

PART TWENTY

Testimony From A Reformed Factionalist

I will begin this account by briefly describing my attitude towards the question of sexual relations before I entered the Alive Production Collective and then give a chronological recounting of my relationship with Edward Pickersgill and my involvement in his faction.

EARLY ATTITUDES

Before joining the Collective, I had not developed any firm guidelines for myself on the question of sexual relations. Basically, if I liked a man and trusted him, I simply followed his lead on this question as much as I dared. From my parents I had learned that sex was something to approach with caution but that it was not something to be afraid of. As a couple, my parents presented a model characterized by warmth and support for each other.

The only other models I had at this time were my friends. They basically took the attitude that it was up to each person to determine their own position on what was acceptable in terms of sexual relations. Some of my friends were deeply entrenched in the bourgeois degenerate culture. This fact, combined with information I read in bourgeois magazines, distorted my whole perspective on the question of sexual relations. I had a distorted view of what was acceptable in such relations and of what should be looked for and struggled towards in such relations.

When I joined the Collective there was some initial discussion with comrades other than Edward on the nature of the relationships I had developed in the past. In the course of these discussions I realized how easy it is to develop unprincipled social relations in bourgeois society. I realized that when actually examined in a politically conscious way, it's ludicrous to have a relationship on a physical basis with someone who doesn't share your world view. However, I did not follow up this struggle openly within the Collective. I did not actively investigate how to develop correct sexual social relations within the framework of our anti-imperialist work. Although I did watch how couples in the Collective related to each other to try to understand sexual social relations better, I did not openly address the questions on my mind. Basically I took the view that sexual relations were at an end for me and that now I should concentrate on the political work.

The Stage is Set

INITIAL INFORMATION GATHERING

Soon after I joined the Collective, Edward initiated two discussions with me on the question of sexual social relations. In these sessions, Edward concentrated on my own needs and interests in this area.

The first discussion, which was attended by Michelle, was fairly short. I told Edward that although I felt somewhat uneasy about having no sexual relationship, I thought that this was basically an emotional problem which would be resolved over time. I said that I thought it was objectively correct for me to terminate the unprincipled relationships which I had developed in the past. At the end of the discussion, Edward and Michelle made some joking remarks about whether or not I was looking for a man and about whether or not I could control myself.

The second discussion was longer and more free-flowing. This discussion started on a seemingly spontaneous basis, beginning with some casual remarks made by Edward. Only Edward and I were present. I did most of the talking, responding to questions and comments from him. I talked mainly about my past relationships and also about my general attitude towards sex and sexual social relations. During the discussion, I told him that although I didn't think there was just one "Mr. Right" in the world for me, or that I had to worry about picking one man to live with for life, I definitely

thought that I should only be involved with one man at a time. I also told him that I wasn't in a big rush to get involved in a sexual relationship. We discussed the fact that I was now in a different situation in terms of sexual relations. I pointed out that although I definitely noticed the change I didn't find the situation overwhelming. I mentioned that it did have the effect of making men in general seem quite attractive. I told him that this included men in the Collective and pointed out that I found him to be attractive. I told him that I also found other men in the Collective to be attractive but that I didn't intend to try to develop a sexual social relationship with any of them.

Looking back, I think that one element of my attraction to Edward was that I saw him as the most correct and therefore the most admirable person in the Collective. I was taken in by his promotion of himself as the most correct and the most outstanding member of the Collective. I don't think that it was simply his formal leading position in the Collective which made him attractive to me.

Edward did not talk much about his own situation until close to the end of the discussion when he mentioned that he had problems of his own on the front of sexual relations. He pointed out that his schedule was so different from Michelle's that they hardly ever had time together. Edward then laughed and said, "So, you wouldn't like it if I came to visit you in your room some night, eh?" I laughed and replied, "No, I don't think that would be a very good idea." We then talked about my situation again. At the end of the discussion Edward made the point that I was a lot freer in discussing this subject than other people he had tried to talk to.

At the time I did not see these discussions as an information gathering process by Edward for his personal use. I thought that Edward in his leadership capacity had a right and a need to know these kinds of things. I talked as freely and as honestly as I could. I thought that since I was new in the Collective it was necessary for Edward to know how I was likely to relate to men both inside and outside the Collective. Although Edward initiated these discussions I joined in them quite enthusiastically and was glad to be able to talk about these things.

As for Edward's "proposition" to me, I took it as a friendly joke. At the time I was not offended by his question about visiting me in my room at night. I took it as a compliment rather than an insult. I thought it was his response to my statement that I found him attractive. I took it as a statement from him that he certainly didn't find me unattractive. Since the question was phrased in the negative and he did not follow it up at once, I did not take this aspect of the discussion seriously at the time.

Some time later, Edward followed up these two initial discussions on sex with me. He opened the third discussion with the question, "How's your love life?" I took it to be a general, friendly check-up on how I was doing. My response was that I had no love life to speak of but I was doing fine. Edward then brought up the question of a specific man in the Collective and I told him pretty straight that although I liked this man I was not interested in having a sexual relationship with him. Edward told me that he had been talking to another woman comrade about her "love life" also. Edward said that he had asked her about the same man as he had asked me. Edward reported that she replied that she had sometimes thought of trying to develop a relationship with this man comrade. In presenting the situation to me, Edward pointed out that the man comrade mentioned was opposed to developing a relationship with this woman. He portrayed the woman comrade as having a flexible and understandable position on this question while the man had an inflexible and incorrect position.

In his discussion with me Edward Pickersgill was presenting an illusion. What was the actual reality of the situation? The reality was that the man comrade mentioned by Edward had talked to him about the possibility of developing a deeper social relationship with

me. The man comrade spoke to Edward as leading member of the Collective to check out whether or not there would be any major problems if he went ahead with this. Edward was not asked to check things out with me. He did this at his own initiative and in order to serve his own selfish ends. Seeing that his own schemes could be devastated if such a relationship were to develop, Edward took his chance and leapt in to do his dirty work.

It is clear that Edward lied to me about his discussion with the second woman comrade. He had in fact already developed a sexual relationship with this comrade. Edward clearly did not actually ask her if she had ever thought of trying to develop a relationship with the man comrade in question. Why should he when he knew that she was already involved in an active sexual relationship with none other than himself? What then did Edward have in mind? He had in mind to confuse me. Edward wanted to create the illusion in my mind that the woman comrade he spoke of was in the same situation as I was with regard to sexual relationships. That is, she had none. He also wanted to try to ensure that I did not begin to develop a relationship with the interested man comrade. So he presented this man as inflexible in his attitudes toward these types of relationships. He also planted in my mind the idea that if I tried to develop a relationship with this man I would be in competition with another woman comrade. So Edward moved to effectively neutralize the competition and clear the decks for his own dirty schemes.

It is interesting to note that in this discussion Edward made joking reference to my previous statement that I found him attractive. Clearly he was setting the stage to put his scheme into effect. He had baited the trap and set the snare. He was poised to move.

MOVING IN FOR THE "KILL"

The next time Edward discussed sex with me was when he formally asked me if I would be interested in having sexual relations with him. This discussion took place shortly after the discussion of my "love life".

Edward started the discussion by telling me that he had been talking to Michelle about their sexual relations. He said that Michelle had decided to concentrate on moving forward in the political work. In order to achieve this she had decided that she should set aside the question of sexual relations at this time. Edward seemed to think that this was a sound approach.

Edward told me that he had formally asked another woman comrade to have sexual relations with him at the same time as he was asking me. He made a point of saying that he knew he could have such a relationship with this second woman comrade. Looking back, I suppose this was a broad hint about the fact that he had already established a sexual relationship with this second woman. At the time, I thought he was simply making clear to me that he wasn't asking this woman as a mere formality but was actually interested in developing such a relationship with her. Edward told me that although this second woman comrade was interested in having a sexual relationship with him she thought it would not be a very good thing for her at the time because she had a lot of problems to resolve in relation to the political work.

Edward pointed out that Michelle's only problem with this whole thing was that she didn't want the woman he was having sexual relations with to start flaunting it to her. Michelle was worried that the woman would take the attitude that, "Now I've got him and you haven't!"

I told Edward that I was interested in having sexual relations with him. I also said that I could see that it was important that this not cause problems which would interfere with comrades working well together. Edward then suggested that the next step should be for me to talk to Michelle about the whole thing. He thought that if we could talk about it and still look each other in the eye and work together, then this would be a good indication that the thing could work out. I agreed to do this and thought it sounded like a sensible approach to take.

At the time I was not shocked or even particularly surprised by Edward's offer. Overall my attitude was, "What a lucky break for me!" I believed Edward to be telling me the truth when he represented Michelle's view and I definitely had the impression that everything would work out all right.

I knew that Michelle and Edward had not shared a bedroom for a number of years. Although this always puzzled me it seemed to fit in with a comment Michelle once made. She told me that she and Edward had considered no longer having sexual relations in the past because it interfered with the political work. She added that of course they would never marry anyone else. At the time I thought this was quite noble but I certainly didn't understand it. By this time I had also been given indication by Edward that there were actual problems in his sexual relationship with Michelle. The actual nature of these problems was not made clear.

Based on this information, I found no contradiction between Edward's presentation of Michelle's position and the actual position she appeared to uphold in practice. Everything seemed to be quite straightforward. I wanted to talk to Michelle, as Edward suggested, in order to try to understand her position better and to let her know that I was not interested in "flaunting" such a relationship. I had no intention of talking to Michelle to confirm whether or not Edward's representation of her position was accurate. I simply accepted Edward's report as accurate at the time. I had no reason to think otherwise.

As far as the second woman comrade was concerned, I again accepted Edward's presentation of her view as accurate. I thought that her status was the same as mine with regard to this proposed sexual relationship with Edward. I had no idea that Edward had already developed a sexual relationship with her. Edward spoke to me within the framework of having sexual relations with either Michelle or me or the second woman comrade. There was never any suggestion that he would have a sexual relationship with two or three of us, nor indeed that he was already doing so!

Having been told that Edward and Michelle's sexual relationship was "on the rocks" and that a sexual relationship with the second woman comrade would hinder her political development, I considered myself to be the only woman Edward would be seriously thinking about with regards to a sexual relationship. Edward used the fact that I had been strongly influenced by the bourgeois concepts of "free love" etc. to entice me into a sexual relationship with him.

At the time I wasn't expecting to be made any promises but I certainly thought I was being given the straight story. I expected to continue to get the straight story.

At this point I was not given indication by Edward of whether any relationship I developed with him would be long-term or short-term. I basically figured that it would last for a long time unless problems came up which couldn't be resolved.

The whole discussion was carried by Edward in a very businesslike manner. Everything appeared to be very straightforward and aboveboard. During the discussion Edward even apologized to me for his businesslike manner. He said he hoped that I didn't find this too "cold" a way of dealing with the issue. Up to this point Edward had never shown any particular personal affection towards me except on one occasion when he put his arm around me. So his manner did not alarm me.

The whole subject seemed to be dealt with in a very calm and reasonable way by Edward. Since everything had the outward appearance of reason, I thought everything would be okay. I never thought of discussing this question with anybody except Michelle. I just figured that part of the reasonable, step-by-step approach which Edward supported so strongly in words, would include letting other members of the Collective know about the relationship.

