

Bet Power
146 Riverbank Road
Northampton, MA 01060

June 30, 1988

Lou Sullivan
1827 Haight Street, #164
San Francisco, CA 94117

Dear Lou,

Good to hear from you. I did vacation in SF for ten days in March for my birthday ... my first time ever out to the West Coast. I wanted to visit you and didn't then have your phone number (I do now, from the F-to-M newsletters). I was hoping a message w/my hotel phone number could get to you in time for us to meet. Though I must have passed by your apt. walking up and down Haight St. touring the shops, I didn't want to just drop by. Maybe next time we'll connect.

I loved SF! Ten days of sunny paradise. So much beauty along the coast (I love Point Reyes) and so much Lesbian/Gay and S/M support. I did the circuit of all the leather shops and combed Castro Street in great detail. I attended several leatherwomen's support group meetings and one had over 90 in attendance, including a few wonderful F-to-M's. I was especially admiring one F-to-M who I was convinced at first (for nearly an hour) was a Gay man. All the details of his suit, hair, mustache/beard and hands were done to perfection. It was so reinforcing to me just to see other F-to-M crossdressers and TS's being "out" and doing their thing. I learned to crack a bullwhip from watching the F-to-M at the meeting crack his, unbeknownst to him. When I got home, I practiced with mine, and voila! ... now I show off a brand new skill. What a wonderful difference support always makes to me! I want to move to the Bay Area but it will take some time to set up a new situation replacing or bettering the lifestyle, home, income I've built up here.

The cost of rentals in SF are way above what I'm used to. I currently rent a 4-bedroom house with 2 floors, 1-1/2 baths, a full attic and basement, gardens and a private beach on the Connecticut River for \$550/month, plus oil heat in winter. I could probably buy it for \$90,000. The size of the Library I live with requires a house. Perhaps Berkeley, which I've heard is cheaper. Any ideas for areas to look into?

I didn't get the creative director position I wanted in Hartford, but I was one of two finalists (from 30) and negotiating the details when the aftermath of the Wall Street crash caused the company to decide against filling the position at all. "Black Monday" has impacted on the insurance/financial industry tremendously. I was very disappointed, but friends urged me to see it as a career victory anyway, to be so close to achieving the position I most want. I have recently subscribed to AdWeek/West which is a regional edition of a national magazine for people in advertising. I have begun to send out resumes to agencies in the Bay Area. Wish me luck! Someone definitely has to pay for "relo" with the two semi's full of Library I'd be bringing.

I found my favorite SF meal in a restaurant near you on Haight ... at "Cha Cha Cha" the Caribbean food is delicious!

Glad to get your FTM newsletter. Please keep sending them. The "Butch/TV Lesbian" support group here didn't fly. Only two interested others besides me and also my time and energies are so taken up with work (55-hour/week corporate job, Lesbian Library, and the S/M support group and S/M Liberation seminars I do) that I couldn't do the organizing and advertising of this new group justice. Hard to accept that I'm not Superman. The message I get in this area from Lesbians is that it's OK to be butch or mannish or crossdress, but you don't openly talk about it! I admit I do feel lonely/isolated far too often in New England in aspects of my sexuality. I hope to try organizing the group again at another time when others are more ready to see the need for this type of support and pitch in on the organizing.

Great you had 18 F-to-M's and lovers at your meeting! How many were TVs?

And absolutely super that your new book has a publisher! It's so needed, so important. I can't wait. I've been reading all the historical material from the Library I live with on F-to-M's and "passing women," mostly Jonathan Katz documents but also lots of stuff in old Lesbian periodicals like "The Ladder." I'm xeroxing it all and giving it to my therapist so she can understand me better. Will you send a signed copy of your forthcoming book when it comes out for us to archive in the New Alexandria Lesbian Library? We also do collect certain Gay men's papers. And also, Lou, please consider placing your notes/manuscript/papers for the book (or any other personal papers) in the Library. I am particularly big on building the Library's holdings on F-to-M's. I have enclosed some basic info. on NALL and we have an acquisition contract I can send (with many options for archiving conditions such as privacy, time restrictions, limited audience, etc.) should you be interested. Placing your papers in a Lesbian

or Gay archives (especially a national one) is a good way to prevent them from ending up "in the dumpster." And to be read and valuable to others, published or not, and to be handed down safely to future generations. Please consider.

