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Comrade Tom Kerry  
New York City

Dear Tom;

How are you and Karolyn? Well I hope. I hope that you have recovered from the illness that plagued you at the time of the convention and the <sup>infectious</sup> disease which you sadly evidenced has been rooted out of your system. Take care.

In reading thru the documents of the YSA pre convention discussion I found some interesting articles a few which I would refer to your attention and one in particular which I would be interested in hearing your comments on.

Those which I refer you to are: Vol. 15 # 5; 1) Gay Liberation and the Socialist Revolution by John M. Williams 2) Marijuana and the YSA by Calvin Vail, in particular the following cogent point, "YSA's policy is also keeping a lot of potential YSAer's out of the YSA because they want to be able to continue to enjoy getting stoned." 3) Rescution Providing for Immediate Intervention by the Young Socialist Alliance into the Gay Liberation Movement by John M. Williams. 4) On Gay Liberation by Karen Bancroft (this is in Volume 15 # 7- Do you agree with Comrade Bancroft's point "Our recruitment of Black, Raza and Asian Gays will better enable us to intervene in the nationalist ~~struggles~~ struggles." I presume it would be Comrade Bancroft's point also that the recruitment of Trade Union Gays would help our intervention into the struggles going on in that arena, what do you think?

Volume 15 # 8 includes "Some Questions Concerning the YSA's Drug Policy by V. Hawks and ~~for~~ "For the Repeal of Membership Restrictions of Marijuana Smokers" by Neil Dobro as well as "Some Questions About Internal Policies of the YSA" by Party comrade Bob Gebbert. It is Gebbert's article that I call to your especial attention. With my limited grasp of the classics of our movement I am not familiar that these burning issues raised

by Gebbert et al have received the treatment they so richly deserve. Perhaps you could refer me to the <sup>appropriate</sup> ~~app-propriate~~ works of Marxism which deal with these pressing matters.

With reference to Gebbert, I have said in the past and I say again that a serious comrade deserves serious consideration for his serious questions. Perhaps you could impart the knowledge Comrade Bob is looking for when he asks what the ~~YSA~~ policy (and since he is a Party member I presume he would ask the same question ~~of the Party~~) is toward transvestites. He says "We decided at the last YSA convention to allow Gays to join. But it has been suggested to me that some categories may still be forbidden because of their non-straight romantic orientation. One type I'm wondering about is transvestites, those who get erotic pleasure from either impersonating the other sex or by using various styles of appearance that are associated with the other sex in bourgeois tradition. These include some gays (often known as butch-dykes or drag queens), although it's reported that most transvestites are exclusively heterosexual."

Comrade Gebbert goes on to state "I'm actually not sure wheter I count as a transvestite, I wear my hair in braids nearly all the time and find that it makes life for me much easier to deal with (and also that it helps to a small extent in enabling me to sell Militants subs and such, especially to women)." Has this been your experience, Tom, or do you feel that non braided hair is just as good? What Comrade Gebbert states "Further, though I don't wear dresses or skirts, still I wear much prettier clothing than most white American males.", would you encourage him and the many other comrades (according to Gebbert) who fall into this general category to wear colorful skirts and dresses so as to better enable them to sell subs to our press, or do you think that they should just stick to the braids routine. I believe you enunciated some position or other with regard to beards, do you recall whether you included braids in your talk perhaps you could put out a pamphlet "Tom Kerry on

*Beards*

**Beads-Beads and Braids.**" Consider Tom how far our movement has come, with the help of the new radicalization (which I may again recall is the biggest-deepest and broadest) from the times when Comrade Cannon (See the History of American Trotskyism Page 92) wrote "I waged a bitter fight in the New York Branch of the Communist League against admitting a man to membership on the sole ground of his appearance and dress.

"They asked 'What do you have against him?'

I said 'He wears a corduroy suit up and down Greenwich Village, with a trick mustache and long hair. There is something wrong with this guy.'

"I wasn't joking either, I said people of this type are not going to be suitable for approaching the ordinary American worker. They are going to mark our organization as something freakish, abnormal, exotic; something that has nothing to do with the normal life of the American worker."

Thank heavens and you too Tom, that such problems that Comrade Cannon refers to are no longer relevant to us and that we can recruit anybody and dress them in anything and get to the American workers, or at least get ready to get to the American workers when they get ready to allow us to get ready to get to them. No more do we have to worry about recruiting freaks, exotics-abnormals etc. today we get the Gebberts et al. Please comment on how you feel about this accomplishment a large part which is yours.

One last point Comrade Gebbert raises the question of discipline and the right of comrades, including according to him, "a goodly number who have become leaders of the American Trotskyist movement" to secretly violate our discipline on the grounds that the discipline was a product of formal logic. He asks were they correct? Please send me a copy of your answers to Comrade Gebbert or to your serious comments on these matters. At the convention you stated, I believe, that you were a 'Christ killer from way back' or words to that effect, I presume you had some familiarity

with the scriptures, could you tell me where the quote "That which ye sow ye also shall reap." comes from.

With Comradley greeting, (if you come out to the coast drop up for a drink and don't worry if you don't have braids or colorful clothing on, I understand.

*Bill Massey*  
Bill Massey

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