership not only of IFGE but of other community organizations. It was clear to us (perhaps because it was not AEGIS which was being leafletted and we could therefore be more objective about the action) that Transexual Menace had brought up a number of valid points.

In June of 1995, a transgender panel at the National Gay & Lesbian Health Conference was disrupted by transgender protesters. AEGIS Director Dallas Denny was a member of that panel, as were Martine Rothblatt, author of *The Apartheid of Sex*, and Armand Hotimsky, an FTM transexual activist from France. The panel was put together by Walter Bockting of the University of Minnesota Program in Human Sexuality. The protesters claimed the panel was not comprised of members of the community, which was manifestly untrue. The protesters succeeded only in disrupting a conference which was put together specifically to address the issues about which they claimed they were concerned. However, their anger, even if inappropriately directed, was legitimate, born of years of frustration at the way they and other transgendered persons have been treated by the medical/psychological community, by politicians, and by the general public.

We thought it behooved AEGIS to take its own look at itself and the transgender community in general before we found ourselves being leafletted by one activist organization or another. And so in a series of articles we will be asking the questions: Where are we now? How did we get here? And most importantly of all, where are we going?

In this issue we present Part I of our analysis, which we call *Vision 2001: A Gender Odyssey* (Da Da Daah, Ta Da!). The name just jumped out at us; Alison Laing suggested Vision 20/20, which might have been a better title, as we do not mean this series of articles as a slur at IFGE, which does important work. We simply couldn't resist the great title.

AEGIS Membership Reaches 500 in '95

AEGIS membership for 1995 reached a high of 500 members, including subscribers to *Chrysalis*, who were automatically given membership. "This was a gratifying response to our change to membership status," said Executive Director Dallas Denny. "Many of the members joined in the Professional category, and we had a number of members who became Sponsors, Supporters, or Benefactors by making tax-deductible donations.

"Membership will help us to set budgets. When we learn which members are with us for the long term, we will be able to better predict what our income will be, and budget accordingly. *In the past, operations were funded and bills were paid by whatever showed up in our mailbox.* We have been extremely lucky that for five years that mailbox has been very good to us, allowing us to meet our obligations in a timely manner. However, this is no way to do business on the long term. We hope that a flood of renewals at year's end will enable us to make solid plans for 1996."

In This Issue... Page

Recommended Guidelines Project ... 4
Vision 2001 ... 7
Antidefamation Rag ... 12
Affiliate Policy ... 15
AEGIS Staff ... 16

Why Membership?

What are the advantages of your membership for AEGIS?

- **We get a stronger voice.**

  Because we have a membership base, our voices are raised in unison with yours and will be more easily heard when we protest against discrimination, when we fight against unjust laws, and when we claim our rights.

- **We get feedback from you.**

  Via voting and membership meetings, we learn more about your concerns and interests, both in regard to the operation of AEGIS and in regard to your personal needs.

- **We can work together toward effective solutions.**

  Many heads are better than one. You may have the perfect solution to a problem which has been plaguing us, and if you do, we want to hear it.

- **We get your help.**

  With membership comes pride. With pride, comes willingness to work within the framework of an organization to help others, and to financially support the organization.

- **We get "consumers" and "caregivers" talking to one another.**

  Excuse the medical model terms, but we needed them to make our point that AEGIS is the perfect forum for helping professionals and transgendered persons to meet on equal footing and discuss complicated issues regarding access to medical treatments.

What do you get from Membership?

- **You get our publications.**

  You get two copies of our outstanding journal, *Chrysalis*, and 4 copies of our newsletter, *AEGIS News*. You also get medical advisories and special bulletins throughout the year.

- **You get an ID card.**

  AEGIS issues identification cards to all members. The card may come in handy some time when you need the authority of a membership organization behind you.

- **You get discounts on our products.**

  We sell lots of interesting things. You'll find out about our new products before anyone else, and you'll get them for less than others will pay. You'll also get a discount on membership in the Transgender Historical Society.

- **You get a vote.**

  You have a say-so in the way AEGIS is run.

- **You get the satisfaction of helping others.**

  We mail dozens of information packets each week. Those packets change lives, and money from your subscription will be paying the duplication costs and mailing fees.

- **You get to change the world.**

  Ideas about transgendered and transsexual people are changing. AEGIS has played a considerable part in making that change happen. And things are going to change even more. We're going to make the world a better place. Together.

A note to helping professionals:

AEGIS has a professional division which is concerned with issues of treatment and with education of caregivers. Our professional division will take a leading role in redefining the relationship between transgendered persons and the professional community (and consider, these are not mutually exclusive categories; there are hundreds of transsexual and transgendered physicians, psychologists, researchers, ministers, electrologists, counselors, therapists, and social workers). Please join so we can work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect to solve our considerable problems.

AEGIS Membership 1996

Categories & Benefits

General ($36/year)
includes
Subscription to *Chrysalis* (2 issues)
Subscription to *AEGIS News* (4 issues)
Membership/Identity Card
Free access to Library & Archive
10% discount on all merchandise

Professional ($60/year)
includes benefits above plus
Transgender Treatment Bulletin and
Shhh! The Bulletin of the National Transgender Library & Archive
15% discount on all merchandise

Supporting ($100/year)
includes benefits above plus
20% discount on all merchandise
$40 tax deduction

Sponsoring ($250/year)
includes benefits above plus
Listing in *AEGIS News*
1st class mailing of materials
25% discount on all merchandise
$190 tax deduction

Benefactor ($500/year)
include benefits above plus
Note of appreciation in *Chrysalis*
$440 tax deduction
30% discount on all merchandise

Student ($24/year)
includes General Membership benefits
(Subject to verification)

Minor ($24/year
includes General Membership benefits
Must be under 18
(Subject to verification)