FACTIONAL DISSENSION DELAYS EDWARD'S BANKRUPT SCHEMES

A few days after I had discussion with Edward, I let Michelle know that Edward had talked to me about having sexual relations

with him. I told Michelle that I was interested in this but I didn't want to cause any problems between her and me. I said that Edward had suggested that I talk to her. She listened to all this and then replied that since the kids were around we should leave the discussion for another time. This was more of an excuse than concern on Michelle's part since the kids weren't near where we were discussing but were in other parts of the house or playing outside the house. No convenient time came up for a number of days and so I mentioned it to her again. Again she put me off, saying that there was no rush. I was getting quite annoyed with her by this time but I figured that her attitude meant there was no major problem.

I am sure that if Michelle was actually involved in an on-going sexual relationship with Edward at this time she would have been outraged when I first brought up the subject. This would be the normal response of a woman involved in an on-going relationship with her husband who was faced with another woman calmly stating her intention to also develop a sexual relationship with the husband. This was clearly not Michelle's response. She was not outraged or shocked. Her main sentiment was simply to ignore the whole issue. Faced with Michelle's calm response I assumed that there was no major problem. I was sure that I would not be coming between any established relationship involving Edward and Michelle if I did develop a sexual relationship with Edward. However I was uneasy about Michelle's reluctance to discuss the subject.

A few days later I told Edward about my attempts to speak to Michelle. He told me not to worry about it, adding, "Maybe we'll have to go around her. We'll see." This statement by Edward deepened my conviction that the problem with Michelle was definitely a minor one.

As far as I remember this was the last time Edward mentioned the development of a sexual relationship with me for a long period of time. Although I did think about the relationship now and again, I didn't feel I should pursue the matter on my own initiative. Edward was biding his time. Presumably he hoped to be able to clear the decks and place the two women comrades he was already involved with more firmly under his control before going ahead with me. So he basically left me hanging while he put his own house in order.

PETTY BOURGEOIS SELF-INTEREST GUIDES THE RENEGADE'S ACTIONS

When Edward finally made his move, Michelle was away on a holiday. One day during this time, a group of the comrades got involved in a competitive game which became quite rough and boisterous in a joking way as people jostled and pushed each other. The whole process involved a lot of joking, laughing and roughhousing.

It was either that evening or the following evening that Edward actually asked me to have sexual relations with him. The roughhousing had been the clincher for Edward. The physical contact involved in that light-hearted, friendly competition apparently made the whole question of sexual relations a pressing issue in Edward's mind. Edward was the only comrade who responded to the roughhousing in this way. The other comrades simply viewed it as a boisterous expression of comradesly relations.

The night when Edward propositioned me he basically just asked, "How about it then?" I was quite confused on the whole question by this time. I became quite teary-eyed when Edward spoke to me and replied, "I'm not sure about it so my answer is 'No'."

For two or three days I thought over this whole question and tried to get some kind of clarity. All I did was go round in circles. I was really uneasy about the fact that I had never talked to Michelle and now she was not even available for discussion. Basically I was unable to come to any decision. So I figured that Edward knew what he was doing and that if he said it would be okay, then it would be

okay.

One of the mistakes I made here was to rely too much on Edward's "good judgement". I made excuses for things which I didn't think were right on the basis that Edward, as the leading member of the Collective, must know what he's doing. I figured that he must know how to sort out the question correctly and that this was what he would do.

I didn't ask a lot of questions. I accepted what Edward told me as correct. I accepted his view that it would be all right to have this relationship even if other members of the Collective didn't know about it. I believed that as long as Edward, the leading comrade, knew about the relationship then everything was fine. I was caught up in Edward's own line that he didn't have to answer to anybody or be responsible for his actions.

I just couldn't determine what was the correct thing to do faced with all the illusions and distortions Edward had presented to me. So I just followed Edward's leadership. I gave in to his pressure.

Two or three nights after Edward propositioned me, a group of us spent a very warm and sociable evening together watching TV and relaxing. After other people left to go home or go to bed, Edward and I were left alone. There was no real discussion between us. It was pretty much a case of him saying, "Well?" and me saying, "Okay." The only point I made to him was that I didn't want to get pregnant.

That night Edward and I had sexual relations for the first time.

The following day Michelle returned home.

Edward pretty much ignored me that day and for a couple of days afterwards. I felt very uneasy about this. I thought, "Oh great, we've done the wrong thing and now he's mad at me." Finally I approached him and asked him what was going on. He apologized for not talking to me but said that he wasn't sure what to do about the sexual question. He said that he couldn't deal with it right now because Michelle was having some kind of physical problem and he wanted to find out what that was all about first. I said, "Okay", and pointed out that I simply wanted to know what the situation was. For several days I had been left hanging again, wondering what was going on. This was part of Edward's conscious program to keep me off balance and on edge.

Looking back I know that I made an error in having sexual relations with Edward. Up until this point I had been trying to resolve the question correctly in my own mind although I was basically just following Edward's lead. At this point it was crucial for me to break with Edward's bankrupt leadership. Instead I went ahead and put into practice something I was very unsure of. I was tired of being left in limbo by Edward. I was tired of being left in suspended animation. So I followed Edward's leadership and took up the line, "I'll go ahead and damn the consequences!" I had lost perspective on the fact that as a political person the consequences would not just come back on me as an individual but would also come back on the organization.

So I ended up doing what I had avoided for so long. I had sexual relations with Edward with no legitimate basis just because he was pressuring me.

For a couple of weeks after our first encounter, Edward did not approach me on the question of sex. We had sexual relations once more without any real discussion between us and then finally Edward sat down and talked to me about the relationship.

Edward told me that he thought we should go ahead and develop what he called a "late night relationship" and that he and Michelle should simply call an end to the sexual aspect of their relationship. He told me that their sexual relationship hadn't been working out for years. According to Edward, Michelle had recently told him that she simply wasn't interested in sex and just never thought about it. Edward had apparently made up his mind and acted as if he was confident that things would work out fine. Edward implied that he was involved in on-going discussion with Michelle on this subject and that the situation was under control. After this discussion I felt quite at ease about the situation.

Distortion, Lies and Conspiracy

FACTIONALISM IS UNPRINCIPLED

The first stage of my relationship with Edward continued until November 1977. During this period we engaged in sexual activities on an irregular basis and spent a lot of time discussing our sexual relationship. We were no longer talking about sexual relations in general but about our situation specifically. We covered a number of points of significance which illustrate the unprincipled nature of the relationship. The discussion also served well to expose Edward's bankrupt line on sexual social relations.

A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON ILLUSION AND COMPROMISE

As I have already mentioned, Edward referred to our relationship as a "late night relationship". This phrase accurately reflects what he actually had in mind. Right from the beginning Edward built an aura around our relationship. He identified it as an "exceptional case" which had to operate by its own rules and not by the Collective norms. Edward stressed that the relationship was "separate" from the political work, existing strictly in the "late night". It was not to affect the political work and during the day it was supposed to be "business as usual".

Edward defined the relationship quite narrowly as a sexual relationship. There were to be no special social relations between us. Edward always made it clear to me that the relationship should not infringe on other comrades by doing things like rushing people to bed at night.

After a while Edward started to make the point that other comrades should not know about our relationship, at least not at this time. The excuse he gave for this was that this information would cause all sorts of disruption in the Collective and maybe even a political split. His justification for this statement was the illusion he created that other comrades were very confused on the question of sexual social relations and had major problems on this front.

Using this as a smokescreen, Edward put forward the line that our relationship was too explosive an issue for the other comrades to deal with. At the time I believed this concoction. This was partly because I was willing to accept whatever Edward said and also because Michelle was supporting this line. Michelle often promoted to me that other comrades in the Collective had all kinds of sexual problems. Once she told me that not one of the couples in the Collective had a relationship that could stand up to the light of day. At the time I was convinced by these slanders, innuendos and lies.

I always told Edward that I thought our relationship was understandable and explainable although I was never sure that I could go so far as to call it correct! However I was convinced, at the time, by Edward's line that other members of the Collective would not be able to deal with the question. Given the practice of the Collective members since August 1978, I know this line to be absolutely incorrect. It was an illusion promoted by Edward to try to cover up his own degenerate and promiscuous activities and save his political hide!

Basically Edward laid down the law about how the relationship would be conducted. Before I was into the relationship I was not particularly committed to it. However, once the relationship was started, I was committed to keeping it going if at all possible. Although my preference was to have the relationship known in an open and aboveboard fashion by Michelle and the other members of the Collective, I accepted the relationship on the terms offered.

I actually started to believe that this relationship was an "exceptional case" operating outside Collective norms. I definitely thought that the relationship should not interfere with the work. I kept myself on a strict discipline of always getting up on time on mornings after I had had sexual relations with Edward. I was also careful not to show any particular affection towards Edward during the day or in front of other comrades. However it did bother

me that Edward kept saying that our relationship was "separate from the work" because this sounded too much like "separate from politics". I knew this was wrong. Edward was giving the line that sexual relations stood above class and were independent of politics. Looking back, the totally reactionary nature of Edward's statements is clear.

As the relationship with Edward developed it became increasingly clear to me that he did not care what I thought about the relationship. He would lay down the law to me and I could take it or leave it. Edward never wanted to hear my opinion about our relationship and how I thought it should develop. As long as I was willing to engage in sexual relations with him that was all he cared about. Edward viewed me, as he viewed all women, as a sexual commodity. The only thing Edward liked to hear me talk about was sex itself. He would never talk about sex himself but clearly got some kind of perverse pleasure from hearing me do so. Edward was deeply entrenched in the mire of bourgeois pornographic culture.

Throughout our relationship Edward never showed any special emotion towards me. He did talk a few times about loving me but this was in the context of loving and caring about all his comrades. He told me I was good to have around when I was in good spirits and that he had once felt quite "romantic" about me. In general though he made a point of warning me not to expect too much from our relationship.

Edward often talked about me as a sexual partner. He told me it was "terrific" having sex with me because I was an active participant. However he also criticized me for being more enthusiastic and energetic about sex than I was about the political work. Looking back I'm sure this comment was simply made to disorient me and keep me off balance in the relationship.

At the time it did not bother me that Edward defined our relationship as simply a sexual relationship. I was convinced by Edward's bankrupt line that it was possible to develop a principled sexual relationship without first developing a principled social relationship. I also followed his lead in accepting that our relationship did not include love for each other. I was uneasy about the concept of love because of the mysticism promoted about this subject by the bourgeoisie. Edward's misleadership on the question simply served to confuse me further.

The question of love is not mystical. In his essay on love, Christopher Caudwell defines it in a very material way. He says that love "is man's name for the emotional element in social relations." He further states that, "The word 'love', as commonly used, includes such modified behaviour-patterns as delight in other people's presence, sensibility to one person rather than another, generosity towards them, desire to see them, and various other forms of affectionate behaviour which psychologists can only describe aridly and formally. It includes also the desire for sexual intercourse."

