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Fri., Dec. 6th — 11:30 p.m.

SUB THEATRE Reception to Follow
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P.A.A.P. fights porn with education

by Ann Grever

A small group of eight men and women have gotten together to fight pornography with education.

Positive Action Against Pornography (P.A.A.P.) is trying to teach people that pornography degrades everyone.

"Pornography is extremely dangerous," said Sonia Sobon, project coordinator of P.A.A.P. "The material breaks down inhibitions con-

necting violence and sex, especially if women are depicted as deriving pleasure from aggressive and violent behaviour."

Pornography "portrays women as less than they are," said Valerie Parr, spokesperson of P.A.A.P., "and portrays men as wanting to brutalize women."

Although the group agrees with legislation against child pornography and violent pornography,

they really feel that developing self-esteem and teaching the public about the ramifications of pornography are important.

"I really believe people don't know what's going on," said Parr. "Hustler, Penthouse, and Playboy are so socially acceptable, that we are the radicals speaking out against it. It's not a case of being radical at all, we're offering our knowledge to the public."

Parr believes the proliferation of pornography is a backlash to the women's movement. "What a better way to handle the threat women have presented to men."

Women feel they have to live up to images presented in pornography says Parr. This is one of the reasons the group has chosen self-esteem as one of its main issues.

The group is also looking at men's self-esteem. "We really want to get a men's discussion group going. I am compassionate that men are confused. Society is in a state of transition. But I don't think that should stop the path of growth women are on."

Most importantly, the group wants people to use common sense. For example, this month's issue of *Hustler* uses suspiciously young women in their nude spread. Rather than people buying the magazine because it is controversial, Sobon encourages people to use their consumer power. "If the idea of child pornography offends you, then don't buy the magazine."

The group is looking for volunteers. They need people for everything from clerical work to research. Their number is 486-3409.

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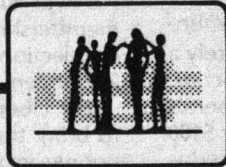
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