

Dear Queer

The Question:

Dearest Queerest, if someone looks like they are trying to dress like a girl should I use female pronouns?

Our Answer:

We can tell you are trying to support this person which is awesome! We completely understand the confusion. Let us see if we can break this down.

1. When confused about pronouns, it is always best to ask politely, "what are your pronouns?" You can make this less awkward by offering your own when you introduce yourself. This makes it easy for them to return the favor. Also, pronouns are not female or male, they are feminine or masculine. This is because pronouns don't have a sex, female and male are sexes, but pronouns speak to genders, just as femininity and masculinity are words that describe gender.
 2. What someone's gender looks to be to you might not be their actual gender identity. The outer part of someone's gender, how they express themselves, is gender expression. The internal part of someone's gender is gender identity, how they feel about their gender, maybe just that day, maybe for years, maybe for always. Gender identity is the same regardless of what I am wearing.
 3. Lots of people's gender expression never changes or differs dramatically in their lives, but some people's gender expression does. Also, many people's gender identity is static, but gender identity can change or differ per day. Some are bigender, some are agender. Google it! Get lost in the wonderful ways different people feel about gender.
 4. Also, just a reminder, you can be a straight cisgender man who likes wearing dresses, or a straight cisgender woman who rocks suits. Gender expression and identity do not affect who you are attracted to and are not necessarily connected to what your genitals look like.
- Thank you for your question!

COE-Community Camera

Students explore local job opportunities at the job/paid internship fair in the Phifer Commons in upper Gage on Feb. 29. Photos by Lisa McDonald.



Weekly Sudoku

			8					5
				7		6		
					3			
		6						8
	3		5				1	
4	9	2	1					
		9				4	2	
	2			3	5			
	1						9	

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