

Dear Comrades:

We see this paper not as an inflexible statement, but as a stimulus for discussion.

We are assuming that we all agree that it is necessary and correct for a socialist revolution to be lead by the working class. In order to build this revolutionary movement it is necessary to be able to relate closely to and communicate with the workers, which naturally means developing proletarian consciousness within ourselves. In other words, we need to learn from workers without alienating them. There are many ways we separate ourselves from workers. Two of these ways are thru petty- bourgeois lifestyles and appearances.

~~Extremely long hair, beards, and hip culture dress in general are acts of individual rebellion instead of acts of struggle on behalf of the working class. Some of the reasons workers are alienated by long hair, etc. are because it is identified with drugs, escape from reality, no desire to work, and welfare recipients who are capable of working. Thus they identify long hair with people who live off the backs of the working class (lumper-proletariat). Obviously, the characteristics are alienating when one has to work 45 hours a week just to keep their families treading water while their bosses are getting rich off their labor. We also feel that GIs who relate to project staff members with long hair and/or "freaky" appearance tend to gain the idea that these characteristics are necessary to become a committed revolutionary, i.e., the longer the hair the more revolutionary the politics.~~

~~Although we realize the hardships for project-staffs not living collectively in some areas, we still feel politically it is not a good idea for large numbers of people to live in one house in the community. First, we feel collectives tend to isolate themselves from the community in many cases. ETSing-GIs who are political sometimes are attracted to collectives because they are hip places to live, where they are often not required to do alienated labor in order to survive, as opposed to being attracted to good political work being done. Workers are often alienated by large living collectives for the same reasons as they are alienated by hip culture appearances.~~

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\* For identification purposes only. These opinions are not necessarily the opinions of these projects.