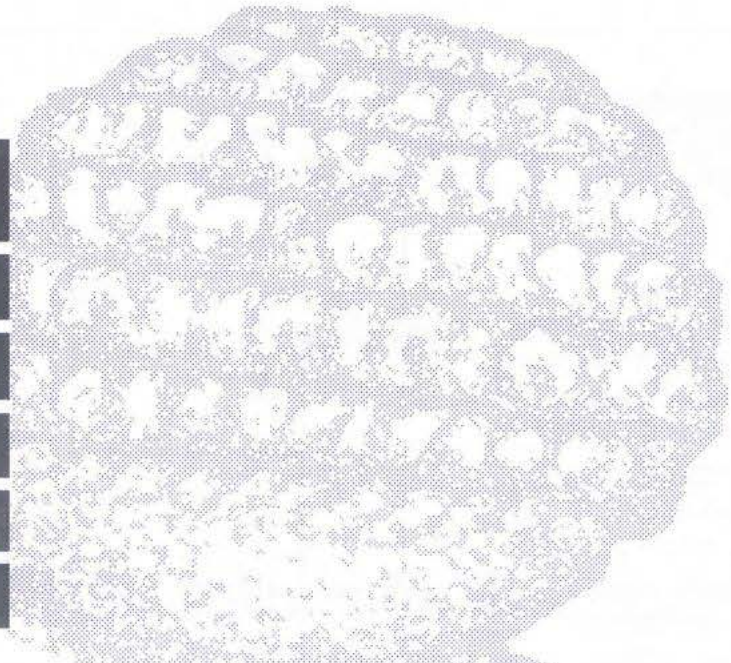
Incarcerated & Transgendered?
You can receive *AEGIS News* free

Memberships are for the calendar year

Please add $10 if you are outside the U.S. & Canada

Join us...

AEGIS
American
Educational
Gender
Information
Service



... and experience a splendor of gender!

AEGIS is a 501(c)(3) membership organization which provides a variety of services to helping professionals and to individuals with gender issues. We provide free information & referrals, publish the journal *Chrysalis* and a variety of other materials, maintain the National Transgender Library & Archive, assist in the establishment of support groups, conduct workshops and seminars, publish advisory and position statements, and maintain an extensive bibliography of materials related to crossdressing and transsexualism (published in 1994 by Garland Press).

AEGIS provides a forum in which mental health and medical professionals can work together with transgendered and transsexual persons to discuss issues of mutual interest and importance. We have a variety of membership categories, one of which is right for you. Why not join today? You'll receive two issues of *Chrysalis* (our great magazine), four issues of *AEGIS News* (our newsletter), a membership card, discounts on all of our products, and most importantly, a vote in the future—*your* future.

Please send the form below to AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724 [or call 770-939-2128]

☐ *Yes! I'm ready to join AEGIS & experience a Splendor of Gender! I'm sending a check for a one-year membership which will include two issues of Chrysalis and other great stuff!*

© 1995 by AEGIS
The American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc.
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ *Zip* _____
Office (___) _____ *Home* (___) _____

(We will send you a longer membership data form)

☐ *General Membership ($36/year)**
☐ *Professional Membership ($60/year)**
☐ *Supporting Membership ($100/year)*
☐ *Sponsoring Membership ($250/year)*
☐ *Benefactor ($500/year)*
☐ *Student/Minor (requires documentation) ($24/yr)*

**[Please add $10 outside North America]*

Please charge my: ___ *Mastercard* ___ *Visa No.* _____ *Exp.* _____

AEGIS
American
Educational
Gender
Information
Service

&

Sullivan Press

ORDER FORM

Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care

by Gianna E. Israel and Donald Tarver, II, M.D.

AEGIS' Sullivan Press is publishing comprehensive guidelines for the medical and psychological care of transgendered persons. Written by Gianna E. Israel and Donald Tarver, M.D., the **Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care** addresses complex treatment issues including hormone administration and genital reassignment surgery in both female-to-male and male-to-female transgendered persons. The **Recommended Guidelines** include a number of essays by prominent professionals and members of the transgender community.

The **Recommended Guidelines** reflect the authors' understanding that the desire to manifest the physical and social characteristics of the other sex is not in and of itself pathological. They address complex treatment issues which have not been considered elsewhere, and consider diverse populations which have been underserved.

The **Recommended Guidelines** uncouple hormonal therapy and genital sex reassignment; one need not desire genital surgery in order to obtain hormonal therapy. The **Recommended Guidelines** also uncouple sexual orientation from gender identity.

The **Recommended Guidelines** have a retail price of $29.95 + $4 S&H.

A resource for:

- Transexuals
- Transgenderists
- Crossdressers
- Physicians
- Psychologists
- Counselors
- Clergy
- Therapists
- Sexologists
- Social Workers
- Attorneys
- Students
- Educators
- You!

Please send the form below and your check or money order for $33.95 to AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033 [or call 770-939-2128 or FAX 770-939-1770 for credit card orders]

☐ *Yes! It's about time there was a comprehensive resource like the* Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care *! Please send me _____ copies.*

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State or Province _____ *Postal Code* _____
Country _____
Office ( ) _____ *Home ( )* _____

SHIPS 4/96

© 1996 by AEGIS
P.O. Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033-0724
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation
(770) 939-2128 Voice • (770) 939-1770 FAX
aegis@mindspring.com

Please charge my: ___ *Mastercard* ___ *Visa No.* _____ _____ _____ _____ *Exp.* _____

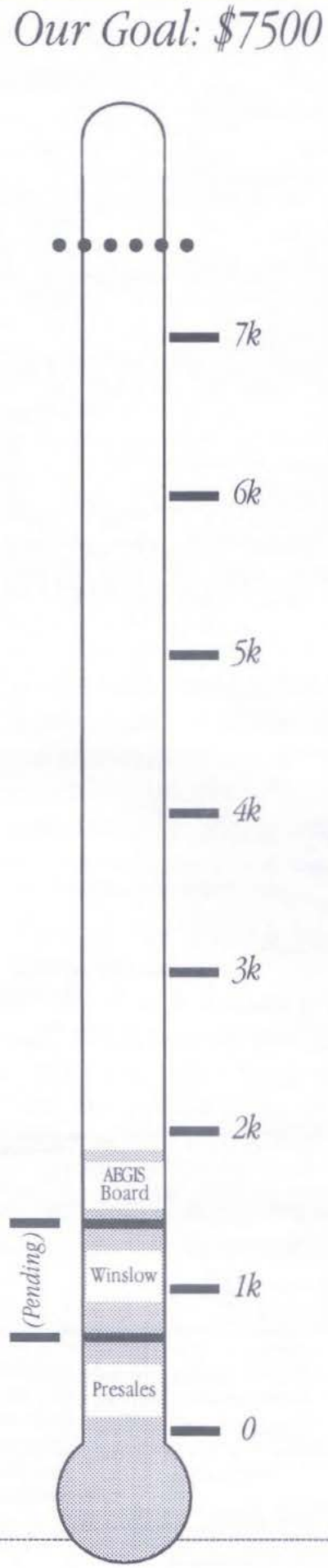
Signature _____ *Date* _____

Recommended Guidelines Project Continues; Fundraising Drive Is Initiated

AEGIS' publishing division, Sullivan Press, is moving forward with plans to publish *Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care*, a comprehensive guide for medical and psychological services for transgender and transexual people by Gianna E. Israel and Donald Tarver, M.D. The manuscript has been completed and submitted to AEGIS, where it is being edited. "We anticipate that the manuscript will go into layout some time in February, and will be printed in March. .

