

1827 Haight St #164
San Francisco CA 94117
October 16, 1987

Dear Bet,

More apologies for my long delay in responding to your letter of July. On the whole I am feeling very well, but so TIRED. Only a half day of being "out and about" wears me down. T

Hope you were able to go to the March in Wash DC. I'm certain you must have, being so close already. How was it? Any "transy" happenings? I seriously considered it, but opted instead to do something for the female-to-male and went to Reno to meet with Dr. Ira Pauly, an "expert" on the female-to-male. Since he's never seen one who's identified as a gay man and I wrote that he better see me before I kick off. He was impressed, and even made a videotape of our interview to show other gender professionals. I

So good to hear of your progress with your psychic healer/channeler, especially where she said, "Don't ever doubt yourself." I know that's hard. Have you gone to the "B Group" in NYC yet? I'm very interested to hear what that's all about.

You asked about my ex-lover, why I left, etc. I met him about a year after I began living full-time as a man--he is 10 yrs. younger than me and I was his first lover. We lived together 5 yrs. - the last 2 he also had a girlfriend on the side, which I "didn't mind" as long as I was #1. Well, as time went on, I was far from #1 and finally realized I had to move out if I was ever going to find another lover. That's it in a nutshell. Before this relationship, I was with another man for 10 yrs. He liked to play/pretend I was his boyfriend and we'd go to the gay men's bars together, he'd introduce me to his co-workers as his boyfriend, etc., but he only wanted to pretend and said he'd leave me if I ever did hormones/surgery. I delayed my transformation a long time because I didn't think I could live without him. I was at my most feminine period when he left me for another woman anyhow! How did I find support for my process? I'd heard about one other female-to-male in the area, met with him a few times... but basically I had no support. I just knew this was the only way I wanted to live my life. T

When I wrote, "I'd rather be a physically handicapped male than a mentally handicapped female," I meant just that. In deciding whether to do the whole change and considering the female-to-male surgery, I realized that I'd end up with a less than functional penis, that I'd never be able to get it up and fuck and cum like a REAL MAN, that I'd have scars across my chest, and would always have to make up an excuse for these impairments. But these physical limitations were more acceptable to me than envisioning the rest of my life as a "mentally handicapped female," totally alienated and hating her body and enduring the daily torture of the rest of humanity responding to me as a woman. I hated that position THAT MUCH. T

You wrote that you're having a hard time embracing the TV part of your identity, "perhaps because I've never had a partner who affirmed this in me enough." Bet, don't count on anyone to do that! Even my last relationship, as good as it was for years, was less than a positive experience in many ways, especially sexually. I'm still kicking myself for delaying my change so many years for fear that my lover of 10 yrs. would leave. There just ain't such a thing as "happily ever after," and especially now, knowing I'm gonna be on my deathbed soon... I know I'm going to be the only one dying, and thinking of how I spent my time here. Life, as well as death, are ultimately lonely experiences. We ourselves are the only ones we can count on, the only ones we must ultimately answer to, in the end.

You expressed a wish to buy a mustache. Look in the Yellow Pages under Wigs & Hairpieces. T

Did you get a photo of the painting done of you crossdressed? I'd love to see it. Enclosed is one of me, taken a few years ago, but I still look the same.

Thank you so much for the "Living With AIDS" article (I truly believe information is power) and copy of your speech. I've always been totally amazed at why gay women have embraced AIDS as a lesbian concern. Your speech explained it to me better than anything else.

Until next time,

Yours in liberation,

Lou

Am also enclosing a copy of FTM, a newsletter we've put together out here. We had 9 F-M's at Get-Together #3. T

The Tanner's Art

And Its Appreciation at Leather Weekend at The River



Mistress Kathy places the clothespins for a better fantasy (Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

by Joy Schulenburg

Since the 1985 flood which inundated the town of Guerneville, the pace in the Russian River area has been a little slow. Rebuilding is a costly, time-consuming process, and many of this resort town's attractions were small businesses hard hit by the flood. The good news is that, this summer, gay life at the River is in full swing again. Last weekend helped reestablish the River as a great place for sun, fun, and relaxation as hundreds of people poured into town to enjoy Leather Weekend at Club Atlantis.

Formerly Drumm's, Atlantis opened this spring under new ownership. It is a great space offering a pool, camping, tennis, and volleyball courts, and some of the best entertainment north of San Francisco. They also know how to put on one hell of a good party. Leather Weekend was just that — a three-day super party enjoyed not only by the leather community, but by just about everyone fortunate enough to be at the Russian River during the event.

The weekend began on a note of high drama with Friday's Fantasy and Fetish Night. The fetish of choice was very obviously black leather in all its possibilities of clothing, toys, and accessories. While the vacation crowd looked on with a mixture of curiosity and bemusement, leatherwomen and men from all over Northern California indulged their appreciation for the tanner's art. The fashion show alone was worth the two-hour trip up to the River. By the time the show began, the scene more closely resembled a gala at the Eagle than a summer night at a resort, with many of the same people and organizations attending.

California leatherwomen were

well-represented by title-holders such as Shadow Morton (Ms. San Francisco Leather) and Kim Wallace (Ms. Sacramento Leather). Members of several women's motorcycle clubs were present, and the current acting president of International Ms. Leather, Sky Renfrow, attended the event with her leg in a cast from a recent accident. The strong presence of the women confirmed that Club Atlantis has established itself as a place where both women and men can relax and mingle comfortably. The staff is co-sexual and the hiring of colorful Audrey Joseph as one of the club managers should insure the continuing attraction of the club to women.

