

VIDEO SOMA FEEDBACK

By Merrily Paskal

Imagine.

You can have a videotaperecorder at home. You can record sound and image and play them back right away. You can even monitor as you are recording. What do you do?

Strip.

Make Love.

Mastrubate.

Wave your cock.

Grin happily and idiotically at all the taboos you are so joyously flaunting.

We are not supposed to dwell on our own bodies. And yet we all, for the extent of our sojourns on earth, live in a body, mostly our own, sometimes fused with another. We *are* interested in our bodies. We have had enough of undressing in the dark. In this culture we are starved for soma-feedback.

"Tape is a tender way of getting in touch with oneself. In privacy, with control over the process, one can learn to accept the extension out there on tape as part of self. There is the possibility of taking the extending back in

and reprocessing it over and over again on one's personal time warp." Paul Ryan

When we begin to relate nude to ourselves on tape, we imitate porno movies. Most couples set the camera on the tripod and point it at the bed. They press the record trigger, hop on the bed and screw. They do not watch themselves as they are screwing but they get off on the fact that they are making a dirty movie. Then they play it back later and if they have the energy they start again. Same movie. It is an elementary form of delayed feedback but it is after all our only model for nude behavior in front of a recording device.

But we *have* developed new modes of behavior and we can discover ways to feedback on that behavior and reinforce it. How ironic that we reprocess our love in their package.

"Narcissus gazes stupified, paralyzed, at his image in the pool. His image is cut off from him and the amputation produces a numbness and closure that make it impossible for him to recognize his extended self. As long as we accept the Narcissus attitude of regarding the extensions of our bodies as really out there, really independent of us, we will meet all technological challenge with the same sort of banana skin pirouette and collapse." Paul Ryan



photo: Dudley