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Feelings and Theories

Of a Queer Celibate Female Transgendered Biologically Determined Androgyny Male-to-Female Transsexual Male

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Labels do not help!

After reading 'Theories of Gender' in *Polare* Issue No. 14, I suppose if I must continue the tradition of using insufferable and discreet terms to describe myself and also using the new N.S.W. law passed recently as a guide, I am a ... queer celibate female transgendered biological determined androgynous male-to-female transsexual male.

I intellectually know that the terms of gender male or female cannot stand separately but only in relation to each other.

Yet all my life there has never been a label I could hold on to. If to be queer means that I do not relate to my genitals, then I am queer. Yet to say I was arbitrarily ascribed them, I feel is indeed flippant.

What if I feel my whole body is wrong? I am a practicing contortionist (no, really), so where it has been deemed by this new legislation as an advantage in

sport to be a transgenderist, in my sporting art form it is an absolute disadvantage.

No hormone can reassign me my female hips or lighten my tendons like a females, although oestrogen does soften them a little. So then, I am a biological determinist.

I am not saying because you have a womb it must be used but I have desperately wanted my child. But four years ago I was diagnosed as infertile. At the same time I was on ludicrously high amounts of hormones - three vials of Primogyn a fortnight, four Androcur a day and four Provera a day. Of course I started to produce copious amounts of colostrum and naturally I was 'clucky' as hell. It almost drove me to suicide. I was depressed for three years and the emptiness still bites into me (no, really).

How can the birth experience ever be labelled as an arbitrarily assigned experience? Labels do not help. No operation can give me the female genitals that I actually feel lent and not actuate or even give me any fertility back let alone produce my child. The transsexual process, to me, is but a copy and seems but a meddling one at that. No I.V.F. program would touch me, not even for a million dollars and then it would be dangerous for the child!

My inability to be male and then relate to myself cross-genderly began before I could talk. This dichotomy has lead me to experience life as being confusing and deeply painful psychologically. You may be polite to call me she and give me some rights in society but the feelings never stop.

I intellectually know that the terms of gender male or female cannot stand separately but only in relation to each other. Yet, the skeletal system, the reproductive system, the Müllerian duct or the vas deferens are not arbitrarily assigned, they are flesh and blood, and no introduced hormone or operation erases that blueprint. Forget chromosomes as an argument, these are whole symbiotic systems no psychology can remove the male system or female system just as no one dealing in transsexualism has ever been able to tell me when at last shall I start ovulating. Feelings cut deeper than any surgeons bill ever will.

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