

February 6, 1990

Dear Rupert,

Thank you so very much for the 1990 Gender Worker Award plaque! I am very honored and truly appreciate your thoughtfulness and the energy you put into this commemoration. I hardly feel worthy of this award, compared to your many years of service to the F-M community, and think YOU should be the one receiving it, not me! thank you from the bottom of my heart, Rupert. I will also send thank-you's to the four others who contributed to the production of this plaque.

Yes, I have heard from John A. of F2M. You say you haven't received any of his newsletters ("Rites of Passage") "since Issue #2 which came out last spring" ... well, I think you better check again. He sent Vol. 1 No. 1 in March '89, and that's the last issue I've seen. He informed me a few months ago that Issue #2 was on its way, but I haven't seen it yet. Makes me all the more proud of my newsletter (going on Issue #11), and amazed at your dedication in putting Metamorphosis together for all those years. We see them come and go, but you and I are still there, hey, Rupert?!!

You asked for Ira Pauly's address. His phone is (702) 784-4917. Here's the address:

Ira Pauly, MD
Dept of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences
Anderson Medical Sciences
University of Nevada
School of Medicine
Reno NV 89557

I just saw him last month when I bussed to Reno to give my annual lecture to his sophomore medical students and to make an update of our videotaped interviews. I'm real happy and surprised to still be feeling well enough to make the trip there.

My health fluctuates from day-to-day, it seems. I improved dramatically in October, when I stopped taking all medicines. They were giving me tuberculosis medications for the opportunistic infection I have (called "MAI") and, looking back, I think their pills were making me sicker than the disease! The MAI manifests as a very enlarged spleen, liver and "many, many huge lymph nodes" in my abdomen. Consequently I'm always nauseous, can't eat well, my back is always hurting... blah blah blah. My energy level is VERY low and I'm only good for about 4-5 hours a day. Then I just want to take a nap. So I do. This past Thursday I had my ninth blood transfusion. My docs are amazed that I'm still plugging away, but I'm just going to keep it up as long as I can. If you know anything about AIDS indicators, you know that a normal "T4 helper cell" count is anything over 500; if you go below 200,

you're in bad trouble. Last week they took my count, and it was 17! I had to laugh out loud, that's so ridiculous. All this sounds a lot worse than I feel, Rupert, so don't be too worried about me yet. I'm being very gentle with myself.

The Ingersoll Gender Center in Seattle is in the process of publishing the third edition of INFORMATION FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE. The last I spoke with them, they said it will be done in a perfect-bound paperback format. It will be approximately twice as long as the last edition, with photos of surgery and an extensive bibliography. They expect to have it out in March.

At the same time, my biography is currently at the press of Alyson Publications in Boston. The title is FROM FEMALE TO MALE: THE LIFE OF JACK BEE GARLAND. Finally, after more than five years of work on this, they promise it will be available in April. The San Francisco Bay Area Gay & Lesbian Historical Society and the gay bookstore here in San Francisco, A Different Light, are co-sponsoring a booksigning party for me in May. I can't wait to see the final product! It makes me feel like I've truly accomplished something permanent. I'll be sure to send announcements when both of these books are out.

I'm glad you made it to the Benjamin Symposium in Cleveland and I envy you for that. It must have been pretty exciting to be in a room of professionals discussing F-M's, especially discussing GOOD NEWS for a change (e.g., the improved surgical techniques, and the new female-to-gay male anti-discrimination sentiment).

In your letter dated October 4 you gave me permission to publish your report on the Symposium, but forgot to enclose it. I did finally read it in "The TS Voice," but think it will be somewhat outdated by our next issue. I look forward to printing whatever you might write for "FTM," so send something (anything!) at your convenience.

Again, Rupert, I really appreciate the Gender Worker Award. It's hanging on the wall right in front of me at this very moment.

All my warmest regards to you and [REDACTED]!

Lou