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San Francisco CA 94117

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Alice Webb, MSW  
██████ Broadway, ██████  
Galveston TX 77550

Dear Alice,

It was great to hear from you again, and I'm glad to hear you're still working in the gender field. We seem to be losing so many of our "old timers."

Regarding information I offer to female-to-males, besides my INFORMATION FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE booklet (which is now at the printers in its newly updated and expanded third edition), the only other thing I send out is FTM, a quarterly newsletter. I'm enclosing the latest issue and have placed your name on my free mailing list for future issues. I hope you will tell your F-M clients about FTM so I can put them on the mailing list, too. Since December '86 I've also been organizing quarterly get-togethers for female-to-males only (we had our eleventh gathering Sept. 24), which are attended by some 10-20 FTMs.

Marginally related, I've recently finalized a book contract with Alyson Publications in Boston, which is publishing a biography I've written (a true story) about a female-to-male who lived in San Francisco from 1869-1936 named Jack Bee Garland. I've put five years of work into it, and it should be available in January/February.

As far as my health is concerned, I think I've been doing very well. In July they diagnosed me with MAI (mycobacterium avium intercellulare), some infection related to tuberculosis of the blood; my spleen and liver are both enlarged, and I'm taking medication that makes me very nauseous and gassy all the time, but it's nothing debilitating. I've had about 7 blood transfusions so far because my blood counts are so low, and it's a constant hassle keeping my weight up. But I still get out of the house, ride my motorcycle and accomplish something every day, though my energy level is much reduced. No, I am no longer on AZT. I took it for about 2 years and then it started working against me (causing anemia), so I had to go off it this past January. But I do credit it for giving me those extended years.

I hope you saw the videotape interview with me and Ira Pauly at the Benjamin Symposium. Lin Fraser tells me it was very well received and it is now officially OK for a female-to-male to have a gay male orientation. I'm so proud! When I was diagnosed with AIDS in December '86, I determined to accomplish two things before I kicked off: one was to publish my Garland biography, the other was to educate the gender profession so that never again will a female-to-male be rejected by the gender clinics because he wanted to live as a gay man. Both of my wishes have come true!

You asked about my genitoplasty (or, as they're now calling it, metaidioplasty) by Brownstein. I am quite happy with the surgery, for what it is. There isn't much "function," in that the penis (in reality, the enlarged clitoris) is only about an inch long, so isn't functional for intercourse, and the urinary extension he did was only to the base of the penis, and when I urinate, it just dribbles down my balls, so I can't stand to pee. However, I have total erotic sensation in my scrotum and penis and can masturbate like a male, and feel that it looks totally male, though quite small. There is minimal scarring. I'm not self-conscious about stripping down in front of other guys anymore. As I said, the genitoplasty is more for appearances than for function -- I knew that from the outset, and am satisfied with the way it looks and with the way it feels. I also chose this method because of its low cost (\$5,000 as opposed to some \$20,000+ for phalloplasty). If you want to talk more about this, my phone is 415-██████████. Best time to call me is evenings after 5 p.m.

Let's not allow so much time to pass between communications, Alice. Until next time,

Regards,

Lou Sullivan