

# come out!

25c

a liberation forum for the gay community



Photo by Dave Healey

Winter 1972 Vol 2 issue 8

# OUR LETTERS

Dear Steve Gavin and Come Out!

It was very disappointing to see the box entitled "Is Socialism the Answer?" displayed in such a prominent position without a specific rebuttal nearby. Hopefully this letter could serve that purpose successfully.

It seems utopian, in the negative sense, to see a system as either a satisfactory or unsatisfactory replacement. A system reflects the struggle that has taken place to put it into effect. If there is no anti-sexist component to a socialist revolution, obviously the result will reflect that lack. We know by now, I hope, that the "counter-culture" is not attacking capitalism, let alone sexism, and that it is fruitless to expect an evolution in consciousness arising simply from propaganda. What is needed is some theory of sexism that can produce a program of action. It seems to me that there has been an over-emphasis on consciousness raising and alienation, and an indifference to gay politics. With no political theory of sexism as it pertains to women and gay people, how can there be a political response that can collectively embrace the left? It is not adequate, it should be obvious by now, to demand sympathy or moral reforms from anyone, including the sexist male left. If there is oppression, then there is a source for a

political movement, in which case the left would be confronted with a real choice, and a real imperative. Consciousness is not a movement in itself.

Russia, China, and Cuba have been consistent in their treatment of homosexuals, but they are not necessarily examples of the limits of socialism. All three of these states were formed from peasant revolutions. I am sure that the results of a revolution in an industrialized country which has enjoyed a long tradition of bourgeois freedom would be different, open to new possibilities. I am also sure that if feminist and gay issues are not programatically raised, then the results of a revolution here will be a dismal repetition. That makes the role of women and gay people quite important.

On behalf of the sexist male left then, I would urge you to politicize yourselves and then go to work on us. There is nothing sexist about dialectical materialism, only sexist applications. You must help us try to fill in the blanks. Moral-emotional protestations are not nearly enough—we've all been saturated with these, and we only tend to heed those which are accompanied by some practical solution. The weight of history is, I believe, leaning against that which supports capitalism. We haven't much of a choice: socialism will be the answer, whether we like it or not. The job is to make it the answer for everyone in the fullest, most spiritually satisfying way, and not be stopped short at the success of simply seeing everyone fed and clothed.

although this is no small battle either.

Black communists see racism as bad for everyone, and are actively involved in trying to win over white racist workers. They know that without whites they cannot win, that nobody wins. Similarly sexism will not be overcome unless the victimized actively participate in the struggle, on the basis of political principles as well as moral empathy. Your "enemies" will indeed try to destroy you, until you show them why they are actually your friends, and if friendship is based on a world-vision that overshadows simple personal likes and dislikes, then it can last as something permanent and powerful, even revolutionary.

Sincerely,  
Max Sawicky  
All You Can Eat  
% Railroad Plaza, room 215  
New Brunswick, New Jersey 08903

Dear Brothers, Sisters,

I was receiving your paper a brother was sending it to me, until they stopped allowing them to enter. (They can't stand the truth).

I'm grateful for your paper because it is the only way a brother in prison can get the truth. So for this reason I would like for you to place my name in your personal column. I would like to correspond with sisters who are in the "front".

I'm twenty-six, black, from Pittsburgh, Penna. I received one and a half to three years for driving under a suspended license. I have seven months in.

I would appreciate it very much if you would do this for me.

Yours in the struggle,  
Donald

Donald Phelan no. C-7882  
Drawer R,  
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania 16652

signed articles and statements, express the opinion of the author only and do not reflect the feelings of the entire collective.

Peace and Power Editor's

As you may note I am at present incarcerated and I can truthfully state they have placed me here solely for political reasons.

My reasons for writing this is in hope to gather information of this, your portion of oppression, for I am aware that the straight society is hard on your way of life and through reading various articles which were biased I still am somewhat at loss as to just what is needed and how to achieve your desired goals. The reason for my concern is I am Black and I can readily understand your situation I am in all earnest seeking to understand and in myself maybe find a way to assist all people to freedom no matter what they may be or any other barrier for I am for all oppressed peoples within this imperialistic, fascist, racist form of government ruling and exploiting the masses of the people.

I doubt very seriously if I would be able to receive your paper so therefore could you please print this and express my sincere wishes of delving in the "Gay Revolution" and want someone who is gay, be a brother or a sister, to write. It would be appreciated, I seek to exchange political ideals and in truth maybe obtain a friend who is wholly understanding.