About "Fun With A Sausage." It's a video short produced in SF by Blush Productions, a Lesbian video company. It's b&w and silent and the main character is kind of a cross between Charlie Chaplin and Pauline (as in The Perils Of ...). I show this video at each S/M Liberation seminar I do because it's fun, humorous, but also a powerful depiction of oppression of sexual differences in our communities. The main character, a slim and handsome Latino Lesbian, wakes up in SF, puts on her mustache, man's shirt and 501's and gets ready to go out and cruise. She tucks a sausage into her jeans for the finishing touch and ventures out into Castro Street. What follows are the reactions of various kinds of people who see her "out": straight men (they call her "fag" and hassle her); Gay men (they cruise her amusingly and one corners her only to find her tool is a fake and literally throws it to the dogs); a group of Lesbians in a Lesbian Center (they're horrified when she cruises them and throw her out into the street where she meets an S/M dyke who's been similarly expelled). There's a happy, romantic ending when these two outcasts embrace, handcuffs and all. It's really well done and funny like Chaplin. Really makes some good human/personal and political points in a few minutes. If you're interested in seeing it, I'll send you info. where to order.

I just saw the movie, "Aria," a kind of "opera video." Elegant and exotic visuals are set to operas by ten different famous ^{film} directors. The first sequence is about "King Zog" who is played in a fascinating, compelling way by a mustached actress. Very good. The costumes fantastic. The other sequences are excellently erotic, too. I highly recommend. May be at a theatre near you.

Let's see, what's coming up? I keep looking for my "wife." I get approached and get offers plenty, but still no cigar. I keep looking for the right one, the one I want. I hope she's coming up soon.

I'll be doing another S/M consciousness-raising seminar with two Gay leathermen (one from Boston and one from Australia) for our local Gay men's organization, the Valley Gay Alliance, on Sept. 15. I just did one for Wesleyan University with nearly 100 people in attendance.

I'm working on "Butch Poems," but not enough.

I had a b&w photo portrait taken of me in leather by a heterosexual man photographer and hung in an art exhibit and included in a book on Northampton along with the likes of

the Mayor, the president of Smith College, and local businessowners and artists. I was featured as the director of the New Alexandria Lesbian Library. Some kind of breakthrough into "mainstream" world for a Leatherdyke TV, I think.

Author Joan Nestle and Lesbian activist Barbara Gittings both visited the Library this month.

Well, you've done the East Coast now, Lou. What's new and DIFFERENT out West, besides the drought?

Write soon,

Bet

Bet Power

encl.



NALL: A National Collection of Lesbian Herstory

General Information

The New Alexandria Lesbian Library is a grassroots collection of Lesbian herstory in all forms which archives materials from Lesbians throughout our diverse communities in the United States and also from Canada and foreign countries. Founded in Chicago, Illinois in 1974, NALL is located in Northampton, Massachusetts in the home of Bet Power who has lived with and directed the Library since 1977. Each year, more than 500 Lesbians visit the Library by appointment and for special events.

Holdings

NALL currently includes approximately 2,500 books in a wide range of subject areas; 500 periodical titles with complete sets in many of the titles; hundreds of subject files on every aspect of Lesbian life; regional and organizational archives; reference materials; rare books and first editions; author-signed books; record albums; cassette tapes; reel-to-reel formats; VHS and BETA format videos; slideshows; photographs; love letters; unpublished writings; art; posters and flyers; banners; t-shirts; buttons; business cards; comic books; memorabilia and more. All the evidences of Lesbian life from yesterday and today are archived, cherished and preserved for the enjoyment, education, information and inspiration of Lesbians today and tomorrow.

New acquisitions are always welcome, particularly unpublished writings, art, and Lesbian community group archives. Special archiving conditions (for example, privacy, temporary availability or limited access) may be arranged through NALL's Acquisition Contract.

Who the Library Serves

NALL serves Lesbians and occasionally others who are engaged in study, research or activism for the benefit of Lesbians.

Funding

NALL is funded entirely by contributions of materials and money from Lesbians and other supportive people.

Special Events

The Library sponsors Lesbian community events every few months at the Library House. These have included: poetry readings, films, video screenings, slideshows, storytellings, oral herstory

workshops, erotic readings and videos, open houses, Solstice celebrations and potlucks. NALL has also sponsored fundraising events, such as dances and concerts, in the Lesbian community. Rental of the Library rooms at a minimal cost is available to Lesbian support groups and to individual Lesbians offering classes or workshops. The Library House and first floor Library rooms are wheelchair-accessible.

Special Services

Low-cost xeroxing and cassette duplication are available. Temporary housing for out-of-town Lesbians may also be arranged.

Future Library Goals

As the Library grows even more in size, part of the collection will need to move upstairs to the second floor of the Library House. Events will continue to be held in the first floor Library rooms. A goal for the future is the purchase of the Library House for the increased security of the collection. Another goal is the purchase of a photocopier and a computer and printer for archiving, information storage and retrieval. Further, a Library goal is to microfilm materials which are unique to this collection and to reprint on acid-free paper Lesbian periodicals which are becoming fragile with age. Other equipment needed by the Library includes a film projector and a large art display unit. If you can help achieve any of these goals, please contact the Library.

To Visit the Library ...

