

Dear Fifth Estate collective,

Fifth Estate coverage of sexual oppression has been right on, but has ignored a significant minority.

I am an Asexual. Asexuals choose not to fuck, either because fucking doesn't give them pleasure or because the associated hassles are hard on their heads.

Everyone has occasional Asexual urges, but most "normal" sexuals -- especially young people -- are disgusted by Asexuality.

That's OK--Asexuals are disgusted by sexuals. Love should be private--sexuals have a fetish for public displays of leering, dehumanizing sexuality. Love should be healthy--sexuals are shockingly careless about basic hygiene. Love should be friendly--but when two sexuals end an affair, they act like worst enemies. Gay sexuals tried to break down rigid gender stereotypes, but failed. There are gay and bit-sexuals whose missionary zeal, grotesque self-display, and neurotic affairs rival Playboy-reading straight's.

Churchmen, doctors, shrinkers, and the media all say Asexuality is an illness.

That's wrong. Maybe in a different society, I wouldn't be Asexual. But this society--over-populated, frontier-less, life-destroying, doomed--does not let me be sexual. Rats, crowded in a cage, react the same. Remember: the child of tonight's passion will be a helpless nine-year-old in the 1984/Clockwork Orange future. I love children too much to make one face tomorrow's hopeless gamble.

I hope the Fifth Estate considers my position editorially.

E. O. Line
Detroit

To the Fifth Estate:

First, congratulations on your cover story about the legal oppression of gays. While "Gay Life in Detroit" certainly includes more than arrests, harassment and beatings, those are pervasive threats which set a tone for much of our daily lives. Articles such as yours help to expose and combat this type of oppression.

Secondly, most of my good feelings about the Fifth Estate and what I hoped was your awakening gay consciousness were rudely halted by that obnoxious attempt at humor -- "Lick the Boss's Ass!" -- in your most recent issue. Were you all really unaware of its thinly disguised homophobia? Or do you think gay-baiting is OK when it's aimed at bosses and junior executives?

I recall a conversation several months ago with one of your staff members who told me how the FE had rejected a small news item about an organization of sado-masochists. It was, he said, an example of the absurdity of New Leftists catering to every bizarre minority interest group. (I took offense; the conversation ended.) Now we see that while S & M is too bizarre a topic to rate a legitimate news item in the Fifth Estate, it is fair game for the frustrated cartoonist whose sexual humor (thanks to the strength of anti-sexist movements) has ever fewer targets to exploit. I didn't find it funny at all.

In fact it made me angry -- at the kind of straight man's mentality that thinks the foulest curse is to shout "You Suck!" (read "Nixon Sucks!", "the Army Sucks!" etc. in almost any issue of FE message ads); at the mentality that thinks fucking is an act of aggression and being fucked is the worst kind of sexual defeat; at the mentality of one so rigid, so straight that homosexuality, sado-

masochism and anal eroticism have no remote connection to his narrow life.

I used to feel sorry for such repressed creeps. Then I realized that they're the same ones who join the vice squad to beat up queers, the same ones who make gay life in Detroit as tough as it is. I don't need their brand of humor. Why does the Fifth Estate?

Franz Martin
Detroit

Dear Fifth Estate Staff:

First off, I want to thank all of you for putting your energy into FE as I need to know the facts, not just what someone in the ivory tower wants me to know. Right On for complete, uncensored, and needed stories.

Many people whom I talk with have the feeling that they are powerless to really change this corrupt, capitalistic, etc., society, but they have the greatest weapon of all in their pockets--Money. This is the only thing that big business understands, not human needs, but greed. The point is, if all of us start using common sense in our purchases, we may get things under control.

Fuck that pizza, Chevy, potato chips, \$50 threads, color tv, dishwashers and all the other worthless shit. Buy just what is necessary and put the rest into community projects like food, record, and book co-ops, women's centers, daycare projects, papers and other mind-survival needs. We can turn people's heads around if we try, but the main thing is necessity, not what big business wants us to want so it can get rich and destroy the planet.

Also, maybe our music brothers and sisters can forget the \$100 a day hotels, cads, and \$80,000 houses and put some of the bread back into the community that supports it. They sing, talk, and write about revolution, but they sure as hell don't help it or support it much.

Keep up the good work, and I'd also like to see more in your paper on Detroit happenings. National seems to dominate it.

Thanks for listening to me.

Peace & Happiness,

Alan Horton
Jackson, Mich.

To the Fifth Estate:

My husband is in prison up near Marquette, and right now I don't have a ride to visit him. I put an ad in your column of rides, with hopes someone would be going up that way and give me a lift.

I would like to say to all the sickies and jerks offering rides for sex return favors--Why do you think I put my ad in the Fifth Estate? I love my ol' man and want to be with him, not a bunch of dudes with fucked up minds. So I say to any guy who called with their sick ideas--GO TO HELL!

