

Dear Eldon

2/11/85

Encl \$400 per our conv. I still owe you \$210 for the fix & will send that upon receipt of typestr. So excited about getting it! SOMETHING good has to happen--so far this yr has been a real downer. Found out I had mono when I was so sick last mo. (did I tell you?). Then the ~~xxxxxxx~~ doc's office of the surg here who does the best F-M genital surg (Dr Laub) rejected me from consideration for the surg over the phone w/o ever having seen or talked to me becuz I have sex w/men. They said theyve determined that a F-M cant make it in the gay mens world becuz all gay men care about are 10" dicks... well they didnt put it that way, but they said they showed pix of the cock op to gay men & it didnt turn them on so now they know a F-M cant be a gay man. I told them Im sure if they showed those pix to straigh women who are looking for husbands & fathers for their kids, they wouldnt like it either. Anyway as you can imagine Im very angry & upset that they wont even TALK to me. I have an appt this wk to see Paul Walker. Hes a noted gender therapist & a gay man himself &, I discovered, on the Bd of Dirs of Laubs prog. I did volunteer work for Walkers JIF for a yr & wrote the pamphlet for the F-M that he sends out all over the world. I want him to explain this discrimination to me or help me get by it. Laub is the only surg I feel comfortable about cutting me up. I dont know what more I have to do to prove myself. Also encl a photo Tom & I had taken last Xmas. I got the \$\$ for the stock. Thanks for handling that for me. Ive got my \$\$ in a holding pattern over this cock op. I also need a word processor if Im ever going to do all this writing I have planned. When I get the typesetr I can start taking over that part of our business & bring in some income before the Unemploymt Office makes me go out & look for a job. The thought of being a secy again makes me ILL.

Love, Lou

Dear Eldon

6/9/84

Finally, finally got a chance to sit down & write. My life is contented almost to the point of boredom, yet some exciting things happening. Our printing business is in operation & we've already had to pay someone else about \$30 to do typesetting for us. I WANT YOUR MACHINE. How about sending the owner's manual to me, if available, and anything else that might tell me what the machine can do. I have no recollection of it at all but know once I get it, I can figure it out. Tom & I bought 2 printing presses (Chief 15 and 20) and so far have run 5 jobs for people--even clinched a doctor's office account. I still havent rec'd the inheritance \$\$ from my dad, as my ma is suing his estate trying to prove that his will is invalid & she should get all the cash so she can put it in high-interest money market funds for us when SHE dies. Christ! I did receive his collection of Dixieland jazz 78's (700 lbs. of them)--Benny Goodman, the Dorseys, Bob Crosby, Woody Herman, Muggsy Spanier, Artie Shaw, Teagarden, Krupa--an unbelievable treasure. Im going to begin making tapes of them, maybe offer the tapes to radio stations that play such music around here. My dad would've really dug that. They've asked me to stay at ARCO until the very end of the project team in SF (Sept.) & Ive heard rumors of getting a severance pay. Ive also got more than 100 shares of AtlRich stock--what should I do w/it, Eldon? When I leave the co. in Sept, ARCO will "buy it back from me" w/o a brokerage fee. If I keep the stock & ever want to sell it, I'll have to pay a broker. What'd'ya think? Do you charge for advice? Need another client? Now that my dad's kicked, I have no one to consult. Last thing I heard you were into lady's shoes, if you'll pardon the expression. I hope you're still not angry at me for not contacting you when I was in Milw last summer. Believe me, I thought of it many times but was truly so despondent about my sweet dying dad that I was lucky I remembered to eat & keep myself clean. You'd have only had a basket case on you hards if I did, in fact, find my way to your house. I promise next time Im in town I'll be oever. Have you any plans to come to SF? We're going to have a lot happening here, esp. w/the Demo Convention here. Big march planned for July 15 from Castro St. to the Moscone Ctr where the conv's being held. In addition ~~to~~ the Parade is the end of June--UNITY AND MORE IN '84 (sounds like they couldnt think of anything for a theme this year) You'd have a free place to stay--we even have a separate guest room. I feel myself getting closer & closer to NEEDING the rest of my surg--hope my dad's inheritance will cover that too. This inability to express myself sexually is becoming more & more frustrating. And w/the big AIDS scare, you cant even suck any cock in the back of the theaters. Have you seen the latest Christopher Street/s In Praise of Jockey Shorts? Breathtaking! I feel I should WRITE SOMETHING now that we have, in effect, a publishing co. in our garage. Finally read the abomination entitled F-M TSism by Martin Lothstein. God, Eldon, it was horrible. It read like the EARLY EARLY Freudian theories of what makes some men homosexual (weak mothers, dominant mothers, absent fathers) and he cites 4 case histories of F-M's, all of whom led these Lizzie Borden type lives. At the very end he mentions the "first known case" of a female who wanted to be a gay man. I wrote him a curt letter. Gee, whatever happened to Duchess? He popped into my mind the other day, how he always called me "Butch" and eyed me suspiciously. And what've you been up to? Been going out or anywhere? Anything happening there? Seen Howard or anyone? Elizabeth (now Dale I guess)? I havent been doing much in the community. The one other real out F-M gay man I know is moving here from Ohio this summer, so that may spur me to write. Ive been "compiling words" for something the Advocate may like re: F-M gay men. But so far is in no logical order, if in fact there is such a thing.