Caudwell also describes quite clearly the nature of sexual love and its interdependent link with social relations, "Sexual love is not a luxury, existing only for itself, but it returns again into the social relations from which it sprang, making them different to what they were. And, so changed, they in turn feed more richly the new thing rooted in them."

Edward's every word and every action went in direct opposition to these truths. He promoted that our sexual relationship should in no way affect our social relationship with each other. Edward never wanted me to feel warmth or love for him. He did indeed see sexual love as existing only for itself.

This philistine showed no understanding at all of proletarian culture nor was he interested in even investigating the question. Edward was only interested in bourgeois pornographic culture and here his knowledge and experience was immense!

Edward often promoted to me that it was impossible to have a good relationship with someone unless you worked alongside them. He slandered other couples where the two comrades worked in different areas of the political work by saying that he didn't understand how they could have a sexual relationship. This was

especially ridiculous in view of the fact that Edward and I didn't spend much time working together anyway. This whole bankrupt thesis of Edward's is reflected in the words of a bourgeois pop song "If you can't be with the one you love, love the one you're with." What contorted analysis!

Edward was promoting the line that the depth of a relationship is determined by the number of hours a couple spend together. How many working class couples spend their working hours together in this society? Almost none. Does this mean that working people are unable to develop social and sexual relationships? Clearly not. The facts are plain. Edward's attempt at analysis is all washed up. Edward's "analysis" suggests that unity can only develop by spending long hours together. His "analysis" dismisses the unity which develops in the struggle to survive and raise a family — the struggle for production and the struggle for reproduction.

Edward definitely showed liberalism towards me in the political work because he had a sexual relationship with me. On a number of occasions he "rescued" me from political struggles I was engaged in. Once he made me his personal assistant to "save" me from the struggle and on several occasions he simply moved me from areas of the work where I was encountering problems. Needless to say these "rescue" missions did nothing to advance my political level. In fact Edward's actions gave me the attitude that if the going gets tough there is always an easy way out. What an illusion!

However, these "rescue" missions did serve to put me in a day-to-day posture that was more directly under his factional control.

Edward definitely had a Jekyll and Hyde aspect to his personality. During the daytime he would be very cruel and callous to his comrades but at night he was very amicable and easy for me to get along with. He was always warm and friendly at night and made me feel I was a very special person to him.

LIFE IN THE HAREM

Throughout our relationship Edward always said to me that if problems came up, particularly with Michelle or the other woman comrade he was having sexual relations with, then our relationship would have to stop. In contradiction to this, though, he told me at one point that if the Collective or any individual raised a problem and said it was not right, then he would "make it all right!" At the time I thought Edward meant that he was going to work at sorting things out through discussion. I didn't think that he would simply lay down the law. As for Edward's mention of the second woman comrade's name at the same time as Michelle's I always thought this was simply because this comrade might see me as a threat to her own friendship with Edward if she saw me talking to him a lot.

Although Michelle has recently implied that she suspected I was having a sexual relationship with Edward right from the beginning her attitude towards me certainly did not reflect this. Michelle said that she had followed the relationship through the diary I kept. This diary contained a coded record of my sexual relations with Edward. Michelle has also said that I caught her brooding over the relationship a couple of times but when asked, she passed this off as worrying over the kids. Michelle also presented as evidence of our relationship the fact that I sat next to Edward often at the meal table. I certainly have no recollection of this. Even if it were true it hardly seems proof positive that I was having a sexual relationship with Edward!

The fact is that whenever Michelle began to suspect about the relationship she never showed any visible signs of being upset about it.

The second woman comrade was a different case however. Right from the start of my relationship with Edward she began to be suspicious. She started wandering around the house late at night. She started asking me when I was going to bed at night and then in the morning would ask when I had actually gone to bed. Finally she asked Edward directly if he was having sexual relations with me. Edward evaded her question by replying that he was discussing sexual relations with me. At the time this evasion didn't bother me. I didn't know about Edward's sexual relations with this comrade

and I could see no particular reason why he should answer her question. Given what I know now I can see that Edward viciously lied to cover his own tracks.

This second comrade was very clearly troubled by Edward's relationship with me. She would brood over it a lot. Edward passed this brooding off as the comrade having problems in the political work. Although this comrade was definitely upset by my relationship with Edward she was never unkind or unfriendly to me because of this.

In terms of the dynamics of the situation, I am positive that some nights Edward had sexual relations with more than one woman. I remember that a few nights when I came to bed after having sexual relations with Edward, the second woman comrade was still awake, sometimes with the light still on. After I got into bed, she would get up and leave the room. She would go into the part of the house where Edward was sleeping and not return for some time.

These recollections are particularly relevant when combined with Edward's August 1978 declaration that he never had sexual relations with two or three of the women on the same night. This declaration came out of the blue. Nobody had charged him with this at the time. Edward's guilt made him deny something he hadn't even been accused of.

CONTENTION AND COLLUSION AT THE CORE

Throughout the period that I was having sexual relations with Edward my understanding of Edward and Michelle's sexual problems was far from complete. I only ever heard Edward speak on this question once. Michelle avoided the subject completely.

Edward told me that his sexual relationship with Michelle had gone downhill as Michelle's physical health deteriorated after the birth of their second child. In the last couple of years in particular the relationship had been extremely rocky according to Edward. He mentioned once that Michelle had recently told him that she was not interested in sex. Edward pointed out that he and Michelle had had big fights about sex over a long period of time. Michelle was very unenthusiastic about sexual relations and was never the initiator in their relationship. Edward told me that even if he went to bed and Michelle knew he wanted to have sexual relations, she would sit up and watch TV into the early hours of the morning. Edward portrayed the problem as partly physical and partly mental in origin.

I always believed Edward was telling me the truth about Michelle. It did not occur to me that he would lie. His story about Michelle was the only thing that made our relationship seem sensible. It seemed reasonable to me that Edward and Michelle had had this problem in their relationship which they were unable to resolve and so Edward had turned to me. I never understood Michelle's attitude towards sexual relations but I didn't worry about trying to deal with this. I assumed that Edward was dealing with this question and would continue to deal with it.

Edward always made it clear to me that although the sexual aspect of his relationship with Michelle was in ruins, the overall relationship was not in question as far as he was concerned. He told me that he loved Michelle. He stressed his long history with Michelle, the children they shared in common and so on. Edward clearly had a deep romantic attachment to Michelle which he could not explain rationally. He believed that Michelle had saved him from a life of drug addiction. He told me that Michelle had only ever had sexual relations with him. He was Michelle's first and only love. That was his unfounded belief, however it does not seem that Michelle had such "unerring fidelity" after all.

Although Edward seemed to resent Michelle's attitude towards sex he did not really blame her for this. He blamed her attitude on her family background, her religious upbringing, her poor physical health, and the fact that she had been involved in a sexual encounter while quite young which had shocked her. This sexual encounter involved an older man she met while walking in the woods, who put his hand on her breasts. Apparently this left a deep impression on Michelle.

Overall Edward did not talk about Michelle much. He was always careful not to speak harshly of her. This was something I was always glad about. I felt uneasy enough as it was. I saw myself as Michelle's friend and I did not want to hurt her. I would have been very upset if Edward had started badmouthing Michelle.

My mentality was that in having a sexual relationship with Edward I wasn't taking anything from Michelle since she had no interest in such a sexual relationship. I knew that Edward had a strong emotional tie to Michelle and I certainly had no notion that I could "replace" Michelle. I figured that as long as Edward still loved Michelle and I didn't interfere in their relationship, then everybody could be happy and there would be no reason for jealousy.

In hindsight I realize that this was a very naive position to take but at the time I had a close relationship with Michelle which did not seem to be affected by the fact that I was having a sexual relationship with Edward.

DEGENERATE PAST, DEGENERATE PRESENT

One night Edward spent several hours talking to me about his degenerate past. This was the first and last time I heard him talk about the subject.

Edward talked a bit about his early life and teaching career but the main thing he addressed was the degenerate activity he had been involved in when he was connected with the music business between October 1965 and the spring of 1968. During this period Edward hung around in Rock and Roll circles. He acted as manager for a number of Rock and Roll groups and travelled around with some of them. Edward told me that he also edited a number of youth magazines about the Rock and Roll business.

Edward told me that he had been involved in sexual relations with a large number of women during this period. Apparently when he met Michelle he had a sex-related infection. He said that it wasn't a venereal disease although he never explained what it was. He told me that he had been completely cured.

Edward definitely saw Michelle as being different from the women he had been involved with previously. Apparently he laid it on pretty thick with Michelle that he was against such things as casual sex and was all for true love. He pointed out to me that he wasn't in a big rush to have sex with Michelle because of the sex-related infection he had contracted. Edward told me that Michelle definitely believed what he told her about his opposition to casual sex. He also pointed out that Michelle was similarly convinced by his lie that he had never had sexual relations with anyone before her.

Edward became quite emotional during this conversation. He explained that he was telling me these things so that I would have a better idea of where he was "coming from". At the time I believed Edward's emotion to be genuine.

I was not particularly surprised or shocked when Edward told me about his degenerate activities in the past. I already knew that he had been involved in Rock and Roll circles. I assumed that he was involved in a lot of promiscuous sexual relations since this was my understanding of life in Rock and Roll circles.

Edward described his experiences as if he looked back on them as horrifying and I could understand somewhat why he saw Michelle as his "saviour". She was supposed to have dragged him from this nightmarish life of degeneracy. The thing I missed at the time was that he was in fact still deeply rooted in the same degenerate bourgeois culture.

Edward's past involvement in bourgeois cultural circles was something which I actually found attractive at the time. Edward built up in my mind an image of himself as a "larger than life" character who had "seen it all" and "done it all". He had done all sorts of things that I used to read about in bourgeois magazines. He promoted himself to me as some sort of "street-wise" hero who had seen the worst of bourgeois degenerate culture and was now devoting his life to building a truly proletarian culture to serve the Canadian people.

I know that my own view of Edward's past as exciting and

admirable was a reflection of the fact that I had not yet completely rooted out my own bad line on culture. What I didn't realize at the time was that Edward had not even begun to attempt to root out his own total infatuation with bourgeois culture.

At the time I believed what Edward said about his sex-related infection. I believed that it wasn't serious and that he had been fully cured. I believed this because it was inconceivable to me that he would lie about something like that. I thought that the only reason he hadn't mentioned this to me or Michelle was because it was no longer a problem.

The one thing that did really bother me in what Edward said was that he had deliberately lied to and deceived Michelle. Even at that late date, he was convinced Michelle knew nothing of these degenerate sexual relations.

I was convinced that if Edward and Michelle were actually trying to resolve the problems in their sexual relationship they should look at all the possible sources of the problem. The fact that Edward had given Michelle a false impression on this question from the very beginning of the relationship seemed a highly significant point to me. Yet it was a point which Edward had never addressed. I never told Edward of my unease on this point because I did not feel I had the right to interfere in his relationship with Michelle.

WORTHLESS ADVICE FROM A BOURGEOIS DEGENERATE

During our relationship Edward gave me advice on a number of personal matters.