To schedule an appointment, call (413) 584-7616 or write to: New Alexandria Lesbian Library, PO Box 402, Florence Station, Northampton, MA 01060 about a week before you'd like to visit. Please specify your research area or if you'd simply like to browse and read in the collection. Also specify if you would like temporary housing at the Library.

To Help Build the Library ...

Start by realizing how important it is to you and to future generations of Lesbians to honor and preserve your story of Lesbian life today. We need never be deprived of our Lesbian herstory again, as we have been in the past. We need never again tolerate silence, lies and heterosexist myths about Lesbians which dishonor and control us. When you give to the Library, you give freedom to your Lesbian self. Then when you feel how much power you have to define and record the truth about Lesbian culture as it shines in the light of your life, contribute copies of your published or unpublished works, love letters, photos and items in any of the categories above by calling or writing the Library. Donations of money are always sorely needed and you are also encouraged to call to join the Library's Volunteer Work Crew and help with the archiving.

Join us in building the New Alexandria Lesbian Library!
We are replacing a long history of silence about Lesbian life with a proud and powerful Lesbian resource for ourselves and our daughters.

Bet Power
146 Riverbank Road
Northampton, MA 01060

June 28, 1988

Lou Sullivan
1827 Haight Street, #164
San Francisco, CA 94117

Dear Lou,

^{good}
I was glad to hear from you. I did vacation in SF for ten days in March for my birthday ... my first time ever out to the West Coast. I wanted to visit you and didn't then have your phone number (I do now, from the F-to-M newsletters). I was hoping a message w/my hotel phone number could get to you in time for us to meet. Though I must have passed by your apt. walking up and down Haight St. touring the shops, I didn't want to just drop by. Maybe next time, ^{we'll} ~~we will~~ connect.

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build up a new structure

"Black Market" has rejected a ^{professional} advertisement ^{proposal} ~~that~~ tremendously.

decide against filling the position at all. I was very disappointed but friends urged me to see it as a career victory anyway, to be so close to achieving the position I most want. I have recently subscribed to AdWeek/West which is a regional edition of a national magazine for people in advertising. I have begun to send out resumes to agencies in the Bay Area. Wish me luck! Someone definitely has to pay for "relo." with the two semi's full of ^{books} ^{professionals} I'd be buying ^{to the library}

I found my favorite SF meal in a restaurant near you on Haight ... at "Cha Cha Cha" the Caribbean food is delicious!

Glad to get your FTM newsletter. Please keep sending them. The "Butch/TV Lesbian" support group here didn't fly. Only two interested others besides me and also my time and energies are so taken up with work (55-hour/week corporate job, Lesbian Library, and the S/M support group and S/M Liberation seminars I do) that I couldn't do the organizing and advertising of this new group justice. Hard to accept that I'm not Superman. The message I get in this area from Lesbians is that it's OK to be butch or mannish or crossdress, but you don't openly talk about it! I admit I do feel lonely/isolated far too often in New England in aspects of my sexuality. I hope to try organizing the group again at another time when others are more ready to see the need for this type of support and pitch in on the organizing.

Great you had 18 F-to-M's and lovers at your meeting! How many were TVs? ^{I've been reading all the historical material I can find from the library I live in on F-to-M's - mostly James Earle documents but also lots of stuff in all the ^{periodicals} like "The Ladies."}

And absolutely super that your new book will have a publisher! ^{It's so needed, so important. I can't wait. Will you send a signed copy for us to archive in the New Alexandria Lesbian Library?}

It's so needed, so important. I can't wait. Will you send a signed copy for us to archive in the New Alexandria Lesbian Library?

And also, low, please consider placing your notes / manuscripts / books for any other personal papers in the Library. I am particularly interested in building the library holdings on F-to-M's. I've enclosed some basic info on what we have or we have an agreement contract (with many options for archiving available - like privacy, time restrictions, etc.) ^{including your papers in}

~~I am sure~~ should you be interested. Including your papers in a lesbian or gay archives (esp. a national one) is a good way to prevent

Law Sullivan

1827 Haight St. #164

San Francisco, CA 94117

Dear Law,

I was glad to hear from you ⁱⁿ ~~your~~ ~~April~~ letter. I did vacation in SF for 10 days in March for my birthday - my first time ever out to the West Coast. I wanted to visit you and didn't then have your phone number (I do now, from the F-to-M newsletters). I was hoping a message w/ my hotel phone number could get to you in time for us to meet. But I guess that I must have passed by your home w/out walking up & down Haight St. ^{the shops,} I didn't want to just drop by. Maybe next time...

I loved SF! 10 days of ^{sunny} paradise to me. So much beauty ^{along} ~~up and down~~ the coast and so much behind gay and SLM support. (I love Point Reyes)

I attended several ^{& leatherwomen's} SLM support group meetings and one had over 90 ~~people~~ in attendance, including a few wonderful F-to-Ms.

