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# A LETTER FROM HUEY TO THE REVOLUTIONARY BROTHERS AND SISTERS ABOUT THE WOMEN'S LIBERATION AND GAY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS

During the past few years, strong movements have developed among women and homosexuals seeking their liberation. There has been some uncertainty about how to relate to these movements.

Whatever your personal opinion and your insecurities about homosexuality and the various liberation movements among homosexuals and women (and I speak of the homosexuals and women as oppressed groups) we should try to unite with them in a revolutionary fashion.

I say, "whatever your insecurities are" because, as we very well know, sometimes our first instinct is to want to hit a homosexual in the mouth and to want a woman to be quiet. We want to hit the homosexual in the mouth as soon as we see him because we're afraid we might be homosexual and want to hit the woman or shut her up because she might castrate us or take the nuts that we may not have to start with.

We must gain security in ourselves and therefore have respect and feelings for all oppressed people. We must not use the racist-type attitudes like the white racists use against people because they are black and poor. Many times the poorest white person is the most racist because he's afraid that he might lose something or discover something that he doesn't have. You're some kind of threat to him. This kind of psychology is in operation when we view oppressed people and we're angry with them because of their particular kind of behavior or their particular kind of deviation from the established norm.

Remember we haven't established a revolutionary value system; we're only in the process of establishing it. I don't remember us ever constituting any value that said that a revolutionary must say offensive things toward homosexuals or that a revolutionary would make sure that women do not speak out about their own particular kind of oppression.

Matter of fact, it's just the opposite, we say that we recognize the woman's right to be free. We haven't said much about the homosexual at all and we must relate to the homosexual movement because it is a real movement. And I know through reading and through my life experience, my observation, that homosexuals are not given freedom and liberty by anyone in this society. Maybe they might be the most oppressed people in the society.

What made them homosexuals? Perhaps it's a whole phenomena that I don't understand entirely. Some people say that it's the decadence of capitalism--I don't know whether this is the case, I rather doubt it. But whatever the case is, we know that homosexuality is a fact that exists and we must understand it in its purest form; that is, a person should have the freedom to use his body whatever way he wants to.

That's not endorsing things in homosexuality that we wouldn't view as revolutionary. But there is nothing to say that

a homosexual can not also be a revolutionary. And maybe I'm now injecting some of my prejudice by saying "even a homosexual can be a revolutionary." Quite the contrary, maybe a homosexual could be the most revolutionary.

When we have revolutionary conferences, rallies and demonstrations, there should be full participation of the Gay Liberation Movement and the Women's Liberation Movement. We understand there are factions within the Women's Liberation Movement. Some groups might be more revolutionary than others. We shouldn't use the actions of a few to say that they're all reactionary or counterrevolutionary because they're not.

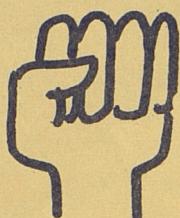
We should deal with factions just as we deal with any other group or party that claims to be revolutionary. We should try to judge somehow whether they're operating sincerely in a revolutionary fashion from a really oppressed situation (and we'll grant that if they're women they're probably oppressed.) If they do things that are unrevolutionary or counterrevolutionary, then criticize that action. If we feel that the group in spirit means to be revolutionary in practice but they make mistakes in interpretation of the revolutionary philosophy or they don't understand the dialectics of the social forces in operation, we should criticize that and not criticize them because they are women trying to be free. And the same is true for homosexuals.

We should never say a whole movement is dishonest when in fact they are trying to be honest; they're just making honest mistakes. Friends are allowed to make mistakes. The enemy is not allowed to make mistakes because his whole existence is a mistake and we suffer from it. But the Women's Liberation Front and Gay Liberation Front are our friends, they are our potential allies and we need as many allies as possible.

We should be willing to discuss the insecurities that many people have about homosexuality. When I say, "insecurities," I mean the fear that there is some kind of threat to our manhood. I can understand this fear. Because of the long conditioning process that builds insecurity in the American male, homosexuality might produce certain hangups in us. I have hangups myself about male homosexuality where on the other hand I have no hangups about female homosexuality and that's a phenomena in itself. I think it's probably because that's a threat to me maybe, and the females are no threat. It's just another erotic sexual thing.

We should be careful about using terms which might turn our friends off. The terms "faqot" and "punk" should be deleted from our vocabulary and especially we should not attach names normally designed for homosexuals to men who are enemies of the people such as Nixon or Mitchell. Homosexuals are not enemies of the people.