The *Recommended Guidelines* is a transgender-friendly resource for use by mental health and medical professionals, and persons with transgender issues. The selling price will be $29.95; preorders are being taken at a special pre-publication rate of $24.95.

"Because AEGIS' general operations budget is insufficient to pay printing costs for the RGs, we are kicking off a fundraising drive. Monies will go into a Sullivan Press account which will be kept separate from our other funds," Executive Director Dallas Denny said. "Funds from sales of the RGs will also go into this fund, which will be used to pay for additional printings and fund future publishing projects."



Winslow Street Fund Awards AEGIS $750

The Winslow Street Fund, an endowment started at a historic meeting on Winslow Street in Provincetown, Massachusetts, has awarded AEGIS a $750 grant for general operations. In the past, Winslow has provided grants to conferences like Rites of Passage (formerly New Women's Conference) and S.P.I.C.E. (Spouses/Partners International Conference for Education), for publishing projects, and for other transgender community projects and organizations.

The grant will be placed in a savings account until January, 1996, when the AEGIS Board of Directors will determine how the funds will be used. However, we anticipate that the Board will approve the recommendation of Dallas Denny, AEGIS' Executive Director, that the grant be used for the *Recommended Guidelines* project.

The $750 grant from the Winslow Street Fund, donations from AEGIS Board members and others, and presales to date would bring a total of $1900 to the *Recommended Guidelines* project, taking us one-quarter of the way to our goal of $7500, which is the projected price for promotion and production of 1000 copies.

"We would like to thank The Board of the Winslow Street Fund for their generosity, and IFGE for setting up and maintaining the Fund," said JoAnn Roberts, the Chair of the AEGIS Board of Directors. "The Fund is a wonderful asset for the transgender community. We would also like to thank our members and others supportive persons for pre-ordering the RGs."

Anticipated publication date for the *Recommended Guidelines* is 15 April, 1995.

Vision 2001: A Gender Odyssey

A Look at the Transgender/Transexual Community: Part I
by Dallas Denny

In the past ten years or so, there has been an explosion of knowledge about and awareness of gender issues. One of the benefits is that for the first time in perhaps 2000 years, Western transgendered individuals are in regular contact with one another in large numbers. What was a handful of relatively isolated support groups and social clubs only a couple of decades ago has grown into a sometimes fractious but rapidly maturing community. Societal changes brought about by continuing education and outreach by transgendered and transexual persons, television talk shows, books and magazines and scholarly studies, aided by technological advances like FAX machines, desktop publishing, and e-mail, have caused a sort of spontaneous combustion to occur. A community has invented itself. But what of this community? What is is it, exactly? Where has it been? Where is it now? Where is it going? Who are its members? What are its goals? Its strengths? Its weaknesses? Who are its leaders? Who are its friends? Its enemies?

In this series of articles, I'll be taking a look at this community. I've been as objective as possible in the body of the article. Any opinions are mine and mine alone, and do not necessarily reflect the official opinion of AEGIS.

*Organizations Providing National Support**

The transgender community has quite a few organizations with a national focus, of which we will initially look at seven: AEGIS, FTM International, International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy (ICTLEP), International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), Outreach Institute for Gender Studies (OIGS), Renaissance Education Association, and The Society for the Second Self

** Not counting direct political action organizations — Ed.*

Key

[1] *Instrumental in starting three conferences, but has none of its own.*

[2] *Started a conference, but it is not the official conference of FTM International.*

[3] *Full membership is limited to heterosexual crossdressers and their female partners. Others can join in practice as "Friends of Tri-Ess," with limited privileges; however, in reality, only a chosen few have been able to do so.*

Table I: Seven National Transgender Organizations at a Glance

NAME	1 Member	2 501(c)(3)	3 Journal	4 Newsletter	5 Conference	6 Founded	7 Memship Eligibility	8 Focus Group	9 Focus Area	10 Board	11 Affiliates or Chapters	12 Office	13 Paid Staff
AEGIS	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No[1]	1990	All	TS/TG	Support Education	Yes	Affiliates	No	No
FTM INTL.	Subscribers	Soon	No	Yes	No[2]	1986	All	FTM	Support Education	No	No	No	No
ICTLEP	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	1992	All	All	Legal Education	Yes	No	No	No
IFGE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1986	All	All	Support Education	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
OIGS	No	Pending	Yes	No	Yes	1974	All	All	Education Social	Yes	No	Yes	No
RENAISSANCE	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	1987	All	All	Support Social/Ed	Yes	Affiliates Chapters	Yes	No
TRI-ESS	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	1977	Het CD[3]	Het CD[3]	Support Social/Ed	Yes	Chapters	No	No

*Table II: Areas of Expertise & Interest**

AEGIS– Information & referrals; publishing; education & outreach; referral network; health and treatment issues; body changing technologies; historic preservation; professional standards. Bookstore. MTF & FTM TS/TG/CD; Major focus on Professionals.

FTM International– Global interest in female-to-male issues; direct support; newsletter; education & outreach; referral network; support group. TS/TG/CD, Professionals.

ICTLEP– Legal and Employment issues; education & outreach; direct political action; lobbying; attorney referral network; conference proceedings. MTF & FTM TS/TG/CD, Professionals.

IFGE– Entry point into transgender community; education & outreach; referral network; publishing; grantmaking. International focus. Medical issues. Bookstore. MTF & FTM TS/TG/CD, Professionals.

OIGS– Entry point into community through Fantasia Fair (week-long annual event in Provincetown, MA); education & outreach; publishing; referral network. Bookstore. MTF CD (but open to all), Professionals.

