



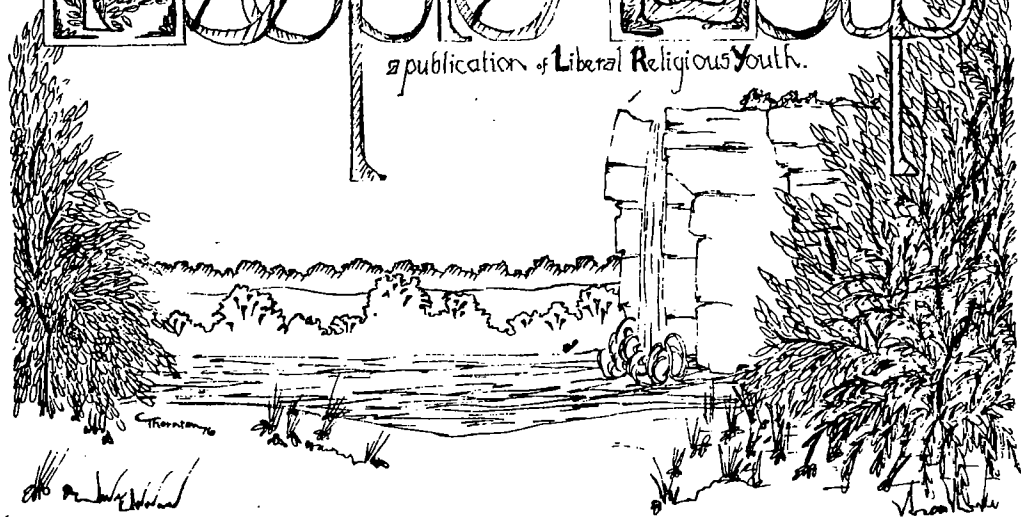
Volume IV Issue 1



People's Voice

a publication of Liberal Religious Youth.

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Michigan and Mediocrity

by Mark H. Smith • Photo by W. Barsotti

The convention actually began a week before delegates met in Kansas City's Kemper Arena. The Republicans came to write a new platform but got hung up on two issues. First, the ever-present abortion issue, and then a surprise argument over the Equal Rights Amendment. The abortion issue got argued, and as usual was considered "highly emotional" but the Republicans came to their senses and struck any mention of abortion from their platform, calling it a "personal and moral issue."



While at the convention I noticed a young Reagan supporter who seemed to be about 14, wearing a "stop ERA" button. When asked about this he exclaimed that he would not want to be forced to use the same bathroom as women. The ERA issue was finally supported by the platform.

Yippies made threats of a minimum of 4,000 protesters. They were planning to occupy a park in K.C. and demanded toilets and water or they would dig latrines. The first day of Yippie occupation produced no more than 13 Yippies. I think it would be interesting to note that the Republican Party, also, has never been so small. It seems that as the Republicans are dying, so are the Yippies. Could it be that Yippies feed off Republicans?

I was quite surprised to find that the Yippies, even after their number had grown to 85, were nothing but aging potheads who shouted obscenities whenever possible. As I walked through the Yippies' camp a friend of mine, one David Molton, stated, "the revolution's over". The Yippies replied, "It's only just begun, and what are you man, some kind of pig?" Various forms of hor-calls came from this thirty-year old degenerate (never trust someone over thirty).

When David Molton (a very cynical person indeed) said, "this is a joke", one woman, who had come crawling out of a tent, said, "so's yer face" and to the man next to her "let's go back in the tent." When one Yippie woman, who appeared to be smoking a marijuana cigarette, was asked what was going on, replied, "the tree behind you is moving, the grass is breathing, wow!"

This kind of mentality was running rampant at Yippie headquarters.

While there were Yippies, there were also young Ford supporters who came to throw beach balls and yell at the top of their lungs. Also there was a militant group called

The Young Conservatives. The Young Conservatives generally supported Reagan and were known to yell and be violent. Leaders of The Young Conservatives were purportedly "vicious drunkards". At the convention, all of these "young Americans" were given prime seats to yell for the candidate of their choice. The Young Conservatives were the best organized, with yell leaders and double agents in the Ford camp. Lots of intrigue but no murders.

As the convention got under way the Republicans yelled and screamed at any given moment. On the second night came the first sign of a Reagan-Ford showdown. It was over rule 16c. 16c stated that all presidential candidates have to choose a running mate before the voting for the nomination takes place. This would have made Ford choose Dole beforehand and could have cost him the nomination. Numerous speeches were given, but the one that lost it for Reagan was the man who stated he wanted to see Ford have the chance to have Reagan as a running mate if Reagan lost. So the Reagan supporters, doubting their candidate, lost him the nomination. Had Ford come out and stated that he was choosing Dole for his VP choice, many uncommitted would have sided with Reagan. I think this can be backed up by the abstentions and votes for local politicians that occurred on Thursday night.

Outside the convention Yippies and Jesus freaks fought over who could yell the loudest. The Yippies had a rock band and easily won. But the Jesus freaks didn't take this lying down. They turned their loudspeakers toward the Gay Liberation demonstrators. And these are quotes: "You homosexuals want to accept Jesus, to be real men." "Wouldn't you ladies like to have a family?" "Jesus can cure your homosexuality the same way he cured lepers."

Well, all sorts of wierd things happened, Gerald won and didn't even offer the VP spot to good ol' Ronnie. Instead, he picked a man who matched him...BORING. I think the reason for Ford's victory is that he is mediocre, and he is from Michigan.

Ford takes no controversial stands on anything; he is about as middle of the road as you can get. What can I say? Middle class, middle road, midwestern state. MEDIOCRITY...

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A special thanks to Luci Hagen for typing. Your contributions & this paper are welcomed. It is made possible through your energies, both spiritual and physical. Any contributions of news items, short stories, poems, editorials or artwork are welcome and will be considered. None can be returned. Drawings or other artwork must be in black ink, and photos must be black and white. We cannot pay for contributions; the oil budget just couldn't stand the pain. Address all correspondence to: People Soup, 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108.

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Dear everyone who was at larc this year, thank you so much for all the love and happiness you gave to me. I was about to give up on LRY, but your love turned me in the other direction. Thank You and I love you all so much. Sunshine and Good Wishes, Susie

Holly Sides: I need you-- where are you? Please get in touch with me soon. I love you, Karen. P.S. The world hates me (or so it seems)

Well, folks, LRYers and other people, I've moved out of beautiful suburban N.J. and I return letters. My address is: Nora Stern 1221 Laforce Ave., Fort Collins, Col. 80521 tel. (303) 482-6351 Love, Nora.

To funny bunny (silly goose) I love ya', boodie! Con Con

Rodshell, pizza saves eight days a week. love David.

Michael K., I miss you, love and good energy always, David c.

Woody: Thanks for listening, even when I babbled. I'll call sometime soon(haha) Keep writing--Love (lots of it) karen P.S. That goes for you, too, Annabel.

We would like to mention that the Square Root Mountain Boys Co. have established residence in Knoxville, TN. We live at: 1706 Highland Ave., 37916. Tel. 615: (615) 522-5557. Love&kisses 'n' all, David Innes, Leroy, Bruce Marshall Rich Taucner, Lisa Stevenson, and sometimes Bruce Johnson. F.S. and Jerry Stone?!! hint hint

IN MEMORIAM: Elaine Christine Raffell was the most beautiful person I've ever known. She lived for other people. She didn't know the meaning of the word selfish. She died leaving me with the happiest memories and visions of her smiles. I will never forget her and will always love her, as will many.

Steve Roberts, FRANSWAR I

Betsy, Karen says hogging the faith, remember faith is like warm fuzzies, an unlimited supply, share the faith. Eric with love

To the Bitch of Rodent Park, CA. I miss you. Please write me a letter, give me a call, anything -or I'll burn down your beautiful sub-urban abode. Love- The Boston Bitch

To Howie, Eric & Hank: I think we made the right decision. Keep in touch. See you at Christmas. Love, Doug

Babs-- Seen any good chuckwagons lately? --Bogie

Dear anyone who found a light blue smock (handmade) with little tiny blue and red flowers on it at larc, would you please send it to me? I'll send you the postage. thanks. Sue Colpetzer, 958 W. Jackson St., Painesville, Ohio 44077

I lost my favorite turquoise "Las Palmas" T-shirt at the conference in Poughkeepsie last June. We've traveled many miles together. It's virtually irreplaceable, and probably too small for you any way. Please. Warm fuzzy reward. Rita Tomkins, 309 Tuxedo Pl., Hawthorne, New York 10532

He oh my, LRY, Why can't you find us? Eh? We really need a... We really need a... Really need a... (FurtFurt!) Please rush. Strokes and love to the UNISTAR '70 and Minneapolis LRYers. Cathy & Suzi, 22 Plaza Square, Belleville, Ont. Canada, K8N 4J3

Debbie F. of Ridgewood long time gone--Summer's almost over and I have yet to see you. Come see or write me--I live alone Rd #2, Greenwich, N.Y. 12834 Its east of Saratoga-- I have no phone. If you can't write, come & ask directions to Richard Rd. & North Rd.--mailbox says Banyai-- I miss you. Love, First Son Dave G. New name: Whitebird

Hey You People: We are three lonely women looking for a little excitement from our mailbox. Please keep us from attacking the mail man. All letters will be answered. Love to all, the three "Cs" (Con, Cath, Crazy) 762 Mentor Ave #6, Painesville, Ohio 44077

To anyone who may be concerned: My address at school is: Longwood College, Box 466, Farmville, VA 23901. If you are inclined to call, feel free to do so. (804) 392-5819 It's a hall phone. My room # is 314. Thank you, Jane Laura Doyle

Last summer at Boards in Ann Arbor, liv & I recieved \$50 worth of material (T-shirts & pamphlets) from Youth Liberation (FPS publishers) to sell at Boards & Cont. Conf. Rather than pay for mailing the remaining material back, liv gave the box (\$6 money) to a guy who lived in Ann Arbor. Youth Liberation wrote liv a letter asking about the whereabouts of the box (\$6 money) If you are that guy, could you please write to me & tell me what happened. If you are a concerned person, all donations for reparation will be accepted. (as liv & I are planning on paying the Youth Liberation people back) Thanks a whole lot--Celeste Hall, 3108 Stevenson, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

TO NEVRA CAT, Carlotta keeps shitting on the carpet--any suggestions? I love you. I'll trim your fir when you come to Lawrence at Christmas. One more UUA Board Meeting. How about Lobsta, Friday night with Rev T. ---pooie and prince charming

And a big hello to all those Old New England people. Am alive at Tufts University--Gordon

To Smythe from P.V., Everybody knew about the mole on your member. Now EVERYBODY knows about the mole on your member. love Casey.

