FUNNEL

Dear old RAG

Thanx for sending us the RAG. It's a groove to see what's happening in Austin as I spent a lot of time there & also have a brother awaiting trial there currently. (dope).

The main reason I'm writing is to add a few remarks to the "Nuestra Tierra" article in the Feb. 16 issue. First, Cargo & Co. are NOT in favor of the Earth People's Park action. We have had one hassle after another--for instance, a benefit for a charitable institution closed "for lack of a permit" when no permit is required by law--because of the presence of "hippies".

The problems facing anyone who migrates to New Mexico are many and tough. First, lack of housing. Rents are outrageous for anything available and very little is. Camping can lead to a bust either by the heat or, more often, the people whose land you're on.

Water is a continual hassle and so is disposal of sewage. A typhoid epidemic recently raged through a Taos commune because of people upstream who dumped their in the water.

Third, bread. There are very few jobs in New Mexico. 72% of the state is on welfare in some form. And when you, Joe Anglo, receive welfare, it means that (since the money must come from somewhere) Joe Chicano may not get it. If you think THAT doesn't put people uptight, you're wrong.

There has been a lot of trouble between the Chicanos and the long-hairs. Rape, arson, and murder are the worst--rudeness is the very least. We who have lived here awhile (20 years in my case) know that you simply cannot afford the luxury of not washing or having long hair or being outfront about your dope. Not if you want to remain cool and keep your scene straight.

Please think about all these things before you come out here this summer. There are MANY more people here who are not making it than people who are. Our winters are long and cold and in most cases you have to cut your own wood and haul your water. We usually have about 18 inches of snow in Northern New Mexico. Besides all these things, the main reason for not coming is that we, the Spanish, the Indians, and the resident long-hairs, don't want you. We're afraid you'll blow it for the rest of us. Please don't come. Not unless you're really prepared. And usually not even then.

Sincerely

Trisha Hopper

P,S,
I realize this may sound unfriendly, but things here are hard and soon to get harder. The more people who come, the harder and the sooner. Nevada, Silver City and Gold Hill have been long-hair havens for many years, and will treat you much more kindly than Taos.

To: whomever wrote the article on homosexuality in the RAG of March 30th:

The question is precisely the one you refuse to deal with--what is a homosexual? Since it is a term devised by a spiritually unenlightened society, a definition imposed upon us by a sex-crazed culture, since I am placed by definition into this sexual category, I use the word but want it plainly understood that the "homosexual" exists, except in the imaginations of the behavioral, environmental, "psychological", metaphysical, and sociological hierophanies (i.e. sciences). That there are those individuals who do not appear to belong to the dualism of the procreative majority is, however, my experience. And who are they/we? In America we are hairdressers, interior decorators, doctors, lawyers, Indian chiefs (there's one in Austin), bankers, revolutionaries, mechanics, army officers and pariahs--pariahs within the Pariah as your prejudice against drag queens so eloquently shows. Man, you are asking now that everyone be a "normal" homosexual, that is conformable with what you assume to be the proper pose or stance. The homosexual, perhaps deservedly, has suffered the opprobium of the general man in the West for the last three or four hundred years and now you transpose the same repression into the rhetorical insipidity of a battle that has little or nothing to do with the homosexual, or with anyone who would be free of the violence and idiocy of the Communist/Fascist duel for power in the Western world. We are, it is true, apprehending our identity with the forces we are generating within ourselves and we Will achieve our correct position within the community of men, but on our terms and not through some phony analysis which accounts for only the basest reasons for certain manifestations of our condition, that is, sexuality. Your analysis relegates the homosexual to a creature void of any other impulses than the sexual ones and makes an automaton out of the free soul which each of us actually is. As such it is as inimical to truth as to the ignorance of the average American. You must also stop....

I agree with one thing that you say: We must refrain from attempting to impose our point of view on others. By doing so we are generating further guilt and further confusion.

