

# Youth Liberation

## Program and Services

Young people in our society are constantly oppressed. From childhood, we are forced through an educational system which does nothing to meet our real needs, but rather imprisons us while it tries to mold us to fit into society without causing trouble. Politicians, who are not elected by us, pass laws regulating the hours we can be on the streets, the films we can watch, and the books we can read, and force us to spend much of our time in schools. If arrested, we are legally entitled to only some of the rights that adults have, and we are not even certain of getting the rights we are supposed to have. The family, as it now exists, allows adults to control the lives of their children, and robs us of the right to self-determination.

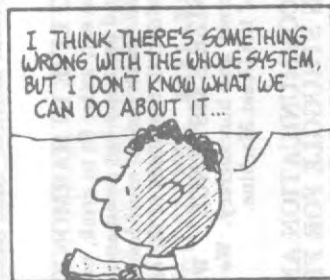
To struggle against these problems Youth Liberation was formed. Our program, which appears on the other side of this brochure, describes our goals. Some of the activities we are involved in to reach these goals are described below.

### SERVICES

**FPS (contrary to popular opinion the letters do not stand for Fuck Public School or anything else) is the Youth Liberation News Service.** It was started in September of 1970 from Houston, Texas. In August of 1971 FPS became a service of Youth Liberation.

The original purpose of the news service was to provide news and graphics to high school papers, both official school papers and underground ones. In addition to serving papers, FPS now serves thousands of young people and older people who are organizing around youth oppression and liberation. FPS publishes articles on the technical and political aspects of organizing young people, young people's struggles across the country, analysis of youth oppression and important national issues.

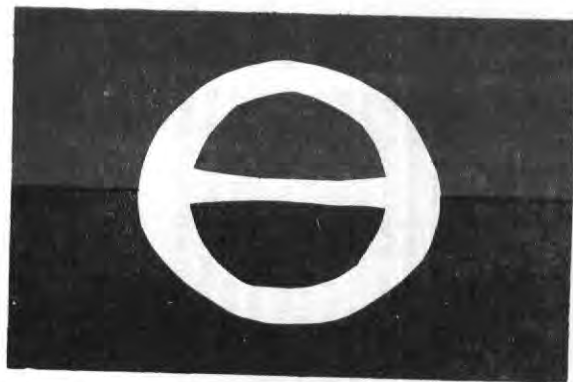
A one year subscription to FPS, which is thirteen issues, costs \$5 for young people and movement groups, \$8 for other people and \$12 for institutions.



**CHIPS (the Cooperative Highschool Independent Press Syndicate)** was started in 1969 as a Chicago area organization. It later moved to Houston, then to Washington, D.C., and in August 1971 CHIPS and FPS moved to Ann Arbor to become part of Youth Liberation.

The purpose of CHIPS is to provide help for students who have started, or want to start independent papers in their schools. Papers join CHIPS by filling out a questionnaire giving us basic information about their paper, which we then use to compile a directory of papers. Members can participate in the newspaper exchange which allows them to see copies of other papers from around the country. To do this papers send in 50 copies of each issue to Youth Liberation. When we get enough papers to make a one pound mailing we send each paper a packet with one copy of every other paper we received. Extra papers are used for filing and for sample packets.

To help people who are trying to get a paper started we distribute the pamphlet *How to Start a High School Underground Newspaper*, and also sell sample packets of papers (see literature list).



# Youth Liberation

## 15 Point Program

Every day it becomes clearer that we might be the last generation in the experiment with living. The problems facing humanity are so huge that some of us think working for change is futile. We of Youth Liberation, however, will not be led either to the treadmill or to the slaughterhouse like "good Germans". We know there is a basic decision to make, either we stay quiet and become part of a system of oppression, or we seize control of our lives, take risks, and struggle to build something new. We believe that problems have causes and that by studying these causes we can learn solutions. We know that young people have power if we take it and use it. We must liberate ourselves from the death trip of corporate America. We must take control of our lives because within us is the seed of a new reality - a seed that cannot grow until our lives are our own. It is a reality of ecstasy, made up of love, justice, freedom, peace and plenty.

The Youth Liberation program is an attempt to put together truth about what is wrong with our present situation and to lay out changes that must be made. This process never ends. To win we must know very clearly what we want and what we reject. We are learning to struggle together. If our program strays from the specific needs of youth, it is because we know that we are not free until all people are free and the earth is a healthy place to live.