Edward was always interested in any letters I got from my old boyfriends. I received one of these letters a few weeks after Edward and I first had sexual relations. Edward made quite a fuss about it. He went so far as to take the letter from my chest of drawers without telling me, and read it.

He criticized the comrade who took the letter from the mail box and gave it to me because he did so just before we were to leave for an external political activity. He also criticized me for reading the letter rather than giving it to somebody else to read although no norm exists saying one comrade should read another comrade's mail nor should any such norm be brought into existence. From time to time one comrade may show another comrade an interesting personal letter but it is bizarre to think of doing this *before* the letter is read by the comrade to whom it was sent!

I was quite surprised by Edward's response to this letter. To me it was a thing of the past and no longer a problem. I think Edward was simply jealous and so over-reacted to the whole thing. For this reason I went to Edward a few days later and explained to him that I wasn't upset by this letter and was prepared to deal with the question of my old boyfriends. I suggested that we have discussion on this subject. Edward's response to this was a disinterested "Yeah, sure". That's the last I ever heard about the whole thing. Clearly, Edward thought better of continuing his spontaneous display of jealousy.

Edward also questioned me quite closely on my relations with other men comrades. Once, when a new man comrade entered the Collective, Edward took me aside and asked if I was interested in developing a sexual social relationship with this man. I was really surprised by this question. I hardly knew this new comrade at all plus I had never complained about my relationship with Edward.

At this time Michelle was making a lot of jokes about pairing me off with this new man comrade. Presumably she hoped to get me out of the way.

Edward's justification for asking this question was that he needed to know so that he could decide whether the new comrade and I should be on the same work teams. I always wondered what would have been the outcome if I had said I was interested in developing a sexual social relationship with this man. Would I have found myself always on work teams with this man or would I never have worked beside him again?!

Edward said that he would have felt "quite sad" if I had expressed an interest in developing a sexual social relationship with this new comrade.

Edward often gave me advice on clothing. He advised me to wear a less revealing bra and to wear loose-fitting shirts which could be tucked into jeans. He also asked me to wear a bra whenever I wore a T-shirt around the house because he found it distracting when I didn't.

Edward often went quite wild on the question of women's clothes. On one occasion he put forward the "masterful thesis" that women comrades should wear frumpy underwear so that if they were ever arrested their racy underwear would not incite otherwise perfectly "mild-mannered" policemen to rape.

On another occasion he discussed the question of vaginal infections with the three women in the house. This discussion was initiated by Michelle. All three women had problems with the infection at the time. It was probably Edward who was passing the infection from one woman to another. The suggestion was put forward that wearing dresses rather than jeans might help to alleviate the infection. Edward carried the discussion downhill fast by making a joke about the possibility of wearing bottomless night clothes. He pointed out that although this might solve the problem for the women it would definitely start problems for him. Once more Edward exposed his total inability to view women as anything other than sexual commodities. He could reduce any discussion to the level of pornography.

Edward also took a quite unpredictable attitude towards birth control pills. During my relationship with Edward I once took birth control pills for three months in order to help resolve a problem I had with menstrual irregularity. Edward told me I should not be on the pill and that I was refusing to face the fact of side effects. During this period I developed a problem with pimples. Edward cited this as one of the visible side effects and went on to extrapolate from this that the pills were having all kinds of other side effects on my body. I never understood his hysteria on this point. He certainly never showed the same concern for other women comrades in the Collective who had taken birth control pills for far longer than just three months.

Inner-Factional Dissension

MANOEUVRING FOR SELF-GAIN

Around the end of November Edward started pointedly ignoring me in the evenings. Up until this time Edward and I had always engaged in sexual activities in his room. Now Edward started sleeping on the living room couch instead of in his own room. Faced with this changed situation I told Edward that I wanted to talk to him about our relationship. He put this off a number of times before he finally talked to me.

What Edward finally told me was that he was on a new program of getting to sleep earlier at night so that he could get up in the morning at the same time as the other comrades. He went on to point out that he was concerned that I was staying up to have sexual relations with him too often when it should have been obvious to me that conditions weren't right for this. He never explained what he meant by the phrase "conditions aren't right". Edward said we should consider whether our relationship was a good idea or not.

In response, I told Edward that I had noticed he was occasionally getting up earlier in the morning and thought this was a good thing. However I pointed out to him that I would appreciate being told straight out about these kinds of things. I told him that I did not think I was staying up to engage in sexual relations too often but that if he thought this was the case he should simply draw my attention to it.

I pointed out to him that it would be possible for him to simply tell me to go to bed on such occasions. It was an accepted norm of the Collective that comrades should act in a disciplined manner and that if a comrade's pattern interfered with the political work then this should be dealt with by the leadership of the Collective. If, for example, a comrade's disorganized sleeping pattern meant that they were constantly arriving late for political work it was the

responsibility of leading comrades to deal with this problem. On the basis of this it would be quite acceptable for Edward to tell me that I should go to bed in order to be prepared for political work the next day. I told him that I didn't see that this was a big or insoluble problem. On the contrary, it was quite small and simple to resolve.

That night Edward and I engaged in sexual relations again. Our relationship continued.

Edward made an interesting comment to me that night. He told me that he seemed to be unable to talk about sex without wanting to go ahead and engage in sexual activity. At the time I took this remark as specific to our relationship although he did talk about it in a very general, broad way. This comment is particularly alarming when one considers how regularly Edward initiated discussion with various comrades on the question of sexual relations.

This discussion with Edward definitely bothered me. I began to feel quite uneasy about the whole relationship again because I wasn't sure what Edward had in mind.

THE CRIMINAL DEFENDS HIMSELF BY BLAMING THE INNOCENT

The uneasy feeling I had about my relationship with Edward was soon eclipsed by the Mini-Cultural Revolution, a high tide of political struggle in the life of the Collective. It was in December, during the Mini-Cultural Revolution, that I found out about Edward's sexual relationship with the second woman comrade.

Edward had moved his sleeping place back into his bedroom. His attempt to stop some of his sexual relations by having his bed in the more public living room area had proven entirely false. His attempt to get up early in the morning had turned into an even bigger farce after one or two days.

One night in December I had sexual relations with Edward. The following night I was in bed when the second woman comrade, with whom Michelle and I shared a room, came in. She put on her nightgown and sat down on her bed. She heaved a big sigh, sat a few more minutes on her bed, and then left the room. I thought it was odd but put it out of my mind. Soon I fell asleep.

A few nights later everything suddenly began to be very obvious to me. Edward was busy trying to get everybody to bed except the second woman comrade. My concern about the situation must have shown clearly because soon after I went to bed the second woman comrade came into the room and told me that Edward wanted to speak to me. Who knows what he told her! How could he possibly explain this message?!

Edward was in bed when I arrived in his room. When I walked in he immediately began his slitted eyes routine, acting as if I was some kind of criminal. Angrily, he turned towards me and sneeringly said, "So you figured it out, eh?" He dared to act as if I had done something wrong!

Edward went on to tell me when the sexual relationship between himself and the second woman comrade had begun. He told me that the relationship had begun because the woman comrade felt sorry for him because his arrangements for sexual activity with Michelle were dislocated and disjointed. Edward spoke as if he also felt sorry for the woman comrade.

Edward described how he had been attracted to this woman when he first met her. He mentioned her beautiful hair. He gave the line that, "I knew she was one of the ones for me!" — the promiscuous degenerate's version of the bourgeois myth of "love at first sight".

Edward also told me that once he had found her crying in her room after a struggle with another comrade and felt like comforting her. By the word "comforting" he meant having sexual relations with her. Edward told me that this woman comrade easily fell into thinking that she didn't have a real friend in the world. He said that other comrades didn't pay enough attention to her. He told me that she really appreciated somebody taking a real interest in her.

Edward made the point that other comrades did not really know this woman and that he knew her better than anybody else. He also

mentioned that this woman had never been very happy about her relationship with Edward because she felt uneasy going behind Michelle's back. He told me that the only worry this woman comrade had about my own relationship with Edward was the bad effect it would have on Michelle.

He made the point that he had a problem with his relationship with this second woman comrade because she was too much of a "clinging vine", depending on him too much. What a hypocrite! First he manoeuvres to make a comrade dependent on him and then denounces her for it!

During this whole discussion Edward was very much on the defensive. At one point he said that he cared a lot about Michelle, he cared a lot about the second woman comrade, and he was getting to care a lot about a fourth woman comrade! He said this as if to challenge my attitude.

He took up the defensive line of, "How can it be wrong for me to love all these women who are good comrades?" Like a cornered rat Edward tried hard to obscure the fact that the issue at hand was one of promiscuous sexual relations by pleading his "love" for all these women as comrades. Sexual relations and comradely relations could only be confused by one who has sunk deep into the mire of bourgeois pornographic culture.

I was very upset throughout the discussion. Edward's attitude towards women reminded me of things I had heard about Hardial Bains, who is well known as a big-time womanizer, vying to sleep with every woman contact of his "party". At the time I couldn't believe that Edward was actually like this. I kept asking myself why Edward hadn't told me about his sexual relationship with this second woman comrade before getting involved with me.

I didn't like the way Edward described his relationship with this second woman comrade. It sounded too much like he was trying to solve this comrade's political problems by having sexual relations with her. I knew this was no way to solve political problems and I certainly didn't want Edward taking the same approach in the relationship with me.

My head was spinning. I kept asking myself, "What happens now? What are we going to do about this situation?" I kept wondering, "How did I get into a mess like this?" However I never got angry enough to tell Edward, "Well, count me out."

By this time I felt a certain commitment to the relationship with Edward. I couldn't believe that Edward was such a rotten character as he seemed even though there was a wealth of evidence right in front of me. I kept on thinking that there must be a reasonable explanation for the whole thing. I was determined to stick with the relationship and struggle for some sort of resolution to this whole problem. At this point I was in the relationship "for better or for worse" and couldn't see just turning my back on the whole thing. I wanted to struggle the thing through to the end.

I told Edward that I was very troubled by the whole thing both politically and personally. Edward continued to take the posture that he was right and I was in the wrong. He took a very arrogant and aggressive posture towards me. Rather than giving me the chance to ask all the questions which were on my mind about his relationship with the second woman comrade he took the offensive and began firing questions at me. He asked me about my old boyfriends, sexual relations I had been involved with in the past and so on.

By the time Edward had finished his pressure campaign I had compromised to the point of having sexual relations with him. Just before I went to bed he gave me indication that he was going to terminate his relationship with the second woman comrade and continue his relationship with me. When I went to bed the second woman comrade was still awake, sitting in the living room.

The following day, at the work place, Edward told me that he had talked to the second woman comrade and told her that they should end their sexual relationship. According to Edward she was quite relieved about this. Edward then told me that he thought he should also terminate his sexual relationship with me. Since it was during the work day and there were lots of other comrades around I simply

said, "Okay". However I was really stunned by what Edward had said.

Later in the day I went to talk to Edward while he was typesetting. I told him that I couldn't accept his decision without discussion and without hearing his reasons for it. He replied that the fact that I was so upset about the whole thing just proved that the relationship should be terminated. He told me that I had to stand on my own two feet in the political work and that I shouldn't depend or lean on him. He said that if or when something happened to him in the future, like him being killed, he didn't want people to cry for him. He said that he wanted people just to push on with the political work. Edward seemed to think we were all incapable of mourning a comrade and yet continuing to push forward in the political work.