But again, what are homosexuals, really? What are they in India? What were they in medieval Europe? can we say incontrovertibly that we are not part of the Force of the Universe, the dual force of the Universe which plays through the Earth with such sensitivity that the aura of a cactus at dawn springs up to greet the sun, with such perfection that the conception of each and every child is an act of grandeur which gives the infant seed total purpose and meaning? Can we say that this awful power and yet so ineffably tender, this God, does not encompass and create beings capable of enduring an internal and manifest duality to live in the Earth to attempt to aid all of Her creatures at a moment of so severe a crisis as the threatened existence of the wonder of the universe, the Human Being. Can we not conceive that this aid though it take the form of a drag queen, a poet or the revolutionary you seem to be, is one and the same force of itself its meaning and justification for being? And do we not have the right to look into the past to see that others like ourselves were greater and lesser servants who entered what Timothy Leary has called this "yoga of life" and to feel a peace and a wonder that so many of these Ishmaels and Hams achieved a distinction beyond mere sexuality. For sexuality is but a pattern, an image. It itself is not the truth, but a part of the Way and no more.

And how dare you accuse the Capitalist system of exploitation when at the same time you propose little more than the use of human feeling and love for political ends. How dare you propose to organize a program for the ends of being, the sensibilities that are no more yours to organize and program than they are mine. And they are definitely not mine to manipulate. And who are you to presume to judge that those of us who go to bars, who happen to be nelly (your word--do you see the contradiction?) in or out of drag are not and have not always been part of your precious fucking movement. And of what movement do you speak, Mary? Perhaps you mean the unification of mankind. Or perhaps, just perhaps, you mean the seizure of power for yourself and those of your "male chauvinist cronies". (what the hell is male chauvinism?) and a domination thereafter of the forms that "life" can and will take despite your petty bourgeois morality.

Your rhetoric, your banality are sickening.

The Village Voice asked the most pertinent question of the decade several months ago: watching a drag wedding that never took place, on a rooftop in New York City was a young midwestern radical who lamented the decadence---ooooh! Drag queens: what the hell, the VV1 asked have we (Andy Warhol, Jack Smith, Penny Arcade, etc.) been doing? Have we gone through all of this trying to save the world only to find that the bores are only bores are only bores.

In essence the homosexual searches for the same old bull--understanding of himself. If he finds this in ascetic solitude in the manner of a Christopher Isherwood, in the fold lame or in the blue jean crotch of some neo communard his human role is no different from that of the ordinary man or woman. But his choices must be totally open else all one does is to replace tyranny with tyranny.

Peace.

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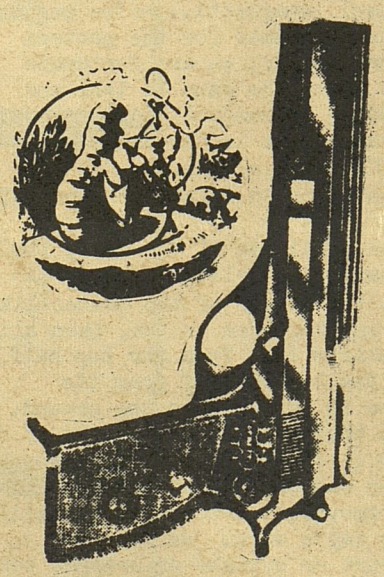
ADVOCATES OF DISORDER

"Governor Lester Maddox urged Georgia school children yesterday to steal the tires off their school buses rather than allow themselves to be transported for the purposes of desegregation."

San Francisco Chronicle, Feb. 7



betty saved her farm... thanx to all!

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SENATOR FULBRIGHT

'Assuming still that our national interests in Asia are strategic rather than ideological, it follows that the United States has no vital security interest in the preservation of South Vietnam as an independent, non-Communist state. Indeed the United States has no vital interest in whether South Vietnam is gover governed by Communists, non-Communists, or a coalition; nor is it a matter of vital interest to the United States whether North and South Vietnam are united or divided."

Senator J. William Fulbright.

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