

Irving Place
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
March 22, 1988

Dear Lou;

On the old Roman calendar each month had three important dates: the nones or the first day of the month, the ides or the 15th day of the month, and the calends or the last day of the month. The third day of the month would be called the second day after the nones of March; the twentysecond day would be called the seventh day after the ~~calends~~ ides etc. The phrase "Beware the ides of March" is from Shakespeare's play Julius Caesar. In the first act when Caesar is heading for the senate, a street fortune teller shouts to him, "Caesar, Beware the ides of March." Caesar, being superstitious, is disturbed, but does not understand the warning. Indeed, later in the play Caesar is murdered on the floor of the Senate on the ides of March. Let that be a lesson to you. Never start a letter with "Beware the ides of March, whatever that means." when writing to an old pedant. He just might go all the way around Robin Hood's barn to explain what it means. My challenge--explain the phrase "all the way round Robin Hood's barn."

Wonderful news about the book contract. Who was it that first told you your writing was worth publishing? My vision comes true. I knew you would be a writer. I'm jealous. *and needless to say, delighted. You are over a year away from publication. Getting the manuscript to the publisher by Sept 1 is the easy part. Wait till you get into the editing and proofing etc. It is like having a baby. Months pass carrying the heavy thing and the pains of birth are big. I expect an autographed copy because I had so much faith in you if not other reasons.*

Do you remember my boy little about Joey, the kid I tried to help here in Milwaukee and who I finally had to kick out of the house - all he did was into a rooming house with the first 2 weeks rent paid for by me? I kicked him out about a year ago. Last I heard he was in Chicago, but I had not a word from him. Last week he showed up at the house, without even a prior phone call. He is in his ass and

has a man with him. I searched the door
and he says "Hi Eldon, do you recognize me?
It's Jody." I say, through the crack in the
door. "Yes I recognize you." "Well, I was in
Milwaukee and I thought I'd come to visit. May we
come in?" "Mind you - it's 10³⁰ at night
and I really don't like the looks of the guy with
him, so I say - "This isn't a very good time."
"I'll come by tomorrow," says he - "I'll be
at work" - says I. "I'll stop at Thompson."
says he. "I'm not with them any more," says I.
Then there is dead silence. He backs away
and goes down the steps and I close the door.

What the hell; that kid put me through
hell. He contacted a woman friend of
mine a few days later and his story
is that he has gone through the psychiatric
and hormonal work - has had his operation
and now is a woman John Ashley and
has a fine job in Chicago as a legal secretary.

Somehow I don't believe a word of it. I
just don't believe a complete transformation
psychiatric evaluation, hormones, and operation
could be completed in a year let alone
this fabulous job as a "legal secretary".
Why do drag queens always say they

3.
The guys as "legal secretaries"? Prostitutes in
A. are always models. I must say I felt
a little guilty in not letting him into the
house, but why expose myself to risk of
having my house rapped off. He didn't even
introduce me to the guy who was with him
and when he was in Chicago before he came
to me he was picked up on the street for
prostitution.

By the way, most sex clubs, as you will
know cut almost everything from their former
life away and begin fresh, just to avoid
scenes like that one.

He told my lady friend that he cried
all the way back to Chicago because I wouldn't
see him, and I don't believe that either. He
sure as hell didn't respect me when he
was living with me.

Now I'm working out very well although I
still feel a little lost. I'd say about 90% of
my clients moved with me, but I did for
some strange reason lose a couple of good ones
who have done well with me. It's a mystery that
some people have no loyalty and don't know when
they are well off.

4.

Well, when you get rich selling your book, you
can do business with me, but I don't think the
book on Garland will be a best seller, except
in certain circles. I can't wait to read it,
because I know that you will make it
interesting instead of just a dry repetition
of facts. You will put yourself into the
reader's shoes, I'm sure.

Well, I miss you and love you very
much. Do keep healthy and keep in
touch.

Edna