

2-7-79

Virginia

I had to smile when I received your letter: I have received so many similar reactions when I reveal myself, and I think that feeling of ~~aliveness~~ ^{oddity is what keeps} ~~me~~ ^{the} few ~~for~~ women like myself in hiding.

Yes, I am truly heterosexual. I have had the same male lover for over 10 years and ~~I~~ have never ~~really~~ had ^{the desire for a} sexual encounter with another female. I mentioned wanting to contact other women with "gay male identities", because I feel I am a gay man — just as the M → F TV sees herself and her lover/wife as lesbians. ~~At all times~~ I like to think of myself and my male lover as gay men. ~~(1973 and 1976)~~

I am 27 years old and have been seriously cross-dressing ^{5 1/2 yrs. when I first came out in public} ~~since 1973~~ ~~at that~~

~~time~~ I became actively involved in the Gay Peoples Union here. ~~and~~ I was accepted as a female who wished to be treated as a gay male young man. ~~I was very well liked~~

and was ^{very} secretary of the organization ~~for~~ two years. I am still very close friends with Eldon Murray, the editor of GPU NEWS ^{in Milw} ~~there~~ and have published many articles on transvestitism ~~there~~ in that publication.

From 1973 - 76 I dressed exclusively as a male and did not own a single women's garment. ^{I moved to S.F. and sought + found a job while in men's clothes.} ~~however~~, I found myself becoming

the better I passed, the more self-conscious I became and the more withdrawn. ^{finally} I realized I could not deny my female identity either. ~~At this time~~ I alternate ^{presently}

I lived in Milw, Wis and

However, as I began passing more readily I began experiencing rejection from ^{acquaintances} who "discovered" what I was; therefore I became more withdrawn + paranoid I became.

and paranoid ~~discovery~~

with the M → F TV

between my male + female wardrobes.
I am still trying to ~~learn~~ adjust to
alternating between my male and female
identities.

Because I could not exclusively
adjust to my male identity, it became
apparent to me that I am not transsexual.
Men's clothes are very ^{highly erotic} ~~sexually~~ stimulating
to me (as I know women's clothing is
to M → F TVs). ~~Therefore~~ ^{and} I can only surmise
that I am a true transvestite.

You are correct in saying that
women are free to express their masculine
qualities in society — ~~however~~ ^{but} you are
incorrect in saying that ~~therefore~~ ^{women} have
no need to pass as men. You are aware that
expressing ~~your~~ ^{your} female qualities while
appearing as a MAN draws a much different
reaction than while you are appearing
as a WOMAN. Yes, I can express my male
side while ~~in~~ in female clothes —
but I want to be treated as a man
and I want men to ~~find me~~ be attracted
to me in a homosexual way. I can only
obtain these things while dressed and
passing as a man.

I too have read and researched
extensively on the topic of transgenderism
and have only grasped a few ~~tiny~~
hints at other women like myself.
For the first time I have finally met
another hetero female who crossdresses

thru my involvement with the Golden Gate
Girls/Guys here in S.F.

I have had a few ^{very} interesting
passing adventures — the most striking,
probably, was passing in a gay men's bath
in Chicago in March 1974. I was waiting
for a friend and so hung around the lobby
and bar of the bath where it was not
necessary to undress. But 85% of the men
there were just towels and I must ~~admit~~ ^{brag that}
a few ~~men~~ had their eyes on me.

You ~~wrote~~ ^{mentioned suggested} that my life as a pseudo
man must be less traumatic than that of a

pseudo woman because of society's permissive
attitude toward masculine women vs. toward
feminine men. That ~~may be~~ ^{surely is} the case. However

I find that men are raised with a self-
confidence and daring that is discouraged
~~while~~ ^{while} raising girls. I find myself doubting
my abilities and my right to be who I am.
I think ~~men~~ ^{men} ~~do not~~ ^{do not} ~~have~~ ^{have} ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~aggressive~~ ^{aggressive} ~~background~~ ^{background}
and independent character reinforced.

(Para) am ^{also} interested in seeing your publication &
I ~~would be interested~~ ^{would be interested} in knowing
more about the one similar case to mine
which you have printed in TVig. Would
it be possible to obtain a reprint?

(As you are an expert in the
hetero M → F TV, I would like to
become an expert on my end.)

I am ~~also~~ interested in your

and
I am a
staunch
proponent
of male
liberation.

knowledge of how to keep the 2 sides of our lives separate and how to deal with the double identity within. (I ~~would~~ ^{assume} ~~gather~~ ~~that~~ the truths for a M \rightarrow F would also apply ~~as well~~ to the F \rightarrow M in this regard.)

I suppose if you want some sort of article on "My Adventures ~~Living~~ as a Man" I could whip one up, but telling gee-don't-I-pass-good-stories isn't what I'm most concerned with.

~~I am enclosing a list of my previously published articles - maybe you'd like to reprint. ~~Let me know.~~ If you ^{might be} interested in reprinting my previously published articles,~~ Hoping to continue our correspondence, let me know and I'll forward a list of them.

Regards,

Lon