

Bet Power
East Coast Female-to-Male Group
Sexual Minorities Archives

(Caption quote to accompany photo)

"I started the East Coast Female-to-Male Group (ECFTMG ● P.O. Box 60585 ● Florence Station ● Northampton, Massachusetts 01060) in early 1992 after the death of Lou Sullivan to fill the tremendous gap in support left me by his loss and to help end the isolation of FTMs in the eastern states. Through a 4-year correspondence and a 1-day visit with him in San Francisco, Lou became the most important friend I had in my life. He looked into my eyes and gave me words for who I am — a female-to-straight male non-op transsexual. Before that time, I had identified as a stone butch lesbian though I knew I was a man inside, from earliest memory. My first contact with Lou was in 1986 when he sent his groundbreaking "Information for the Female-to-Male Crossdresser and Transsexual" to the New Alexandria Lesbian Library (NALL). Since 1977, I had housed and directed this national collection, which began in Chicago in 1974 and which I moved to Massachusetts in 1979. Lou thought that some individuals who visited the collection might want to read his booklet. Little did he know that the curator who opened the mail and received his contribution was an FTM. I immediately flew out west to meet him and we started up a friendship.

On January 1, 1992, I changed the name of NALL to the Sexual Minorities Archives (SMA ● P.O. Box 402 ● Florence Station ● Northampton, Massachusetts 01060), reconceptualizing it for inclusion of materials about all sexual minorities, without exception and with absolutely no censorship — from politics to pornography. In particular, we are currently collecting on the transgendered, sadomasochists, bisexuals, and gay males to augment the vast lesbian holdings. My dream for the Archives is for it to be a powerful place of unity where the words and lives of all queers reside equally, side by side.

ECFTMG and the Archives are lifelines for my identity. ECFTMG meets monthly and welcomes all FTMs, from crossdressers to post-op TSs, and their partners. I think it's significant that changes in the body/identity of the curator have changed the body of the Archives. Let it be known that since 1977, it has been a female-to-male TS who has lived with and breathed life into this resource for lesbians and the broader community of queers and our friends."

*at
the Archives*