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Virginia Prince

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Dea Lou:

Thanks ;for your recent letter and sorry I was slow in replying but a) I have too much correspond-  
ence, b) I have too many other committments to  
keep up with the correspondence I have, and c) I  
have been out of tpwn for 4 days one week to a  
convention in San Diego and 3 days the next week  
with lectures and working at the lab, so I'm way  
behind. Thus this will not be long but it will be  
a note.

Have to correct you in one point--TVs are not  
male to female but rather man to woman. The diff-  
erence between sex and gender is important.1 Add-  
itionally TVs do NOT consider themselves to be  
lesbians with their partners since in sex they  
are heterosexual and perform as such. Thats just  
to clear you up on a point not to make an issue  
of it. But you see you fefer to "alternating be-  
tween your male and female identities". You are  
always a female since you donot change your psex  
with your wardrobe. You meant between your masc-  
uline and feminine identity. Identity in the  
sense you use it is a cultural, i.e general  
matter, the sense of being a man or a woman.  
But your sense of being a female--an anatomical  
matter which you cant deny is your sexual identity  
and youcant shift it back and forth.

I'm glad you got wise to the idea that changing  
gender roles does not require anatomical change  
of sex and that therefore you arent a transexual.  
I have known some females who went that trip and  
came to regret it when it was over and they were  
stuck with the male role sexually as well as the  
masculine role genderrally.

Your complaints about having doubta about your  
abilities and your right to be who you are etc.  
and saying that men have it better is ttypical  
of the TVs attitude. It is reflected in the man  
to woman TV feeling that women have it made and  
being envious of them. In actuality its about a

50-50 split between responsibilities and privelege for both. Having lived in both areas I am in some what a positin to know....I've lived as Virginia completely for the past 11 years and have learned that there are costs as well as benefite on both sides. While you are envious of mens aggressive and independent character reinforcement, men are hooked into the social expectations that go with it and which they cant escape from while still in mens clothes.1

The secret to living comfortably with a dual pair of personalities within is primarily to learn to accept the fact as a benefit and not a burden. When one leaens that masculinity and femininity are just the names applied to the two halves of humanity and that we are all entitled to our complete humanity, you have got it licked. It is guilt, feear of discovery and the sense of being either sick or wrong that makes the job difficult So as soon as you learn to accept yourself in both your masculine and feminine manifestations your over the hump. We feel guilty and awkward and weird or whatever because society has put some "rules" in the back of our heads and then wen our feelings lead us to do things that are in conflpct with those rules we have to experience guilt because that is part of the deal with society. YOU SHALL BEHAVE IN FEKED WAYS AND IF YOU DO NOT DO SO YOU WILL FEEL GUILT PAINS FOR YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS.

As to writing something for the magazine, I must tell you that I cannot afford to pay for articles except that if it prints out to 5 or more pages a free copy of that issue is sent. Material is contributed by readers for the mutual enjoyment of all. You are right, we dont need "dont I pass good articles".. But we also print serious articles and commentaries. Since we havent had any contributions from female TVs it would be in line to let the readers understand a bit more about where you are coming from, why, when and how and to express some of your fears, frustrations and desires. It helps everyone to see the other side of the fence as being pretty much like where they already are. As for aarticles thatyou have had printed elsewhere that is O.K. provided they say the kidd of thing that is appropriate to the needs

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and purposes of our readership. Send me down copies or the magazine and I will read them over.

Reprints of Transvestia dont exist It is a 96 page magazine that sells for \$6 plus 14% postage and would have to be ordered Although the book Understanding Cross Dressing was written for the M to F TV it is general enough in a lot of its point of view, explanations and theory to apply to you as well and you would probably find it helpful It is \$6.50 + the 15%. Order them from me if you are interested.

You might find it i teresting to become a member of our Society for the Second Self;...you have a second self as we do and you would be so far the first female member of it if you were to join. Ordering AND reading the understanding book is the primary requirement p inciplally to eliminate those who do not qualify for membership as well as to educate them.

Well, enough for tonite, it is 12;30 and I've got to get some sleep so I'll sign off for now and hope to hear from you again.

your friend

Virginia