ANARCHISTS!!! Now that I have your attention, where the hell are you MARC ROCHE!! Get in touch! Giving blows to the empire your deviaterssistre, Jaki PS You too, Bob Enwell(keep singing)

Dear Daddy, god damn! take ellens underwear off your head and put it on your hum! (shut up! it's good for you..) pixie and dixie

Dearest Jenny Lane, Miriam, Jevera, Danny & Betsy, I love & miss you. I hope to see you soon I should be at Clark in Sept. Huggy Kisslets, Carrie

If you get into music, people, art, or just writing letters to folks you don't know, I'd like to hear from you. Even if you don't like music, people or art, I'd still like to find out what you're into. Please write! Nancy Devine, 6706 Southpoint Dr., Dallas, TX 75248

Adam Jones, Billy Kates, Danny Deridder; Why don't you write me? Didn't you get my letters? I'm beginning to feel as empty as my mailbox. PLEASE someone.. write me a letter. I promise to answer. Love, Carol Hoffman, 19521 Sterling Dr., Miami, Fla. 33137

hey norma!...N-o-o-o-orma-a-aa-an...NORMAN!!! "later"...but a'... like a'...you know

Hello Jeff-- I'd like to hear from you-- my address is: 3108 Charleston N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87110 Please write a hello--I enjoyed you ---A. Hingham crowd, through the hassles of life, and the medieval fights, we still love you, all of you, Father and Rabbit

Hello. Due to various circumstances and many changes of addresses, I will now be receiving mail at: 85 Bartlett St., Somerville, MA 02145. Love and roses, Jenny Lane PS Glauco, my sweets, I miss you wadly.

Write or call me for NERO Summer End lost and found info: Wendy O'Donnell, 12 Dearborn Rd., Medford, MA 02155 tel. (617) 623-9155.

Coyle & Dohen; Time and Sports Illustrated I don't need. I do need you. Give me your coordinates and I'll be there at night-fall. Presently residing at: 2004 "G" St., Washington, D.C. 20006. All my love, ---K.

To all those who went to NERO Summer's End: Has anyone found my black cowboy hat with the button of Chairman Mao on the front? I love and need it. If you have it or know what became of it please write me: Danny Gediman, 49 Frost St., Framingham, mass. 01701. P.S. Even if you don't have my hat, please write me, esp. you Barb!

Steve, Leaving me at the house without saying toodles was PWOOFY!! Grrr.

fem, Hey babes, what's goin' down t'nite 'tween one 'n two? Did you get to visit loosie uncouthie nuthie in cal.? I miss you both so much. Hope to see you soon, I love you alot..rainbows & sunshine, your right hand man

RITA of Hawthorne NY--I lost your letter. Please write again and send your address. Smudge

Diane Foley of Tampa, Fla. - I love you & I have a long beautiful letter for you--but I don't have your address(I lost it--sorry!!) Please write & send me your address--I want to communicate so badly!! Di Kegeles, 114 N. Main St., W. Hartford, CT. 06107

Mark White of Springfield, II: Please let me know if you need any help on that CMF Magazine(if you're still working on it) Reed from St. Louis.

Dear David, I'm so glad that you went to Star & that we became better friends. Thanks for being there when I needed your comfort & friendship. I love you muchly, Ellen

Hi there, We're looking for a warm friendly person to share an apartment in Brookline, Mass. For more info, call (evenings) or write: Gail Solomon, 143 Babcock St. #2, Brookline, MA. 02146 tel. (617) 232-7904

Friends: I have a new address. Please come visit, write, or call me so I'll know where to write you! Jennifer Hodgson, room 409, Rogers A, U Conn., Storrs, CT., 06263, tel. (203) 429-2702

Dear J.E.R.(whoever you are, for the women in hiding) I loved and identified with your poem in the last P.S. Would you write to me? You seem like an interesting person. Carrie Faraone, 740 Dixie Ln., Plainfield, N.J. 07062

Michael Johnson, I love you madly, let my imagination run away with you (gladly!) love, Co.

Horizon: I've seen and liked many things you've said. At S.F. conf. I wanted to talk to you. Please write to: Caroline, 4245 Pasadena, Sacramento, CA 95821

To our M.I.s, S.E.M.I.s, P.P.s and O.M., The world shall remember 11:47-8:22. We couldn't have done it without you. Onward into the book. Thank you Love ya, T.P.I.s

To Iulsa, I miss you, please write! Andrea Eckard, 1815 N. Boomer Rd. F-6, Stillwater, OK , 74074

I need letters from folks in the mid-west and various people around the country who haven't written due to my lack of address Mark Pucci, c/o Berklee College of Music, 150 Mass. Ave, Box 128, Boston, MA. 02215

to christian neilson; as i once knew you, and perhaps will; i would like to hear from you. experience is not contingent on how many wooly bears without stripes a big dog can eat in respect to aesthetic morality. santa fe, NM St John's College, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Friends & family, I am now living at: 405 Emily Dickinson, U Mass, Amherst, MA, tel (413) 546-6614. yours, Beverly Treumann

soux & pam-bird: ihelpined-afix!

Hey! Funny Bunny, I love you! Paki- I miss you-- write to me! Love, Di

IF YOUR FEEL IS NOT AFFILIATED - YOU MAY STOP GIVING BS. see pg 8

Toddy Litman in Olympia...are you alive? Write me, won't you? I've been thinking about you. Andy (in Boston)

Val, I hope your life is as good as you've made mine. G.

Barbara Nahemon, Kathy Karam, et al: please write me, I miss you all terribly. much love, Karen L.

Hank Dahlink. Take your tv inspired journalism and shove it up your nose. love --the flying burrito sisters Joe, K.C. wouldn't be the same without you, A Fellow Janitor

Barbara Nahemon, Kathy Karam, et al: please write me, I miss you all terribly. much love, Karen L.

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PERSONALS
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Hi mom - E. B. Finally- your own personal in People Soup (remember?) love, Karen



BOOK REVIEW

GROWING UP GAY
A Youth Liberation Pamphlet
from Youth Liberation Press - 37pp

Every time a new anthology of writing by gay persons comes out, I rush to the nearest copy and devour it. Every now and then I wind up with a nasty case of acid stomach, but such was not the case with *Growing Up Gay*. *Growing Up Gay* is a collection of sixteen intimately personal articles on various facets of the homosexual experience. It is not filled with dry philosophy or meaningless statistics. Rather, it is an eloquent account of the kind of pain and beauty that every young homosexual lives with from day to day. Although *Growing Up Gay* does not give much space to related political issues, it has a very good section on organizing gay groups and movements, and is very comprehensive in its coverage of feelings. There are sections about loneliness, the pain of oppression, being a homosexual in the public schools, and confrontation with parents, peers and others. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the pamphlet differs from most publications of its kind in that it devotes equal space to male gays and lesbians. This decided benefit, plus a mini-catalog of materials available from Youth Liberation and other publishers, makes this booklet a fine addition to anyone's collection.



**WE ARE ALIVE AND WELL
AND GOING TO EVERY
HIGH SCHOOL**

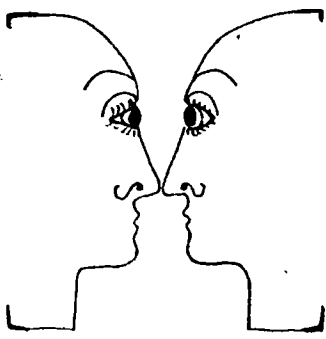
edition of homophile literature, whether they are gay or not. Copies can be obtained from:
Youth Liberation Press, Inc.
2007 Washtenaw
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The cost is \$.75 per copy, with \$.50 postage, and handling on the first copy, and \$.25 thereafter. Prices, they say, are subject to change.