In the evening, Edward spoke to me again. He told me once more that I had to be independent and shouldn't lean on him for support. He said that he was willing to continue to have discussion with me about sexual relations but that he was sticking to his decision that the sexual relations between the two of us should stop.

I never really saw the things Edward was saying as legitimate. When I found out about Edward's relationship with the second woman comrade I realized that my relationship with Edward might have to end. However Edward was not giving this as the reason for terminating the relationship. Instead of using the one legitimate material fact he had on hand to terminate our relationship he concocted some illusion about me leaning on him and depending on him. The illusion was false since for a long time I had been consciously avoiding running to Edward with every little problem. This was a problem Edward actually encountered with Michelle and also with the second woman comrade.

From the way Edward was talking it was clear that this point was not open for discussion and struggle. Edward had made a decision and that was that.

A number of days later Edward offered to talk to me about sexual relations. He told me that he had been talking to one of the men comrades about this question and perhaps he would try to get this kind of discussion going with several people. I remember thinking, "Well, this isn't exactly an academic point!"

FACTIONAL CONSOLIDATION

In the last couple of weeks of December, after I found out about Edward's sexual relations with the second woman comrade, I had a hard time keeping on an even keel. During the political struggle of the Mini-Cultural Revolution I had difficulty keeping calm and unemotional. I spent a lot of time preoccupied by this question. During this period I was watching Edward closely to see what he was going to do.

In early January things began to get on top of me, especially the fact that Edward wasn't giving me any leadership on this sexual question, and I became very depressed. My unhappiness was obvious to everybody. One evening Edward spoke to Michelle and the second woman comrade separately. He told them that he had been involved in sexual relations with all three of us and that this was what was upsetting me. He suggested that the three of us should get together and discuss this thing.

The next day Edward arranged for the three of us to meet as a special committee. He gave the comrades of the Collective, who weren't in this faction, some sort of vague, offhanded explanation for this meeting. The meeting took place that afternoon while the other comrades were out doing external political work. The original reason given to the faction for the meeting was that I was upset by this whole thing and had problems trusting Edward. In a recent document Edward contradicts this by stating that the committee was set up to deal with the question of the second woman comrade's pregnancy. I was not aware of this pregnancy at the time but it is possible that the second woman comrade had already told Edward that she thought she was pregnant.

Edward took the responsibility of starting off the discussion that afternoon. He began by saying that he could give seminars on sex-

ual relations if that's what the members of the Collective wanted. At the time I thought this comment was meant to indicate that he had the whole question straight and understood it well whereas other comrades had problems on this front. Maybe, however, it was simply meant as a dirty joke.

Edward then laid two points before the committee which were quickly agreed to by all of us. The first point was that these discussions should be kept strictly to ourselves and that we should try to sort out the problem amongst ourselves. The second point was that none of us should engage in sexual relations while the committee was in effect.

Edward's opening remarks also included a "rating" of the three women. He said that Michelle was the least interested in sex and the most "cold" about it; the second woman comrade was the friendliest one and was more interested in the warmth of the relationship than sex itself; and, that I was the most enthusiastic about sex and the most stable in dealing with an on-going sexual relationship. In terms of this rating I thought that the second woman comrade was getting the highest rating whereas Michelle, by her conversation with a comrade when she ran away, seems to have thought that I was. The whole concept of "rating" women on the basis of their sexual performance is a product of the bourgeois pornographic culture. In this case the rating merely served to deepen the disunity already apparent between the three women comrades.

This is a good illustration of Edward's whole style of fighting. When faced with imminent defeat he makes a show of bravado to make it seem he is on the attack and in the position of strength. This creates a political effect. It seems he is correct and thus he can mould people's opinions simply by putting forward his own perceptions in an unequivocal way. Besides being illustrative of his style under pressure, this first special committee meeting demonstrates his monstrous arrogance.

After Edward's introduction each of us made some opening remarks. Michelle spoke about how she had failed Edward and that although it was hard to face the fact that he had turned to other women this was what she had to do. The second woman comrade spoke about how Edward felt personally responsible for all the comrades and did everything he could to help them resolve their problems. I can't remember exactly what I said but I made some sort of statement exonerating Edward as had the other two women.

The only point I remember talking about after that was the personal histories of the three women. Each of us talked about our background, attitudes towards sex and our sexual experiences. I was criticized by Edward for being reluctant to join in the discussion. My reluctance came from the fact that I thought we weren't getting down to the real nitty-gritty of the situation at hand.

As the meeting broke up Edward made the comment that all three of us were fine women and it would be too bad if we all turned on each other because of this situation. Nobody replied to his remark but I remember thinking, "Thanks a lot, buddy, but what makes you so sure we won't all turn on you?!"

The committee met three more times between the beginning of January and the beginning of February. Edward did not attend any of these meetings. We were supposed to meet to discuss the situation and try to come up with some sort of solution.

In the second meeting of the committee we talked again in general about our past histories and attitudes toward sex. This meeting was characterized by a general lack of trust and openness. We spent a lot of time avoiding the real issues at hand.

During this second meeting Michelle did address her own situation to some extent. She said that now she knew about these other relationships, she would definitely be unwilling to continue her sexual relationship with Edward if he continued to be involved in these other sexual relationships. Michelle's statement at this time definitely contradicted her later statements that she was aware of my relationship with Edward from the very beginning. Michelle also said that she did not want her sex life to be at an

end. She went on to say that she couldn't imagine anybody else wanting to have a sexual relationship with her. Her reasoning was that people would feel uneasy because she was Edward's wife and also because she had problems on the sexual front.

The second woman comrade also spoke about her relationship with Edward during this meeting. She said that she was mainly looking for companionship in her relationship with Edward.

During this meeting and all the other meetings of the committee, Michelle made a point of mocking my attitude toward sex. She treated me as if I was some kind of sex maniac. This was just one small reflection of the lack of unity and comradeship existing between the three women at this time. Michelle was definitely the main proponent of disunity and uncomradely behaviour in these meetings that Edward did not attend. Michelle was in these meetings to fight for her own self-interests and that was just what she intended to do. She was willing to do whatever it took.

HARD CORE FACTIONALISTS LAUGH AS THE HONEST FLOUNDER

There was quite a long time between the second and third meetings of the committee. During this period a number of significant things happened.

First of all Michelle broke the agreement about not having sexual relations with Edward. Michelle later admitted that she had done this purposely to serve her own self-interests.

I then broke the agreement. This happened about two weeks after the second committee meeting. One evening Edward and I were up alone watching a movie and he started pressuring me to have sexual relations with him. This is the only time in our relationship that Edward ever used really strong and really obvious pressure tactics on me.

He made me feel as if I was being really mean by refusing to have sexual relations with him. However, I continued to refuse his advances. Edward was speaking in a joking manner but was acting as if he was desperate to have sexual relations with me.

This performance always seemed ironic to me when compared with the glorious statements he made at other times. Once Edward told me scornfully that the bourgeoisie promoted the line that if you lost your sexuality then you had nothing left to live for. He "militantly" stated that the proletariat wouldn't be stopped from making revolution by anything. His weak-kneed pleading that night provided a dramatic contrast to these "militant" words.

After refusing to break the agreement I began to feel sorry for Edward because I thought he hadn't engaged in any sexual relations for over a month. Little did I suspect that he had had sexual relations with Michelle already. I also felt as if the committee's meetings were going nowhere. We were simply engaged in aimless discussion and no date was even set for our next meeting. I was beginning to wonder how long things would continue without some kind of resolution.

A couple of nights later I was alone with Edward again. Edward began treating me in a very warm and friendly way again as he had a few nights earlier. By now his pressure tactics were beginning to have their desired effect on me. Edward and I had sexual relations that night.

After we engaged in sexual relations Edward's whole attitude towards me changed. He was no longer warm and friendly. He turned to me and said in a nasty, sneering voice, "I'm a really terrible guy leading you astray like this all the time, eh?"

I was really confused by Edward's attitude. Now that he had got what he wanted his whole attitude had changed. I was angry. I had been tricked into breaking the agreement because Edward coerced me into feeling sorry for him. Now Edward was treating me as if I was some kind of loose woman, sneering at how easily I had been led astray. I went to bed feeling angry and upset about Edward's attitude.

A little while later the second woman comrade broke the agreement. I suspected this when it happened. One evening Michelle came into the room when I was getting ready for bed. She

made a sly remark about how she was coming to bed also because Edward and the second woman comrade seemed to want to be alone. I could hear Edward shouting at the second woman comrade.

The woman comrade later described how she had had an argument with Edward that night because he had told me that she was pregnant without first letting her know that he intended to do so. Edward got very angry with the comrade and stormed into his room to go to bed. The woman comrade then went into Edward's room to speak to him because she didn't want him to go to bed angry. Edward made the most of this situation and convinced the comrade to have sexual relations with him. The woman comrade was clearly set up for this breaking of the agreement.

I was soon convinced that Edward had manoeuvred to have both myself and the second woman comrade break the agreement in order to protect Michelle because she had already broken the agreement.

During the period when the committee was in effect there was an extremely tense atmosphere because of the information which the four of us shared. There was often a situation in the evening when Edward and the three women he was having sexual relations with would all be together watching TV. The women all felt very uneasy. My general attitude was that now we were in the situation we had to deal with it somehow. I took the view that you might as well laugh about it as cry about it.

The second woman comrade was extremely upset by the whole situation. She never really opened up to Michelle or me during the whole process although she did speak to Edward.

In contrast to this, Michelle seemed to thoroughly enjoy the whole intrigue of the situation. Michelle often made joking comments to me about the situation. One night she even came after me into the bathroom to tell me something she didn't want anybody to overhear. Although I didn't mind discussing the situation, I didn't want to be giddy about the idea of a "menage a quatre" like Michelle was. I knew the situation was too serious for that kind of schoolgirl giddiness.

Like Michelle, Edward was also enjoying the intrigue and conspiracy. He always enjoyed rubbing salt into the wound by joking about the situation. One evening when I came in he was sitting watching TV. When I asked him what he was watching he threw me the TV guide. He said that there wasn't much on but that there was a movie at 10 o'clock which I might be interested in. I read the write-up in the TV guide. The plot line of the movie was about a man having affairs with some of his wife's friends. I gave a half-hearted laugh in response. Edward laughed as if he found it quite hilarious. I figured that Edward had shown the write-up to me because I could handle it as a joke. However Edward continued his campaign of rubbing salt into the wound by showing the write-up to both Michelle and the second woman comrade when they came into the room. They both gave half-hearted laughs and the subject was then dropped.

Edward's response to comments about the situation was not always as open as he liked to portray. Any comments aimed at him were not well received.

One evening Michelle repeated to Edward a comment she made at our second committee meeting. Michelle had asked whether, in fact, Edward was involved with more women than just us three. Neither the second woman comrade nor I responded to this comment when it was first made at the second meeting but it was certainly something I had thought about also.

