

March 13, 1984

Dear Lou,

Happy Saint Patrick's Day! I hope you are in good health and spirits and that all is going well for you in your life. Since I haven't written you a personal letter in quite a long time, I felt that now might be a good time.

Firstly, I resigned my position of "shipper" at the factory where I was employed for almost 4 years, on December 30th. I am currently collecting unemployment insurance benefits. I plan to return to college in the fall and so, I have applied to 4 community colleges in Toronto for admission into either their journalism program (first choice) or their social work program (second choice). I also plan to apply for a government-sponsored student loan/grant.

In the meantime, I am engaged in a number of pursuits. I am taking a Standard First Aid course offered by the Saint John's Ambulance Society. Also, I will soon be taking several driving lessons in order to prepare/refresh me for the driving examination so that I can obtain my new driver's licence. (My original licence expired in 1977 because I forgot to renew it in time). Additionally, I will soon begin a training program for volunteer workers at the Toronto Distress Center (telephone crisis-line counselling). As well, I might volunteer my journalistic services and work on a community newspaper or a society or club newsletter. Finally, I have also just begun to work on my "MANUAL FOR FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUALS" (which, hopefully, will be completed by September--before I start school).

Socially speaking, I attended the Valentine's Party sponsored by FACT on my 32nd birthday (February 10th) and the guests there presented [redacted] with a birthday cake and sang "Happy Birthday" in my honour. My fiancée, [redacted], accompanied me, and then, the following evening, she took me "out on the town" for dinner and dancing. We had a really romantic evening.

My sister, middle brother and his girlfriend, and, my youngest brother and his girlfriend, all drove down together from Ottawa and visited me on the weekend following my birthday (February 17-19th). We had a sort of little "family reunion" together, which was rather nice.

I will be co-hosting a Saint Patrick's Party this Saturday at Diane Gedge's residence. (She was the former Director of the "WE HELP YOU" Group--which has just recently folded due to lack of funds, time, and people power).

My fiancée, [redacted], and I plan to rent another apartment together in Toronto sometime soon (hopefully by this June). She will be moving back to T.O. from Kitchener (where she currently resides in her house there--which she rents out to her maiden aunt), and then, she will start up her own business (hair-styling salon) again. (She spends every third weekend with me in Toronto). We were hoping to "tie the knot" on her birthday (July 6th) but it all hangs upon certain administrative obstacles (ie. whether the Roman Catholic Church will consent to perform the wedding ceremony for us, as they will not permit a F-M TS to marry unless he can both consummate the marriage, and also, impregnate his wife. And, as you know, I do not have a penis--erectable, ejaculative or not!)

I saw the television movie, "HER LIFE AS A MAN", starring Robyn Douglass, last night. I thought it was quite interesting/fairly entertaining but also, rather superficial and not really very serious, because, I felt, there were so many other important aspects of the "art of passing" as well as other relevant sex-/gender-related issues that could/should have been included. What was your opinion/reaction? Please comment. I haven't seen the film, "YENTYL", starring Bhabra Streisand yet. Have you, and if so, what did you think of it?

Well, I guess that about "wraps it up" for now. So, please write me when you get the chance, and, "keep hanging in there". Take care now.

Love and Peace,

Rupert

*D. Gedge*