We should try to form a working coalition with the Gay Liberation and Women's Liberation groups. We must always handle social forces in an appropriate manner and this is really a significant part of the population--both women and the growing number of homosexuals that we have to deal with.



**ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!**

*Huey P. Newton,  
SUPREME COMMANDER,  
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The following statement was issued by the Third World Gay Revolution, a group of New York Black and Latin homosexuals.

THE OPPRESSED SHALL NOT BECOME THE OPPRESSOR

Sisters and Brothers of the Third World, you who call yourselves "revolutionaries" have failed to deal with your sexist attitudes. Instead you cling to male-supremacy and therefore to the conditioned role of oppressors. Brothers still fight for the privileged position of man-on-the-top. Sisters quickly fall in line behind-their-men. By your counterrevolutionary struggle to maintain and to force heterosexuality and the nuclear family, you perpetuate outmoded remnants of Capitalism. By your anti-homosexual stance you have used the weapons of the oppressor thereby becoming the agent of the oppressor.

It is up to Third World males to realistically define masculinity because it is you, who, throughout your lives have struggled to gain the unrealistic roles of "men". Third World men have always tried to reach this precarious position by climbing on the backs of women and homosexuals. "Masculinity" has been defined by white society as the amount of possessions (including women) a man collects, and the amount of physical power gained over other men. Third World men have been denied even these false standards of "masculinity". Therefore stop perpetuating in yourselves and your community the white-supremacists notions which are basic to your own oppression.

We, as Third World gay people suffer a triple oppression:

1)We are oppressed as people because our humanity is routinely devoured by the carnivorous system of Capitalism.

2)We are oppressed as Third World people by the economically inherent racism of white Amerikan society.

3)We are oppressed by the sexism of the white society and the verbal and physical abuse of masculinity-deprived Third World males.

The right of self-determination over dominion of one's own body is a human right and this right must be defended with one's body being put on the line.

By the actions you have taken against your gay brothers and sisters of the Third World you who throughout your lives have suffered the torments of social oppression and sexual repression, have now placed yourselves in the role of oppressor.

Anti-homosexuality fosters sexual repression, male-supremacy, weakness in revolutionary drive, and results in an inaccurate non-objective political perspective.

LOS OPRIMIDOS NO SE CONVERTIRAN EN OPRESORES

Hermanas y hermanos del 3er Mundo: Uds., que se llaman reolucionarios, no se han enfrentado a sus actitudes sexis tas. En cambio, se han aferrado al.machismo y en consecuencia al papel de opresor. Aun Uds. luchan por la posición privilegiada del machismo, y cada una de Uds., hermanas, sigue detrás de los "hombres".

Por vuestra lucha contrarrevolucionaria para mantener (y forzar) la heterosexualidad y el núcleo familiar, Uds. perpetúan las viejas ideas remanentes del capitalismo.

Por vuestra posición anti-homosexualhan usado las armas del opresor, en consecuencia convirtiéndose en agente del mismo.

Está en-Uds., hombres del 3er mundo, — definir la masculinidad de un modo más realista, Porque son Uds. quienes a través de sus vidas han luchado para alcanzar esta posición precaria poniéndosepor encima de las mujeres y los homosexuales, en consecuencia perpetuando en Uds. mismos y en la comunidad las nociones capitalistas blancas del machismo, las cuales se encuentran básicamente en vuestra propia opresión.

Nosotros, gente homosexual del 3er Mundo, sufrimos una triple opresión:

1)Estamos oprimidos como personas, pues nuestra humanidad esta sistemáticamente devorada por el sistema carnívoro capitalista.

2)Estamos oprimidos como gente del 3er Mundo por el racismo derivado del sistemas económico de la sociedad americana-blanca.

3)Estamos oprimidos por el sexism de — esta misma sociedad blanca y a menudo ma noseados verbal y físicamente por el machismo de los hombres del 3er mundo. El derecho de autodeterminación sobre el propio cuerpo es un derecho humano y este derecho será defendido con la vida.

A consecuencia de las acciones que Uds. han tomado contra sus hermanos y hermanas homosexuales del 3er mundo, Us., que a través de sus vidada sufrieron los tormentos de la opresión social y la represión sexual, se han puesto ahora en el papel de opresor.

Antihomosexualidad alienta y promueve represión sexual, machismo, debilidad en el empuje revolucionario, y una inexacta no-objetiva perspectiva política.

This pamphlet is one in a series published by a group of male homosexuals active in New York's Gay Liberation Front. For a list of titles, write to:

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