

10/24/88

Dear Paul,

First, thank you for listening to my flood of verbiage Oct. 3. I find that "unloading," even on a one-time basis, clears my head. I left you knowing that I'm asking unanswerable questions--like my dad's incessant question on life, "What's it all about?"

You cleared away some cobwebs for me regarding my desire for/ resistance against obtaining a lover. I realize now that, to find intimacy, I have to be "intimate," i.e., vulnerable, open, and amenable to "revealing" myself. While I haven't found anyone I care to "reveal" myself to, and have no physical drive to find someone, at least I know the steps to take in that direction.

Next, I have some good news:

After our talk, I decided it was time to tell Bruce, my Shanti emotional support volunteer, about my transsexualism. I did, and he immediately informed me that he's known for a long time! It seems that, over a year ago, I saw Bruce and his friend (visiting from Seattle) on Castro St. by chance. This friend remembered me from a talk I gave at S.F. State about 8 yrs. ago! So Bruce was so glad I finally brought it out in the open, and I was so glad that, whatever shock or ambivalence about me he experienced, happened a long time ago, unnoticeable to me. So our relationship will not change or be awkward, as I feared.

Then, I went to see Dr. Brownstein, just to show him my genitoplasty, now that it's all healed up and feeling good. he asked if I'd like some improvements, and he's agreed to sew my ball sacs (now implants in each labia majora) together to form one scrotal sac like regular guys! I am so happy and encouraged! All this time I've tried to resign myself to being satisfied with whatever I had, believing no surgeon would touch me again anyway. B'stein now shares his office with a dermatologist whose main clientele are KS patients, and B'stein has learned how to protect himself and doesn't fear being infected. I'm scheduled for Nov. 8 and am so glad. This surgery will really improve how I look and feel about my body--I can be better!

Thanks again, Paul, for giving me a needed kick in the butt. I never stay down long!

With love, Lou