May 9, 1991

Newsletter

Dear FTM,

I was a friend of Lou Sullivan's and had correspondence with him since ~~1984~~ ~~1987~~ 1986. I am a FTM Transvestite, a straight man inside, who has always known that my soul is a man's. I live 3,000 miles away from San Franscisco, in New England and yet, Lou was the most special friend I have ever had.

Lou was my very first validator as a FTM. Because of him, I became able to identity myself openly as a FTM TV. Before Lou, I had no language for my man soul and absolutely no support.

Weeks after Lou's death, I continue to grieve.

I will never forget the precious 4-hour talk I had with Lou one Spring afternoon in Lou's apartment at the time when he first began to feel the effects of AIDS. I came in making small talk about Lou's birds and photography, but Lou would have none of it. He sat me down in his kitchen, looked me deeply in the eyes and insisted on talking man-soul to man-soul. In my 41 years, I have never experienced a conversation so deep as this one. And, in sum, I have [redacted]ver experienced a friend who gave me so m[redacted]h.

Lou's gift to me was voice and visibility for my identity. It was space in the world for my man-soul to live.

Lou's death was a tremendous loss for me. Some mornings I wake up and ask myself, "Was it me who died?" I am concerned that I may return to an isolated place of not enough support now that this dear man, who was my main FTM support, has gone.

I am interested in corresponding with other FTM TVs or TSs who were similarly impacted by Lou. Perhaps we can share our grie[redacted]our loss, our fears and our future plans. If you were also a fr[redacted]nd of Lou's, please write to me and I will surely respond.

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