Renaissance– Direct support; education & outreach; support groups; chapters & affiliates; newsletter. Bookstore. Publishing. MTF & FTM TS/TG/CD, Professionals.

Tri-Ess– Direct support for heterosexual crossdressers & female partners; chapters; publishing; education & support. Male CD & partners, but interested in serving heterosexual female crossdressers. Professionals.

** My assessment of the seven organizations. There's no guarantee they would agree with me!*

(Tri-Ess). Each of these organizations has a different focus, although there is duplication of effort. The organizations work together in many ways. For instance, for the past two years, AEGIS, IFGE, OIGS, Tri-Ess, and Renaissance have funded and staffed a transgender information booth at the annual meeting of the National Association of Social Workers. There is some overlap of Directors and staff; for example, Alison Laing, the Executive Director of IFGE, is on the Board of Directors of AEGIS and OIGS, and is one of the cofounders of Renaissance, and Dallas Denny, AEGIS' Executive Director, is on the Board of OIGS. This overlap is common in the larger business community; it improves communication among the organizations, so long as the organizations are not warring with one another (they aren't).

Yet even within this framework of cooperation and common concerns, there is considerable tension among the organizations because of differences of philosophy, direction, and focus, because of egos, and because they all depend upon the same limited financial resources. Yet each of the seven organizations has a certain *je ne sais quoi*; each appeals to certain types of people; each is capable of fulfilling its specific purpose as part of a unified transgender front. The leaders of these groups are working toward such a front.

Table 1 asks the following questions about each of the seven organizations: 1) Does it have "official" members? 2) Does it have 501(c)(3) nonprofit status? 3) Does it publish a journal? 4) Does it publish a newsletter? 5) Does it have a regularly scheduled conference? 6) When was it founded? 7) Who is eligible to join? 8) What is the focus (i.e. target group) of the organization? 9) What is the major thrust of the organization's activities? 10) Is there a Board of Directors? 11) Does the organization have chapters or affiliates? 12) Is there a store front? 13) Does the organization have paid staff, or is all work done by volunteers?

Only three of the seven organizations (IFGE, OIGS, and Renaissance) have an actual office, and only one (IFGE) has a paid staff. The work of the other six organizations is done by volunteers. Four of the organizations (ICTLEP, IFGE, OIGS, and Tri-Ess) have annual conferences; FTM International and AEGIS have been instrumental in founding conferences, but have none of their own. All seven organizations publish either a newsletter or a journal, and two (AEGIS and IFGE) have both. All of the organizations either have 501(c)(3) status or are in the process of obtaining it. Only one (FTM) does not have a Board of Directors [FTM is currently looking into 501(c)(3) status, which would require a Board]. Three of the organizations (AEGIS, Renaissance, and Tri–Ess), have either chapters or affiliate; Renaissance has both chapters and affiliates.

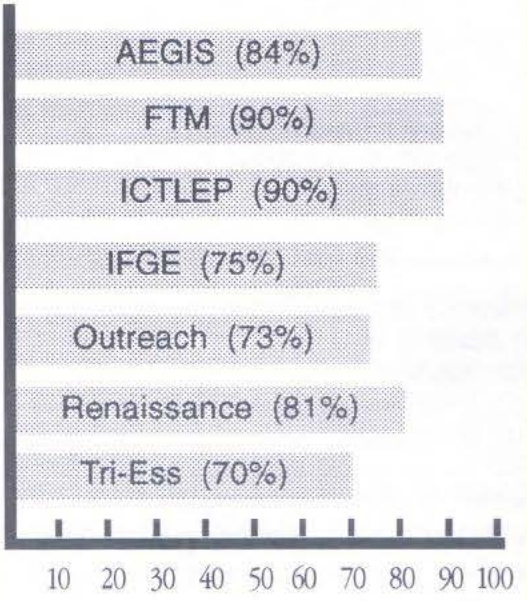
One area in which the organizations differ is in membership criteria. All of the organizations except Tri-Ess accept members without regard to self-identification, sexual orientation, or direction of travel (i.e., MTF or FTM). FTM Intl. does occasionally restrict a meeting to female-to-male persons, but only when extremely personal information like surgery results is being shared. Tri-Ess restricts its membership to heterosexual crossdressers and their female partners. To its credit, Tri-Ess realizes that its exclusionary membership practices are offensive to many in the

Table 2: Comparison of Financial & Survey Data

Data on this page were obtained from a mini-survey conducted on the internet. Respondents were unaware that AEGIS was conducting the survey. We don't claim that it is representative, as only those with computers and modems could participate, and we made no attempt to determine demographic information. 46 usable surveys were returned. Results should be considered but roughly representative of what a more extensive survey would show. We interpret the data as showing that the seven organizations fared about equally well in all areas surveyed.

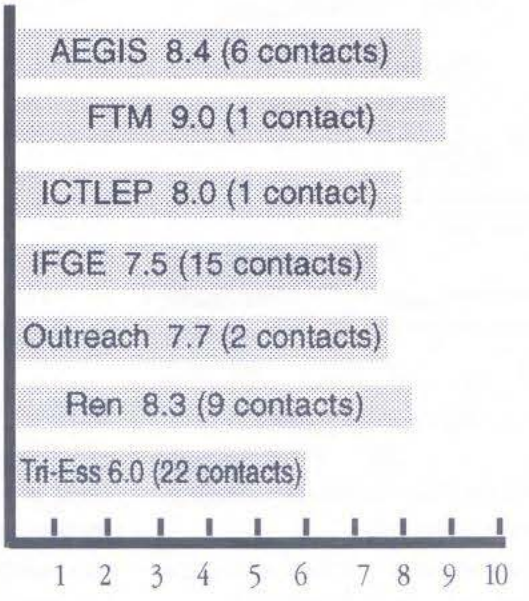
*Signal to Noise Ratio**

*(i.e. hype/performance, as judged by a sample taken over the internet. Respondents were unaware that AEGIS was conducting the survey)