I must close for now in hope that this will be printed. Yours in the Struggle, Dave Bridell H-8161  
Drawer R State Correctional Institution  
Huntingdon, Pennsylvania 16652

Dear Sisters:

I am enclosing 15 cents for your list of international gay organizations. To bother you with a little info about me—I am a gay guy (fag), 15 years old, and live in Fairhaven, New Jersey, which is next to Red Bank and Asbury Park—I hope you know where I mean. Anyway, my troubles are the utter and complete isolation and alienation I have out here because it is far from N.Y.C. and hence few gay people live here. Those few that I know are over 25. So please see if you know of any gay consciousness raising, coffeehouse, etc. organizations around this area, or in Monmouth County N.J. We have a few mixed (straight and gay) bars around here, but I can't dig that because of its unintimate, unfriendly atmosphere and there is no one there who I can talk to or can help me, especially since its the over 21 set. I have contacted GAY YOUTH in N.Y.C., but that isn't much help either because it is hard to get up there since I am too young to drive. I had their phone number, but it got disconnected. So, if you can give me the address to Gay Youth I would appreciate it too. Thanks, Sisters

Love, Love, Love, Love with Gay Love (Mother Nature's Son) Fair Haven, N.J. P.S. Was really surprised to see your paper made it all the way down to the peace center here—heard so much about it. Dig it (the paper).

Note: Name withheld because of age by Come OUT! collective.

Come Out! is published by the Come Out! collective seasonally on January, April, July, and October. Subscription price is \$6 for 12 issues. The office of publication is 752 9th Ave. (4f), New York, NY 10019.

This is volume 8 (issue 9) published on January 11, 1971.

Application to mail at 2nd class postage rates is pending at New York, NY.

Sisters and Brothers of Come Out!

As I was reading the last issue of Come Out! (vol. 2-7B), I found an article, the series of questions about Angela Davis, that disturbed me very much. Since the article was not signed I assume that the editors of the paper take responsibility for it, and so it's you that I'm writing.

First, I must say that the questions asked about the Communist Party are very real questions - ones that I've never heard them answer. What I didn't like was that the article did not criticize openly where there was every reason to. To ask questions seemed almost a "gossiping" way to make a point, when almost all that was said about the CP could and should be aired in public, so that people can understand what is really going on. Also, I felt that some of the questions put forward were not done in a way that was meant to be constructive. For example, asking whether the CP is so infiltrated with pigs that Washington is not making policy for them. Every revolutionary organization is infiltrated by pigs right now, and the CP is hardly an exception, but this doesn't mean that they control every organization. If we criticize our friends as if they were enemies, that's almost like driving them into the camp of our enemies. There are many good people in the CP, and we should criticize in a way that can help those people change when they are wrong.

There were also some real questions about the Angela Davis case in the article, which maybe I can help answer. First, Angela bought the guns a full year before the shootout because her life was being threatened. Jonathan Jackson was her bodyguard, and she bought the guns for him. Another question was about why the CP is defending her. Yes, it is on the grounds that she would never knowingly become involved in a courthouse shootout: simply that she is innocent of those specific charges. Another question was about Ralph Poindexter. He is a personal friend of Angela's, and comes from a wealthy Chicago family ... which explains why he was bailed out so quickly. criticism for publishing them. I can't believe the questions were really asked in good faith - in order to get more information about the case. To ask if Angela is an intelligent revolutionary for being confused, as she is - I'd be in pretty good shape. Never before in the history of this monster have they dragnetted the country for someone as they have Angela. To ask why was she caught in a white section of town can only be destructive; we can only assume that she was doing everything she could to stay out of the pigs' clutches. If she made any mistakes in that area, I'm sure she now realizes them only too well. What she needs now is our real support (given in a way that cannot be used by opportunists), not that we should attack her escape plans or speculate of she had done this or that ....

The other questions about why she joined the Communist Party, about what happened in Florida, or about breaking Party discipline only she can answer, and so she should be asked. And I definitely think that it is high time that feminists and all revolutionaries got themselves a political education about the history and methods (and failings) of left-wing groups.

sent with love  
Jim Jones

Though I'm not the author of the Angela Davis article, I feel a response is necessary since, I believe, the writer of the above letter has not understood the article. The questions put forth by the article in question transcend Angela Davis. The idea is not: Angela Davis is a traitor; let's stab her in the back. Rather it is: An intelligent revolutionary does not automatically jump on bandwagons, especially bandwagons created by groups who endorse the genocide of gay people. At this late date the partial explanations given by this writer serve only to underscore the idea put forth in the article.

As for there being many good people in the Communist Party, I think I've already answered that statement.

Steve Gavin

this issue brought to you  
by: Perry, Ellen, Steve, Roy, Steve, Debb, Warren, LIN, Martha, Brass, Bedoz, Brooks, Eddy, GAVIN, Moldovan, Singer, Stephan, Shelley