- 1 WE WANT THE POWER TO DETERMINE OUR OWN DESTINY**
- 2 WE WANT THE IMMEDIATE END OF ADULT CHAUVINISM** We believe ideas should be judged on their merit and people on their wisdom or kindness. Age in itself deserves no recognition. Adults who want to support youth struggle or "improve communication" should show their concern by providing concrete resources. Words alone are not enough. Age might once have led to wisdom, but the old have proven themselves unable to deal with the present reality. If the human species is to survive, the young must take the lead.
- 3 WE WANT FULL CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS** We believe young people are necessary participants in democracy. We must have complete freedom of speech, press, assembly, religion, and the right to vote. We believe that all people are created equal and are endowed with certain unalienable rights, among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.
- 4 WE WANT THE RIGHT TO FORM OUR EDUCATION ACCORDING TO OUR NEEDS** We believe compulsory education is a form of imprisonment and must be abolished immediately. Grades and all forms of tracking must end because they stimulate competition, divide us and make us work for other people's ends. All discipline procedures must be decided democratically within the school community. No school staff should be hired or fired without the democratic consent of students and teachers. Students and the community must have the right to use school facilities whenever they feel it is necessary.
- 5 WE WANT FREEDOM TO FORM INTO COMMUNAL FAMILIES** We believe that the nuclear family is not in the best interests of the people involved. Young people are now considered property - to be molded in the image of their parents. Since we demand self-determination for our lives, this is intolerable. In communal families children can grow up in the company of many people, both peers and adults. They can learn the cooperation of community rather than the oppression of ownership. Until communal families are a reality, some healthy provision must be made for young people whose present conditions of life force them to become cultural refugees.
- 6 WE WANT THE END OF MALE CHAUVINISM AND SEXISM** We believe women must be free and equal. We recognize that sexism is all-pervasive and often subtle and demeans the humanity of everyone. All forms of sex role stereotyping must end. Macho must go. Abortions must be free and legal. We consider the women's movement our natural ally since both young people and women are systematically oppressed by male supremacist society.
- 7 WE WANT THE OPPORTUNITY TO CREATE AN AUTHENTIC CULTURE WITH INSTITUTIONS OF OUR OWN MAKING** We believe western culture is decadent and we refuse to continue it in our lives. People's appearance must not affect their civil rights. All drugs must be legalized, as we see that it is not laws which govern people's use of drugs, but societal conditions. We hope to create a society in which people will not need death drugs. Our music and cultural gatherings must be allowed to flourish in peace. We must be set free to begin living in the new age and begin to accept a responsibility for developing plans and examples of institutions that build joy, justice, and a respect for life.
- 8 WE WANT SEXUAL SELF-DETERMINATION** We believe all people must have the unhindered right to be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or transsexual.
- 9 WE WANT THE END OF CLASS ANTAGONISM AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE** We believe those in power cultivate elitism and class divisions among youth which only serve to weaken us. The survival of young people of all classes and races is threatened by the few who run this world. We condemn academic tracking, honors, and all other class divisions imposed on us.
- 10 WE WANT THE END OF RACISM AND COLONIALISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD** We believe America is an imperialist country. America uses over 50 percent of the world's resources for less than 7 percent of the world's population. Racism in schools is severely damaging to students, particularly minority students. Students must eliminate racism and stop fighting each other. We must unite to fight the real enemy until we have education that meets the needs of all races. We support the liberation struggles of colonized people of all colors everywhere.
- 11 WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL UNJUSTLY IMPRISONED PEOPLE** All young people in juvenile homes, training schools, detention centers, mental institutions and other penal institutions for minors must be set free. They did not receive a trial before a jury of their peers and the society they offended is itself criminal. Young people must never receive discriminatory treatment before the law, whether in the courtroom, going to a movie, buying alcohol, or leaving home. The military draft must be abolished and the military made democratic.
- 12 WE WANT THE RIGHT TO BE ECONOMICALLY INDEPENDENT OF ADULTS** We believe we are entitled to work or to unemployment benefits. Child labor laws and extended schooling now force youth into the status of a dependent colony.
- 13 WE WANT THE RIGHT TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH NATURE** We believe that to survive we must have clean air to breathe, pure food to eat, water fit to drink, products built to last, free medical care, and an end to population growth. Life exists in balance and harmony but greed and stupidity have now sent us disastrously out of balance with our environment and earth death seems certain. Each person must learn to live a sound ecological life and all people together must change the economic structure of the world until the needs of the earth and its people are met.
- 14 WE WANT TO RE-HUMANIZE EXISTENCE** We believe that to do this we must recognize and deal with the invisible dictatorship of technocracy and bureaucracy. We are the crown of creation and we announce that it is not our destiny to become robot parts of the Great Machine.
- 15 WE WANT TO DEVELOP COMMUNICATION AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE YOUNG PEOPLE OF THE WORLD IN OUR COMMON STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM AND PEACE** We believe national boundaries are artificial and must inevitably be abolished. In the new world, all resources and technology must be used for the benefit of all people.

