Pansies Against Patriarchy:
Gender Blur, Bisexual Men,
and Queer Liberation

Sunfrog

John Stoltenberg wrote a provocative book called *Refusing to be a Man* in which he adamantly challenges the cultural codes of masculinity but stops short of subverting those codes in favor of a new understanding of gender. Rather he dick-tates, in alleged feminist dogma, a vacuous and thoroughly phallocentric portrait of masculinity as something to be denounced and avoided by (pro)feminist men. The amorphous conception known as the “men’s movement” repeatedly reifies traditional masculinity under the guise of redefinition. At the same time, the “men’s movement” perceives feminism as “women’s work,” an ideological position, project, and movement that men can resent or admire, but in which we can never fully participate.

The emerging bisexual movement has thankfully been shaped by an explicitly feminist vision, but where are the voices of “feminists with penises” in this evolving milieu? John Stoltenberg, while clearly a male feminist, does not go far enough in proposing viable alternatives to the paradigm of male domination that he eloquently denounces. Where are the other “male feminists”? Why are there so few of us? Many gay and bisexual men do not consider feminism, gender politics, and a coherent critique of mainstream masculinity as vital components to their queerness. It should be obvious why heterosexual men often feel threatened by wimmin with a feminist response to sexist remarks and gestures. Shouldn’t we expect more of gay and bi men?

The very act of loving other men does affect my gender identity and the manner in which I love other wimmin. Bisexual men have
A more radical possibility: loved cross-dressing quotes gender.

What is masculinity, and how does it manifest itself in our society? In the context of gender studies, masculinity is often thought of as a protective shield, a means of asserting power and control. However, this perception is often distorted by the limited scope of traditional definitions, which often fail to acknowledge the complexity of gender expression and identity.

In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the diversity of masculinity, with movements such as the androgynous movement advocating for a broader understanding of gender. This shift has led to a reevaluation of traditional notions of masculinity and a recognition of the need for more inclusive and compassionate approaches to gender expression and identity.

The concept of masculinity is deeply ingrained in our social structures, from family roles and gender expectations to workplace expectations. This has led to a number of issues, such as gender-based violence and discrimination, which impact both men and women.

In conclusion, the study of masculinity is crucial for understanding the complexities of gender expression and identity. By recognizing the diversity of masculinity and challenging traditional notions of gender, we can work towards a more inclusive and compassionate society for all.

References:
have in effect reduced our collective image from that of being

intimacy, experience, [sic] join and make common cause with us,

address the national and global Peace Conference in 1979, and in

deal of despair. For instance, universal Peace, through a great

necessity, beliefs in the future that are central to national

peaceful rejection of the idea of armed intervention.

Hence, I strongly reject the idea of organized, national

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am not "out" to the employees at the post office, the plumber, or
my aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

Bisexual brothers: borrowing both from feminism and the Radical Faeries, we can blur our collective masculinity and build an army of lovers who love to change the world. We can begin by listening to our feminist sisters and gay brothers, and by loving and conversing with each other. We can form discussion groups, reading groups, direct action affinity groups. We can visit a gay bar, bookstore, or community center. We can attend a queer or feminist demonstration. We can volunteer our time in the fight against rape and domestic violence. We have nothing to lose but a tradition of male domination.

Disinvesting ourselves from the litany of power afforded to heterosexual men in our culture will not be easy. It includes accepting how we as men have consistently used that power to our advantage and have hurt our friends and lovers in the process. It means aligning ourselves with feminists in the fight against patriarchy. It means coming out to a straight acquaintance who makes an anti-gay remark.

Let's do it, brothers. We have humyn liberation to gain. We have a world of pleasures to win.