Friday night's performances took the audience deep into the realm of fantasy and psychodrama. Beginning with a rather lengthy demonstration of leather toys and implements by Ron and Don of Sacramento, the performers drew out their audience with the lure of something potentially forbidden — the stuff that good fantasies are made of. The second scenario, choreographed by Robert Ratliff of Mr. S Leathers in San Francisco, brought life to a beautifully erotic enactment of one man's fantasy. It was clearly shared and appreciated by many in the room. The third performance featured a demonstration of skill and precision with a bullwhip that quickly cleared the crowded dance floor and set a more solemn tone for the grand finale. All in all the entertainment was professional and fascinating. For many it was an introduction to a side of gay life they had heard of, but never seen. The presentations were intriguing enough to warrant the management's warning that spectators should not attempt to duplicate any of the activities at home without guidance.

(Continued on next page)

MEAT ME.

ALL NEW!
DIFFERENT INTRODUCTIONS
ON EACH CALL.



\$2.00 plus toll

NEW MESSAGE WITH EACH CALL LEAVE YOUR NUMBER AND HE'LL FIND YOU

GAY INTRO (415) ²¹³₈₁₈ **976-3800**



The DJ got into the spirit of Leather Weekend at Atlantis
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Leather

(Continued from previous page)

The final performance of the evening proved that fantasy need not be overtly sexual to be highly erotic. It featured Mistress Kathy, former president of International Ms. Leather, in a highly charg-

ed and all too brief scenario. Since moving to Guerneville this spring, Mistress Kathy has lost none of her showmanship or air of command. Friday night, she used her magnetism to excellent

advantage, creating a visually stunning scene that conjured up images of pagan priestesses and ritual sacrifice. The intensity of Kathy's performance and the unabashed beauty of her supporting actors combined to create a haunting scene that refuses to be banished from memory.

The major regrettable factor about this last piece is that it was a one-time-only event rather than an ongoing theatrical work. Those who missed out on it will have to hope that the audience response will pave the way for future performances. Club Atlantis co-owner Larry Evans has indicated that Leather Weekend may become an annual event, but even this would not tap the full potential evidenced during Friday night's performance.

There was a lighter atmosphere Saturday night. The crowd put away their dramatic costumes and came out to hear singer Lolita Holloway. Despite a few technical problems, the show was enjoyable and Holloway capable of generating high energy. With her strong voice and easy patter, she kept the dance floor lively and established a party mood at the club. In fact, the party mood was contagious, and most of the bars enjoyed some brisk business that night. A number of private parties were in full swing, and the campground at Atlantis was the scene of a lot of hilarity that lasted throughout the weekend. With all of the facilities nearby, camping at Atlantis is definitely not roughing it!

Sunday's erotic auction, emceed by Mistress Kathy, resplendent in hot pink leather, successfully raised funds for several charities. These included the AIDS Food Bank, the Sebastopol



Men and women participated in Leather Weekend at Atlantis
(Photo: Photo Graphics/Darlene)

Humane Society, and International Ms. Leather. There was some lively bidding on a variety of services and goods, including everything from professional massages to bar tabs at local establishments. San Francisco businesses such as the Port Deli donated dinners to be auctioned and, judging from the enthusiastic bidding, there is a lot of traffic back and forth between San Francisco and Guerneville this summer. A two-night stay at the Russian River Resort, one of the most attractive and gracious of the area resorts, was the focus of some energetic bidding by people eager to return for another break from the city.

The legend of Atlantis tells

that this lost continent lies beneath the sea, sunk eons ago in a great deluge. Someday, the story continues, Atlantis will rise again, heralding the start of a new age. The rise of Club Atlantis out of the muck and detritus of the Russian River is not quite so glamorous as the saga of a lost continent, but it is certainly a success story. In its choice of staff and independent production people, the club is proving itself to be innovative and original. By taking a risk and trying something a little different, Atlantis has paved the way for a spurt of new growth and excitement at the Russian River. Let's hope the success of Leather Weekend was just the beginning. ●

Ringold Does Dore Aug. 2

You heard it right. The third annual Up Your Alley block party and carnival has moved to Dore Alley (between Folsom and Howard and 9th and 10th streets).

The location has changed, but the concept has not: good food, gaming booths, and drink. The event begins at noon on Aug. 2 and goes until dusk. A stage will be added this year, with the Bay Area's brightest stars, Miss Kitty and the Psycho Souls Blues

Band, Danny Williams, and Jo Carol Block, just to name a few, performing.

And the fun does not stop there. An after-the-affair tea dance will be hosted by the Warehouse, 333 11th St., beginning at 5 p.m.

Up Your Alley will again benefit the AIDS Emergency Fund, Community United Against Violence, and Gay Games III.

See you on Dore. ●

Sweet Lips

(Continued from page 36)

to try Chez Mollet at 527 Bryant St., as Lenny serves the best, and in comfortable surroundings.

Starting on Sunday the 2nd of August, Ginger's Too will be having the one and only Miss Beverly back in the kitchen doing her famous and fabulous brunches, so we'll be looking forward to seeing you. Yours truly also makes great fresh fruit daquiries.

Doug Twist of the Five Star

Bar in Reno says "hi" to one and all here and loved having Don Rogers, Eddie Chan, John Tom, and Beverly up there. Thank you Mr. Rogers for the great Five Star Pin you bought for me; love it.

Had a nice chat with Lynn Bumpus, a.k.a. Lucy of Portland, who is doing his thing at the very popular Brig, which is part of the Fish Grotto complex, and Lucy invites everyone to stop by when in Portland . . . P.S. he sounds just great. Hi Kelly of Ray's Ordinare Bar & Grill. Hope you aren't getting Lucy into too much trouble. ●

LOU SULLIVAN
1827 HAIGHT ST #164
SAN FRANCISCO 94117

(incl. photo)
1984

BET POWER
146 RIVERBANK RD
NORTHAMPTON MA 01060



OCT
STAMP COL

