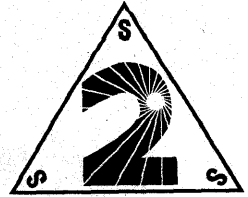




Sigma Epsilon  
P.O. Box 272  
Roswell, Ga. 30077  
404-552-4415



8-15-96

Dear Dallas:

Enclosed is my response, as  
Chairman of Sigma Epsilon, to your article  
last edition about Tei Ess and Sigma  
Epsilon.

Due to a virus in my computer, I'm  
forwarding this in text form - Didn't  
want to pass the virus along to your  
computer.

I have good faith you will run this  
"as is". Additionally I trust this  
incident and subject to be closed. I  
feel both our energies can be better  
spent on more constructive endeavors!

Sincerely  
Lauren Hecker

## **Chrysalis Editor Sticks Foot in Mouth !**

By Lauren Hester

In your last publication, Vol. 2 No. 3, you ran an article "Op-Ed, When Heteropocrisy Comes Home to Roost," in which you attacked Tri Ess in general and its Atlanta based chapter, Sigma Epsilon, in particular.

You opened with comments referring to your discomfort at remaining silent in order to maintain an illusion of community harmony. It is true that there is freedom of speech in America. Such freedom, however carries with it a responsibility. For journalists, who report factual information, that responsibility is particularly serious. I would recommend that, before you print an assault on an individual, group, institution, or philosophy, you gain firsthand information and verify the accuracy of your information. This is called responsible journalism, but you the editor of Chrysalis do not seem to feel any responsibility to check your facts. Perhaps your personal agenda overwhelms your obligation to report factually to your readers. It is unfortunate that in order to draw your biased conclusions, you resorted, in several articles, to hearsay evidence, half truths, and incidents taken out of context. Such irresponsible journalism only fosters animosity, inhibits cooperation between support groups, and erodes your credibility as a responsible journalist.

Let's look at a couple of examples. In your article "Op-Ed, Heteropocrisy Comes Home to Roost," you referred to a transsexual who attempted suicide and used wording in such a way as to mislead your readers into believing that Sigma Epsilon was in some way responsible for her suicide attempt. Yet on several occasions this sister has told you personally that her suicide attempt was due to severe personal problems at her work place. The only connection Sigma Epsilon had with this individual was that a friend at Sigma Epsilon invited her to attend a couple of dinner events. Unfortunately, because of her intense personal problems, her presence and behavior created problems with other members and their wives. Because she was in crisis, she was encouraged to seek more direct support in a group better equipped to render her counseling of the kind and depth she needed. Sigma Epsilon was never designed to render the kind of support she needed. In Atlanta, A.G.E. and the Montgomery Foundation are better equipped for this type of support. Sigma Epsilon simply acted as a good community citizen in making an appropriate referral.

In another article you reported that a Sigma Epsilon member, during a Sigma Epsilon function, asked a transsexual "aren't you uncomfortable here?" You implied that she was asked to leave. You failed to mention that the sexually fetishistic manner in which she was dressed was extremely inappropriate for the lobby of a four-star hotel, especially in view of other hotel guests and their children. She was an embarrassment to Sigma Epsilon and the entire gender community. At Sigma Epsilon we attempt to project a positive image of our community, yet it only takes one self centered and insensitive individual to undermine our efforts. So when we have visitors, we expect them to conduct themselves as ladies. This is a courtesy we would extend when visiting another

group, but a courtesy many visitors to Sigma Epsilon fail to extend us. Sigma Epsilon expects appropriate gentlemanly and lady like conduct at its meetings.

In your attack upon Sigma Epsilon, you go on to mention a past leader and how wonderful the organization was under her guidance. You are correct, Linda was a great inspiration and loved by us all. Yet organizations grow, and growth requires change and new ways of conducting business and offering support. Sigma Epsilon has grown tremendously in membership, financial strength, programs, and public visibility. Over the past six years we have registered over three hundred members, with only nine going on to become transsexual. This is 3% of our membership. It doesn't seem to me there are so many running off to become TS as you would lead your readers to believe. We at Sigma Epsilon are committed to extending support to heterosexual crossdressers and their wives and significant others. We offer no apology for our focused support, because the diverse-membership groups, for the most part, have forgotten wives and families' needs in order to promote a transgendered lifestyle with no responsibility to anything except "what I want."

Your article really boils down to attacking anyone or anything that fails to live up to your come one, come all philosophy. Any group that chooses to specialize in their services or support, you label exclusionary and thereby homo- trans- etc. phobic. You have a right to your opinion ! But in this wide world there are other perspectives and desires. As a transsexual friend of mine said, " Open Groups are like a Jack of all Trades, but a Master of None." You just can't be everything to everyone and be effective ! The focused groups, whether they be CD, TS, Gay, etc., are the ones that really provide meaningful support. CD, TS, Gay, Bi/CD, etc. have many similar needs and concerns, yet at the same time they have needs and concerns that are very different from one another. Heterosexual crossdressers in marriages with children have their own unique issues and needs. But I forget, according to your many articles, most heterosexual crossdressers are really closeted bi, gay, or transsexuals. Really ! What Chrysalis espouses is a large social group, inclusive of all and really not dedicated to anything. Most diverse membership groups fail to render any real support, but instead just become merry ole social groups that could not care less about wives and families. They promote self indulgence rather than restraint and responsibility.

So today we have Tri Ess and Sigma Epsilon, a very successful focused support structure that cares about crossdressers and their wives and families, and which attempts to render support to both the crossdresser and his wife and family. It is the very nature of this focused support that has made Tri Ess so successful. We state openly what we stand for and what we offer. True there are people who come to Tri Ess who are not honest with Tri Ess or themselves as to who and what they are. But this is not a perfect world and many people are never totally honest with themselves or with others. This is not a reflection upon an institution or what it stands for, but rather a reflection upon the lack of honest intimacy mankind has with itself. We at Tri Ess and Sigma Epsilon are not perfect, but we have found a need and are focused upon serving that need. We offer no apology. We only ask Gods help in fulfilling that need !