Write soon,
Love,
Lou

P.S. You still have the waxer, too? How much you want for that?

(\$1000 for the typesetting & developer, right?) (How would we ship it out here--will it have to be crated?)

Eldon

Yr ltr was a riot--I ended up reading it aloud to Tom. Got quite a few good laughs! I dont know about your idea to refine the ltr into a jack-off novel--it was too realistic & funny to be sexy. For myself I hate to plow thru the "real" writing to get to the dirty parts. The reason I havent written earlier is that I dont have much to say. My life has been so uneventful & easy going & predictable for once in my life. Go to work, come home, eat supper, go to bed. Wkends ding around the house or in our large backyd--my 3rd seeding of the lawn is finally taking, trimming the blackberry bushes, pulling weeds, tossing the snails into the next dr neighbors backyd. Having lots of sex & smoking more marijuana than ever in my life. Throw a durafume on the fireplc & sleep on the floor in front of it, watching color cable TV (I love those nature programs in color!)...Its almost hard to get accustomed to such contentment. Ive been plagued by guilt & feelings of worthlessness...is this really all life is about? etc. So Ive been trying to "Do things". Bought a motorcycle Honda 175 1973 but havent really had a chance to learn to ride it--rain rain rain. And now I cant fit into my leather jacket! There's no justice. Well I went to help on The Sentinel & they told me they were cutting back on copy & wouldnt be needing any typesetting "for a LONG TIME". They put me on pasting down copy which was already laid out. I did 4 pgs in as many hrs...the rest of the time I had to stand there until the guy got around to oking it & giving me another pg. A tremendous waste of time & I never went back. A F-M wrote to me (I correspond w/quite a few who feel they are gay men) that Well of Loneliness was his favorite F-M CDing story so I just finished reading it. I liked the beginning (her childhd) very much but found the adult portion of her life very lacking. The ending was way off. I think next I'll try to plow thru Gay Amer History by Katz. Reading is one way to enrich my boring daily life I guess. I am constantly reminded of Eliz Farly ("22 Yrs in Drag") who didnt know why you wanted to interview her becuz she hadnt done anything exciting in her life--so often I feel the same way! But you know Eldon I'd been fighting just to get thru each day before & how everything is so smooth its so easy to be at work as a man (I Know I could never work there as a female!). Now that I have a lover, theres no need to fight my way thru the pick up scene. Suddenly Ive got to think of what I WANT out of life. I feel frustrated because I dont want to dwell on the TS issue yet feel its my only real area of expertise--the only subject on which I am expert. Without it I know very little. SIGH Ive got so much lost time to make up & dont know where to begin. Too I think Tom came into my life too soon. I was just beg my life as a man when he came into it & Ive had very li-ttle privacy or spare time to reflect, grow, know myself as the new person I am.

Oh I know I have very little to bitch about. Im still doing a good job tho hey? I keep thinking I should take the pressure off & enjoy this hedonistic life of love & security but then I think SHIT IM GOING TO BE 32 YRS OLD THIS YR. I just thought of ~~x~~ it this very minute: I am finally a man now Ive got to figure out what kind of a man I want to be! Give me words of wisdom Eldon!

Love,