

11/28/86

Dear Alyn:

So glad to hear you got the projector OK. I HATE sending fragile things through the mail - that's why I opted for UPS instead of USPO. I spent \$13.56 of your \$18, and will take your suggestion and use the change for perhaps a holiday hot buttered rum at Trax. Thanks!

And thanks so much for the "thank you package." Usinger Summer Sausage is one of the things I miss most about Milw. - Tom never heard of summer sausage, but once he tasted it, I had to move fast to get some for myself. I wolfed down those little candies, too - I didn't make the mistake of showing those to Tom! So you really knew the right thing to send! Those boxes always have SOMETHING in them that gets wasted, but not yours.

What a riot! I should have known the write-up on my book you saw was in our own San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, or as I call it, our Hysterical Society Newsletter. (The initials of the group are SFBAGLHS and our Secretary calls it "San Francisco Bag Lady High School".) My ego must have gotten so puffed up thinking anyone took notice of the book that my brain must have fogged out. Eldon would go nuts if he saw the haphazard way they get this newsletter out...at present I've been waiting 4 days for "One More Article" from the editor. So happy to hear you're voting for Eldon on his AIDS Center board run. He's always out there and I've admired him so for it. Anyway, all the bag ladies in the Hysterical Society are all a-tither about the Walter Williams book you sent the flier to me about. I'll let one of them buy it, and then borrow it later.

Money's getting tight. Just made up my mind for sure to move into another place. I've been here with Tom going on 5 yrs. and have been serious about moving for the last 2. So it's time to go. Will get a place with my friend, Jim - you met him while we were playing Scrabble with Ernest. I know we'll be good roommates and think if either of us had any brains, we'd fall in love with each other, because we get along so well. Too bad there's no fire between us. I don't even particularly LIKE Tom right now and find myself becoming a bitter, miserable person. So it's time to go. My friend upstairs said he learned a long time ago not to live with your lovers, it's a bad idea. I'd have to agree. We'll still be "friends" and try to keep our business relationship intact, so I guess these 5 yrs. wasn't a total waste. Onward! We're looking around the Dolores Park/Valencia St. area - about \$850 for 2 bdrms. now. I feel bad about giving up Page St., it's such a perfect place, but I just can't live with a STRAIGHT guy who thinks Reagan is a great president any longer and, with his print shop downstairs, he ain't movin' anywhere! So it's time to go. Jim will be good for me - will motivate me to eat better,

exercise more, listen to good music, go to cultural events, all the things I should be doing and haven't been. Tom is going to have his mother and 22 yr. old brother move in!

I'm not surprised to hear Ernest is flying off somewhere. Believe me, you can't hold onto these young guys. They have to go out and "disco at the River Queen" like we used to, as you well know. No more young'uns for me...I'm looking for a daddy next. Somebody to pamper me instead of always the other way around. Poor Lou! Poor Alyn!

Doesn't seem like I'll be getting to Milw until spring at the earliest. My sis' husband doesn't seem eager to haul their stuff out here when he has no place to put it. I'm beginning to think he just talks about doing it to shut her [my sis with M.S.] up. I just completed a trying 10 days, when she laid on my couch while he went to play GI Joe for the Nat'l Guard. She is so totally vegged out, I went through every emotion in the book just trying to keep her clean and fed, and myself sane. What an awful disease.

Your few sentences, asking me when I was going to work on my social/sexual life, and telling me to get out of the house to get myself seen, really affected me. I've just joined a support group for "gay men with hidden disabilities", telling them I was born with a 1" dick and one ball, and that's my handicap. I really need some encouragement, since I've spent my whole life feeling ashamed of my body and unlovable. The group is a 10-week commitment; hopefully by then I'll be having the rest of my surgery to complete my change, and I'll feel better about myself. I know I'll always have a little pee-pee, but I also know there are guys out there who wouldn't mind that at all. I just have to find them. I'm currently fantasizing joining one of these Safe Sex Jack-Off clubs - they say "Tues/Wed nites for shy guys" which must mean I could leave my shorts on, at least. I mean, just THINKING about it makes me hot! I am thoroughly amazed by these "one nut porn pix" you sent! There is really somebody for everybody, I guess! Again, moving in with Jim will help boost my confidence to attract someone and begin feeling better about my looks & health.

This whole letter is full of "thank you's", but thank you also for the H. Benjamin obit. The NY Times was probably the best place to find one. I'm happy to have sent him a card on his 100th birthday last year that I know he received. It's because of people like him that I'm so into this Historical Society.

Let's keep in touch! Write when you can.

Yours in liberation,

I sure enjoyed your visit.
Made me feel lovable after all.