STARE DOWN

On Wed., Aug. 25th at 11:47pm, at OPIK, Chris Tauson and Richard Terrass, in a fit of temporary insanity, began their attempt to set a world's record. They hoped to raise money for OPIK, which was deeply in debt at the time. There was, at the time, no world's record established for staredowns in the Guinness Book of World Records. It was felt by both "starees" that any less than eight hours was not worthy of being a world record and might be too easy for someone to break. The rules were simple. The two sat in metal folding chairs, placed four feet apart, and were not permitted to break eye contact for eight hours, with the exception of five minute breaks permitted after each full hour of staring. Including the breaks, the contest was to

cluded getting coffee, lighting cigarettes, and whatever else was needed. Kimi Sue Riegel was the Official Masseuse (OM) and dispensed countless back and neck rubs throughout the attempt (as well as administering Visine to the TPIs during the breaks). The Music Man (MM) was Mick Levine and the Photographic People (PPs) were Vinny Nigro and Pam Vogel. During the latter half of the first hour and throughout the second hour, both Chris and Richard complained of visual hallucinations. These complaints became less frequent as the time wore on and a coughing fit by Richard in the third hour threatened to cause the breaking of eye contact. This was prevented by an LRYer who had the foresight to bring a bottle of Robitussin and one spoonful was quickly administered. The major obstacle to the successful completion of the attempt, after this point, was conquering drowsiness. Both Chris and Richard agreed this was worst during the fifth and seventh hours, but they were kept alert by applications of wet towels to their necks and constant talking by the SEMIs. Despite all this, they still had to be nearly carried back to their seats from the bathroom during their sixth and seventh breaks. At the beginning of the eighth hour the local radio station in Chillicothe was contacted and they requested to be informed at the completion of the staredown. At the 7 1/2-hour mark, the rest of the LRYers at the camp were awakened by banging on gongs and blowing whistles, so they could witness the completion of the staredown in the main lodge. Chris and Richard were being informed of each five minutes they completed during the last hour. It was decided to inform them of each minute for the last ten, ever fifteen seconds for the last two minutes, every five seconds for the last minute, and to countdown the last fifteen seconds. With fifteen minutes left the stereo was turned off. The alarm clocks and bells were in readiness for the finish. By the five-minute break most of the people in the camp had arrived at the main lodge and the cooks had started breakfast.



continue for eight hours and thirty-five minutes. It would be constantly under the watchful eyes of at least three adult (18 or older) witnesses, as is required by Guinness. Thus, the contest was to end at 8:22am on Thursday, Aug. 26th. They were assisted in their attempt by a group of officials. The first group was known as the Mandatory Idiots (MIs). They included Terry Markoff, Fred Littell, Sally Chappell, Jenny Skwiercz, Julie Matousek, and Matt Tomsho. The MIs were the official adult witnesses. The next group was the SEMIs (Somewhat Equal to a Mandatory Idiot): Cheryl Markoff, Mike McNabb, and Wendy Fast, who ran errands for the MIs and the TPIs (The Prime Idiots, Chris and Richard). Their errands in-

At the fifteen-second mark the lodge was silent, with the exception of the countdown. Everyone joined in on the countdown by the ten second mark, except for Chris and Richard who had clinched their fists and gritted their teeth since the thirty-second mark. When the count reached zero and the stereo blasted through the lodge, a big cheer went up, and Chris and Richard collided with each other as they jumped up from their chairs yelling "We did it". After the pledges were collected, the staredown had raised better than 45 dollars for OPIK and after the announcement of the staredown on the radio, Chris, Richard, and nearly all the officials collapsed in a big pile on the floor to sleep.

A TRAVEL GUIDE

In Minnesota presently there is a one person effort to get an LRY travel guide started. The project is oriented towards interested LRYers and local groups who have little to do. It is also directed at people who want to hear about and do fun things with LRYers.

The structure for the framework of the project is as follows:
1) There will be 50 people working as state managers. These people will simply keep records on who goes where and when. A month before a person leaves that state, the state manager will notify the destination state manager.

If I don't get at least 1/3 of the people or another workable operational plan by Jan. 14, the project will have to be dumped!

2) There will be 12 people working as district managers. After the state manager has taken note of what the person needs, she/he will send it on to the district manager. The district manager will turn to a teletype and have a computer print out possible places for the person to stay on their trip. The district manager then sends it to the person who is going to be traveling.

3) One project manager. She/he just keeps things running smoothly.

Presently that is a rough sketch of what is involved. In all likelihood there will be changes in job descriptions. Also the following jobs have been filled: California state manager - Leigh Taylor 2nd district manager - Patti Cobb Project manager - Peter Kelley

I have pushed for this project for two years now (started on Jan 16, 75) and feel that support has been much talk, much writing and no firm backers. The two people who have preparations are ready and are waiting and people who have been recontacted have not reaffirmed their desire to help or not.

I would like for the publicity chairpersons from each Fed. to contact me. The American Youth Hostels are going to be included.

All other positions are open. As you can see much is left to be done and the only way it will work is by interested people like you. So if you are interested, contact:
Peter Kelley
295 Glenmoor Dr.
Long Lake, MN 55356

We all know that a travel guide has been wanted for some time now, the chance is here, the preparations are being made; let's see it work!

LOOK!

**DEADLINES AND THEMES FOR
PEOPLE SOUP**

- Vol. IV, No. 2-----November 5, 1976
Theme: Self-Sufficiency
- Vol. IV, No. 3-----January 8, 1977
Theme: Sexuality
- The issue on Sexuality is a Cream of People Soup.

bye folks!



BIOFEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM

In response to Andrew Velonis' letter on Virgins: Three Cherries and a Rah! I turned in my virginity at 20 and although I quickly learned what I had "been missing" I wasn't sorry for the wait because it was an excellent experience and I'll remember it fondly (fondle-ly?). Sex is for enjoyment, so do it when you're ready to enjoy it and not before.

Sharon Kass
Wheaton, MD.

Dear "Openminded"? LRYers:

I was glad to see that someone feels the same as I do (Andrew Velonis, *Virgins, The New Minority*). I have thought about my virginity quite a bit and wondered if anyone felt the same as I do. Now I realize I'm not all by myself (I never really thought I was). And instead of wondering what I'm missing out on, I wonder if they know what they (non-virgins) are missing out on. My attitude about people who force themselves on me has turned to resentment and has made me determined to remain a virgin, which I think has its bad and good points.

Do people who call virgins frigid, unadventurous and other such things, know how much it hurts us for at least some of us? I think such people want to put the blame on someone else after a certain person turned them down sexually. It isn't anyone's fault that they were rejected sexually.

I feel the same way about drugs. So many times I've been rejected because I did not want to fill my body with drugs. I know people who didn't really want to get into drugs but felt that they had to. They felt that the just couldn't cope with people rejecting them because they didn't want to get into drugs.

I hope the next time you decide to push someone into taking drugs or losing their virginity (and I know non-virgins who wish they were still virgins) that you'll think about how much you can hurt people.

Love you all (which doesn't mean I want to have sex with you but that doesn't mean I love you less),

Lesser horse

P.S. I'm not speaking to everyone, just some of you. Unfortunately I'm speaking to most of you.



Dear BHJ,

In criticizing my article about sexual repression (*People Soup*, article 6/76, criticism 7/76) you distort many of my ideas; partly this is my fault for writing so abstractly, but I also think distorting ideas is typical among defenders of capitalism. Thus I wanted to respond strongly, even though I'm afraid this may discourage some from writing in. I do want people to write in.

I never suggested, as you seem to believe, that the ruling class in this country has consciously conspired to repress sexuality, or that "Marxist socialism would eliminate America's sexual repression"; nor do I believe in or refer to the capitalist concept of "men's need to dominate others".

There are grains of truth in your interpretation of what I wrote. For example, I do believe some groups within the ruling class "conspire" to maintain their power, as in the Watergate coverup, or the FBI murders of Black Panther leaders across the country in the early seventies.

But the sexual repression I wrote of was usually neither created nor collectively planned by the ruling class; they merely picked up on the sexual repression that existed before capitalism, and used it for their own purposes. For example, when the Ford Foundation refuses to fund a gay organization, they are helping to perpetuate anti-gay sentiment among people, sentiment which the gay group would have tried to change. This anti-gay sentiment benefits those on the top, since it divides the workers and keeps people from working together to make changes. Whether the executives of the Ford Foundation consciously understand this or actually believe "gays are better for both" is not at issue: they are still the biggest obstacle right now to gay people's liberation. Socialism doesn't mean

instant liberation, but just that the road for changes is open. Under socialism people can collectively decide, for example, which groups to fund, rather than that decision being made by a small group of rich people with a stake in the status quo. I think that makes socialism in my interest as well as in the interest of most people in the world.

You said China was "puritanical", though socialist, and Arab women are becoming "liberated", though capitalist. I am not going to defend repression of sexuality in China, except to say that it's been there for ages, the reds didn't create it; in fact, recently progressive changes are beginning in sex mores (young unmarried couples sleeping together). As far as "liberated" Arab women go, I don't know much about it and would like to hear how and why they're "liberated". Is Playboy your concept of liberation?

To answer a few of your questions:

- 1) Why doesn't men's power over their wives "translate into a general feeling of individual power...expressed in labor unrest?" First, there is labor unrest, for other reasons. Second, "individual power", when it means glorifying action alone, is no power at all in labor struggles. Ever staff a one-person picket line? Labor's power comes from collective power, people working together for change, which would be aided by cooperation with, not domination of, one's spouse.
- 2) "Why don't capitalists want workers totally demoralized?" Because then they'd be sure to revolt, with nothing to lose.
- 3) "Why don't women dominate men by withholding sex?" Because if a woman did, the man would probably find another woman.
- 4) "Why are women hired by private industry, in spite of the 'need' for them as housewives and submissive sex tools?" Because they are needed in the workforce too; married working women don't usually stop being housewives.

