

**Letter to the Editor, Catlin Gable High School**  
**April 1973**  
**Portland, Oregon**

### **Equally Dedicated to Female and Male**

This is a letter about Women's Liberation. It is a plea. I get the feeling around here that this topic is really a cute little cliché, with images of burning bras, and war between the sexes. Really a shame, since students never seemed to think about it, except perhaps as an intellectual curiosity, as divorced from the reality of our personal lives as physics or American history, etc. It's complex. The thoughts you have about the Revolution are highly indicative of your own strength. There is veiled embarrassment when someone comments about the Revolution, as though it just isn't hip to be involved with something that leaves you naked and believable, or as though people really have no idea how to think on their feet. It's ridiculous to assume that you're above it all, or have already worked through it; I can't believe that anyone our age has had time to drive out static introjected values.

They are deep...you've got to examine your patterns of reaction. Fine...don't think about it, don't read Simone or Greer, and just wait until you get involved in a really tight love affair, which you probably hope for. You'll probably find yourself falling into sacrificial patterns (which have nothing to do with the Sacrifices of Love) just like Mommy, hee hee hee, if you are aware at all you will be newly awakened to the fear about the control you exercise over your own life.

I am not crying that women are subservient, or that the boys' gym is better, the boys' space is larger. I don't care about the divine lack of cheerleaders, and girls-of-the-month at Catlin (which is painstakingly touted as evidence of Liberation). I am saying that sexual roles must be recognized and grappled with to be abandoned. It is up to the individual to ask which roles are fertile and which are constricting. In the next six generations, sexual conditioning will change; I recognize it as a new evolutionary trend.

Now I'm not talking about women as corporation presidents; forget your bloody economic measurables, blown out of proportion to my mind. They are merely symptoms of a new breed, I am talking about the changes in love. You've got it, yes, COUPLES. Those things that move humanity on. Women and men are going to be stronger in identity, it's brave and beautiful and tender, not some lofty ideal. It's happening now. And if you don't think about the Revolution in terms of the challenge it represents to your powers and your sympathy, I swear you don't take love seriously.

Kalli Halvorson