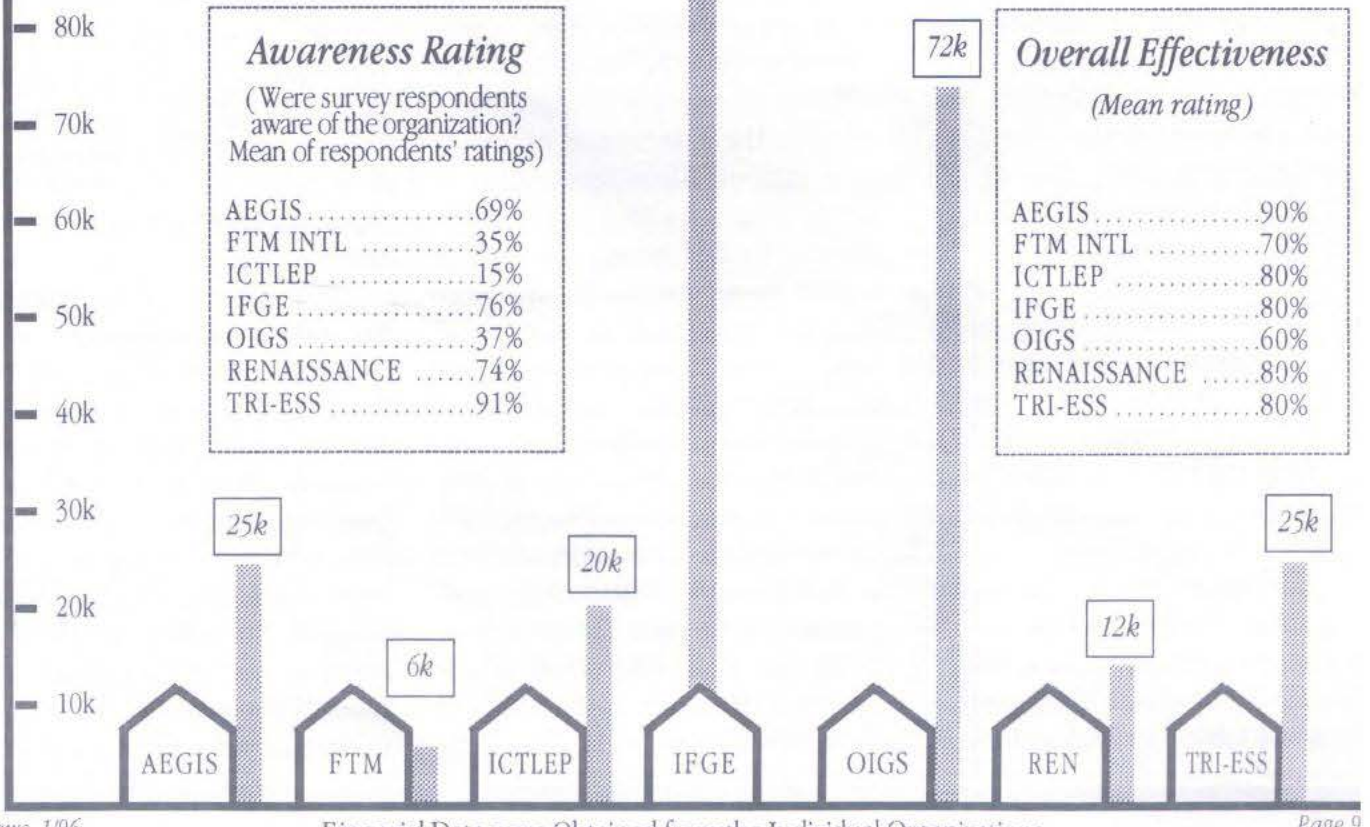


*Helpfulness**

*(i.e. was the organization forthcoming when asked for help? Mean rating & number of respondents who contacted each organization)



Annual Income, Thousands of Dollars, for 1994



Awareness Rating

(Were survey respondents aware of the organization? Mean of respondents' ratings)

AEGIS	69%
FTM INTL	35%
ICTLEP	15%
IFGE	76%
OIGS	37%
RENAISSANCE	74%
TRI-ESS	91%

Overall Effectiveness

(Mean rating)

AEGIS	90%
FTM INTL	70%
ICTLEP	80%
IFGE	80%
OIGS	60%
RENAISSANCE	80%
TRI-ESS	80%

Financial Data were Obtained from the Individual Organizations

Contact Information

American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc. (AEGIS)
Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033-0724
(770) 939-2128 business
(770) 939-0244 information & referrals
(770) 939-1770 FAX
aegis@mindspring.com
ftp: mindspring.com/users/aegis

FTM International
5337 College Avenue, #142
Oakland, CA 94618
(510) 287-2646
info@ftm-intl.org
http://ww.ftm-intl.org/

Outreach Institute of Gender Studies
126 Western Avenue
Ste. 246
Augusta, ME 04330
(207) 621-0858 (Voice & FAX)

International Conference on Transgender Law & Employment Policy, Inc. (ICTLEP)
5707 Firenza Street
Houston, TX 77035-5515
(713) 723-5515 Voice
(713) 723-1800 FAX
prfrye@aol.com

Intl. Foundation for Gender Education, Inc. (IFGE)
P.O. Box 367
Wayland, MA 01778
(617) 899-2212 Voice
(617) 723-1800 FAX
ifge@world.std.com
http://www.transgender.org/tg/ifge/index.html

Renaissance Education Association, Inc.
987 Old Eagle School Road, Ste. 719
Wayne, PA 19087
(610) 975-9119
bensalem@cpcn.com http://www.cdspub.com

Society for the Second Self (Tri-Ess), Inc.
P.O. Box 194
Tulare, CA 93275
(209) 688-9246
jeftriess@aol.com

community, and revisits the membership issue frequently.

Another area in which the organizations differ is in focus (Table I). FTM, OIGS, Renaissance, and Tri-Ess provide direct support through support groups or conferences (FTM in San Francisco only, OIGS primarily through Fantasia Fair, and Renaissance and Tri-Ess through a network of support groups). AEGIS, ICTLEP, IFGE, and OIGS, although they do work one-on-one with those who request help, concern themselves largely with substantive issues and education of clinicians and researchers (AEGIS, IFGE, & OIGS) and judges and attorneys (ICTLEP). ICTLEP is the only one of the seven organizations which engages in direct political action and lobbying.

Funding is always an issue for nonprofits. The 1994 income of each of the seven organizations is shown on page 9. Only two of the seven– IFGE and OIGS– had an income in 1994 of more than $25,000. IFGE's income, at $350,000, is greater than the combined incomes of the other six organizations. FTM Intl.'s 1994 income, at $6000, was the smallest.

