

The Family of Man Mexico Land of Contradictions

Richard Lewis

I've just come back from Mexico. This was my first time in the country. The beauty, the excitement, the warmth of the people — all the things I had heard and read about and expected. I had a picture in my mind of a land of peace and plenty, a land of opportunity and hard work, a land of freedom and progress. I had a picture in my mind of a land of hope and promise, a land of opportunity and hard work, a land of freedom and progress.

But the reality is very different. The contradictions and complexities of the Mexican situation are everywhere. The middle class is being crushed by inflation and unemployment. The working class is being exploited by a few big business firms. The poor are being pushed into shantytowns and slums. The government is corrupt and inefficient. The people are suffering and dying.

The Mexican government is a puppet of the United States. It is a tool of American imperialism. It is a tool of American capitalism. It is a tool of American greed and avarice. It is a tool of American power and influence. It is a tool of American domination and control.

The Mexican people are being oppressed and exploited. They are being treated as second-class citizens. They are being denied their basic rights and freedoms. They are being denied their dignity and respect. They are being denied their place in the sun.

The Mexican people are being crushed by a system of social and economic inequality. They are being crushed by a system of class and caste discrimination. They are being crushed by a system of privilege and power. They are being crushed by a system of exploitation and oppression.

The Mexican people are being denied their basic rights and freedoms. They are being denied their dignity and respect. They are being denied their place in the sun. They are being denied their right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Life for our brothers and sisters is no less full of contradictions and complexities. The middle class is being crushed by inflation and unemployment. The working class is being exploited by a few big business firms. The poor are being pushed into shantytowns and slums. The government is corrupt and inefficient. The people are suffering and dying.

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STATEMENT
OF
PURPOSE

LOS
ANGELES

HISTORY: 1969 Was the Year of The New Homosexual. During that year, new groups, projecting a militant, activist, and determined viewpoint began to spring up around the country. Committee for Homosexual Freedom, San Francisco; Gay Liberation Front, New York; Gay Liberation Front, Berkeley; Gay Liberation Front, Minneapolis, now meets every week, current count twenty-five. During December 1969, Gay Liberation Front, Los Angeles, was founded.

COMMUNITY OF INTEREST: We are in total opposition to America's white racism, to poverty, hunger, the systematic destruction of our patrimony; we oppose the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer, and are in total opposition to wars of aggression and imperialism, whoever pursues them. We support the demands of Black, Chicano, Oriental, Women, Youth, Senior Citizens, and others demanding their full rights as human beings. We join in their struggle, and shall actively seek coalition to pursue their goals.

GENERAL METHODOLOGY: Gay Liberation Front, Los Angeles, will be a one-human, one-vote, non-exclusionary organization, welcoming all concerned homosexuals, and sexual liberationists into its association. Decision making process is by consensus, there is no formal membership, participants are called "Associates." Meetings are weekly, on Sunday at 4:00 P.M. Until further notice we are meeting in the office of the Homosexual Information Center, at their guests. A future project will be to establish a working center.

PHILOSOPHY: We say that homosexuality is a perfectly natural state, a fact, a way of life, and that we enjoy our sexuality, without feelings of inferiority or guilt. We seek, and find, love, and approach love as a feeling of loving mutuality. We refuse to engage in discussion of causation, "SicLuzes" (A LIE), sources of sexuality, or any other such Establishment Hang-Ups. We accept ourselves with total self-respect, and respect our associates as they are, and what some social arbiter says they should be.

SELF-LIBERATION: One of our foremost goals is to bring all sexual beings, into total acceptance of their sexuality. We believe that homosexuals can best serve themselves by accepting total naturalness, their homosexuality. We believe that as quickly as possible that homosexuals should find ways to inform their friends, families, employers, and associates of their homosexuality, that through that confrontation might come freedom from gossip, blackmail, guilt feelings, and self-destruction.

EDUCATION: We shall as quickly as possible inform one another of our knowledge of life, and then to take that knowledge out into the community to educate the Philistines who have for so long made life in America a petrified, joyless Puritanism.

ACTION: We shall go immediately and militantly, to the defense of one another, and any homosexual deprived of his right to a joyful, useful, and personal life. Street actions are now being organized, more will come; we shall not waste our energies, however, on irrelevant issues. Our goal is - TOTAL LIBERATION - LIFE IS FOR THE LIVING - WE ARE ALIVE - WE WANT ALL TO BE ALIVE. SEX IS A SURE CURE OF BOREDOM AND IS AN ANTIDOTE TO THE VIOLENCE THAT IS SO AMERICAN - (POWER TO THE PEOPLE).