As far as your defense of capitalism goes, when you say it is "a system whereby people take risks with their money and sometimes receive a dividend for taking those risks", I ask (1) who suffers from a system based on profit instead of human needs? (2) Which people can invest money and collect dividends? (I barely pay my rent, let alone buying myself a factory), and (3) where does the money come from, that the rich are investing? And where does the money come from for those "dividends"? After all, money doesn't have power -- it's people that have power. Money is just the way the power distribution is kept straight. So why do the rich deserve this power? It's the people who work to make this society run who deserve the control of the society. Plumbers, dishwashers, mechanics, doctors, teachers: without these people's efforts, your dollar bill wouldn't be worth a cent, for all the dollar means is that somebody did some work, made life a little better, and wants to exchange the value of that for an equivalent value of somebody else's work. I repeat the question, where did that rich person's money come from, if they didn't work, if they "invested"?

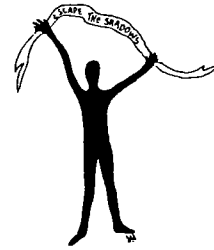
The question of where rich people's money came from reminds me of the story of the poor person who came upon someone's land and sat down for a rest.

"Get off my land--or pay me \$5 per night!"
"No. Why should I? Why is it your land?"
"Because my father gave it to me."
"And where did he get it?"
"His father gave it to him."
"And where did his father get it?"
"His father got it from his father, who got it from his father, who got it from his grandfather, who got it from his father, who fought for it."

"All right, then, I'll fight you for it!"



—liv



Dear People's Soup and LRYers All:

The disturbing things you have recently heard about the Harrisburg local are the opinions of one not involved in our local and they are false and misleading. The Harrisburg local is ALIVE and WELL, internally healthy and on very good terms with the UUA adults in our community.

The "Midsummer Madness", conference that wasn't, was not planned, supported by or even known of by the Harrisburg local. The first we heard of it was through the announcement in the last *People Soup*. We are sorry for those who were disappointed that it didn't happen, and we are even sorer that somehow the failure will be accredited to us.

The person responsible for both of these unfortunate conditions is "Fang", one Dennis Dougherty, who hangs out with the street people of downtown Harrisburg, and who says he wants our local to help them "solve the problems of where to go after 7:00 p.m., what to do, and finances to do this with." He goes on, to imply that other locals do this elsewhere and to throw out a few disparaging remarks about the existing Harrisburg local and to suggest that he will start a new one.

In the first place, Dennis Dougherty has never once approached our local to suggest this plan to us as a group. After his return to Harrisburg in the spring, he phoned some members and advisors, and talked to a few he met. Although he attended a meeting or two, he never once addressed us to say "I've got an idea...I see a need we could help meet", nor in any way did he enlist our support or invite us to meet with those people he feels we could help.

Dennis Dougherty wants to party. He wants to party after 7, and he wants to have a place to party: a farm, a house, a conference. And he wants the LRY to sponsor, organize, finance and take responsibility for his party.

The Harrisburg Local arose, phoenix-like, from the embers of a group that had dissolved because of in-fighting, power struggles, and mutual disrespect with the adult members of the UUA. We are presently beyond all those difficulties, though still in a neophyte stage. We met because a small core of the old group really liked each other, and continued to gather during the dark ages of dissension and dissolution. Advisors were recruited and we met; a small number with a large helping of hope and faith. We took our first tenuous steps toward recognition, and were received at first with some skepticism and encouragement, and we have been growing in numbers and in esteem ever since. We are becoming an increasingly active and responsible part of the larger UUA group.



N.J. LOFTIS

Continued...

As an illustration of the good will that we have developed, and an example of the rich possibilities that could be promoted, I would like to tell you of a proposal which the R.E. Committee recently presented to the LRY which was unanimously accepted. The committee has developed a Religious Education program which will extend to the whole UUA membership. The program will be centered around monthly topics which are relevant to the lives of all ages (birth, growth, love, marriage, divorce/separation, aging, dying). There is to be a series of adult discussion groups, beginning with a Sunday service dealing with the topic and followed by an open discussion, after a potluck lunch. The topics will then be pursued by smaller groups, hopefully in a home setting. Out of these discussions, interested members will arrange a program to introduce these matters to the young people. Young and old alike will be stimulated to think about and talk with others about issues which are deeply meaningful, but which are too often suppressed or neglected by the demands of daily life and the pleasantries of social intercourse.

The LRY has been asked to take a multi-faceted part in this overall plan. First, we are invited to join fully in the adult discussions. We are also invited to participate in the presentation of these ideas to younger folks. We have been asked to take responsibility for child-care during the monthly meeting, which will require the absence of only a few from the discussions and will provide cash for our coffers. We have been given the further option of preparing and serving food as an alternative to the pot-luck lunch, a further source of income and fun.

This plan offers us the potential of greatly increasing our base of understanding with both the adult members and the younger ones in our community. It should also help us to open ourselves more deeply to each other, especially if we follow the initial discussion with a time for us to meet together, to add something we didn't get a chance to say, to further explore issues particularly meaningful to us at present. I am really excited by all the possibilities we shall encounter.

Another rewarding outgrowth of the initial meeting with the R.E. Committee was to see a woman, Mary Teed, gently probe to discover the feelings and form of this LRY group, truly interested in learning a bit of who we are, and to ensure that the need of all members of the UUA be met; and to hear the sensitive reflections of the members present in describing our group as a sort of family where we are free to be ourselves in a warm and accepting atmosphere, a support group as it were. Believe me, THE HARRISBURG LOCAL IS ALIVE AND WELL!!!

A little more about our group and then on to other things... We have no officers in our local, elected or otherwise. We avoid power struggles by our respect for each person's opinion as being as valuable as any other's. We resolve all issues by discussion and vote. Although there is almost always a dissenting vote (more often out of humor than dissent), we respect the group and support the decision. In the absence of power groups, there is no clique to grumble about and blame for controlling our fate. We are a democracy, guided by mutual self respect. Leadership develops for our projects from those who are most interested.

The Harrisburg Local also benefits from 3 good advisors, if I may say so myself, for I am one of them, Susan Lannan-Kerr. Edward Lannan-Kerr, my husband, and Diana Diaz share with me the fun, folly, and frenzy of this position. Many of you probably know Diana, a woman of incredible warmth and good humor. She is a talented mother of two of our members (although she doesn't always like to be reminded she is), who has a remarkable openness in her relationships with her offspring and with us all. My husband and I are unusual (Re: Karl Kharas' letter in July CPS) in that we were recruited to be advisors without first being UUA members. Although we had been married by a Unitarian minister and were interested in learning more, we did not move in that direction until my brother, Mark Lannan, initiated us to the LRY. I have since become a member and Edward is seriously considering doing so.

We work well as a group. We like each other. We are on good terms with the UUA at large. We have large plans...one of which is a CONFERENCE; a real, live, well-organized event we hope to schedule for this fall. We want to have some exciting, talented members and ask that you bring instruments, works of art, writings, whatever. We have some good cooks amongst us, so be prepared for surprisingly good meals. Further details will be provided when more specific plans are available; we'll keep you informed.

There is more to be said about Dennis Dougherty and his ideas about the LRY conferences and functions. However, I do not wish to turn the tide of ill-feelings he has started back to the source. I would rather they be dissolved by broader understanding. One point that was made by member Mindy Wilson deserves mention: if D.D. wants to party, fine; if he wants to organize a group, fine; but these people are not Unitarians, so why call themselves LRY unless they are truly going to involve themselves with the UUA. Unitarians are a fairly open group, but we have not been approached.

I sincerely hope that Dennis and his friends find a place to hang out and party, but it is not our responsibility to provide one for him. We would certainly support any of his own efforts to establish a means to solve their problem, but we have yet to hear anything from him other than some vague pleas that we help and assist his problem which he, himself, has done little to correct. I wish he had seen fit to speak to us instead of bending the ear and eye of a continental publication to deal with an issue which he has failed to meet face to face. If he presented us with a substantial, well-informed plan to alleviate the situation, we could discuss it and decide how we could assist; but it seems as though he wants us to do his work for him. We have our own things to do.

Thank you for all your time and attention. I hope all that I've said is meaningful to many of you, and not just seen as a counter-gripe. I hope my next contribution to PS is instigated by more pleasant circumstances. I am, sincerely yours,

Susan Lannan-Kerr
425 High Street
Highspire, PA 17034



Dearest P.Soup,

The letter last month from the "Hobbitt" was really inspirational. So I decided to add a little juice also. I'm a three-year L.R.Wire down here in L.S.D. and from those three years I've learned, as the Beatles so articulately observed, that "the love you take is equal to the love you make." (or something like that). My point is that participation is necessary to reach the level of awareness and togetherness that most LRYers are trying to achieve.

I'm sure that all the fellow banana eaters who participated in the Easter Conference (Augusta, GA) will agree. The importance of togetherness was beautifully pointed out. And I think all people who are not true LRYers will eventually lose interest and sift themselves out of the picture. So instead of worrying about how good it used to be, put your minds together and see how sweet it is.

I hope you got the point. Remember: Oblio and arrow found that everything has a point.



P.S. Watch for info on the Huntsville Thanksgiving Conference. Peace and love, Mitch "Duck" Glasgow

Dear Soup, Andrew Velonis, and LRYers from the East, West, South, Midwest and especially Massachusetts:

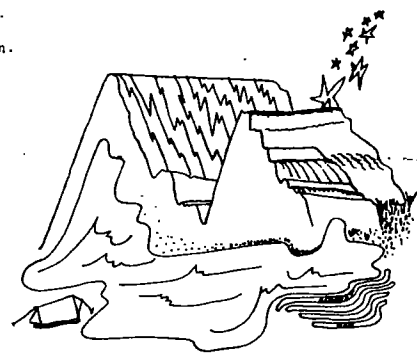
Virgins in LRY are not the New Minority, but the ageless Silent Majority.

