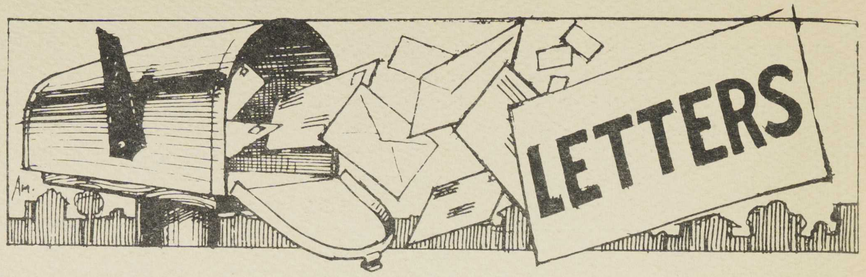

COMMENTS ON THE LAST TWO ISSUES

Dear FPS:

I want to thank you for your pamphlet **Growing Up Gay**. I never had to deal with the double bind of being in high school and being a lesbian. As soon as I was at the age when I "should have" been interested in boys, I gave up my right to define my own sexuality — to the authorities.

I wish that I had had **FPS** during those painful years — maybe it would have helped me to hang on to so many of the things that I gave up.

I admire and take courage from the courage of the people who contributed to this issue, and I appreciate the sensitive and pleasing way you have put it together into a pamphlet.

Among other things that issue makes me (re)realize what a police institution high schools are . . all schools for that matter, and how very serious is the oppression of kids. I was so overwhelmed by it all that I had no idea what was happening to me . . .

— Jennifer

Dear FPS:

I just wanted to write and thank you for the past two issues — **Growing Up Gay** and **High School Women's Liberation.** They both were excellent issues and very necessary. I work for **off our backs** a feminist news journal in Washington and I also am a teacher in both alternative and restrictive settings around the city — **FPS** is constantly helpful to me, and the last two issues especially helped in the area of discussing people's responsibility for other people's rights.

Please keep up the good work.

—Wendy

Dear FPS:

Thanks for the copy of **High School Women's Liberation** which arrived today. I've just glanced through it and it seems to be really fine!

—Peter

Dear FPS:

High School Women's Liberation was sent to WMFP-FM where I work. It's excellent!! Keep up the good work.

—Hilary

Dear FPS:

I was really excited to find out about **Youth Liberation**. I discovered you through a local feminist bookstore in Pasadena.

I picked up **High School Women's Liberation** and **Growing Up Gay** there. After reading them, and a few other things, I have started a young women's group in the Los Angeles area.

I especially like the article on women's music. It is the only place I have ever seen the **Red Star Singers** mentioned in any media.

Thank you very much for being in existence.

—Pat

Dear FPS:

After reading the letter in the last issue I couldn't help but get the feeling you needed a little encouragement. I just want you to know what an excellent job you're doing. Having kept up with **FPS** from its beginning, I can't believe how much more professional the whole thing is looking than before. Your headaches are headaches every editor should have — growing too fast! Keep it up . . . .

—George

YOUNG READERS

Dear FPS:

I heard that your youth liberation magazine is offered to kids for six dollars a year. I am ten years old and would like to get it. I've got a seven year old brother and a six year old friend who will also be looking at the magazine.

—Richard

EXHIBITIONISTS

Dear FPS:

Your organization is a great idea! I think it could help immunize children against mental apathy like so many adults suffer from. But my son (15) was not as interested in it as I was and I was most definitely turned off by a few of your articles. I consider myself a fairly radical person. I'm sure most of my neighbors and classmates would testify to that, but I cannot appreciate people being exhibitionisticly radical just for its own sake — strikes me as a sort of snobbish elitism.

Although some of your articles were very well written and intelligent, some were outright silly and stupid. It makes me realize why so many adults think young people are so "childish." It sounded like you have a few writers with some serious hangups — like just plain laziness. Learning, and school, believe it or not, does not **have** to be a thoroughly negative experience. All teachers aren't rotten and all grownups aren't down on kids. Really — this kind of prejudicial thinking is so awful in a lot of so-called "adults."

Well — I think it's a real shame. I would have gladly put out 10 bucks and encouraged some of my friends to subscribe for their kids if you weren't off on this binge of ego-tripping or power-tripping on youth superiority.

I am 36 years old and in school full-time myself. I live with a 23 year old man and he and I both share in taking care of the house, four kids and working. Most of my friends are young. But my boyfriend and I like people of all ages. We both are into a lot of so-called counter-culture stuff but we don't go out of our way to rub people's noses in our different lifestyles. We are both turned off by phony, rough, arrogant people. Some of your writers seem that way. Humor shows the way you think and some of the humor is on the same slapstick, put-down level of ethnic humor which, if you'll excuse the expression, is pretty juvenile.

I thought you deserved this because I really do honestly admire what some of you are trying to do. I regret that I don't like some things and feel so strongly about them. I would rather have supported you.

My college is extremely conservative and 97% of the people are fifteen years younger than me, but politically and socially I am much younger than these people are. Most of them are very middle-class, have never been poor or known or helped poor people (except in a sterile, detached way). They are interested in dating and sports and that's it.

You better start thinking about how closeminded it is to categorize people into good slots if they're young and bad slots if they're "old." Some of us fight for awake minds and some young people never even try to get out of the mental tombs their parents pass on to them . . . .

Good luck.

—Patricia

WE DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ADULTS?

Dear FPS:

I am writing to object to your discrimination against adults in offering lower subscription rates to people under eighteen years of age. This may seem trivial but I don't believe so for the following reasons:

1) tolerating or supporting discrimination in any area (race, religion, age, etc.) even if the discrimination is against the generally oppressing majority, sets up strife, and hatred, ruled by artificial catagories set up by

(cont. pg. 45)

High School Women's Liberation and Growing Up Gay: Both pamphlets have been well received. We've gotten many good reviews, and orders from as far away as Europe and Australia.