When Michelle repeated the comment to Edward he was not at all pleased. He gave Michelle a hard stare and asked what she meant by that. Michelle began to backtrack furiously, desperately trying to pass the whole thing off as a joke. She then changed the subject and Edward let the whole matter drop.

It was during the time between the second and third committee meetings that the second woman comrade's pregnancy was confirmed. I first began to suspect that the comrade was pregnant in the middle of January. The comrade suddenly went to the doctor with no visible signs of a medical problem. This was very unusual

for this comrade who was very reluctant to go to the doctor and rarely went unless she was really ill. I began to get suspicious about what was going on. Shortly after this I overheard Edward, Michelle and the second woman comrade talking. I heard the word "abortion" mentioned. Later that day I asked Michelle about the comrade's medical problem. She replied that the second woman comrade thought she had some kind of vaginal infection and was just getting it checked out.

A few days later Edward told me about the pregnancy. I was quite surprised by this news. I gave an ironic laugh, shook my head and said, "Oh no!"

I thought, "If there was a way for this situation to get stupider, this is it!"

I asked Edward how the second woman comrade felt about the pregnancy. He replied that she was quite calm and happy. Edward did not seem to be upset at all by the whole thing.

INSTIGATOR PLEADS FOR AMNESTY AS AN INNOCENT VICTIM

During the period between the second and third committee meetings I had a number of discussions with Edward alone. Michelle and the second woman comrade also did this.

On one occasion I asked Edward to explain to me just exactly how he had got involved with three women like this. He didn't answer me very clearly.

He started by saying that he wished people would say what they meant. Edward said that he thought Michelle was no longer interested in having a sexual relationship with him but she had changed her mind, and that the second woman comrade was no longer interested in having a sexual relationship with him but then she changed her mind also. So he had ended up having sexual relations with all three women.

Edward said that he guessed he had been selfish to get involved with me but that he was so frustrated with these other two relationships not working out well that he wanted to try a new relationship. He said that he wanted the situation resolved and resolved soon because he couldn't see going the rest of his life without having sexual relations. This was hardly the issue at hand. We were faced with a problem of promiscuity not celibacy!

In general Edward's line was that he was simply a victim of circumstances — that he was caught in this messy situation as much as anybody else. This line can quickly be exposed by looking at the fact that only Edward knew he was having sexual relations with the three women. We were victims because we didn't know about the situation. It seems likely that Michelle was not such a victim because she was aware of the situation and simply chose to keep her mouth shut. Edward knew fully about the situation and was in a position to be able to change the situation. Instead he chose to carry on and develop promiscuous sexual relations with the three women. Clearly we were not all "caught" in this situation.

Another time I asked Edward for some concrete advice on how to conduct myself in the special committee meetings. I told him that the way I talked seemed to upset the other two women, as if I was being obscene or something. Edward told me that there was no need to talk about actual sexual activities or anything like that, and that it would definitely be better not to.

Edward said that he would tell me something about his actual sexual activities with the other two women if I was interested. He then went on to talk to me about this. I did not ask any questions. I just listened to what he had to say.

I also tried to indirectly sound out what Edward's ideas were on a solution to the situation at hand. The way he had been talking over the past few weeks was as if he had some definite ideas of how to solve the problem but was keeping them to himself. I knew that both Michelle and the second woman comrade had also spoken to Edward alone. I figured this meant that he had the most complete picture of the whole thing. I knew that the three women all felt easier talking to Edward than to each other.

I didn't ask Edward directly what his thinking on this question

was. I tried instead to sound out his ideas by telling him what the thinking of the three women was shaping up like.

I told him that Michelle and the second woman comrade both seemed quite definite on being the only woman having sex with him or else not being involved at all. Edward responded by saying, "What do they mean by sex?"

He spoke as if this was a rhetorical question. I had no idea what he meant by this statement. I simply replied, "Well, I guess they mean any kind of touching which has sexual overtones to it."

Edward obviously had in mind to try to excuse certain activities on the basis that they did not qualify as sex!

I wanted to try to find out what kind of solution to the problem Edward had in mind because this was the very thing that was being studiously avoided in the special committee meetings. The other two women seemed to want to steer clear of this question. For myself, I basically wanted the answer to one question, "Am I going to be able to continue to have a sexual relationship with Edward or not?"

It seemed to me that this was the question that each of the women had to answer. I was willing to discuss any and all possibilities. I wanted to reject the unacceptable and understand why it was unacceptable. I wanted to come to an acceptable solution which was understandable and explainable.

I thought we should discuss the concept of a "menage a quatre" and reject it on an explainable and reasonable basis.

As far as I could see there were only three possible ways that I could continue to have a sexual relationship with Edward. First if Edward chose me over the other two women. I thought of this in terms of the other two relationships not working out whereas my relationship with Edward was working out. However Edward was clearly not going to make a choice. The second way would be if both Michelle and the second woman comrade decided they were no longer interested in having a sexual relationship with Edward. I always considered that Michelle had first "right" or "claim" on Edward sexually, the second woman comrade had second "right", and me third.

The only other possible way for me to continue having a sexual relationship with Edward would be to have a "menage a quatre", or a "menage a trois" if one woman did not want to be involved.

Basically I wanted these possibilities examined and a decision made as soon as possible. Neither of the other two women seemed to want to get down to considering actual solutions at this time. The second woman comrade was visibly upset at all the meetings and seemed "lost" in the discussion. Michelle didn't seem particularly upset but would just ramble on aimlessly in the discussions. I tried to push for some kind of decision to be made, not for the purpose of resuming sexual activity, but to get this worry out of my mind so that I could better participate in the Collective's programs. I didn't want to be too "cold" or ruthless about the whole thing. After talking to Edward I felt reassured that it would be a good idea to get to a solution as soon as possible.

LOW TRICKS AND DECEIT CHARACTERIZE THE FACTION'S CORE

The third committee meeting was held towards the end of January, not long after I found out about the second woman comrade's pregnancy. The pregnancy was the main topic of discussion at this meeting. The second woman comrade was quite happy about her pregnancy and seemed to be in better shape emotionally than she was at the second committee meeting. Michelle didn't ramble so much about obscure points at this meeting because we had the pregnancy to discuss.

I expressed surprise about the fact that the second woman comrade had not taken precautions to ensure against pregnancy. Although the comrade herself did not say much about this, Michelle took this opportunity to speak in defence of Edward. Michelle said that she had always thought the second woman comrade wanted a baby. She also gave her view that "Edward wouldn't care about things like birth control" and that "Edward liked kids anyway!"

Considering his practice of virtually ignoring his and Michelle's children this last statement was hard to swallow.

Michelle made a point of mocking me for the protective attitude I was taking towards the second woman comrade since I found out about her pregnancy. In contrast to Michelle's scornful tone, the second woman comrade seemed to appreciate my concern and was glad that I had a positive attitude towards the baby.

At one point in the discussion the second woman comrade left to go to the bathroom. While she was gone Michelle started telling me that both of us should back off on the question of our own sexual relations with Edward to allow the second woman comrade to receive full support from Edward during her pregnancy.

Admirable sentiment but did Michelle have ulterior motives? Yes, she did.

Having made this fine speech to me Michelle later told the second woman comrade to watch out because she was going to fight tooth and nail with her for Edward.

It is clear that Michelle had no principles. She was willing to stoop to any depths to preserve her own position in the Collective as the leading comrade's wife. She was willing to tell any lie, pull any trick, participate in any conspiracy necessary to try to make the other women back off.

At one point during the third special committee meeting Edward entered the room to see how we were getting on. He told us that in regard to the pregnancy we should deal with the personal and medical aspects and that the other aspects would be taken care of by the leadership unit. Of course, the other members of the leadership unit didn't know about the pregnancy at that time.

Michelle then repeated to Edward a comment she had made earlier in the meeting. She told him that she thought that one of the other leading comrades had guessed that there was a sexual relationship between Edward and the second woman comrade and had guessed about the pregnancy.

Edward gave Michelle a cold, hard stare and challenged her to defend this statement. Michelle had no defence at all. Edward then told her to stop being ridiculous. He said there was no way that this leading comrade knew.

Edward knew that if this other leading comrade had this information he would not be sitting quiet. Edward would have found himself at that moment in the midst of the struggle which actually arose in August.

Edward went on to ask whether we were getting close to a conclusion in our discussion of sexual relations. We said we weren't really sure. Edward told us to stick to the point and come to some resolution soon. He also pointed out that we should end our meeting soon because it was almost supertime. He left the room and the meeting broke up soon after that.

THE CHIEF WIFE SECURES HER POSITION BY INTRIGUE AND CONSPIRACY

The fourth and last meeting of the committee was held in the first week of February. In the few days immediately prior to this meeting Edward and Michelle were engaged in a lot of discussion between themselves. The night before the meeting Edward moved his couch bed from his room into the living room.

Michelle came into the fourth committee meeting with a markedly different attitude. She took a very high-handed approach and immediately took charge of the meeting. She had a businesslike, "let's get down to brass tacks" posture in the meeting.

The first point Michelle addressed was the fact that we had all broken the agreement on having no sexual relations with Edward. Michelle stated that she had broken the agreement first, then me and finally the second woman comrade. Michelle admitted that she had consciously broken the agreement to serve her own self-interests. She never made it clear whether she had broken the agreement just once or on a number of occasions. The other two of us both made it clear that we had each only broken the agreement once.

Michelle said that she felt bad about breaking the agreement and

felt worried in a political sense since she wondered whether this meant that she wouldn't be able to keep other agreements in the Collective! Michelle went on to describe how she had talked to Edward about this. Edward told her not to worry about this too much because it wasn't the same as an agreement made with the whole Collective! What a barefaced admission of factionalism!

Edward clearly saw this committee as a faction not bound by the rules and norms of the Collective.

The second woman comrade spoke next. She was quite upset. I don't think she had suspected that Michelle and I had also broken the agreement. This comrade said that she knew it was wrong for her to break the agreement. She felt very bad about the whole thing. The comrade pointed out that she had not intended to break the agreement but had let down her guard one evening after an argument with Edward.

I spoke next. I gave a very half-hearted statement about how I thought it was wrong for me to break the agreement. I was not enthusiastic to do self-criticism on this point because I knew I had been pressured by Edward. I was still angry about the way Edward had turned on me that evening after tricking me into breaking the agreement.

Nobody mentioned the fact that Edward had broken the agreement three times!

With respect to the agreement Edward seemed to take the attitude that it was up to the women to keep the agreement and up to him to try to break it. He seemed to have treated it as a challenge to try to pressure two of the women into breaking the agreement in order to protect Michelle.

Edward's attitude is a clear reflection of the bourgeoisie's line that the man's role in a sexual relationship is to go as far as he can and the woman's role is to stop him. It is clear that Edward did not feel that he had any responsibility to keep the agreement himself.

Michelle moved on from the discussion of the agreement and presented her next point. She told us that Edward had decided not to have sexual relations with any of us anymore. Michelle reported that Edward had also phrased this as a decision to "no longer interfere in our internal affairs". More low level pornographic humour from the faction's head! Michelle said that because of this decision Edward had moved his bed into the living room.