Signed, Anonymous
(I don't want anyone to know)

Dear People's Soup,
Please put this in your letters to the people column or in your poem page, or both: An excerpt from my journal dated September 19

Today I found, to my despair
A friend of mine was gone.
Not gone away, or gone for a while
.....but gone.
For her, Elaine, I shall write
A poem, not in rhyme
But in heart, and feeling
to express, if I may
A feeling of lack of
Feeling which I came upon,
In my thoughts.
I knew her,
not well enough.
I thought of her,
but not enough.
I loved her, for a while,
but not enough.
I saddened.....enough.

Jerry Stone



Dear Friends,

I am a person whom you have probably seen at a recent conference. In most respects I am a perfectly normal LRYer (if there is such a creature), but you will recognize me if you happen to hear me in conversation with another of my kind. Our conversation will be sprinkled with acronyms and initials: "YAC, CAC, UAF, MAF, GWAFF, DUF," etc. Other phenomena associated with me is that I often tear my hair out at a failing conference or make a fool of myself at an event known as a "Federation Meeting".

I, along with three to ten others, have the responsibility of seeing that conferences, finances, publications and relations with the church (to name but a few things) run well and smoothly. I also help with the specific problems of the 500 people in my federation.

Well, folks, this isn't easy, but you can help and it won't cost you anything more than a 13¢ stamp. Write your fed execs (if you don't know who they are, you can find out from Continental). Send them your ideas, gripes, trivialities, and most of all, your moral support. A full mailbox will really help us help you.

Love and Hope,
Your friendly
neighborhood
bipwig

6

i think we're all bozos on this bus!

The 1976-77 Executive Committee

Emilie Blattman

My name is Emilie Blattman. I am the new Director of Leadership Development. I grew up in New York City, Hartford, CT, Boston, and the San Francisco Bay Area, CA. I'll start at the beginning... I was born on February 2, 1959. The next major event in my life was at the age of four, when I won the "Get the Ping-Pong Balls into the Barrel" game on the Bozo Show (I won a package of "Pez" candies and a Mickie Mouse dispenser). When I was seven, I fell in love for the first time, with Dudley Do-Right. His protruding chin and gremlin nose brought him into my heart, but his stiff moral fiber and love of his horse kept him there!

At eleven I moved to Hartford. I started getting "fancy ideas" and tried organizing my junior high school in seventh grade.

We moved to the Boston area when I was thirteen. I hated eighth grade, and went to the Cambridge School of Weston in the ninth.

Since then I've lived in Berkeley, CA. For a year I washed dishes at Smokey Joe's Cafe and played in a rock'n'roll band, then named "Raw Guts" (because that's what it took to put an act like ours on stage).



This past year I worked for Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR). I did public speaking to high school classes, community organizing, and direct counseling with rape victims. I am a committed feminist. I work towards living my ideals daily, through the music I make, the books I read--in general, the things I do in my day-to-day life.

I am looking forward to this year with much excitement. For me it is a chance to live and work with my peers, for a bunch of people who I love and respect very much. I hope to meet lots of you this year at the Leadership Development Conferences, and if any of you come to see us in Boston.

In loving struggle--

Emilie

Paul Pigman

Good day! My name is Paul Pigman. Most of the time, at least. "Pig Paulperson" seems to be running a close second. I am the "new" Director of Finances and Publications, which means that I do things like keep the books in order and co-ordinate the production of *People Soup*. Other than that I stare at this piece of paper and wonder what to write.

I have spent a good portion of my life trying to take all the different bits of information that I can find under the loose heading of "reality" and putting them into some sort of an understandable form. When I was eight, I figured that it might take a long time; maybe until I finished high school. Now I have a more realistic grasp of the problem and figure that it will probably take me until I'm 25.

Some things which I value are: My Self; philosophy; communications; my abstract thoughts, which are not translatable into words; people; the possibilities of consciousness; the possibilities of my Self; coffee; "psychic" phenomena; purposeful reality construction; and word salad. Not always in that order; not always in another order.

Why did I run for continental? Gee, I wonder too. I vaguely remember thinking that LRY changed my relationships in a way that I consider positive and supportive, and in some vague way I wanted to help others in the same way. Pre-LRY, I was very introverted and now, thanks to LRY, I am much more perverted... excuse me!... I mean, much more extroverted.



To put it bluntly, I ran for my own good; Oh, yeah, and for LRY. For myself, in the sense that I wanted to put as much into LRY as it had given me during a difficult section of my life. I also wanted to try my hand at something "responsible", that requires some initiative. For LRY, in the sense that it couldn't survive without me.

All in all, I'm looking towards the coming year with optimism, high energy, confidence, hysteria, and the first minor symptoms of a slight nervous breakdown. Already I am feeling the heady exhilaration as I groggily make my way to the bus stop at the early hour of 11 AM. At that point, I feel the positive certainty deep in my soul that I'll never make it through the day. But through all obstacles, I finally awaken and become a semi-efficient being who somehow muddles through the day and returns home with a profound sense of not having accomplished a single thing.

Seriously (I can be serious, I can be serious), I am doing quite a bit of work and I feel that we as a committee will accomplish a great deal. My co-workers are all real nice (except for Doug, who gobbles in his sleep). I am really looking forward to the coming year, with all its ups and downs, highs and lows... it's going to be one hell of an interesting year! If I had a choice between a front seat at the apocalypse and a seat here, I'd pick here!

yr. servt. in
Love and Happiness

Paul Webb

Doug Webb

I was in the eighth grade when I joined LRY. I had been a Unitarian-Universalist all my life and had been interested in LRY for some time. Finally, at a Federation Executive Committee meeting that my brother was holding at my house, I was given a warm invitation to the next conference. That year I was elected President of my local and generally structured my whole life around LRY.



There were some major changes in my life during the summer after ninth grade. I was thrown onto the streets of Camp Unistar and I encountered a situation then rare to me: I was treated as an adult and given responsibility for my actions. Well, going back to my traditional high school at the end of that summer was both tragic and funny. I thought they had to be kidding, and yet I knew they were not kidding. At least I still had LRY and I reached a somewhat comfortable, but not satisfying, low energy input level at school (I didn't bother them, they didn't bother me). But all was not well, for concern was rising on the home front, and in the midst of lowering grades and growing apathy, My parents sent me to a psychologist. His diagnosis was school and his treatment was transfer, so I was transferred. This was the first time that my education really harmonized with what was happening in school. It looked like I was finally getting some direction in my life, and so I was.

Well, folks, the rest is LRY history. I ran for Local Group Coordinator of North Star Federation in 1974 and lost. I ran for President in 1975 and got Local Group Coordinator. I became President of NSF in 1974. I ran for the position of Director of Program Development in 1975 and got it in 1976. In the interim, I served on both the Judiciary Committee and the Continental Conference Committee. My feelings about LRY seem to have gone the full cycle; from love, to boredom, to disgust, and back to love (with a little of the other two inter-mixed).

I am interested in, the current self-sufficiency movement. My major concerns are in the areas of population growth, decentralization, world energy, and natural resource supplies. I firmly believe as Einstein once stated that "The world that we have made as a result of the level of thinking we have done so far creates problems that we cannot solve at the same level as the level we created them at." In this understanding I see my work as raising levels of consciousness, particularly my own. I hope that we can work together in a creative way with this stage of the evolutionary process we call LRY.

with love,

Doug

Andy Hansen

Hi. My name is Andy Hansen and I have been elected Director of Denominational Communications for 1976-77. I am 5'9" tall, dramatically handsome, warm, witty, and basically fascinating. People will also tell you that I am a compulsive liar, but it's not true. I'm perfect. I come from Nebraska, heartland of the nation and plum of the prairie. My hobbies are domesticating the bison and writing cookbooks (you've probably seen my 101 Ways with Rattlesnake.)

OK, enough with the jokes. Seriously, I have been politically and socially involved with LRY for three years. I read constantly and enjoy all types of music. I do like to cook, and am very proficient (except for cheesecake, but that's another story). My physical endeavors are limited by lethargy to walking and weightlifting. I am gay, and deeply concerned with the social and political aspects of the homophile movement as well as with my own consciousness.



