

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Students Ask Action On School Facilities

To The Editor:

We students of Turners Falls High School submit this as a plea to you townspeople to rise from your somnolence and take action on plans for a new school. We realize, far better than any outsider, how handicapped we are as we graduate and enter a highly competitive world.

If any of you have any doubts concerning the relative conditions of our school, then visit other high schools, equipped with modern laboratory and athletic facilities. Better yet, visit a college campus. This is the world we will soon be facing fresh from TFHS, and for the most part unacquainted with equipment and methods with which other high school students are familiar.

Contrary to a theory now popular, we don't insist that society owes us a living. We do feel, however, that it owes us an equal chance to earn our own living. This is hardly the present case. The prospect of applying to a college which knows that our alma mater's accreditation is, at best, shaky, is not a pleasant one. It may be too late for us to benefit from a new school; it is not yet too late for those now in elementary school.

For this town needs fresh, progressive thinking as much as it needs updated facilities. An obsolete, turn-of-the-century high school is not going to lure many dedicated young professionals.

Montague townspeople have quibbled and hedged around this issue long enough; we students are disgusted! You are not dealing with a petty case of dollars and cents, taxpayers; in compromising on an issue this crucial you are short-changing your children.

We urge you to stop bickering and carry on your heritage. America was not made great by an indecisive, short-sighted people.

Roxanne Sawin  
Linda Steinecke  
Nancy Jacob  
Cheryl Stafford  
Betty Yarmac  
Robert Suprenant  
Raymond Godin  
Arthur Daignault  
Marvin Viens  
Peter Zabko  
Lynn Margozzi  
Pamela Welch  
Lorraine Podlenski  
Edward Cherwa  
Ronald Ducharme  
Mary Jane Breault

## Students Fire Back At Concert's Critic

To the Editor:

We have just finished reading the article in your newspaper by Mr. Wayne A. Smith published on Tuesday, Nov. 19. He wrote a review on the concert given in the Northfield Auditorium by Joni Mitchell and The Hello People Saturday Nov. 16.

We all find that his article was over-critical. To say all the things he did, he must be one of those who widens the generation gap. Most of the people at the performance enjoyed both the Hello People and Joni Mitchell. Her hair might have been long, but it wasn't long enough to cover her eyes. She had many complications in trying to come here; what they were, no one really knows, least of all Mr. Smith.

To question the Hello People's gender is absurd! Mr. Smith must think that only the length of one's hair tells a person's sex. If he were a member of this generation, he would probably have it the same way. The music they produced was quite varied, and to consider it loud, he must have been sitting with his ear to an amplifier. It may have been a little loud to the people sitting in front, but the acoustics had to be sufficient enough to allow everyone to hear.

Miss Mitchell did seem to have trouble with the microphones, but her voice still came over beautifully. Mr. Smith's ears must not have gotten over sitting so close to the amplifier so they were still buzzing throughout her performance.

Joni Mitchell's songs show originality and depth of thought which so many of today's young people possess. Mr. Smith does not have enough perception or insight to interpret what the songs were saying.

It is indeed unfortunate that Mr. Smith is so critical of such an outstanding performance when he has so little basis for judging the mass opinion. However, does he realize that this concert was for the entertainment of Northfield and Mt. Hermon students, paid for by the schools, and open to the public who are appreciative of contemporary music which has something to say, and not for such a closed — mind person as himself. We respect the opinions of other people, but not when it is given unjustly.

PAM BURDGE  
KERRY MCCOLLESTER  
KRITTY WHYTE  
Northfield School  
East Northfield