It was clear that Michelle was now simply acting as an agent for Edward. The hard core of the faction had consolidated its position.

The second woman comrade was hit hardest by this decision. She looked extremely upset and said that she would have to speak to Edward and find out what kind of relationship the two of them were going to have.

Michelle didn't seem upset at all. In fact she seemed quite pleased with Edward's decision. Obviously Michelle had already received personal clarity on this issue in her discussions with Edward.

I wasn't pleased with Edward's decision but had come to expect that I would soon have to face the termination of my sexual relationship with Edward. What bothered me most immediately was that Edward had announced his decision through Michelle rather than turning up himself. Edward had handed down his decision from on high thereby rendering the committee obsolete. He had also made a decision which seemed to me to be almost impossible for him to hold to.

The only point I actually made at the meeting was that I thought Edward had made a decision which would be very difficult for him to live with. In general I thought that Edward's decision didn't make too much sense at all.

The meeting ended shortly after this.

I know that ever since I first met Michelle we had a close friendship but it was not a friendship between "equals". Michelle usually took a very condescending attitude towards me as she did with other people. She never really opened up to me about herself and her problems. During this last meeting of the committee Michelle's high-handed and arrogant attitude became even more pronounced. I began to feel as if we were all in a harem and Michelle was the chief wife.

After the meeting Michelle came and spoke to me. She told me that she thought this was the best solution because the second woman comrade was pregnant and Michelle herself would be going into hospital soon. She pointed out that it wouldn't be good for either of them to be under a lot of stress. Michelle added that the two of us should continue to pay special attention to the second woman comrade because of her pregnancy.

This was the last meeting of the special committee set up by Edward. The committee had met four times and achieved virtually nothing. The final decision was simply handed down by Edward. I often wondered why he didn't simply do this at the beginning and dispense with any facade of democracy.

The Decline and Downfall of the Faction

EMPTY WORDS POUR FROM THE DEGENERATE'S MOUTH

In the evenings following Edward's decision there was a very strained atmosphere amongst the four of us.

One evening, about a week after the committee's final meeting, a very odd series of events began to unfold. This was the first night that all four of us stayed up late after Edward's decision. At one point, Edward and Michelle suddenly got up and went into the kitchen where they began talking in hushed, conspiratorial tones. When Michelle returned she announced to the room that since people were staying up so late, Edward was going to sleep in the kids' room, which was empty. After this announcement Michelle went to bed, followed shortly by the second woman comrade.

I was doing some mending and watching TV. I thought, "Well, they're all acting like bananas but what the hell, I'm just going to sit here and enjoy some TV on my own for a change."

About five minutes later Edward came into the living room and set himself up on the couch for the night! He said that he couldn't sleep in the kids' room. Edward was very friendly towards me and told me that it was fine for me to continue watching TV. About five minutes after this the second woman comrade came into the living room area looking very angry. She sat down to watch TV without saying a word to me. I didn't say anything to her and Edward pretended to be asleep. The second woman comrade smoked a cigarette and then went to bed. She never said a word.

After she left Edward asked, "Did she say anything to you?"

I replied, "No".

Quite soon after this I said goodnight to Edward and went to bed.

The whole performance that night was ridiculous. It was a reflection of the unease and paranoia which had developed within the faction. The women did not trust each other and Edward was pulling all kinds of tricks to try to keep the three women in line.

On February 7, 1978, the next day, he issued a document. This document stated, "I do not want to restrict the freedoms of you people to stay up at night. In order for me to respect your needs you will have to inform me of your intentions. I would like to know if and when any of you are staying up passed (*sic*) 11:30 p.m. This is not necessarily a question of permissions (*sic*), but rather a courtesy which I think I deserve. I would also like to make you more conscious of the negative effect on my sleeping patterns of both night-wandering and the potential for night-wandering. Either, equally, disrupts my capacity to get a 'good' night sleep. If my night sleep is disrupted then my next day capacities are also disrupted."

It is clear that Edward was not concerned about disruption of his sleeping patterns but rather about disruption of his sexual activities. This document was directed against the second woman comrade in particular who was so upset about Edward's promiscuous sexual activities that she could not sleep at night. She did not want to go to bed before Michelle and I in case one of us engaged in sexual relations with Edward. So she would stay up late and wander around the house. Edward's "proclamation" was designed to try to get this situation under control. It was not successful.

Edward was constantly assuring the three women that he would

not infringe on their rights by trying to rush them to bed in order to be able to engage in sexual activities. These fine sounding words ring hollow in the face of his actions. His proclamation of February 7 was a clear infringement of the rights of the three women in order to protect his own selfish interests.

In the middle of February Edward devoted two or three days to a diversionary campaign to try to keep me in line. This was during the Mini-Cultural Revolution and many comrades were working on personal political biographies in order to assist in the struggle to come to terms with their past experiences and practice. Edward spent a long time discussing my roots during this process and paid an inordinate amount of attention to me. He worked hard at stressing how proud I should be of my roots.

Having built me up in this way, he came to me one evening and told me that it was for the best that our sexual relationship had terminated. He told me that I should look towards a new relationship in the future.

Edward also mentioned the fact that we had engaged in anal sex during our sexual relationship. He had a strange attitude towards this. He seemed to enjoy it mainly because he thought it was wrong. At the end of this discussion with me Edward said, "This thing of sodomy should just be a thing of the past. You shouldn't do that kind of thing in the future with somebody else!"

My basic response to Edward's statement was to simply say, "Okay". My thinking was, "Well, this is an old story. All the times Edward has said we will stop before haven't meant much. So I'm not going to bother getting upset."

Sure enough, about a month later we were back at it again, sodomy and all!

A VICTIM OF FACTIONALISM

At the end of February the second woman comrade's pregnancy was announced to the Collective along with the fact that Edward was the father. This announcement was followed by a large amount of Collective discussion. Although I wasn't actually coached by Edward through these discussions I was definitely cautious about participating fully. I basically took an observer posture. I wanted to see what people thought about this particular relationship so that I could try to apply the Collective's conclusions to my own relationship. I had blinkers on in the discussions and so I missed many of the crucial points made.

During the course of the Collective's investigations the question was asked, "Is there widespread promiscuity in the Collective?"

This question was asked directly of the members of the Collective. I answered this question in the negative. I did not do this as a conscious lie. I simply thought that promiscuity was not really widespread in the Collective because only Edward was involved. So I avoided having to deal with this question of promiscuity.

During this whole struggle I relied on Edward to make the decisions. I kept quiet and left it to him to either bring up the question of his sexual relationship with me or not. I still felt that the relationship was explainable and wouldn't be too hard for people to take but I wasn't willing to take the responsibility of making the information known to the Collective myself.

When the resolution was reached that Edward's relationship with the second woman comrade was acceptable I felt uneasy. The resolution was based on the understanding that for Edward another monogamous relationship had superseded this monogamous relationship with Michelle. I felt as if Edward had "pulled a fast one" on the members of the Collective.

After this investigation and resolution the political situation with the second woman degenerated fast. She became increasingly intransigent and foul-minded. I never realized that this degeneration was related to the question of sexual relations with Edward. I paid very little attention to the problems of this comrade. The special committee meetings had intensified the feeling of "every woman for herself" and since the special committee ended I have never talked to this comrade again about sexual relations. When

Edward drove this comrade out of the Collective I believed his line that she was incorrigibly intransigent. I did not understand that her whole political outlook had been distorted by Edward's vile abuse of her.

SEXUAL DEVIANCY AND DEGENERACY CHARACTERIZE THE FACTION'S CHIEF

In March, Edward and I resumed sexual relations. For myself I never felt bound by Edward's decision because it had simply been imposed from above by him. I took the attitude that if he wanted to hold to his decision that was fine, and if he didn't want to hold to his decision that was fine also. I had never been given the "benefit" of Edward's reasoning on this decision, so I felt it was up to him to uphold the decision as he saw fit. I had no intention of firmly upholding a decision I had never understood and never been asked to give my opinion on.

I never thought that Edward would be able to stick to his decision, and so I wasn't surprised when he began to approach me again about having sexual relations. The relationship continued on a one-night-at-a-time basis. There was no on-going agreement. The relationship was also characterized by a total lack of discussion. I'm sure that if we'd talked about the relationship Edward would never have been able to justify his actions. So we simply did not talk about the relationship at all.

During the period between March and August of this year Edward and I had a fairly active sexual relationship. After the end of February, Michelle had no sexual relations with Edward until April or even later because she was in poor physical health.

In sexual terms our relationship was noticeably different from what it had been in previous times. Early in our relationship Edward was very concerned that I should enjoy the sexual activities we engaged in. This was his primary concern. In the declining stage of our relationship, however, Edward was only concerned with his own enjoyment. He no longer cared about my enjoyment.

On one occasion Edward went so far as to quite deliberately hurt me when we were engaged in sexual relations. After he had abused me deliberately in this way he pretended to get really angry with himself for what he had done. I was in quite a lot of pain for two or three days after this.

Some of the things which Edward talked about and the way in which he talked about them also bothered me although he never pursued them far enough to really worry me. Sometimes, for example, he used to joke about raping me.

Edward's general attitude towards me often used to make me feel quite uneasy also. He seemed to think that he had some kind of power over me because I wanted to have sexual relations with him. Quite often he would refer to himself as "a terrible guy" as if he was proud of it. He used to viciously tease me by telling me that he could make me think about sex whenever he wanted to.

He also called me a "sexpot" and gave me the general impression that I was oversexed. I once tried to check out his attitude by saying to him, "I guess I'm kind of 'easy', eh?"

He replied, "Well, I guess you're about as 'easy' as me."

In general though his attitude made me feel quite uneasy. Sometimes I used to wonder whether Edward actually thought I was a real slut and was simply using me and laughing at me.

Edward asked me on two occasions if I was interested in other women sexually. I answered "no" the first time. The second time Edward asked the question he acted as if he had never broached the subject before. I again told him "no".

When Edward broached this subject I always worried about what he had in mind. I wondered if he had some kind of group session envisaged. I certainly had no intention of engaging in such degenerate sexual activity.

Edward also brought up the subject of masturbation on a number of occasions. He liked to hear me talk about my experience with this but never suggested that it was a problem for him.

Overall Edward had some quite strange and mixed up ideas on sex — some prudish and some perverted. He seemed to believe a lot

of old wives' tales about sexual matters. He also seemed to enjoy engaging in sexual activities which he considered immoral or risqué. He was deeply entrenched in the bourgeois pornographic culture.

At various points in my relationship with Edward it did occur to me that he might actually have a sexual problem to the extent of not being able to stop himself from chasing women. I used to worry about whether or not Edward was having sexual relations with more than the three women he had so far admitted to.

In the later stages of our relationship Edward also began to tease me in the daytime at the work place. He would do things like grab me as I walked by. He took care not to do this when other people were around. He would also fool around if just the two of us were ever out together in the car.

On one occasion, he even made developed sexual advances to me at the workplace in the early evening when other comrades were out doing external political work. We were interrupted when the comrades returned.

