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DEAR LOU -

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SO, IT'S FINALLY OUT, AT LONG LAST, THE INFAMOUS (X-RATED) ISSUE #2 OF "RITES OF PASSAGE"! ANOTHER 16-PAGES PACKED FULL OF INFO. YOU'RE UNDOUBTEDLY FAMILIAR WITH OUR VERY CONTROVERSIAL COVER-BOY: LES NICHOLS.

LES IS A TRULY UNIQUE INDIVIDUAL. HIS IDENTITY, HIS WORLDVIEW, AND HIS PERSONALITY ARE MYSTIFY-INGLY COMPLEX. HE DOES NOT FIT NEATLY INTO A CONVENIENT CATEGORY. HE IS A MAN...

BUT HE used TO BE A WOMAN, A LESBIAN SEPERATIST NAMED Linda. SHE MADE A CONSCIOUS DECISION TO BECOME A MAN.

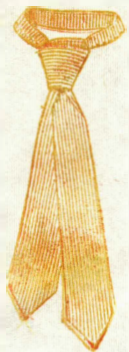
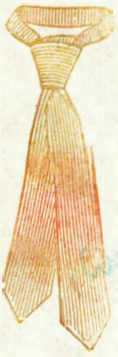
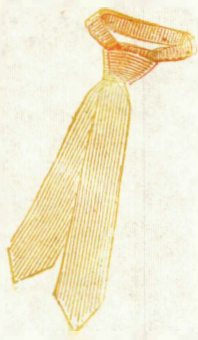
LES IS HIGHLY ECCENTRIC AND COULD, EASILY, BE LABELLED (SP?) A "KOOK" OR "CRAZY" BY UNSYMPATHETIC PEOPLE IN THE GENDER COMMUNITY, OR BY THE MEDIA-EXPLOITERS. (HE'S PERFECT CANNON-FODDER FOR THE RATINGS WARS OF NETWORK T.V.)

HE IS EXTREMELY EXHIBITIONISTIC, AND TOTALLY IRREPRESSABLE. BUT REPRESSION IS WRONG, ANYWAY. HE HAS THE RIGHT TO DO & SAY WHATEVER HE WANTS TO.

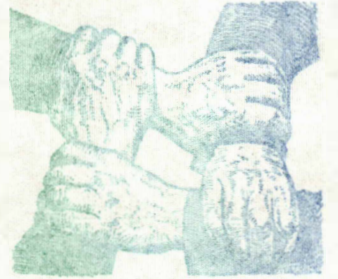
THE LESSON IN ALL THIS IS, THAT PEOPLE SHOULD OPEN THEIR MINDS (& THEIR HEARTS)! WE MUST NOT JUDGE OUR BROTHERS (AND SISTERS) SO HARSHLY! IF WE EXPECT ACCEPTANCE, THEN WE MUST BE ACCEPTING OF OTHERS! INSTEAD OF CONDEMNING LES (AS MANY HAVE) WE MUST DEFEND HIS RIGHT TO BE HIMSELF.

WE CANNOT JUST SUPPORT T/S'S & T/V'S WHO ARE "POLITICALLY CORRECT", "WELL-BALANCED" OR "WELL-BEHAVED";

(OVER) →



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OR THOSE WHO CONFORM TO OUR PERSONAL DEFINITION OF WHAT THEY SHOULD BE. WE MUST ACCEPT EACH INDIVIDUAL AS THEY ARE. THOSE OF US WHO ARE WEAKENED BY YEARS OF CONFUSION AND FRUSTRATION, AND THOSE WHO ARE EMOTIONALLY-DISTURBED, NEED SUPPORT MORE THAN THE "IDEAL T/S."

GRANTED, IT'S BEST IF THE "IDEAL T/S" CAN BE OUT THERE, FOR THE WORLD TO SEE; TO REPRESENT US AS MOSTLY HEALTHY & SECURE (TO THE PUBLIC EYE). BUT IF SOME OF OUR LESS SECURE ^(OR LESS "WELL-BEHAVED") BROTHERS, "COME-OUT" & TELL THEIR STORY - WE SHOULDN'T TURN ON THEM, AND BLAME THEM FOR SHOWING THE PUBLIC THAT WE (T/S'S) AREN'T ALL PERFECT. INSTEAD, WE SHOULD BE DEFENDING OUR BROTHERS - AS I AM DEFENDING LES, RIGHT NOW.

SO MANY OF OUR PEERS ARE SO QUICK TO CRITICIZE! IT SEEMS THAT EVERYONE BOUGHT THAT ISSUE OF HUSTLER, AND YET, NO-ONE HAS MENTIONED THAT THE SURGICAL INFO. WAS UP-TO-DATE, CLEAR, CONCISE, AND ACCURATELY DESCRIBED ALL CURRENT METHODS OF F/M GENITAL SURGERY, INCLUDING GENITOPLASTY.

I THINK HUSTLER DID OUR COMMUNITY A VALUABLE SERVICE BY SHOWING CLEAR, COLOR PHOTOGRAPHS OF A PHALLOPLASTY, TO ALL OF AMERICA & MOST FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

(Go On) →



AND - THE WORLD-WIDE EXPOSURE THAT HUSTLER GAVE OUR NON-PROFIT INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT-NETWORK, IS PROVING INVALUABLE.



WELL... I'LL GET DOWN OFF MY SOAP-BOX NOW. I JUST FELT COMPELLED TO VOICE MY OPINION. I HOPE YOU'LL SEE FIT TO PRINT THIS IN FTM.

THERE WILL BE A COMPLIMENTARY COPY OF "LINDA/LES & ANNIE : The first F-M/T-S Love Story" ARRIVING AT HAIGHT STREET, A DAY OR TWO AFTER THIS ARRIVES. I WANT YOU TO BE ABLE TO SEE FOR YOURSELF WHAT ALL THE FUSS IS ABOUT. AND, WHO KNOWS, YOU MIGHT EVEN WANT TO REVIEW IT IN FTM. YOU MAY WELL WANT TO SHOW IT AT ONE OF YOUR GET-TOGETHERS (IT'S 30 MINUTES). ^{IT'LL CERTAINLY INSPIRE A HEATED DISCUSSION!}



THE REAL PRICE IS \$68 (We've yet to show a profit - and we won't for ^{quite} a while). BUT WE'RE GOING TO OFFER IT TO YOUR MEMBERS ^(and ours) FOR \$25 (w P.&H.).



LES, ANNIE, AL (Videographer) & I CO-PRODUCED THE VIDEO, SO WE'RE EQUAL PARTNERS. WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY FINANCIAL BACKING - SO IT CAME OUT OF OUR POCKETS.

WELL, I'M GONNA CLOSE HEREABOUTS, IT'S 4:30 AM. & IT'S TAKEN HOURS TO WRITE THIS. AND I WANT TO LEAVE IT FOR THE POSTMAN TO TAKE FIRST THING IN THE MORNING.



WITH LOVE AND BROTHERHOOD,

I REMAIN YOURS TRULY -

Johnny A.

