

Dear Brian Witnik:

July 1990

AN OPEN LETTER

"Gender Worker" (aka "Gender Consultants") has formally closed as of June 30, 1990 and mail will not be forwarded to my new p.o. box.

The reasons for my retirement from the TG community (after 19 years of primarily philanthropic service) are twofold: firstly, this very time-consuming & energy-draining activity is seriously interfering with both my recent marriage & my new career, and secondly, a re-occurrence of the severe burnout symptoms I suffered two years ago is once more beginning to cloud my horizon.

It is high time that I make that final, permanent break with this fringe community (the "paraculture") and let myself, at long last, mainstream into larger society like "regular folk". After all, I am not gay, but straight, and I consider myself a man, not a TS.

The time is also nigh for me to pursue other interests which I have had to put "on hold" for almost two decades: **pursuits like in-depth writing** (my current project is to wrap up my anthology of TS, TG & TV verse - which, I hope, IFGE will agree to publish; and my next project is to begin to write my lifestory as 38 1/2 years of living seems like as good a time as any to start to review my past and to share it with the public), **like traveling** (I've never even been to Europe or Mexico or the Caribbean 'cause I never had the time nor the money, honey), **like camping** (once we can afford the equipment and get our car fixed), **and like just relaxing and doing nothing** - at least nothing structured, without having to worry about somebody wanting something from me: e.g. newsletter/press deadlines, library & survey questionnaire research, professional & public education, media outreach, counseling & consultation, workshops, rap socials, professional referrals & peer-linking, peer-support, networking, lobbying, chairing &/or attending meetings, writing & answering letters, making phone calls, photocopying & mailing materials, buying & selling books, doing the banking, keeping the books, getting the mail, giving up my lunch hours, early mornings & part of my weekends, ad nauseum.

I'm tired of giving; I want my turn to take a little too - and to partake of the finer things in life. I'm also tired of working ("gender working") and of being so serious all the time; I need to play a little too - and to have some fun, like everyone else.

Furthermore, I am very, very tired and I'm also tired of TSs - many or most of whom I find to be very "tacky" (to use a gay term), and very often "moochers" and "whiners" who pick the brains of helping professionals and resource people like me, who suck dry the support group leaders and peer-counselors (whom they then conveniently toss aside like an old bone once they've picked clean all the meat and sucked out all the lifeblood), who stab in the back fellow TSs &/or TVs, and who are so "into" their self-pity trips (citing TSism as a handicap), they are insensitive to the needs of their significant others, family & friends, and pay no heed to the rest of humankind.

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I do feel sorry for the remaining few resource workers and peer-supporters out there who never quite seem to get the "stroking" and the emotional & financial support they need to carry on. I firmly believe that, more than anyone else I know, I have tried to provide this so very necessary support through regular networking and also by simple tokens of recognitions (such as the 50 "Certificates of Merit" I awarded to various "gender workers" - on behalf of my former Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation - and also, the 12 "Gender Worker Award" plaques I am presenting to a dozen extra-special people this year). Of course, shortly thereafter, (perhaps inspired by my gesture), both IFGE & the Twenty Club followed suit & began presenting their own awards to a few deserving individuals.

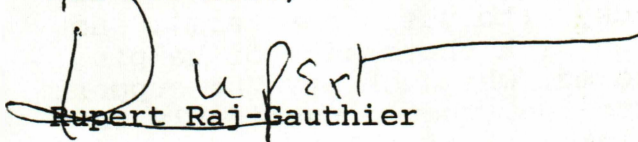
In any event, I am still planning to complete my anthology and Kim Stuart has just recently reassured me she will write the Foreword as she had originally promised. Anyone wishing to submit a piece of rhyming poetry or free verse related to TSism, TGism, Androgyny or TVism, please send same to: Rupert Raj-Gauthier, Box 5963, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4. If you wish to see this work in print, please make an appeal to the International Foundation for Gender Education, Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778, to publish this 7-year collection of close to 250 poems. (I desperately need more F-M poems as I only have about 50). Thanks for your participation!

A.B. Editors: Please pull all my ads from your newsletters except for the enclosed ad calling for poetry submissions for my anthology with my new p.o. box address. ~~I sincerely regret any inconvenience caused by my recent ads for papers of interest to F-M & M-F TSs but those projects failed to reach completion & have been discontinued.~~

In closing, I shall continue to welcome personal letters from those resource workers with whom I've been corresponding (and I may also be inclined to reply to new resource workers). However, I will not respond to any inquiries whatsoever regarding TSism, TVism or TGism (other than those vis-à-vis my anthology), personal or professional and I will not reply to "consumers" for I am now finally retired!

Farewell, Adieu, Bon Voyage, Best Wishes, Good Luck, Good Cheer, Take Care, Go In Peace, Be Good, Be Happy, & Have A Great Life!

All the Best,


Rupert Raj-Gauthier

(Founder: Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals [FACT], Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation [MMRF], and Gender Worker)