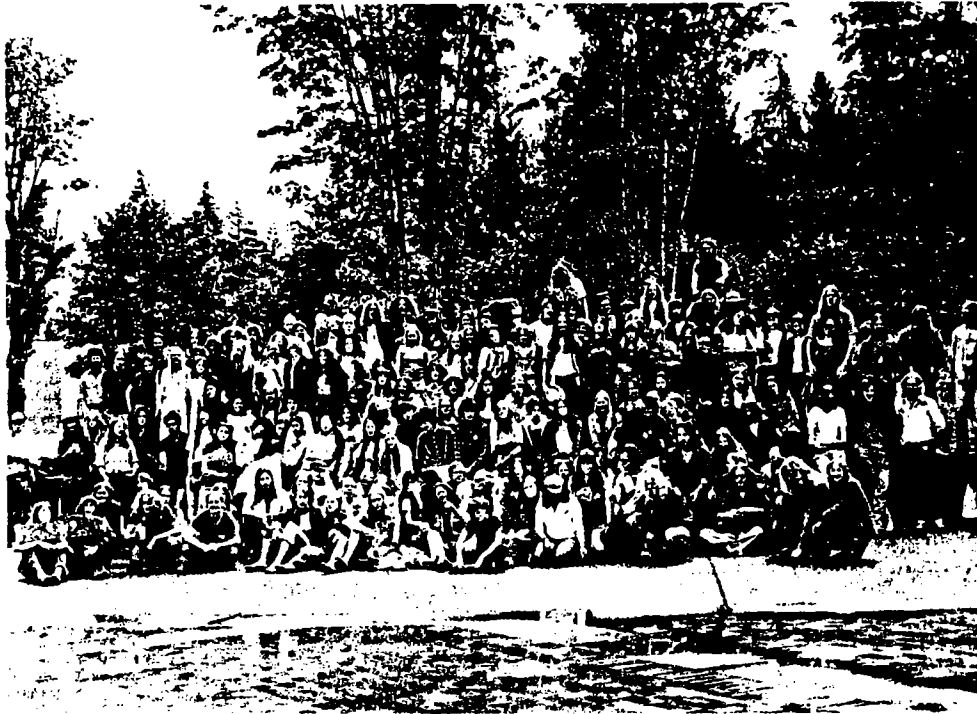
I am also very committed to the principles behind my directorship. Youth has always had dramatic effect on culture and thought. The vital difference today is that many persons are much more willing to listen when we speak, and grant us due respect. Because of this cooperation and our assertiveness in pressing for such change, I will be sitting in on the UUA Board meetings this year, specifically to speak for LRY and to voice its needs and feelings.

The importance of such interaction is obvious, but it is still not enough to meet the needs of the total organization. The voices are all of administration, mine included, and not of either group's constituency. LRY is aware of this and has an annual gathering at General Assembly open to all LRY Youth.

My greatest concern for this year is assisting in the development of a youth caucus that is more aware, more thinking, and more respected than ever before. This should be the concern of all LRYers, for a well-informed youth caucus is our best opportunity to speak to the UUA in a unified and collective voice. May you all have a fine year.

In pride,

Andy Hansen
Andy Hansen



1976

Continental Conference 1977 will be held in the Northeast, encompassing New England, New York, New Jersey, Eastern Ontario, Quebec & the Maritime Provinces.

At Continental Conference 1976 the Continental Conference Committee for '77 was elected.

Those elected are as follows:

- Terry Herron, c/o MDA Cherry Hill, 2401 Church Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ 08002
- Ben Alexander, same as Terry
- Shelly Cantril, 6841 Liden, Prairie Village, KS. 66208
- James Finley, 3823 Wingate Dr., Carmichael, CA 93608
- Beverly Hendricks, 5736 W. 81st, Prairie Village, KS 66208

Ben Alexander & Terry Herron are the sitefinders. Any input that you can give them will be greatly appreciated.

Recollections & Other Word Salad

Coloured white and gray that warmed with every moment that passed.

Inconsistency from cold concrete to warm people & cuddles.

Spending time watching slugs do all the things that slugs do.

Listening to the serenade in the early morning.

Experiencing with many people, many things.

Experiencing with one person, many things.

I've never had so much fun.

---PIIP---

One hundred thousand tiger tongues are licking at my face
Glaciers slowly climbing down the mountains they embrace
Memories of a long lost world are floating 'round in space
And a lonely sailboat out at sea finds this an unholy place.

Falling stars and asteroids, don't bother asking me why
Memories of days long gone they never seem to die
Eagles, doves and fighter planes are taking to the sky
Contemplating my livelyhood, wishing I was high.

--Bob "Pickles" McCall



from Olympia, Washington
SUPERNOVA

CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE

Masks

People need people
real people
If we wear masks
people don't know US,
but only what they see--
a false cover
they can only perceive
dimly
through the canouflage
So we are frustrated, we are
not known,
only our mask, our shell,
is known
And if we do not throw away our
mask--the real us does not grow,
but dies--the thin mask takes
over

An "Outsiders" View of LRY

LRY...? Load of Riotous Youth?

It is always something of an experience to find oneself in the midst of a strange crowd of people. No less so than with such a collection of individuals as make up LRY! But isn't it great when one finds some of the individuals in the vast amorphous mass and gets to know and love them; that once one has "acclimatized", relationships can grow, and new ones start. A deepening can then follow. So that even if one leaves LRY still unable to describe it, one can recommend it.

--Roger Brooks, England

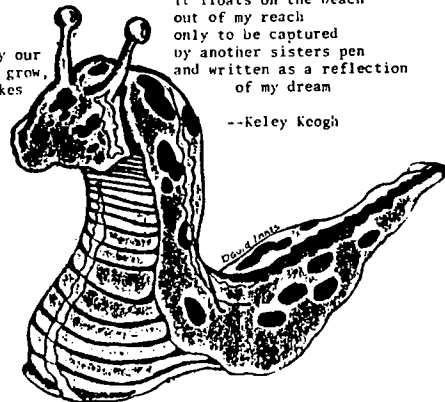
Another continental..

Old friends, new friends
A smile, a little kiss
A big hug
A warm feeling all over
It feels good to be here

--Val Stapel

lost words
once again
twice too often
while walking to the swimming hole,
or drivin' in my car
I lose the words to a poem.
Because of lack
of writing utensils.
It floats on the beach
out of my reach
only to be captured
by another sisters pen
and written as a reflection
of my dream

--Keley Keogh



Boards

"The policy forming body of this corporation shall be the Board of Directors, composed of the members of the Executive Committee, one representative of each associate member organization, one liaison from each federation, a recording secretary, a parliamentarian, a director from each Board committee, project, and regional project, the outgoing Executive Committee, the Executive Committee Elect, and such persons appointed by the Board." - Article V. Board of Directors, Board members and meetings Section 1.

Most people in LRY are aware that communication is vital to creating strong and understanding relationships between individuals. Effective communication is also mandatory to have a responsive organization. The Board as described above meets annually to make decisions on behalf of the membership of LRY. To invest our faith in this Board - we must feel that it is representative of LRY's membership, we must feel that communication channels to and from the Board are open, we must feel that the individuals serving on the Board are open to and respect the opinions of each other.

REPRESENTATIVE

The U.S. and Canada are geographically divided into federations. People in each of these areas are represented on the LRY Board by a continental liaison who they elect. Over the past few years the Board has gained a better geographic representation of LRY. Probable reasons for this are - since 1973-74 Executive Committees have pushed federation affiliation and Board empowerment; People Soup has increased the ability to communicate. The areas having the poorest attendance this year were the northeastern states and Canada. This seems to correspond with the activity in those areas -- either rejuvenation of interest or organization is needed.

PROCESS

The success of a Board Meeting is not only the quality of the decisions made, but also the process by which they are achieved. Usually the Executive Committee has chaired at Board Meetings. Last Winter Boards, the Executive Committee pushed Board members to share in the moderating of meetings. The chair was passed each meeting to someone who was willing to try it out. Of course, this was not the most effective moderating but it did start a few minds thinking. Summer Boards arrived and the chairing shifted back to the Executive Committee. Discontent was expressed. There was a need for greater impartiality. The Executive Committee passed the chair to a nonboard member, who later proposed to the Board that the Judiciary Committee investigate the issue for action at the next meeting. The future probably includes other decisions like this - perhaps the responsibility of Board minutes and mailings being shifted to a Board member/committee.

The election of the Executive Committee is one of the major tasks of the Board. The "closed session" - when Board members discuss the qualifications of candidates amongst themselves - has traditionally been dreaded as a vicious character analyses. Those involved this year felt the session to be one of the most cooperative and clarifying all week. "Closed sessions" have gradually become more constructive assessments of individuals' abilities rather than blatant character assassinations.

A Board empowered to make decisions for an organization is responsible for communicating those decisions to the people it represents. Yet it is also the responsibility of an individual to initiate communication with his/her continental liaison when s/he has questions, problems or suggestions. People Soup is an easy way to contact large numbers of people, but it is not very personalized. Please find the answers to your questions - write or call.



BUSINESS
that which occupies the time, attention, and labor of people for the purpose of improvement.

DIRECTORSHIPS

The directorships defining the responsibilities of the 1976-77 Executive Committee include the basic programs of LRY. Below are the directorships as passed by the Board, and the persons elected to the positions.