It is difficult to convey the scope of the operations of the organizations graphically; however, in my opinion, all seven are about equally active in the amount and effectiveness of their outreach activities. There is no apparent relationship between level of income and level of activity. In our opinion, the amount of outreach and education done by the organizations is much more dependent upon the amount of available volunteers than upon income; to this end, FTM International, with a 1994 income of less than $6000, responded to requests for help from FTMs around the world, conceived and held a huge conference (375+ attendees), had a huge impact on coverage of FTM issues in the national media (with articles in *The New Yorker*, *Details*, and *Harper's Bazaar*), published a newsletter, held support group meetings, mounted an excellent home page on the World Wide Web, published a comprehensive resource guide for FTM persons, and was instrumental in helping to pass legislation which protects transgendered people in San Francisco. This surpassed the activities of even IFGE, which has a budget more than 50 times larger than FTM International.

The operating philosophies of the seven organizations are drastically different. ICTLEP, because of its focus on politics and law and the dynamic leadership of attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye, has a reputation for political activism, as it presses for reform of laws and employment policies. AEGIS takes a position of leadership in the medical and psychological arenas, where it has worked to change obsolete and incorrect ideas in the scientific and clinical arenas.

Renaissance strives for openness and diversity in its membership, and calls in its excellent newsletter for other organizations to do the same. Tri-Ess takes its message about heterosexual cross-dressing to colleges, universities, and to the airwaves. The other organizations do much the same for transgendered people in general. Although IFGE has never claimed to be a umbrella organization for the transgender community, and, under its previous leadership, even denied that it was, it certainly had that effect on the community throughout the late 1980's and early 1990's.

My Analysis (solely my opinion)

AEGIS, FTM International, ICTLEP, and Renaissance have a sense of the avant-garde about them; there is a sense of freshness and vigor about them. All four work and play well with the gay, lesbian, and bisexual community. IFGE, OIGS, and Tri-Ess have solid roots in heterosexual middle-class values and have historically appealed primarily to affluent middle-class transgendered males. Tri-Ess and IFGE, in my opinion send a "We're just like you except..." message. The other five organizations have more of a "We're not like you, and that's okay" air about them.

IFGE, OIGS, and Tri-Ess differ in that while Tri-Ess actively excludes those with transexual and homosexual identities from membership, IFGE and OIGS welcome them. OIGS regularly conducts seminars on homophobia at Fantasia Fair. IFGE, under the capable leadership of Alison Laing and other progressive staff and Board members, has been working hard on outreach to the gay and lesbian community, but sometimes sends subtle heterocentric messages, although almost certainly without realizing that it does so. For instance, IFGE continues to sell, without disclaimer, Virginia Prince's book *The Transvestite and His Wife*, which states, "Most homosexuals... have no hesitation about indoctrinating and initiating others into the practice.... the homosexual 'queen' [adopts feminine garb] for external effect– to attract males for sexual purposes and to ease ... guilt." Prince's book, revolutionary as it was when it was first printed in the 1960's, is an anachronism in the '90s. Its message is still important, but the book needs a face lift. Similarly, IFGE's display at its March 1995 conference in Atlanta promoted "Family Values," a term queer-identified people find offensive because of its appropriation by the Radical Religious Right– and of course, all of the couples pictured on the display showed a semblance of being "normally" heterosexual. To IFGE's credit, it works at serving everyone while offending no one, and is making considerable progress in learning how to do so. Please understand that I am not anti-IFGE or anti-Tri-ess– I am only calling it as I see it.

Taken together, the seven organizations fill a variety of niches and serve a variety of needs. The strengths and weaknesses of the seven organizations compliment each other nicely.

It's actually a good thing that two of the seven organizations are rather more conservative than the other five. That conservatism appeals to many, and perhaps even the majority of the members of the transgender community. The community *needs* both organizations, and the other five as well. Taken together, the seven organizations fill a variety of niches and serve a variety of needs. The strengths and weaknesses of the seven organizations compliment each other nicely.

Of course, the seven organizations are not static. All are young, so far as organizations go, and are still in a growth phase. IFGE has a dynamic new leader in Alison Laing, who has made major changes in the organization in her brief time there. The Outreach Institute, for the first time in years, has a strong Board of Directors, and Fantasia Fair is regaining the prominence it once had as the Queen of Transgender Events. AEGIS, which persisted for several years only because of the perseverance of one Dallas Denny, has finally acquired other staff members; Renaissance keeps adding chapters and affiliates; FTM International has exploded into a position of prominence in the last year; ICTLEP has been a major force in the new transgender political awareness which resulted in 100 transpeople visiting congressional offices in October. Only Tri-Ess, the second oldest of the organizations, remains fundamentally the same, adhering to a philosophy and policies which have enabled it to effectively serve thousands of cross-dressers for some 20 years.

These, then, are the seven major national transgender organizations. While none of them are perfect, they are each and every one effective in what they do. Each is a labor of love, a seed planted by a dreamer or dreamers, and nourished by the work of dozens of volunteers. Each is unique; we're lucky to have them.

In future issues of *AEGIS News*, Vision 2001 will continue. We'll be taking a look at the Congress of Transgender Organizations, regional and local transgender organizations, the importance of electronic communications, the state of transgender health care, & more.

Dismissed Transsexual Alleges Bias, Ponders Suit

RA's Firing has Fayetteville State (NC) Campus Abuzz

by Ruth Sheerhan
The News & Observer (Raleigh)
7 November, 1995

Fayetteville— It was the middle of summer term and Sharon Franklin Brown, along with three other resident advisers, had been approved for permanent positions at the all-female New Dorm at Fayetteville State University.

Brown had been a popular RA the previous year. She developed a warm rapport with the women in the dorm. With her interest in psychology, the area of her graduate studies, she was especially good at helping residents with personal crises.

"It was a great job," Franklin says. "I loved working with the students and they loved me." Then rumors started snaking across the small campus. University administrators, after doing a little digging, found out something that Brown had spent seven years trying to conceal: Biologically, she is a man.

On August 18, 1995, FSU fired Brown, who is tall and slender with delicate features, reportedly for misrepresenting herself on her application.

University officials won't comment on Brown's dismissal, saying it is a personnel matter. Brown, who has undergone the counseling and hormone treatments needed to become a woman— everything shy of actual sex reassignment surgery, will speak only cautiously about her situation.

