

F₂M

INTERNATIONAL, NON-PROFIT,
PEER-SUPPORT NETWORK
FOR FEMALE-TO-MALE
TRANSSEXUALS AND CROSS-DRESSERS

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5/5/90

DEAR LOU:

THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR LETTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT! I DO TRY TO PACK A LOT OF INFO INTO EACH ISSUE OF R.O.P. - I FIGURE I'M OBLIGED TO, CONSIDERING THE IN-FREQUENCY OF PUBLICATION. IT'S REALLY REDICULOUS TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING SINGLE-HANDED! BETWEEN ORGANIZING THE GROUP, PRODUCING THE MAGAZINE, AND ANSWERING CORRESPONDENCE, I FEEL UTERLY OVERWHELMED, IT'S ACTUALLY AN IMPOSSIBLE TASK. SO... I MANAGE TO HAVE MEETINGS REGULARLY (every 6 weeks); THE MAG. GETS OUT IR-REGULARLY; AND MY CORRESPONDENCE GETS SORELY NEGLECTED, BUT ENOUGH KVETCHING!

ENCLOSED... THE LONG-AWAITED VIDEO-TAPE. WE HAD A PROBLEM WITH SOME COPIES, HENCE THE DELAY. IT'S ANNIE'S STORY, BASED ON THE HUSTLER PIECE. I WROTE THE SURGERY SECTION, TRYING TO BE BRIEF AND TO THE POINT.

ANNIE HAS HER OWN UNIQUE STYLE AND POINT OF VIEW. SHE BELIEVES WHOLE-HEARTEDLY THAT LES NICHOLS IS BEAUTIFUL, AND WONDERFUL; AND SHE CELEBRATES ALL ASPECTS OF HIS UNIQUENESS. SHE IS COMPLETELY NON-JUDGEMENTAL IN HER ACCEPTANCE. SHE ALSO EXTENDS THIS UNCONDITIONAL LOVE & ACCEPTANCE TO EVERY LIVING BEING UNDER THE SUN, WITHOUT EXCEPTION. SHE EVEN SUPPORTS THOSE WHO WOULD CENSOR HER, IT'S THEIR FREE RIGHT TO TRY TO SILENCE HER.

IT'S THIS ATTITUDE THAT SHINES BRIGHT & CLEAR IN HER WORDS. LES, AND ALL HIS WILD & WACKY WAYS (My judgement not hers) ARE ALWAYS PRESENTED POSITIVELY & STRONGLY WITHOUT APOLOGY. HE IS SHOWN AS RATIONAL AND QUITE HAPPY. HE HAS BENEFITED FROM A "REALLY RADICAL FORM OF THERAPY."

IN REGARD TO USE OF PRONOUNS. ANNIE REFERS TO LINDA AS SHE, NOT LES! LINDA WAS A WOMAN, "SHE" IS THE APPROPRIATE PRO-NOUN. ANNIE IS THE UNOFFICIAL DEN-MOTHER OF OUR LITTLE WOLF-PACK, HERE IN N.Y. (A.K.A. "F₂M" support group) SHE CERTAINLY HAS MORE F/M T/S FRIENDS THAN MOST OTHER WOMEN. SHE KNOWS THAT WE ARE MEN, SHE DOESN'T THINK OF US AS WOMEN. SHE WOULD NEVER DREAM OF CALLING US "SHE." SHE WOULD BE THE FIRST TO DEFEND OUR MALENESS, REGARDLESS OF THE CONFIGURATION OF OUR FAMILY JEWELS. SHE ALSO STRONGLY SUPPORTS OUR RIGHT TO CHANGE OUR BODIES IN ANY WAY NECESSARY TO MATCH OUR PSYCHES.

BUT LES (BLESS HIS GUTS) IS NOT CONFINED TO ONE GENDER-IDENTITY, AS MOST OF US (Especially T/S's) **ARE!** HE'S NOT STUCK (over)

IN HIS "GORILLA-SUIT", HE CAN REMOVE HIS MACHO-MASK, AND STEP OVER THE LINE THAT MOST OF US HAVE NO DESIRE TO CROSS.

PERSONALLY, [REDACTED], AS A "PRIMARY TRANSSEXUAL" (someone with unrelenting T/S desires from earliest childhood), I FEEL THAT THE TERM "FEMALE-TO-MALE" TRANS-SEXUAL" IS A MISNOMER. I WAS NEVER FEMALE, I NEVER EVEN TRIED (UGH! GOD FORBID!) I WAS MALE RIGHT FROM THE START, I JUST HAPPENED TO HAVE AN UNFORTUNATE BIRTH-DEFECT. BUT LES, WAS A FEMALE (A Radical Lesbian Separatist) HE MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO BECOME A MAN; SO HE IS QUITE LITERALLY A FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANS-SEXUAL. BUT SINCE HE'S NOT WHAT ANYONE WOULD CONSIDER A "PRIMARY TRANSSEXUAL", PERHAPS HE SHOULD BE REFERRED TO AS A "SURGICALLY-CREATED HERMAPHRODITE"; OR PERHAPS A "FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSGENDERIST"; OR PERHAPS A "FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSGENDERIST WITH SURGICALLY-CREATED DUAL-GENITALIA"; OR PERHAPS WE SHOULD TOSS THESE CATEGORIES IN THE TRASH, AND START ACCEPTING PEOPLE AS INDIVIDUALS, WITHOUT REGARD TO GENDER-IDENTITY AND SEXUAL PREFERENCE. A SENTIMENT WHICH IS STRONGLY EXPRESSED IN HUSTLER AND OUR VIDEO.

ALSO... LES WAS NEVER PRESENTED AS REPRESENTATIVE OF F/M T/S'S IN GENERAL., IN FACT IT WAS MENTIONED A NUMBER OF TIMES THAT HE IS UNUSUAL, AN EXCEPTION, AND ACTUALLY TOTALLY UNREPRESENTATIVE.

GEE, I SEEM TO HAVE WORKED MY WAY UP ON TO THAT SOAPBOX AGAIN! OH WELL ... IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY PRINTED MY PREVIOUS LETTER, MAYBE YOU COULD EDIT THE TWO TOGETHER OR SOMETHING.

WELL, I'D BETTER CLOSE NOW; THIS TIME IT'S 6:30 AM, AND I MUST CATCH THE MAILMAN! SO ...

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON,

Yours in Solidarity,
Johnny Armstrong