A Director of Program Development who will be responsible for the development of programs and packets that will further the goals of LRY across the continent through:
1. Researching, writing and coordinating LRY packets and programs in People Soup, the total Program Packet, and wherever else necessary for the effective use by locals and federations.
2. Coordinating LRY's interests at the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association.
3. Initiating and coordinating LRY sponsored social actions projects and researching, editing, and distributing information of contemporary social issues and concerns to the interests of LRY.
The Director of Program Development shall also hold the title of President in the eyes of the commonwealth of Massachusetts.
--elected to this position, Douglas Webb

A Director of Leadership Development who will be responsible for fostering leadership and the concept of youth autonomy in LRY through:
1. The planning of area conferences that will aid members of LRY in developing and teaching leadership skills and training persons for the implementation of LRY packets and programs.
2. Facilitating the growth of new and existing local groups and federations through correspondence and direct contact.
3. The planning of the Board of Directors' Meetings, working with the Executive Secretary to compile and distribute the Board minutes, producing a regular Board newsletter, coordinating affiliation with Continental LRY, and serving as the Ex-Officio member of the Judiciary Committee.
-- elected to this position, Emilie Blattman

A Director of Denominational Communications who shall be responsible for the continuance of communications between LRY and the Unitarian Universalist Association at levels through:
1. Coordination of business and relations with the UUA Board of Trustees, its committees, the UUA staff and other UUA functions of interest to LRY.
2. Establishment of work with the UUA Department of Education to develop and foster intergenerational communications and activities within the denomination.
3. Coordination of the efforts of Youth Caucus.
4. Serving as the LRY representative to the youth/adult committee, and also acting as liaison to SRI - A Free Religious Fellowship and International Religious Fellowship.
-- elected to this position, Andy Hanson

A Director of Finances and Publications who is responsible for the business of the corporation and the coordination of People Soup through:
1. balancing and maintaining the checkbook and budget; compiling monthly statements; seeking non-explosive ventures for the investment of LRY's funds; corresponding with IRS and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; filing correspondence, information and materials produced by LRY; coordinating the upkeep of LRY's mailing list.
2. gathering articles, news, personals, photographs, graphics, letters, and other People Soup material; coordinating layout, writers in the field, editing and anything else necessary for a regular and responsive Soup.
The Director of Finances and Publications shall have signatory powers for the corporation and in the eyes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hold the title of Treasurer.
-- elected to this position, Paul Pipman

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCES

The Director of Leadership Development is responsible for the planning and facilitation of a series of area leadership development conferences (LDC). There are four LDCs tentatively planned, each to last four days. They will be held in the southeast, northeast, midwest, and west. The first conference is planned for the west coast, between Christmas and New Year's Day. Two people from each federation will have their transportation and registration subsidized. Any other interested people are encouraged to come.

The LDCs will be focused not only on learning skills, but on how to share learned skills. Some of the things they will deal with are group dynamics, conference planning, youth adult relations, and local group programming. The conferences will provide an introduction to both programs available from LRY, and resources available from other organizations. Hopefully, these conferences will also facilitate an improvement in communications between all levels of LRY.

In order to make these conferences as useful to you as possible your ideas are needed. Send us your input on specific needs and problems in your federation or local. It is important that you also send us a schedule of your school vacations as soon as possible. Address all correspondence to: Emilie Blattman c/o LRY 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108.

Continental Leadership Conferences have the potential of being one of the most creative programs to come out of LRY. Please invest your energy so that we might work together in fulfilling their potential.

PEOPLE SOUP



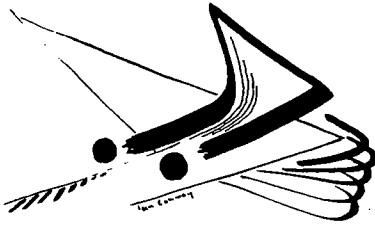
People Soup is starting its fourth year as LRY's major publication. Progress has come at a good pace. The number of people receiving it is wavering around 5000. The amount of material has increased - there are constants in each issue. Writers in the field have accepted some of the workload that was previously the Executive Committee's. Beautiful artwork breaks up the reading when it becomes too wordy. Of course, there is still the inevitable struggle to fill the pages of People Soup with contributions from its readership. Numerous poems are sent - yet courage or interest is missing where articles could be written. Photographs and artwork are constantly needed because a supply is easily depleted by one issue.

The Board reflected on this information, observed the continuing improvement, and directed the 1976-77 Executive Committee to form each Soup on a particular theme. It was expressed that People Soup is too exclusive, that often its potential as an educational and informational periodical is left underdeveloped. Support was given for Cream of People Soups - Volume III. Both issues were built around a particular theme. Yet one must note that both of those issues needed much more readership input than they had. To allow more coordination with People Soup's readership, each issue will state themes and deadlines for the two succeeding issues.

The Board voted to stop sending People Soup to persons who have not affiliated with LRY, as of December 2, 1976. This means if you are not a member of an affiliated federation or local group, that you must affiliate individually by December 2 if you wish to continue receiving People Soup. See the fed's ups/downs to find out if your fed is affiliated. If it isn't ask your Continental Liaison why not.

If you wish to affiliate individually you should send us your name, address, birthyear & one dollar (\$1). If you participate in a local or a federation, it would be nice if you told us which one.

Locals who wish to affiliate should write us at: LRY, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108



CLEARINGHOUSE

The Clearinghouse has been a project of LRY for the past two years, in which time it has developed into a solid idea. This process of evolving has involved many people, a lot of time, failures and dreams. This summer LRY and SRL- A Free Religious Fellowship each made decisions about the Clearinghouse Project. The people working with the Clearinghouse most recently expressed, to the LRY Board, that more time and space are needed to have the Clearinghouse function. They suggested that the purposes of Clearinghouse more appropriately fit into the structure and deals of SRL. The Board voted that LRY's future involvement with Clearinghouse would be limited to being a resource. LRY's Director of Programs has been directed to be a liaison for LRY on the Clearinghouse Committee. SRL has directed major focus towards this project. The following article is written by Bob deLaubentels - Clearinghouse Coordinator.

SRL- A Frf?

Welllllll---
Just what the hell did happen at the SRL conference this summer? That's a question that I've been trying to answer for about a month. It was the most exciting conference that I've ever been at. The people there were the most exciting group of people that I've ever been with.

We came together almost fearfully, having developed strong fantasies/ideas, and accompanying paranoia, for what could happen at the conference and with SRL.

I had very strong fantasies about SRL becoming a community of communities. I fantasized SRL taking the Clearinghouse idea of an enabling, coordinating, and resource network of alternative living and working styles, and adding a feeling of group identity and energy, a sense of community. I also had a strong paranoia that my fantasy would get trumped on by other, stronger, peoples fantasies. I was rather hesitant and cautious at the beginning of the conference, so were most of the people.

We played around with nipping, and making, seconding, and amending motions and purposes, and generally avoided ourselves in the business. We became frustrated.

However--- in the midst of our frustration there was a growing feeling that we'd all come with pretty much the same hopes and fears. That we were all extremely interested in finding, inventing, and living creative alternatives to today's norms for living and working.

Out of this awareness came an incredible energy as people let down their guards on their ideas, fantasies, and hopes. By the end of the conference the business meetings were a joy.

Soooooo... here SRL sits, a hopeful community of communities, what are we doing to accomplish this? Basically two things: a newsletter, which will come out approximately five times a year, and is being done by an SRL community in Minneapolis coordinated by Ralph Townsend; and the Clearinghouse, which is being coordinated by myself (Bob deL.) in Boston.

The Clearinghouse is designed to be a resource bank of people and groups that can inform, educate, and help coordinate people who are realizing, finding, and inventing creative--non exploitative living and working styles.

The Clearinghouse will hopefully build up enough of a constituency/resource bank to be able to organize a network of communities aiding each other, and potential communities, to make community living a viable lifestyle within this culture.

For more information on SRL/the Clearinghouse write (please!) to SRL 25 Beacon st. Boston, MA 02108. If you've written and sent in a Clearinghouse questionnaire at some point in the past, please write in now and give me your present address.

LRY'S PURPOSES

"The purposes of this corporation are: to unite liberal religious youth; to build understanding and cooperation between youth and adults in the liberal religious movement; to help individual young persons grow in: Dealing creatively and imaginatively with religion as the most exalted quality and spirit of living; Nurturing the distinctively liberal tradition in religion: freedom and responsibility of belief; the free and questing mind, the use of reason in religion and respect for the individual integrity and dignity of every person. Achieving a responsible and durable faith through personal and group experiences of learning, service and worship. Becoming creative and realistic contributors to the achievement of a just, peaceful, and united world community; Understanding and practicing the privileges and responsibilities of a governing system that embodies these ideals.

In addition, to provide for the effective implementation of these purposes through youth-run structures, programs, and activities." - Article II Purposes

1976-77 BUDGET

EXPENDITURES:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	\$12845.00
Rent.....	3840.00
Food.....	2400.00
Utilities.....	1000.00
Salaries.....	3825.00
Phone.....	780.00
Transportation.....	1000.00
OFFICE	1900.00
Phone.....	780.00
Supplies.....	600.00
Postage.....	420.00
Miscellaneous.....	100.00
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	2500.00
General Business Communications.....	100.00
Summer Meeting.....	2400.00
PROGRAMS	10200.00
People Soup.....	4500.00
Leadership Development Conferences.....	4000.00
Youth Caucus.....	500.00
Program Kit.....	500.00
Clearinghouse.....	100.00
Travel.....	300.00
Affiliations/Subscriptions.....	200.00
Miscellaneous.....	100.00
GENERAL ASSEMBLY	1000.00
TOTAL	\$28445.00
INCOME:	
YOUTH/ADULT COMMITTEE ALLOCATION	\$25500.00
BAC INTEREST	1250.00
AFFILIATIONS/DONATIONS*	1200.00
PROVIDENT SAVINGS ACCT. INT REST	500.00
	\$28450.00

* This is what is aimed for, based on information received from continental liaisons at the Summer Board Meeting 1976.



The ages involved in LRY vary from 2 to 25. The organization exists for those generally of high school age. LRY is autonomous, in that it is governed by its youth membership. It is felt that one has a stronger commitment to the organization and gains more from it if t/he is responsible for its directions. In keeping with this, the LRY office in Boston is staffed by youth from the organization. Usually, these people have been 17 or 18 years old. At present, the LRY by-laws read: No one may serve on any Board committee if they are both 20 years of age and have been out of high school for more than one year. (Article VI Committees of the Board, Section 6.) The reasoning behind this is fear of losing touch with the experiences and needs of LRY's membership. What happens to the individual who is 20 years old and out of high school, but is qualified by all other considerations? Liberal Religious Youth has ageist by-laws. The concern of an organization's responsiveness to its members' needs is recognized by this policy. Yet it assumes that all people who are both 20 and out of high school would not have the ability to assure that responsiveness. We have generalized rather than to make decisions based upon an individual's merits. We have reversed the roles, the assumptions. The Board directed the Judiciary Committee to investigate the issue and recommend action at the 1977 Board Meeting.



