1827 Haight St #164
San Francisco CA 94117
April 30, 1988

Dear Bet,

I heard through Shane Harley via Gayle Rubin that you were coming to S.F. in March, but I guess you didn't make it, or else I missed you. What's the scoop?

Lots happening since my last letter (last October, yikes!). My health has been good, except I was pretty out-of-it over the Xmas/ New Years holidays. I had the hiccups for 5 DAYS! No lie. The docs couldn't explain it, and I couldn't eat, sleep, etc. Really brutal. But since that episode, nothing out of the ordinary.

Thanks so much for the photos of the March on Washington and the eloquent description of your experience there. I think I get the same "high" from the Gay Pride Parades here every June - hundreds of thousands of people partying in the streets.

Am enclosing copies of our FTM Newsletter. We had 18 FTM's at our March Get-Together, with 8 "significant others." Have you succeeded in putting together that support group for "lesbian butches & F-M TVs," as mentioned in your last letter? How's it going? Re: the videotaped interview I made with Ira Pauly - I went back to Reno in January to speak to his med students and we did a more professional version of the video interview. Pauly promised to send me a copy and I can probably make a copy of my copy to send you, if he really comes through with it. No, I haven't seen "Fun With a Sausage," but it sounds hilarious. Do tell me about it. Another fun video is "Just One of the Guys." Someone recommended "All of Me" with Lily Tomlin, but I haven't seen it yet. Of course you know about Vanessa Redgrave in "Second Serve" - undoubtedly the BEST F-M acting job EVER.

You asked whether your feeling of "being a man's spirit/mind/soul in a female body" can be a FTM TV feeling as well as a TS feeling. I believe that feeling is essential to ANY FTM identity, whether TV or TS. I guess the fine line between TV and TS is simply how intolerable you find your female body. The TV can tolerate/enjoy/ relate to the female body - the TS cannot. What do I think of TS's who decide against hormones/surgery? My first impression would be to say such persons are not TS, but when I remember that there have ALWAYS been FTM TS's, and that hormones/surgery have only been an option for the TS, say, for the last 20-30 years... well, there have been LOTS of TS's who've lived without the physical change. But since the physical change IS possible now, I cannot imagine why a hardcore TS would choose not to pursue it.

Did you land the "corporate ad creative director" job at Hartford insurance?

I got the BEST news, though. I've signed a contract with Alyson Publications in Boston to publish my biography of Jack Bee Garland (he's featured on pg. 28 of my INFO FOR THE F-M booklet). I'm SO happy, as I was saddened thinking that I'm going to die and my 4 years of work on this book would be tossed in the dumpster. Now I can envision leaving it in the libraries instead! I spent 5 days in Honolulu this month gathering additional info for the book - what a beautiful place that is. City of bodies! Mmmm-mmm.

Well, Bet, that's all I know. What's happening on your side of the country?

Regards,

Lou

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