I felt uneasy about this teasing since we had agreed not to show any special affection towards each other during the daytime. I tried to rationalize Edward's actions but still I felt uneasy.

For a number of these reasons I considered ending the relationship myself on various occasions. However I would then rationalize my misgivings and uneasiness about the relationship as paranoia. So I continued with the relationship. I guess this just proves the saying, "Just because you're paranoid it doesn't mean somebody isn't following you".

VICIOUS BACKSTABBING WITHIN THE FACTION

During the later stages of my relationship with Edward we seemed to be developing a closer social relationship. I was moulding myself more and more to his design and he of course was responding favourably.

During the final stage of our relationship Michelle had recently come out of the hospital and was on a program of resting. A couple of days before Michelle came home Edward had a short talk with me. He told me that there was no future in our relationship. He had made this statement a number of times previously so I was not surprised to hear this. Edward then went on to say that since Michelle was coming home soon and since the doctor was making it clear that she should have lots of rest and very little stress, the two of us would have to stop our sexual relationship for at least an extended period of time. I accepted all this as reasonable enough.

Edward then went on to slander the man comrade with whom I most often worked. Edward told me to be careful not to "lead this comrade on" by my behaviour. He said that the comrade was "a good guy but is kind of romantic and he might read too much meaning into your attitude towards him."

I said, "okay" although I didn't really know what Edward was talking about.

This comment by Edward made it extremely difficult for me to work well with the man in question. I didn't want to "lead him on", yet I didn't want to be unfriendly. I felt extremely uneasy working with this comrade.

Later, Edward further stirred up the situation. He asked me if the comrade had stopped "hovering" over me while I was working. I had no idea what he was talking about. The man comrade was not "hovering" over me at all. I gave Edward an evasive answer and told him that our work was going well. Edward then let the subject drop.

Presumably these comments by Edward were designed to ensure that I didn't get involved in a relationship with some other comrade just because Edward was calling a temporary halt to our relationship.

After Michelle came out of the hospital Edward refrained from having sexual relations with me for a few weeks.

One night Edward finally came to me and asked me to have sexual relations with him that night. I was quite surprised. This was the first time in quite a while that Edward had actually asked

me to have sexual relations with him. Usually he simply went ahead without discussion. I was particularly surprised because his actions directly contradicted what he had said about stopping this kind of activity for an extended period of time.

Edward went to bed in his room fairly early that evening leaving Michelle in the living room watching the TV program "Poldark". I was quite upset when I saw what the situation was. By this time Edward and Michelle had a long-established tradition of watching "Poldark" together every week. They made a big deal out of this and all the Collective members knew that this was their weekly "date".

I couldn't believe that Edward would choose "Poldark" night to have sexual relations with me. At least he could have stayed up until "Poldark" was over. Michelle was obviously not too pleased. She had probably already begun to suspect the scenario.

I felt caught in the situation because I had already told Edward I would stay up and have sexual relations with him. So I folded some laundry until "Poldark" was over. Michelle then began to watch a movie which came on after "Poldark". I sat at the kitchen table and read a book until Michelle finally headed for bed.

I'm sure that Michelle knew exactly what was going on.

From this point onwards my relationship with Michelle went rapidly downhill. Michelle had always been condescending towards me as with other people but we always managed to get along okay. I always figured Michelle had something to be condescending towards me about. Now, however, Michelle became quite unfriendly and terse towards me. Her bitterness was clearly beginning to show.

Michelle also started making snarky comments to Edward. She started to stay up late at night and wander around the house. Around this time Michelle started a big campaign to sort out her personal belongings. I later found out that this was in preparation for her departure in the middle of August.

Edward no longer seemed worried about Michelle and seemed eager to continue with our sexual relationship. So I began staying up late to have sexual relations with Edward on quite a regular basis.

One evening I got quite a surprise.

Michelle had gone to bed quite early that evening. Edward and I were watching TV. I began to realize that Edward was pointedly ignoring me. When the movie we were watching finished he got up and turned off the TV although it was still relatively early. I decided that something was up and I had better go to bed.

I got up and went into the kitchen for a moment before heading to bed. When I went back into the living room to say goodnight to Edward, Michelle was there. Edward and Michelle were play fighting on the couch. I said "goodnight" but they both ignored me.

I lay awake for hours that night. It was clear that the situation was getting vicious and I was very worried. I decided to approach Edward and discuss the situation, particularly the situation with Michelle. However Michelle's spirits seemed to improve the next few days and so I decided to leave it.

A week later I had sexual relations with Edward again. The next day was August 15, the day Michelle took off.

That was the end of the sexual relationship between Edward and myself.

THE FINAL SPLIT — FACTIONALISM EXPOSED

I was the person who found the two letters Michelle left behind when she ran away, since she left them in our bedroom. When I first found the letters, I gave them to Edward. He read them and told me not to worry. He said that it was nothing to do with me. I suppose this was Edward's attempt to keep me calm. I was feeling quite panicky. I was stunned by Michelle's departure.

That evening Edward took me aside. He told me that he was going to have to go after Michelle and try to get her to come back. He told me that I would have to move out of the house and that he would move into a bedroom with Michelle.

I wasn't too thrilled by all of this. Edward told me that I had to face reality. He said that it would be nice if we had a great big bed

and white sheets but that this was just an illusion. He asked me, "Wouldn't it always haunt you if I didn't offer Michelle this situation? Remember, we had sexual relations the very night before she left. Maybe she wouldn't have put her plan into action if we hadn't done that. Wouldn't it always haunt us?"

I replied, "Well, I guess so. You had better go and talk to her."

Later that evening Edward again asked me what I thought he should do. He asked, "Should I go after her or let her run?"

I said, "Since she hasn't made it very clear in her notes why she left, you had better go and talk to her face-to-face to find out what the actual deal is."

The following day Edward went and talked to Michelle.

The night that Edward came back he told me that he had presented his proposal to Michelle and she was going to reply by phone in a few days. He then said, "So that's the way it's going to be. You should go to bed now."

I was quite worried that if Michelle did return after pulling this stunt, I might find it quite hard to get along with her and work beside her. I was beginning to think that Michelle's departure was merely an attempt to blackmail Edward into discontinuing his relationship with me. Michelle hadn't tried to make her relationship with Edward work until faced with competition from two other women. Knowing this I didn't know whether I could continue to work with Michelle. I was also concerned about Michelle flaunting the fact that she had such a hold over Edward, something which she already had a tendency to do.

I was relieved when the document exposing the faction led by Edward went up on the wall. I knew that now things were out in the open the vicious backstabbing which Michelle could have pulled against me would be impossible. At last everything was out on the table and would have to be dealt with in a principled political fashion.

That evening Edward told me that I should move my belongings out tomorrow. He also told me to go to bed early and not hang around with him because "the spotlight will be on you now!"

What arrogance! I was still the criminal. According to Edward, the spotlight was on me, not him, the leader of the faction!

The following day I tried to defend Edward's line. Soon, however, I realized how bankrupt his position was and began to unite with the majority of the Collective members on the correct line.

Edward was able to use me just one more time to further his counter-revolutionary ends. After being questioned by Edward, I told him that I had not been shown the document of exposure before it was posted. Edward then attempted to use this information in his smokescreen campaign but was opposed by the majority of the Collective members.

After this I exchanged very few words with Edward.

That evening Edward had a brief conversation with me. He told me, "One thing you should remember through all this is that this isn't the end of the world."

The following day I exchanged a few more words with Edward. He asked where all the comrades were that morning. I told him that they were meeting in one of the workrooms. He replied, "That means that there will be a decision soon."

Later that day, Edward asked me how I was doing. I said that I had got quite emotional the night before but was calmer now. I asked how he was doing. He replied, "I think I'll make it." After a slight pause he added, "Not that that's the main thing."

In the same conversation, he repeated his earlier comment that this was not the end of the world. Since I was working alone, Edward asked if I found it hard to work with other people. I said that I did. He replied, "That's one of the problems you'll have to face."

That evening Edward came into the room where I was writing a document. He asked me how it was going. I said, "This is kind of hard to write about."

He gave me a patronizing smile, pressed his hand against my forehead and walked out.

That is the last time I spoke to Edward alone.

A Conclusion of Sorts

It is very difficult to try to write a conclusion to my report on the faction of which I was a part. There are a huge number of points I would like to write. I would like to write more to illustrate how much more depth there is to my hatred of factionalism and of Edward Pickersgill's rotten political line and his rotten practice. I would like to write an immense amount to try to capture my sense of liberation at witnessing the defeat of the faction and my love of the Collective members who exposed Edward Pickersgill's schemes and rooted out the faction.

I have already written a lot, however, and to attempt to express any further the depth of emotion entailed in my hatred of factionalism and my love of revolutionary politics, would probably be futile no matter how many words I spill onto the page. The words can never be enough to do justice to such strong emotions.

I do have some simple conclusions, though.

I realize that factionalism is completely wrong. I realize that Edward Pickersgill's political line is counter-revolutionary.

I realize that I did harm to the Alive Production Collective by participating in the faction. I also did harm to revolutionary development in wider circles than just the Alive Production Collective, in that the Collective is a revolutionary organization with considerable influence and it is widely viewed with respect.

I realize that I participated in a process of denigrating the role women should play in revolution. In practice, I lent support to the bourgeois view of women as sexual commodities. Also, the practice of the faction went entirely opposite to the proletarian view of sexual social relationships.

I do not view Edward Pickersgill as a mystical "devil" who created all my problems nor as a "scapegoat" that can "carry off all my sins". I realize that Edward Pickersgill is simply a counter-revolutionary opportunist who capitalized on existing weaknesses in my own outlook. He should answer for preying on any weaknesses I had. However, I must be the one to rectify the actual weaknesses.

The process of rectification will be longer for me than it has been for non-factional members of the Collective but despite this setback due to my factional association with Edward Pickersgill, I will remould my outlook and my practice to serve anti-imperialist revolution in Canada.

Collective discussion, study and on-going practice have assisted me in coming to see the ugly reality of the faction of which I was a member. It is to such collective processes that I now completely dedicate myself.

I have learned, through the boundless comradeship of the honest members of the Alive Production Collective, how truly revolutionaries practice Mao Zedong's dictum that "Of all things in the world, people are the most precious."

I am very grateful that this dictum has been upheld towards me as an individual despite the fact that my past activities in the faction constituted a reactionary and provocative challenge to revolution. I have gladly taken up active transformation to rid myself of the factional errors and I will continue this process under the discipline of the Collective.

Because I know the leader of this rotten faction quite well and given that he continues his reactionary provocations to this day, I do not hold out more than a very small hope that he can ever transform. Despite that, I call on every member of the faction to give up the wrong line of factionalism, to unite with the Alive Production Collective and to begin to transform themselves.

I encourage you who were in this faction with me to overcome all personal pride, all hesitations and to unite with our revolutionary comrades. My own experience in the past months proves that there is every reason and every possibility to serve the Canadian people in waging anti-imperialist revolution despite past mistakes, no matter how serious. If only you are willing to do self-criticism and to transform, the comrades will not denigrate you nor will they condemn you — just the opposite, they will embrace you as comrades once again!