

October 17, 1987

Dear Rupert,

Thank you so much, Rupert, for your letter informing me of the Honorary Life Membership in Metamorphosis Foundation, Inc. It really made me proud and I am truly honored to be included among your illustrious Life Members.

Though diagnosed with AIDS in January, I continue to feel well, with the help of AZT and other experimental treatments. Since my lifespan is now seriously limited, I am devoting my energy to what is most important: the female-to-male. While searching for a publisher for my biography of Jack Bee Garland, I've have begun to edit my personal diaries dating 1961 to the present for an autobiography.

I organized and held the Bay Area Female-to-Male Get-Together #3, attended by nine F-M's, and distributed the first issue of our newsletter, FTM (copy enclosed). I hope to organize these get-togethers and publish FTM every three months.

I am also very excited about the long past-due recognition of the female-to-male gay man by the gender professionals. Dr. Paul Walker phoned to tell me that our existence was acknowledged at the Harry Benjamin Symposium in Amsterdam in June. At present, Dr. Eli Coleman at the University of Minnesota is attempting to confidentially interview as many F-M's as possible who identify as bisexual or gay men for an upcoming study. (To participate in this study, call Dr. Coleman collect at (612) [REDACTED], or write him at [REDACTED] Ave. S.E., Minneapolis MN 55414.)

On October 12, I met with Dr. Ira Pauly in Reno, Nevada, a noted expert on the female-to-male, who has never seen one identifying as a gay man. We made a videotape of our interview for use in educating other gender professionals on this subject. Dr. Pauly informed me that the Diagnostic & Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders published by the American Psychiatric Assn. still defines the female-to-male who is attracted to females as "homosexually oriented," so that a female-to-male interested in men would be defined as "heterosexually oriented." We both agreed that this terminology was inaccurate, did not even define what was occurring, and needed to be changed in order to acknowledge the true experience of these relationships. Dr. Pauly promised to pursue the change of this important discrepancy.

Am also enclosing a photo of Storme de Larverie, a black woman who was the emcee and a male impersonator in the legendary "Jewel Box Revue." Her drag routine dazzled audiences in black theatres across America from 1939 to 1973, with considerable commercial success in the 50's and 60's.

Don't know if the Swedish film My Life as a Dog is showing in Canada, but it is a big hit here. A minor character plays the part of an adolescent female-to-male and even features a scene in which she binds her breasts!

Rupert, I have begun excerpting my diary entries describing my experience undergoing genitoplasty, in order to put together an article for Metamorphosis, but it won't be ready to send to you for a while. I had some recent photos taken and if they turn out, I'll send them along with the article.

That's all for now. Feel free to publish any/all of this letter, as well as items from FTM, in your next issue.

Yours in liberation,

P.S. Also a flier on "Pope Joan," distributed here while the Pope was visiting in San Francisco.