

The Society for the Second Self, Inc.
8880 Bellalre B2 Sulte 104
Houston TX 77036

July 15, 1996

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of AEGIS:

It is with overwhelming sickness of heart that we write this letter. Yet we must deeply deplore the recent attacks by Dallas Denny, your Executive Director, upon Tri-Ess and its Sigma Epsilon Chapter. It is most unfortunate that Dallas has chosen to violate the standards of responsible journalism by publishing pejorative comments without verifying the facts or doing adequate research. By her intemperate journalism she has let you, her Board of Directors, down. Worse, she has seriously damaged prospects for a community of all gender-gifted people.

There is no need to get down into the mud with Dallas, and we have no intention of doing so. Her attack has done little damage to Tri-Ess or to Sigma Epsilon Chapter. Their many support, social and educational programs bear silent but eloquent testimony to the good they do for people. Their continuing good works shine a light in this community that dark words cannot extinguish. They need no other defense.

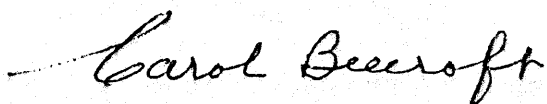
Of much more immediate concern is the threat to the fragile spirit of community that has recently been developing. By pooling talent and resources in joint projects, support organizations have reaped outreach dividends hitherto impossible. Local groups are laying aside their differences and tentatively reaching out to one another in friendship. And we have seen only a glimmer of what we can accomplish if we work together in community. We cannot afford to let that spirit die.

Divisive attacks such as the recent one by Dallas only polarize Genderland and shatter prospects for community. Even if based on carefully researched facts (which this was not), such internecine assaults are grossly inappropriate. Attacks breed defenses. People who feel threatened draw closer together and cleave tightly to the values that define who they are. One doesn't offer one's hand if he fears getting it shot off. Mutual trust is the *sine qua non* of community. There can be no mutual trust without mutual respect. For there to be true community among us, each of us must pledge to respect the integrity of all our colleague organizations. And that doesn't mean only those with which we agree. If we are truly committed to diversity, we will tolerate those whose approach is different from our own. Our community needs both Tri-Ess and Transexual Menace. We cannot justify private agendas by rationalizing that "I am right and they are wrong." How many human beings have been killed in wars someone defined as holy!

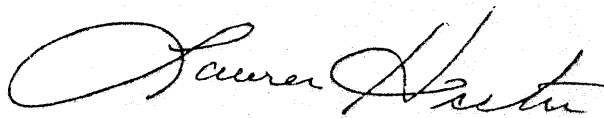
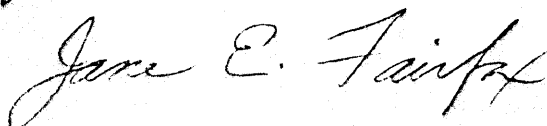
Dallas's journalistic behavior is most inappropriate for the Executive Director of a 501(c)(3) organization. Her bashing colleague organizations and meddling in their affairs are grossly irresponsible. By failing to document her facts before sounding off in an AEGIS publication, she has undermined both her own credibility and that of the organization she represents. It gives us no pleasure to see Dallas degrade herself so. Our emerging community needs her. That is why we make this communication to you privately rather than publicly. For the sake of our community, we respectfully request that you counsel with her about the standards of mature behavior required of one in her position. Even more urgently, we request that each of you meditate on what we can accomplish together, and renew your commitment to a diverse community. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Your colleagues and sisters,

Carol Beecroft, Executive Director
The Society for the Second Self, Inc.



Jane Ellen Fairfax, Chair
The Society for the Second Self, Inc.



Lauren Hester, Chair
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