Lonely in Lincoln Park

Reply letter to the FE reply:

My comments on the FE staff reply to the Women's Health Project letter in last issue are kind of in a vacuum, since nothing right now is going to make the Fifth Estate change.

There definitely was political editing of the last column submitted by the Detroit Women's Health Project. The changes made were not merely mechanical, shortening or grammatical in nature. They included the deletion of the whole first page of the column, which basically constituted its introductory political rap and projected anger at the "male-dominated, profit-corrupted health care system" which the FE deplors.

Frankly I don't trust the "not one word" business as it's used in the reply

and in staff discussions. What kind of discussion took place around the column with Kay Otter? What was she told? What exactly prompted her to make this remark, in what context?

The basic problem seems to have been that the FE, in fact, demanded changes in the political content of the column, and people at the Women's Health Project were unwilling to enter a lengthy struggle over these changes.

The FE maintains that a newspaper must have the right to edit copy for political content; this is true, but it is at best a completely ambiguous principle which, having no political content of its own, can be used to justify anything. The real question is why did the FE demand these changes in the first place? Why has the FE isolated itself from every progressive grouping of people in Detroit? Why does the FE now have only one woman on its full-time staff and not even a regular column by any of the women's groups in Detroit? Many people in Detroit--not only serious, pragmatic women, but also the vast community of independent socialists in every occupation--find it too frustrating to even argue with the FE staff anymore.

Surely you can participate in the general oppression without being capable of knowing as much about the unique aspects of women's oppression as women do themselves. Perhaps it is the lack of ability of some FE'ers to comprehend even the general oppression of other people. (Why, for instance, this oppression calls out for much more from a newspaper than absurdist crackpotism) which makes them so uptight that THEY take on the role of God, demanding that no other particular group of people could possibly know enough to speak for themselves.

Jeff Goodman

To the Staff and the People

The more control we give to our government the more control our government will have -- to use for, or against the people. The last year has shown how government officials misuse the powers already entrusted to them. Your article (may 11-24- Edison Zaps Consumers) suggesting that perhaps Detroit Edison should become a government run non-profit corporation reeks of idealism. You are assuming that our government might do a better job than a private corporation. May we live so long to see that happen. Our government has proven themselves incapable of efficiently operating business ventures. Medicare, H.U.D., and Welfare programs have all bogged themselves down with mis-management and scandal.

Running a non-profit organization requires people with integrity and principles. We cannot look to our government for those traits. We must offer Edison some profits as incentive to encourage effective management. This will prove financially advantageous to everyone except the government.

The Tennessee Valley Authority that you cited as an example of a nationalized utility has had in excess of fifty rate increases in the last six year. They are also government subsidized. This means that the taxpayers get a small savings in electricity prices by paying bigger tax bills. Since corporations and the fat cats in this country bear less than their share of taxes, the poor people get the shaft. Our government has always helped big business first and their utilities do the same.

Your article implied that since the percentage of rate increase for middle class or poor inner city residents could amount to one third of one percent to one percent more than "Bloomfield

Hills executives" that the poor will pay more. However, the dollar volume of revenue from industry and rich executives is substantially higher than from middle class or poor people. This is true despite the fact that middle class and poor people account for a bigger percentage of Edison's customers. The rich use more electricity and the rich pay more money.

Like all other companies, Edison has been plagued by wage increases to meet the cost of living.

Edison also must burn oil to produce steam to run their generators. Oil prices have doubled in the last two years. The expense of opening new power plants to supply the growing need for electricity creates a need for large amounts of capitol. Some rate increases are necessary. Edison has the Michigan Public Service Commission to keep their requested increases in line with operating increases. Under government control, the government (MPSC) would be keeping themselves in check. An active thief makes a poor security guard.

If the government should gain control of Edison (and they are trying) they would have our electricity controlled society right in their hands. Should the government find it necessary to force the people into submissiveness a few planned power blackouts would do it. Utility control could be the first step toward total government control of schools (teaching what the government wants us to read), stores (selling only what the government let's us have), and any other business that our government sees fit to take over.

Please stay alert to the above facts and possibilities for our own ignorance will be our biggest problem in fighting government oppression.

Mark Lien
Wyandotte

Dear Fifth Estate:

It was good to see the selections from *Cold Mountain Poems* in your "Gallery" (May 11-24 issue).

I have been "into" Oriental poetry in particular since I began using the Cheng, a 16-stringed Chinese instrument. The spoken and the music go extremely well together.

I stumbled across *Cold Mountain* in the Pontiac City Library. If anyone is studying Zen or is into spiritual development, the poems are almost required reading. As Han-Shan himself put it:

"Do you have the poems of Han-Shan in your house? They're better for you than sutra reading! Write them out and paste them on a screen where you can glance them over from time to time."

Michael Gramlich
Pontiac, Mich.

THE SHAG SHOP
UNISEX HAIR CUTTING
- AT -
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
ROCHESTER
MICHIGAN



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