

14 October
1968

New York Free Press
200 West 72nd Street on Verdi Sq.
New York City, N.Y. 10023

Dear Free Press:

While the Women's Liberation Movement appreciates the attention NYFP gave us both in Atlantic City on the Miss America Zap and in your follow-up article, I have some kvetches that have been bothering me about your attitude, plus some factual corrections.

Is it to^{be} inevitably expected that coverage of Women's Liberation, even by Movement and Underground papers, will be patronizing, if not tongue-in cheek? I refer to your cover of Sept. 12, which juxtaposed our Miss America spoof puppet (used in a guerrilla theater skit) and a naked Kusama dancer (female). Nothing against Kusama, ^{but} to link these actions as "liberated women" is inaccurate and misleading. One of the things we are trying to do is get people to regard women as other than mere sexual objects--such photographic editorializing seems to wish to perpetuate the stereotype.

In the follow-up article (Sept. 26), there is a reference to the projected Women's Liberation storefront on the Lower East Side, where we will, among other things, supposedly be giving "tease" and English lessons to Spanish-speaking women. First, that ladylike tea bit just ain't our bag, if you will forgive the pun; second, we also hope to be giving Spanish lessons to English-speaking women. We don't intend to insult our sisters by any patronizing lady bountiful shit--we hope to learn from the community, and to help them, in turn, any way they wish us to.

The emphasis on lesbianism in the second article was also amusing. I stand by what I said on the subject, but repeat what I said at the time (not printed in the article)--that not everyone in Women's Liberation feels the same way. (We are, after all, a ^{loose} knit if not anarchical group, in terms of structure. No one person speaks for Women's Liberation.) My personal views are simply that when the Dike accusation is made, 1) it is as irrelevant to W.L. as the "Moscow-dupe" accusation is to the Movement generally, and 2) it is something no one should have to confirm or deny. Women (and men, as well) should be free to love and be loved in any manner they choose. And one does not have to be either a man-hater or a homosexual to be concerned with the degrading role this society forces on all women.

Last, and this really blows my mind: why, if NYFP is such a friend of Women's Liberation, has there been no mention, in either article, of any way interested women could get in touch with us? We need people, energy, ideas, and, for our new Legal Defense Fund, bread (Peggy Dobbins faces a possible two-to-three year rap for her action inside the convention hall in Atlantic City). Sisters: until we get our permanent storefront, write us at P.O. Box 531, Peter Stuyvesant Station, New York 10009.

And Free Press: be a little more sensitive next time, huh?

Robin Morgan
(Women's Liberation)

P.S.: A personal note--it was a grave error to refer to me as an

"ex-Yippie" There is no such animal. There are Once and Future Yippies, perhaps, but once a Yippie, the secret mark is proudly borne for life (like the Cross Nostra). Yippies do, however, continually change shape and form in order to mystify the Establishment and confuse hell out of the Blue Meanies. This is Rule Number One in our cherished Quotations from Chairman Yippie. I'm shocked that the Free Press is so naive, or is ignorant of this basic formula!!!