But her firing has tongues wagging on campus. And members of the small transgender community nationally believe Brown's situation could be an important test case.

Brown, 29, who is still taking graduate courses at FSU and looking for another job, believes her dismissal was blatant discrimination. She has consulted an attorney and is weighing her legal options. But she also acknowledges that a lawsuit would be costly and perhaps futile.

Chances are she's right. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 bars employers from discriminating against people because of "race, color, religion, sex, or national origin." But it makes no provision for transsexualism. And in a landmark case in 1984, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against an Eastern Airlines pilot who was fired after her sex change, saying that sex discrimination does not encompass discrimination based on "an individual's sexual identity disorder or discontent with the sex into which they were born."

Only a few communities, most of them liberal outposts such as San Francisco, have human rights ordinances that specifically protect transsexuals from discrimination. For example, it was through a challenge to New York's human rights law that tennis star Renee Richards won the right to compete in the U.S. Open's women's division after her sex change.

In North Carolina, transsexuals have no such protection. And people like Brown, who are in the process of switching sexes but have not yet had the surgery, are particularly vulnerable, says Anne Bolin, an associate professor of anthropology at Elon College. "Pre-ops" occupy a social, medical and legal limbo, says Bolin, who has written extensively on male-to-female transsexualism. She believes transsexuals are sometimes treated poorly— once they are found out— because they threaten the paradigm of two sexes, separate and distinct.

"Once you start destabilizing gender, it makes a lot of people nervous," Bolin says. "Look at Sharon Franklin Brown. She was a social woman, who thought of herself as a woman, and was accepted as a woman. But for the single fact that she has a penis, and that the university learned she has a penis, she would still be working there.

"How much does her genitalia influence her performance on the job?" Bolin asks. "I would say zilch."

Brown agrees. After her dismissal, university spokeswoman Lauren Burgess said that the university has no policy requiring female resident advisers for all-female dorms. However, she said, that is the way it works in practice. But Brown is quick to point out that her assistant at the New Dorm was a man. And the current director of the dorm also is male.

Brown says the university came to her with undergraduate records on which she was still referred to as Franklin Brown, male. "They said the name was different and I was like, 'What?'" she says. "I did not lie anywhere on my application. My full name was there. Other people have names they like to go by."

Brown says university officials asked her to provide documentation from a physician that she had undergone sex reassignment surgery. She refused. "No one else was required to prove their gender," she says. "I hope to have the surgery one day, but I need to get together the money first."

Since her firing and subsequent "outing" on campus, Brown says she has been doing what she can to increase the public's understanding of transsexuality. In recent months she has made speeches to gay and lesbian groups at Duke and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She hopes to pursue a graduate degree in psychology and counsel people on gender issues.

"I hope one day that when people at work talk about their husbands and kids, transsexuals can feel comfortable talking about their lives, too," Brown says. "The way it is now, I think people are more comfortable talking about homosexuals; they're more accepted. "When you start playing with gender, it causes problems. It did for me."

Please write the Regents of Fayetteville State University and tell them how ashamed they should be. Their address is: Board of Regents, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC 28309.

ANTIDEFAMATION RAG

Complete, Cost Effective Gender Services

For the TS, TV, Gender Dysphoric, & Gender Curious

Gender Center of the Southwest
1101 Cheek-Sparger Road, Ste. 121
Colleyville, TX 76034
(817) 498-8707 (817) 656-5531

Dr. Carpenter & Associates

Individual Counseling
Peer Group Therapy (Clients & Family)
Complete Medical & Laboratory Services
Hormonal Evaluations for Qualified Individuals
Aesthetic Collagen Injections
Post-op Care, Gender Sensitive Surgical Referrals, & Legal Liaison

American Angel Clinic

Painless Electrolysis
AHA Facial Peels
Tattoo Removal
Complete Skin Care
Scar Revision
Permanent Make-up
Gender Sensitive Makeovers

Members of the HBIGDA and HBIGDA Conference Participants in 1993 and 1995. Intensive combined services available for our out-of-town clients. We are minutes from DFW Airport. Conveniently located between Dallas & Fort Worth, Texas, USA.
Call Today for further information & scheduling– Many Medical Insurance Plans may be utilized. Major Credit Cards Accepted.

Subjects Needed for Ongoing Research Projects

Joshua Gamson, Ph.D., a sociologist at Yale University, is writing a book on daytime television talk shows and sex/gender nonconformity. He is looking for people who have appeared on topic-oriented daytime talk shows (e.g., Geraldo, Ricki Lake, Donahue, Jerry Springer). His research is about the ways talk programs about lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transsexuals, and transgendered people tend to be produced, and the experiences of gender-crossing, transsexual, lesbian, gay, bisexual people on these shows. Dr. Gamson would appreciate hearing from anyone who is interested. Contact: Joshua Gamson, Department of Sociology, Yale University, P.O. Box 208265, New Haven, CT 06520-8265 [jgamson@minerva.cis.yale.edu]

William Turner, M.D., is doing a study of heritability of crossdressing and transsexualism. He pays a small honorarium to those who participate in his study. Call William J. Turner, M.D., at 1-800-448-12981 [wjtmd@aol.com]

Alice Webb, M.S.W., is researching aspects of the relationship of the female partners of FTM transgendered and transsexual persons. Contact her at P.O. Box 1718, Sonoma, CA 95476 [(707) 938-2871 Voice or Fax; hbigda@aol.com]

Sheila Kirk, M.D., is interviewing post-operative MTF transsexual persons. Contact her c/o IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778 [(718) 899-2212; ifge@world.std.com]

Joy Shaffer, M.D., and her colleagues are conducting a brain scan study of FTM and MTF transexual and transgendered persons; contact her at Seahorse Medical Clinic, 1570 The Almeda, Ste. 215. San Jose. CA 95126 [(408) 292-1078 Voice; (408) 292-5560 FAX; seahorsemc@aol.com]

*We Would Like to Thank Our 1995 Financial Supporters**

* *1 January - 1 October, 1995*

Benefactors ($500 or more)

Anonymous in the name of Friends of HIV and AIDS
Andrea Bennett, J.D.
Phillida Hutcheson **
JoAnn Roberts,. Ph.D.
Keith Rogers
William J. Turner, M.D.