This platform is currently under revision. Send comments and criticism to:  
Youth Liberation, 2007 Washtenaw Ave. Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104



# *FPSAT - Fuck the Public Schools Achievement Test*

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN:**

Have two sharpened, No. 2 pencils. Be sure each answer is *dark* and *completely fills* the response space. Do not make any stray marks on this sheet. If you erase, do so completely. Be sure that each answer is written directly under the question you are answering. Do not make any additional folds in this sheet. *You will be penalized for guessing!*

**PLEASE PRINT:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_ Test Date \_\_\_  
Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

**☐ CHECK HERE:**

If you would like copies of your scores sent to the radical organization of your choice. (See list in FPSAT brochure.)

**YOU NOW HAVE TWO HOURS TO COMPLETE THE TEST AND MAIL IT TO THE RLEEB (REAL-LIFE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION BOARD) C/O FPS 2007 WASHTEAW AVE. ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN 48104.**

**000001 MECHANICAL ABILITY**

- 1.1 What kind of school do you go to? How many students, what kinds of activities are there, what does the student council do, etc.?
- 1.2 What kind of organizing is going on at your school? What actions have been tried, and why did they succeed or fail? What are students doing?
- 1.3 What are the major problems in your school and school system?

**000002 ABSTRACT REASONING**

- 2.1 What are your personal political views? What factors influenced you to become politically active? What types of organizations or activities are you involved in that further your political objectives?

**000003 VERBAL USAGE**

- 3.1 What made you first write to FPS?
- 3.2 Which articles in past issues of FPS have you liked best? (You may look over your back issues for five minutes.)
- 3.2] Which least?
- 3.3 If you were on the staff of FPS, what changes would you make to improve its services to readers? Is there anything specific FPS could do that would help young people who are organizing in your area?



# Youth Liberation Materials

*Youth Liberation of Ann Arbor sells a variety of materials that are useful to people who are interested in youth oppression and youth organizing. One unfortunate fact of youth oppression is that young people have very little money. If we want to really help young people we have to keep our prices low, and often end up giving materials away for whatever people can afford. If you can afford to throw in a couple extra dollars over and above the listed price, please do! The continued existence of our services to young people depend on it.*

## SUBSCRIPTION

One year subscription to FPS - the Youth Liberation News Service. Thirteen issues.  
for movement groups and youth.....\$5  
for other people.....\$8  
for institutions.....\$12

## PAMPHLETS

Student and Youth Organizing (92 pages)..\$.50  
Major Court Decisions Regarding the Rights of Students and Youth.....\$50  
Teaching and Rebellion at Union Springs (26 pages).....\$.25  
How to Start a High School Underground Newspaper (16 pages).....\$.25  
White House Conference on Youth (42 pages).....\$.50  
How to Research the Power Structure of Your Secondary School System.....\$1.00

## YOUTH LIBERATION — NEWS, POLITICS AND SURVIVAL INFORMATION

A 64 page paperback book about youth liberation. Written by Ann Arbor Youth Liberation and published by Times Change Press.....\$1.35

## SAMPLE PACKET

of ten high school underground papers.....\$1.00

## BUTTONS

"Youth Liberation" (three colors).....\$.25  
"Power to Young People" (three colors).....\$.25

## POSTERS

Mini-posters (9x12) in three colors on heavy stock. No. 1 says School is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things. No. 2 has a short parable about how authorities (principals, school boards, etc.) manipulate their subjects. It'll crack you up. No. 3 is a poem about how the innocence of children is exploited and then destroyed by adults who have long since lost theirs. It is illustrated with a beautiful and appropriate drawing. Be sure to specify how many of each. Three for 25 cents or 10 for...\$1

## T-SHIRTS

High quality t-shirts silk screened to resemble the School Zone-Watch Out for Children road signs. But instead of two little darlings looking both ways, there's a silhouette of a youth aiming a rifle. Indicate size - Small, Medium, Large or Ex. Large - and color preference. Gold, lt. blue, turquoise, lt. purple, red or yellow.....\$2.50

## TO ORDER

Send check, money order, stamps, cash, etc. to:

YOUTH LIBERATION  
2007 WASHTENAW AVE.  
ANN ARBOR, MICH. 48104

Make checks payable to Youth Liberation. Any donation over the listed cost is greatly appreciated. Thank you.