

1/19/88

Dear Alyn,

Please excuse my long delay in responding to your phone call of Dec. 10. This past month everything that could have gone wrong (& I mean EVERYTHING) did.

First my motorcycle conked out (it sat for 3 weeks in nonstop rain before I got it going again). Next we had an explosion & real bad fire on the top floor of our apt. bldg. I just grabbed my 23 years worth of diaries & my computer disks with my Garland biography & got the hell outa there. While our apt. suffered no flames, we did incur a lot of water damage. We're still taking in water, as we have no roof on the bldg. &, like I say, it hasn't stopped raining. Fortunately nothing really valuable was ruined.

Then I got sicker than a dog. Started as a sinus infection with a headache so bad I couldn't open my eyes. Then I hiccuped for 5 days! No lie. Couldn't eat or sleep. Docs told me to stop the AZT, did a CAT scan, a lumbar puncture (fluid from spine), & chest x-ray, but everything was fine. Gave me a bunch of downers, but that made me even more out of control. Finally, I just stopped taking everything they gave me, took a bath, smoked a joint & tried to concentrate on breathing & that's how I got it back together. When I returned to the doc & told her what I did, she advised that I just smoke a joint next time I'm feeling ill cuz it'll probably be better for me than to come to the hospital & take the junk they give me!

Anyway, I'm back among the living & feeling OK. Back on the AZT for a week now at half dose.

I'm so glad you went to Wash DC for the March. I knew many people who went. I was real tempted to, but instead I went to Reno & met with the doc who's supposedly Mr. Expert on the Female-to-Male, but who's never heard of or seen one who's a gay man. So I rectified that! We made several videotaped interviews & I spoke to his sophomore medical student class. Remember the goodbye letter you gave me from GPU when I left Milw for S.F.? I gave a copy of it to the doc in Minnesota who's writing my "case study" as proof you all accepted me way back in '75.

Here's the info I have on AL721. You might want to subscribe to this AIDS Treatment News & call/write Project Inform for their info. Both EXCELLENT resources.

I understand the Names Project Quilt will be in Milw July 11. They say it's now twice the size it was in Wash DC.

Well, Alyn, we both made it to 1988! Keep on keepin' on!

Love, Lou

Could you send me a copy of the new newspaper, The Wisconsin Light? Thanks!