

# SEX

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they do not respect their "old man" during the "generational crisis."

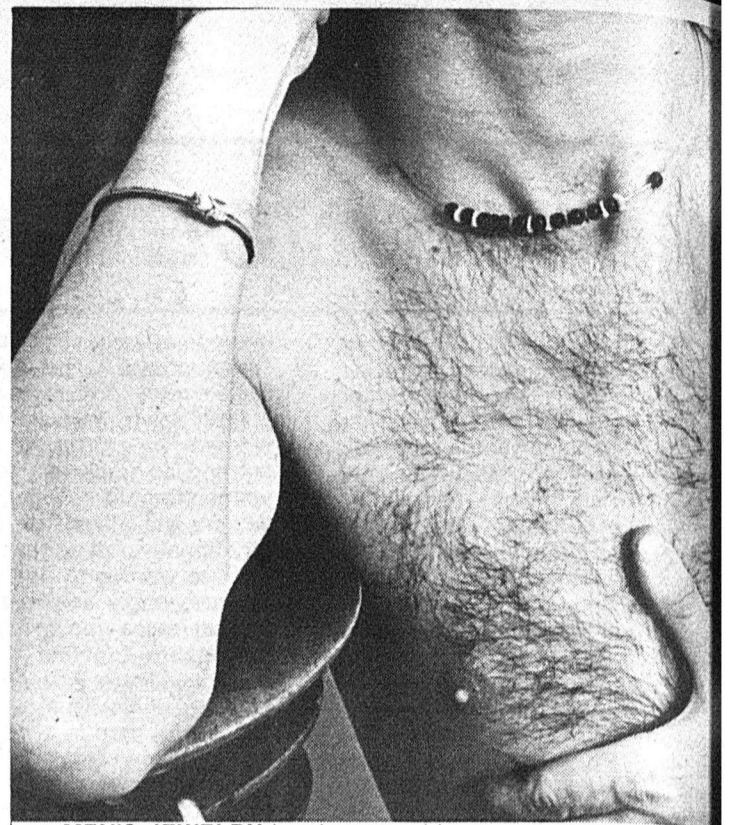
If we consider these five areas of male oppression, it is clear that we men lose a great

deal by maintaining and continuing our sex role socialization. Why haven't we then tried to change into a more whole and satisfying life free from arbitrary sex role decision?

I think there are three reasons to explain this. First, until

the Women's Liberation Movement there was no understanding that sex roles were socialized rather than natural. This socialization has been so powerful and omnifarious that it has seemed to be the "natural order of things." The Women's Movement's awareness of sex roles and their own oppression has opened vast possibilities and potentialities for men. Also, because we have been socialized not to be aware of our feelings and emotions, we were not even aware of our oppression.

Second, in relative terms, our oppression is not nearly as profound and oppressive as women's. Society is made in men's image and functions along the lines of male consciousness. Education, religion, law, government, medicine, economics, and so forth are all controlled by men for the interest of men. Our society rewards male traits, behaviour and consciousness much more often than it does female traits. Male traits are desirable in our society as they are the avenue of success and "independence." So, since males apparently prosper by sex roles and male domination, power, and control, males have been afraid/threatened by what change would mean. Security is a tremendous motivating influence against any change (even positive change), and especially since the only model formerly open to men who did not want to fit into the male role was the powerless and inferior position of women. But now with the feminist analysis of sex roles, the real option of male liberation to overcome these five areas of oppression far outweighs the paper benefits our society offers



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us for perpetuating our psychologically unhealthy existence.

Third, our patriarchal society has a vested interest in the maintenance of sex roles. For the model of patriarchy is the model of hierarchical power-based relationships which see their logical extension in capitalism, racism, imperialism, slavery, violation, wars of aggression, ecological disaster and people oppression. The small number of men who truly control our society could not do so if people adopted a wholistic feminist consciousness and if in turn this consciousness permeated the structures and institutions of society rather than the present male consciousness. Our society has always reacted violently against any deviation from male consciousness and power. There has been an active power force selling the "natural" roles to us.

I see male liberation as an active destroying of sex roles and male consciousness. I see the process involving many steps. First is an awareness of our role socialization and how it oppresses us. Next is the motivation to change and to struggle to develop a more wholistic self and society. A full acceptance of feminism in theory and practice seems essential. We have a lot to learn from the Women's Movement and women. In this growth process is also the acceptance of emotionality to be a valid and necessary part of our lives. Another step is the smashing of traditional male bonding where males join together to put down women into a new type of support (or consciousness raising group) amongst men where we seriously deal with and change our consciousness.

Our new emotional consciousness must be put into political action to destroy patriarchal authority, sexism, and role division. We must change the way we relate to our friends — both males and females. We must challenge our friends' sexism and male consciousness, and after a period of struggle we must drop our sexist friends because the contradiction is too great. This is also true at our jobs as well as in our social life. We must also publicly bring to the attention of people, especially males, the sexism that is so prevalent in our society — television, mass media, the educational system, language, employment, etc. Facing the men in the streets who are violating women (whistling, derogatory remarks, sexual objectification) is a *difficult* but necessary task. We cannot let the threat of male violence scare us away from our responsibility as men to combat sexism in other men. We need collective support because sensitive individuals it is hard to deal with this male violence alone. We must also reexamine our priorities in terms of political action into those issues which are seen by "macho" male consciousness as just women's issues. By this I mean day care, contraception, abortion, rape laws, equal rights and equal wage laws, etc. These are not women's issues, these are not side issues, these are issues that go to the very basic core of role division in patriarchal society, and if we are really serious about our priorities with sexism, we must deal with political issues that challenge patriarchal rule.

We have a large task ahead of us, but if we do not do it now, there be any humanity or world left?