

Albion  
San Francisco 94110  
Jan. 24, 1989

Dearest Alyn,

Both my mother and Eldon sent me copies of the Jan. 11 Sentinel article on you. It pleased and saddened me at the same time. Pleased me because you are still out there on the front lines, Alyn, being one of the only upfront gay men in Milw, sticking your neck out for others. Saddened me because it sounds like you're having a pretty hard time.

I'm shocked to hear you've given up your house! I hope you were able to donate it to a gay organization as you previously indicated you would. I also hope the hospice you're in is a good one. Are there other PWA's there?

I am still doing pretty well. However, when my doc said my "muscle enzymes are breaking down" aggravated by the AZT, on my own decision I stopped taking the drug for the month of December. Started back on half-dose in January and it's making me dizzy and nauseous. In addition I'm taking full-dose acyclovir for herpes. I'm still taking various vitamins and Chinese herbs. I don't know if I can do anything about this muscle enzyme business except just watch it happen.

A lot of guys die from what they call the AIDS "wasting syndrome," and I can easily see it happening to me. I sure don't feel like eating and, though my weight's not that low (123), my legs are so skinny they scare me, and for the past 3 months I've noticed I'm losing a lot of hair. Got diarrhea and candida and night sweats. I laughed when you said in the article that you sit on a pillow because your bones have no padding... boy, I sure know what you mean! It's almost unbearable to sit on our hard toilet seat, which I have to do a lot!

Thanks for telling me about the Oct. issue of Scientific American. I did get a copy, and learned a LOT I didn't know. One of the most informative pieces I've read on AIDS.

Alyn, I had a dream about you last night. Your face was very near to mine and we gazed into each other's eyes and smiled. Then we kissed on the lips. It was very loving. I love you, Alyn!

In the same dream, Eldon came to see me driving a Yellow Cab (notice I said "driving," not "riding in"). He came to tell me about you and talk...talk...talked, but I couldn't understand a word because he was speaking so softly. It couldn't have been the Eldon Murray we know, heh??!

Though my energy's low, I've been working on several projects. The Advocate is paying me \$375 to do an article for them on the female-to-gay male transsexual, due Feb. 15. I've ALWAYS wanted to do an article for them and am so proud! They also want me to do a second article for them on female-to-males from the historical past, which will be no problem: I have documentation on over 100 of them. Meanwhile, Alyson Publications wants me to do MAJOR editing on my Jack Bee Garland biography, which really bums me out. They want me to cut HALF of my quoted material, which will screw up all my chapters and everything. But I gotta do it.

Did you make it to that weekend conference of the Milw AIDS Project at the Green Lake Baptist Conference Ctr in November?

I took the Greyhound to Reno the other day, as the Univ. of Nevada paid for me to come to speak to their sophomore medical students on AIDS and sexual minorities. While there I made a videotaped interview entitled "Female-to-Gay Male Transsexualism" which will be shown at the 1989 Annual Meeting of the Amer. Psychiatric Assn. It has been one of my missions (since I found out my time is limited) to make sure the gender profession recognizes the existence of the female-to-gay male, and it's finally happening. I was written up in a case study this past December in the Univ. of Minnesota's Journal of Psychology & Human Sexuality. There will be several presentations on female-to-gay males at the Gender Dysphoria Symposium in Cleveland this summer. So hopefully in the future, when a female-to-gay male applies to the gender clinics, he won't be told, as I was, that there isn't such a thing as someone like me!

Plus, I just held another Female-to-Male Get-Together in the back room of a gay restaurant. That was our eighth one, and 15 F-to-M's attended. I learned from you, Alyn, and GPU, how important peer support is.

My sex/love life has been really pathetic. I have made the friendship, though, of one of the founders of the San Francisco Jacks (a gay men's J/O club). I attended one of his fun nudie sex parties a few weeks ago and was surprised at how comfortable I felt in the buff. I sure am glad I got my bottom surgery! It sure was nice to see/touch dick again... it seems so long ago! My New Years Resolution is to get some sex in my life (before I become a bald skeleton starving to death), even if it only means going to the porno theatre.

Well, Alyn, that's all I know. Hope to see you again in my dreams!

P.S. I may be way off, but once you asked me to send you the list of GPU News issues we need for our Gay Archives here in S.F. Here's a list of what we do have:

1971 Nov, Dec  
1972 Jan, Oct  
1973 Jul  
1974 May  
1975 Mar, Oct  
1976 all but Nov  
1981 Jan

Everything else, we need.