Sponsoring Members ($250 or more)

Melissa Foster
Douglas Ousterhout, M.D.
Jane Petro, M.D.
Andrea Susan
Sheryl Ann Taylor
Katie Wasserman

Supporting Members ($100 or more)

Sean Marvel
Marisa Richmond, Ph.D.
Matthew Witten, Ph.D.

If you made a contribution of $100 or more and we left your name off this notice, we apologize in advance. Please let us know and we'll remedy our error. We only recently modified our software to track donations.

** *We would especially like to thank AEGIS Board Chair JoAnn Roberts, who has helped the organization in a thousand ways.*

Dr. A. S. Nubel

Psychotherapist

Specialized in Treatment
of Gender Identity Disorders (TV/TS)

Individuals
Marriage & Family
Groups

683 Donald Dr. N. (908) 722-9884
Bridgewater, NJ 08807 FAX (908) 722-0666

Insurance Accepted

The World Famous 8th Annual
Texas "T" Party...
Feb. 27 - Mar. 3, 1996
in DALLAS, TEXAS!

For information, call, write, or FAX:
Texas "T" Party
P.O. Box 17
Bulverde, TX 78163
Phone/FAX: (210) 980-7788

Please include S.A.S.E.

Libby A. Tanner, Ph.D., L.C.S.W., L.M.F.T.
5901 S.W. 100 Terrace
Miami, FL 33156
(305) 665-4934

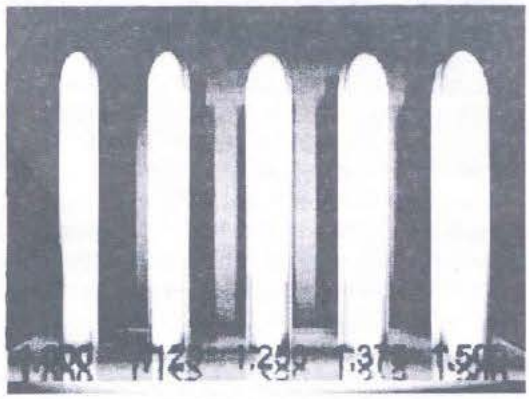
I would like to work more with transgendered people. I really enjoyed meeting many of you at the International Congress in L.A. in February, 1995. I am a clinical social worker-psychotherapist in private practice. I have taught sexuality to the health professions for years and am still an Adjunct Professor, University of Miami School of Medicine. I am AASECT-certified sex therapist and sex educator; a member of SSSS, Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, and newly joined AEGIS also.

I have worked with many transgendered people throughout the 25 years that I have worked in this sexuality field, but I would like to increase this aspect of my work. Please give my name to any persons in South Florida who might need my services.

Intelligence Engineering now offers improved therapeutic stents to medical professionals and the Post-Operative community.

Some patients have experienced difficulties trying to maintain a consistent dilation regimen using currently available stents. Our stents were designed by an engineer who has used the product herself, and has provided a limited number of prototypes to post-operative patients who report excellent results.

Modeled using computer-aided design, and manufactured of Delrin™ plastic, our stents satisfy the essential therapeutic objectives of achieving and maintaining adequate vaginal depth and width, and allow greater ease of use.



Each set consists of five stents in increasing diameters which allows the gradual stretching of tissues, unlike the abrupt stretching encountered when using the one or two sizes commonly provided. An improved nose shape allows easier penetration yet minimizes the danger of penetrating the vaginal wall. The eight inch length provides an ample gripping surface even during maximum penetration.

For more information, or to place an order, please contact:
Intelligence Engineering, PO Box 103,
Southington CT 06489-0103
(860) 621-7001
Email: elspeth@pcnet.com

AEGIS
American Educational Gender Information Service

AEGIS News is published four times a year by the American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc., P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Our telephone help line is (770) 939-0244; our business line is (770) 939-2128; our FAX is (770) 939-1770. Our e-mail addresss is aegis@mindspring.com. Our FTP site is at mindspring.com/users/aegis. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership-based corporation.

AEGIS Appoints Dr. Erin Swenson C.F.O.

Erin Swenson, Ph.D., a Presbyterian minister and licensed psychotherapist, has become AEGIS' first Chief Financial Officer. As C.F.O., she will be responsible for the overall financial management of the organization, including the identification and development of new financial resources. She will report to Executive Director Dallas Denny, who in turn reports to the Board of Directors.

Dr. Swenson accepted the position when Dallas offered it to her after Gary Reiser resigned from the AEGIS Board of Directors in order to pursue a stage career. Reiser, as Treasurer (a Board position) had been overseeing the organization's finances.

The establishment of a C.F.O. position adds a second executive position to the AEGIS staff, and is an important step toward AEGIS' future. The C.F.O. position, like all AEGIS Board and staff positions, is unpaid.

Profile: Board Member Gianna E. Israel

Gianna E. Israel has been in private practice as a Gender Specialist since 1988. She provides individual counseling and evaluations, group workshop, and support for couples. Nationally, she provides consultation services to medical and mental health professionals, employers, and government agencies, and is a prolific writer on gender issues. She is a member of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA).

Ms. Israel is a founding member of the AEGIS Board of Directors, and serves as Vice-Chair of the Board. She is principal author and project administrator for the Recommended Guidelines for Transgender Care, which is the upcoming first offering from AEGIS' Sullivan Press.

Ms. Israel resides in San Francisco, where she likes to take her dog, Jamaica, for long walks on sunny days.

A Note on Vision 2001

Since AEGIS was founded more than five years ago, I have had a belief that transgendered and transsexual persons should be informed and aware so that they can make good choices. I believe that about medical and psychological services, and I believe it about transgender community organizations. I wanted the first installment of Vision 2001 to be a sort of *Consumer's Reports* to the seven national organizations.

Vision 2001 is bound to generate criticism from individuals who feel that I have been less than fair to organizations with which they are affiliated. I want to be clear that I am discussing organizations, and not people. Organizations are more than just a collection of individuals; they are almost a life form in their own right. Each has a distinct personality which is determined by a host of factors. It is my opinion of this personality, this *je ne sais quoi* of each organization, that is most likely to cause offense. But I could no more write 2001 without giving my opinion than the editors of *Consumer's Reports* can evaluate toasters without finding features they like and dislike. I have been as moderate as possible.

I believe that the transgender community must be honest about its strengths and weaknesses. ***– Dallas***