

Editorial: Liberation, Not Assimilation

There have always been folks, disenfranchised in multiple ways or not, who have recognized the fundamentally exclusive and violent nature of the state. Our current pandemic conditions have simply brought more visibility to the deployment of the federal government to enforce systems of capitalism, white supremacy and heteropatriarchy.

We at *sprinkle* wanted to address this dynamic in light of the 2020 U.S. Presidential election soon to take place, and to recognize the shift needed in our political aims: instead of fighting for assimilation into the state, we need to fight for liberation.

As we navigate the election cycle, we face neoliberal tendencies to rely on political reform in order to treat the symptoms of institutionalized inequities, ignoring the inability of our political systems to liberate marginalized groups. Candidates that do begin to approach a radical re-imagining of our country are not successful in garnering votes. Arguably, they never will be.

In this unique moment, we need to redirect our political discourse. Instead of focusing on individual parties and candidates, we need to turn to each other; mutual aid, community organizing and interpersonal networks that don't rely on violent notions of citizenship are far more effective for healing and empowerment.

What does this look like, practically, as we enter into an election? Voting, for those who are privileged to be able to, is a highly complex decision made in the context of one's community, identity and personal ideology. However, focusing the conversation entirely on voting and who is in office is a fundamentally flawed neoliberal tactic that ignores the inherently oppressive nature of the US government.

Instead, we should turn to alternate methods of working towards a reimagined and queer future. There is certainly important and valuable work to be done on an individual level, such as recognizing your privilege, having hard conversations with loved ones, and utilizing available financial power. However, our main goal should be deconstructing and reimagining current systems. Building or joining sustainable mutual aid groups, engaging in our localized communities and investing in our cultures in the face of assimilationist forces are all actions we can take to reach our ultimate goal of liberation.

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