

A 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporat ion

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aegis (e'jis), n. 1. in Greek mytbology, a shield or breastplate used by Zeus and later, by his daughter Athena; hence, 2. a protection. 3. sponsorship; auspices.

# Press Release

5/94 For Immediate Release

#### **AEGIS Announces \$500 Award for National FTM Conference**

The American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc. is pleased to announce an award of \$500 to a group which will provide a matching amount for purposes of conducting a national conference for female-to-male crossdressers and transsexual people.

AEGIS Executive Director Dallas Denny said, "We believe that our award will serve as a catalyst for a national conference for female-to-male persons. Such an event has been long needed. While most gender conferences are open to FTMs, the programming is usually geared primarily toward feminine self-expression. A conference for men will allow the the full expression of masculine energies, unconstrained by a model which originated to serve the needs of male-to-female persons. The fact is, there has never been a conference exclusively for FTM people, and the first one could take any form— a wilderness experience, for example. The possibilities are limitless. Quite literally anything could happen.

"We're very happy to be able to support the FTM community in this way. We have a very small budget, and quite frankly, we could use the money for other things we really need— but then again, the men need to have a space for themselves, and it's high time they had it. We're making this a priority. We're very committed to FTM people, and this is our way of acknowledging them.

"We are also doing an all FTM-issue of *Chrysalis Quarterly*, (our magazine) with Jason Cromwell serving as guest editor. We always welcome material about and by men."

#### Conditions are as follows:

1. Applicant may be an already existing nonprofit organization, support group, or group of individuals or a nonprofit organization formed for the purpose of organizing an FTM conference. Individuals and for-profits may not apply.

2. Applicants must plan to have a national conference for FTM persons within eighteen months of the date of the award (before 8/1/96).

3. Applicants must pledge an equivalent amount (\$500) to serve as matching funds.

4. Applicants must reserve at least \$500 of profits of the first-conference for seed money for a future conference.

5. Applications must be postmarked by midnight, 12/31/94, and should be sent to AEGIS, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033.

6. Applications should be in narrative form.

Timeline: Applications Due 12/31/94 Monies Awarded 2/1/95 Conference By 8/1/96

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Ms. Dallas Denny, M.A. Executive Director

National Operations P.O. Box 33724 Decatur, Ga. 30033-0724 404-939-0244

## AEGIS Press Release

# AEGIS... Has Gone National!

In October 1991, we changed our name.

And in January 1992, we became a nonprofit corporation.

Our new name is:

The American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc.

Our address is still:

P.O. Box 33724 Decatur, GA 30033-0724.

Our telephone number is:

(404) 939-0244.

We would appreciate it if you would update your records and publications to reflect these changes.

aegis (e'jis), n 1. in Greek mytbology, a sbield or breastplate used by Zeus and later, by bis dauter Atbena; bence, 2. a protection. 3. sponsorsbip; auspices.



### This is your Heart.



#### This is your Heart on hormones.



Hormones can change your life—for good, or for bad.

If taken under the supervision of a physician, they will, over the course of years, cause significant changes in the way you look and feel.

If taken recklessly, they can be harmful, or even fatal.

With hormones, more does not necessarily equal better. Taking excessive dosages of hormones will not feminize or masculinize you any faster than the proper dose, but will greatly increase health risks. To minimize your health risks, follow these simple guidelines. • You should never buy hormones on the street, or take hormones meant for another person.

• You should take hormones only when prescribed by a physician, and only in the amount prescribed. Your physician should periodically monitor your blood chemistry, and if he or she does not, you should ask for blood levels to be taken.

• You should not take hormones without approval by a licensed mental health professional.

• Never withold any portion of your medical history or any adverse reactions from your physician.

Abusing your body by overusing hormones will not get you from Point A to Point B any faster—but it just might get you to the morgue.

Remember: Too much of a good thing can be a bad thing.



Write us at: AEGIS P.O. Box 33724 Decatur, GA 30033-0724



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## Medical Advisory Bulletin

We are enclosing "This Is\_Your Heart," the second in our series of public service advertisements which warn of dangers commonly faced by transgendered persons. We hope you will publish it in your newsletter or magazine, either as a full page or in a half-page version, using the bottom half of the sheet ("This Is Your Heart On Too Many Hormones" and the following text). It is also possible to publish the ad as a "teaser," placing portions on up to four consecutive pages.

Feminizing and masculinizing hormones are necessary in order for most transsexual persons to live in the gender of choice, but they are not without risk and should never be taken without medical supervision.

Experimenting with hormones is illegal and can be dangerous. Black market preparations may be contaminated and may not be hormones at all. Even with the proper substances, overmedicating can cause a variety of debilitating and even fatal conditions, and undermedicating may result in few if any of the desired physical changes. The type of medication, dosage, and route of administration are critical, and can be regulated properly only by a physician.

Estrogens, the female hormones, are not magic bullets to grow breasts. Their effect is global. They will affect all major bodily systems, including the emotions, the sex drive, and the ability to procreate. This is also true for androgens, the male hormones.

It is important that those who desire to be on hormones understand the physical changes which will occur over time, and the effect those changes will have on their careers and their relationships with others. To do this, the individual should explore his or her gender dysphoria with a psychiatrist, psychologist, or counselor prior to beginning hormonal therapy.

Hormones should never be taken without an authorizing letter from a clinical behavior scientist as defined by the Standards of Care of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc., and only under the supervision of a physician who specializes in internal medicine or endocrinology, and who periodically monitors blood chemistries. It is critical that the individual be aware of the risks and benefits of the medications they are taking so that they can make an informed decision about taking them.

We recommend that those who are interested in learning more about the benefits and risk of hormones purchase <u>Hormones</u>, by Sheila Kirk, M.D. This inexpensive little book thoroughly discusses hormonal therapy in language the consumer can understand. <u>Hormones</u> can be ordered for \$9.50 postpaid from IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778. Phone: (617) 899-2212.

**Remember:** Safeguard your heart and your life. With competent medical supervision, the risks of hormones are minimal.