

June 26, 1985

mailed
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Jude Patton
[redacted] North Broadway, Suite [redacted]
Santa Ana CA 92706

Dear Jude:

I am writing to you per the suggestion of Rupert Raj of Metamorphosis. He informs me that you are a "consumer advocate" for the Harry Benjamin Int'l Gender Dysphoria Assoc. and should be made aware of my situation. I would very much like this issue to be discussed at the annual symposium in Minneapolis in September.

I am a female-to-male transsexual and met you once at a San Jose gathering. In 1973 at age 22 I began crossdressing as a man and identifying as a gay male. In '76 I applied to the Stanford Gender Clinic and was very honest with them about everything, including my sexual preference for men. In '79 I reapplied, again being upfront about my sexuality. My applications were rejected. I sought other avenues, began hormone therapy in '79, and in '80 had my chest surgery. My change has been very successful...I've been employed by a major corporation as an openly gay man, and in '81 met and began living with my male lover. We are still together and have become partners in a small business. I have also been active in gay (predominantly male) organizations. Recently I received an inheritance and am now financially able to pursue the rest of my surgery.

Earlier this year I contacted the Gender Dysphoria Program in Palo Alto but was told by Ms. Van Maasdam that they did not approve of my lifestyle as a gay man and choose not to deal with me. I was turned away although I have never once been seen nor interviewed by them, and when I asked to at least be allowed an interview, was asked "What for?"

A few weeks later I met with Paul Walker, seeking intervention on my behalf. I have known Paul a long time and he agreed to "see what he could do" for me. He said that, had some female walked in and told him she wanted to be a gay man, he would be against it, too, but that he has known me for many years and is confident I know what I'm doing. Coming from him, that was a pretty high commendation. Paul didn't feel that Van Maasdam would change her mind, and he advised me to wait until after the September symposium to find out "who's doing the best surgery" elsewhere. He also suggested I not be so honest about my sexuality the next place I apply. I've also spoken with Steve Dain, who gave me the same advice.

I have been living in the gay men's world for over 12 years now! I am 34 years old and know what I am doing. Although I have never pursued a female lover, they do look a lot better to me now that I am a full-time man, and I am sure that if I don't feel this should be a requirement to prove that I am "A MAN."

I am very aware that many male-to-females pursue a lesbian lifestyle before and after their surgeries. I know at least ten other female-to-males who feel they are homosexual men and are afraid to be honest with counselors and clinics, fearing the same discrimination I have experienced. I believe this issue must be dealt with at the HBIGDA and hope that you, as "consumer advocate," will raise this subject at the September symposium. Of course, I prefer my name not be used in these discussions, possibly ruining my chance for completion of my change elsewhere.

Thank you for anything you can do on our behalf.

Regards,