I was especially admiring one F-to-M who I was convinced ^{of} ~~as~~ ^{all the details of his suit, hair, mustache/beard and hands were} (for nearly an hour) was a gay man. It was so surprising to ^{hear} ~~hear~~ ^{me} just to see other ^{from} crossdressers ^{and TMs} "being out" and doing their thing. ^{popular}

BTW I found my favorite SF ~~fast~~ meal in a restaurant near you on Haight - it's "Cha Chelba" the Caribbean ^{food} is delicious!

The message I get in this area ^{from} of lesbians is it's OK to be butch or
mannish or crossdress, but you don't openly talk about it!
I admit I do feel lonely / isolated for to often in ~~the~~ aspects of my ^{sexuality}
Glad to get your FtM newsletter. Please keep sending them.
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Only two interested others besides me and also my time &
money are so taken up in the work (60-hr/week corporate job,
lesbian library, and the 2m support groups & the liberative
seminars I do) that I couldn't do the organizing &
advertising of this new ~~the~~ group justice. Had to accept
I'm not Superman. I hope to try ^{organizing} the group
again at another time when others are more ready
to see the need for this type of discussion and
to pitch in on the organizing.

Great you had 18 FtMs and lovers at your
meeting! How many were TUs?

- ~~English~~
- ~~job search~~
(based in CA)
- ~~book~~
accepted ~~publish in~~ NALC
- my ~~entire~~ ~~books~~
- activities coming
up for me
- anything else

them from making up "in the dumpster." And to be read & valuable to
others, published or not, and to be handed down ^{safely} to future generations.
Please consider this.

About "Fun With A Sausage." It's a video about prejudice in SF by
Blush Productions, a lesbian video company. It's b/w & silent & the
main character is kind of a cross between Charlie Chaplin and Pauline (as
in The Perils of...). I show this video at each SLA Liaison

(~~show~~ ^{show} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~3.~~) review I do because it's a ^{funny} humorous but powerful example of
expression of sexual differences in our communities. ^{in interest related TV videos of a slim Latino &} The main character, a
woman age 40 SF, gets on her motorcycle & ⁵⁰¹⁸ ~~5018~~ ⁵ ~~5~~ & gets ready to go out
evening. She adds ^{take out} ~~sausage~~ ^{in baguette} for ^{frustration} ~~frustration~~ ^{frustration} & ~~throws out~~ ^{throws out} ~~it~~ ^{it}

Centro Street. What follows are the reactions of various kinds of people who
see her "out": straight men (call her "fag"), gay men (cruse her ^{then}
& one comes forward to document ^{her "fag"} ~~the~~ ^{is} a fag & ~~literally~~ ^{literally} throws
it to the dogs), a group of lesbians in a lesbian center (they're
horrified when she comes down & throw her out into the
street where she meets an SLA dyke who's just been similarly
^{expelled} ~~thrown out~~ ^{expelled}).

There's a happy ending when Rose has ~~attempts~~ ^{attempts} ~~attempts~~
pubic, handcuffs & all. It's really well done & funny like
Chaplin. Really makes some good, ^{humorous} ~~political~~ ^{political} points in a few
minutes. If you're interested in ~~seeing~~ ^{seeing} ~~it~~ ^{it}, I'll send
you the info. where to order. ~~For~~ ^{For} ~~look~~ ^{look} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~San~~ ^{San} ~~Diego~~ ^{Diego} ~~Bible~~ ^{Bible}

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with visits out to groups

by ten different ^{from} directors: ~~the best~~ The first sequence is about "King Zog" who is played in a ^{compelling} fascinating way by ⁶ ~~the~~ ~~others~~. The costumes Very good. The costumes fantastic. The other sequences are excellent, too. I highly recommend.

Let's see what's coming up: I keep looking for my "wife"

- I get ^{approached & get} offers plenty, but still no cigar. #
- I'll be doing another slam ^{your} communion-swing session with two ^{your} performers for our local gay men's organization, The Valley Gay Alliance, on Sept. 15. I just did one for Wesleyan University with nearly 100 people in attendance.
- I'm working on "Butch Poems" (but not enough). ^{but would} ^{then by a thoughtful photographer}
- I had ^{my} a photo portrait of me in leather ^{being in a suit} at an exhibit and included in a book on Washington along with the likes of the Mayor, the president of Smith College & other local businessmen & artists. I was featured in the ^{one} "Washington" director of the New Alb. G. L. Co. Some kind of breakthrough for a ^{full} leading TV, I think.
- Author Tomp Nettle & ^{Central} Robert Babcock's visits re library matters.

Well, you've done me

~~So~~ ~~must~~ for ~~B. East Coast~~ ^{now} ~~there~~, low. What's new out West besides no drought?

Wade now,

Bet Power
encl.