Fed's Ups & Downs

- Central Mass. -not affiliated, was present at Boards
- Central Mid-west -Affiliated, present at Boards
- DVF -Affiliated, was present at Boards
- ECF -Affiliated, not present at Boards. Their district is having an intergenerational conf. Nov. 5, 6, & 7 in Toronto.
- GODARFUL -is planning The First Annual GODARFUL-OVF Arts Festival for June 15-19
- GWAF -Affiliated, was present at Boards.
- HBE -Not affiliated, was present at Boards.
- LSD -Affiliated, not at Boards, may have a Thanksgiving conf. in Huntsville, Ala.
- MAE -Affiliated, present at Boards
- MVF -Affiliated, present at Boards. Had a conf on Sept. 8th in Omaha, Neb.
- Narragansett - Had a conf. in E. Greenwich, R.I. Oct. 8, 9, 10 & 11. Not affiliated, not at Boards.
- North Starr -Affiliated, at Boards.
- OVT -Affiliated, not at Boards. Had their Fall Conf. in Ft. Wayne, Ind. Oct. 15, 16, & 17.
- Pheonix -Not affiliated, was present at Boards
- PSLRY -Affiliated, was present at Boards.
- RBE -Not affiliated, not present at Boards.
- Trey had a conf. on Oct. 22-24.
- SAM -Affiliated, present at Boards.
- Sallil -Not affiliated, was present at Boards. Plans to have a conf. around Christmas to elect officers, and write a constitution. For more info., write to: Liz Blakemore, 4209 N.E. 75, Seattle, WA. 98115
- SNE -Affiliated, present at Boards.
- Suncoast -Affiliated, was present at Boards. Had a conf. Sept. 3-6 in Tampa
- SEAFoAM -Affiliated, present at Boards.
- Starr King -Affiliated, was present at Boards. Had a four day conf. in San Francisco Aug. 26-30. Another conf. planned for Halloween weekend in Walnut Creek.

Hey folks--If your fed isn't here, it's because no one bothered to send anything in. Continental Liaisons--It's your job to send in Fed up's & Down's every month. But anything that anyone sends in will be printed. And remember --no news is not necessarily good news.

program:

ORGANIZE A POLITICAL STUDY GROUP!

To organize a political study group with friends, your family, or anybody you want requires: (1) that you know how to read, and (2) that you want to learn, in spite of being in school. You'll probably need 4-9 people. Place an ad, put up a sign, or otherwise spread the word about specifically what you want to do. Do you want to study current world politics? The history of schools? Feminism? How about the Chinese revolution? Health care in the USA? The food industry? From Marxism to Radical Therapy...it's up to you and your friends.

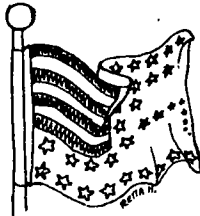
Be sure to watch the group process; are some people talking more than others? Are people talking abstractly without examples from their lives or not stating their feelings? Are people getting spaced out, and if so, what's happening in the group that isn't getting talked about? Make sure everybody participates and that people encourage each other to talk personally and honestly about the issues. Make sure no in-group elite forms, and the leadership is shared so that facilitation skills can be learned by everyone. Facilitation skills include keeping the discussion on the topic or, if it gets off, at least making sure that that's a choice everyone is consciously making. The role of facilitator (or "moderator") can be rotated among participants from one meeting to the next. One group I was in had one man and one woman share the role each week.

You might want to start out talking about yourselves and give each other some idea of who you are, why you're in the group, and what you want to get out of it. The more you keep aware of the group process, how people are feeling, and collectively deciding what and how to study in the group, the better the group will work.

You could all read a certain passage, article, or book at home and then talk about it, or you might want to have each person be responsible for "teaching" a section of what everybody's reading. The ways to do political study groups are bounded by your imagination and the commitment and energy you're all willing to put into it.

One example might be reading Stud Terkel's best seller *Working*, then reading Marx's "Wage-Labor and Capital", and all the while talking about how it feels and what you think about your own experiences working. One issue that might come up in discussion is "What kind of work do you want to be doing five years from now?" Reading those two books, and discussing them at one 2-hour meeting per week, might take three months.

A political study group can be just what you needed to feel less alone in reading political works, to get help in understanding them and to provide the motivation to learn and discuss something meaningful to your life while you're at school. If you need help in finding good resources, write: Liv, 2627 Fulton #6, Berkeley, CA 94704.



the two of us

by Jonathon Fletcher

New York is full of couples hiding out. There are lots of things a young couple might want to hide from. It could be the law, or the past, or their friends. We're hiding from our parents.

It's not that they hate us, because they don't. Both our parents love both of us alot. And it's not that they force us to be apart--we're both eighteen. We just don't want to always have to deal with pressure to separate.

It's funny. We didn't expect our parents to react the way they did. Ever since we were tiny kids we were always together. Our parents are close friends and live two hours apart, so we really grew up together. We were your classic pair of childhood sweethearts.

When we were five we played doctor together, and I remember telling my mom that we were getting married when we grew up. That became a favorite joke between the two families. I guess no one noticed that we never laughed.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

We were eleven when our parents told us about the birds and the bees. We talked it over between us and decided we weren't interested. Both our families are UUs, though, and when we went through the Sexuality Packet in Sunday School, things made more sense. We were fourteen when we gave each other our virginity.

We always knew that we loved each other and would never be apart. That's why we were surprised when our parents didn't want us to go to college together. We applied to the same three colleges. The first two replies came back, and one of us was accepted by one, the other by the second. I guess it was our tension as we waited for the third reply that made our parents realize that we weren't going to college without each other.

Our parents thought we were afraid to meet new people and started giving us lectures about growing through new friends. One night when our families were having dinner together, and our parents were lecturing together, we decided that "this was it", and told them.

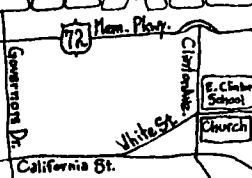
The fact that they are best friends did not stop them from accusing each other of knowing all along, and even worse things. After two days of them fighting with each other, and fighting with us, we moved to New York without waiting to hear from the third college.

We found a room near Greenwich Village and managed to get jobs. We work the same hours, so whenever we aren't working, we can be together. As soon as the new semester starts at City College, we'll be starting night school. In the meantime, we're enjoying hiding out together. The more difficult things get, the more our love grows.

The only thing that bothers us is that our parents are so upset. It always seemed to us that we were a perfect couple in almost every way society thinks is important. We're from similar families, and our parents are friends. Neither of us is marrying out of his race or religion, and we're both political liberals. Even our parents would be happy if we weren't both male.

AIMS ALL BOWERS

When: November 25th thru 28th
 Cost: \$6⁰⁰ pre-reg; \$7⁵⁰ at door
 Where: Huntsville, Ala. (LSD)
 Church Phone: 1-205-536-8881



Send to Dr. Elijah Toecheese
 % Jamie Gaither
 P.O. Box 13 Huntsville, Ala. 35804

Name
 Address
 City State
 Zip code
 herbivore
 omnivore
 I give my permission for
 to receive medical care X.....



EVENTZ

- ① SOGGER
- ② BICYCLE MAINTANANCE and REPAIR
- ③ TRANSCENDENTAL MEDITATION
- ④ ECKANKAR
- ⑤ ACOUSTICS (at Water Tower)
- ⑥ BUCK DANCING

and
 The SUBURBAN AMERICAN PHILHARMONIC
 BLUEGRASS BAND
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The SQUARE MOUNTAIN
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 and so very much more!

How would you like to spend a weekend in a dark closet with these people?
 Paid Advertisement

LRwhat? ~ Andy's sermon

Three years ago, I joined LRY. Two of my brothers and one sister had gone before me, but I still had only vague conceptions of what kinds of experiences awaited me. At my first conference, a hardly momentous occasion, I perceived a condition I shall refer to as "LRY goo", where persons run up to each other and hug and kiss and say reassuring things. Since I knew no one outside my local, I did not really take much part in all this frolic, but in my heart of hearts, I knew that if I worked at it, this newfound joy could be mine. I would experience true contentment and my karma would be dramatically improved.

I bided my time, and sure enough, my next conference was an ecstatic experience. The pure wonder of seeing all the shining faces from exotic corners, like Kansas and Missouri, and the fact that they were all glad to see me (Imagine!) was breathtaking. The "goo" washed over me in shimmering waves. In no time at all, my lips were pulpy from excited hello and goodbye kisses, and my hugging muscles were all but totaled. I was in heaven and had accumulated four true loves, sixteen best friends, and innumerable heroes.

Only diamonds, though, are forever. Disillusionment #1: The seeds of reality orientation were planted first when I realized that I was being chummy with all sorts of people that I felt uncomfortable around; that I (dare I say it?) had nothing in common with, really, or didn't even like very much. This was a very hard thing for me to deal with. LRY, the Mecca of freedom, honesty, and open communication, didn't leave me with very much room for negative reactions. This went on for some time before I realized the true dynamics of what was going on, and I was hurt. Disillusionment #2: A short time after I joined LRY, I was elected President of my Federation. This was very flattering, and I had visions of serving my constituents in a democratic Eden. I always felt fairly appreciated for my "services" until one spring when I had to play the "heavy" in a drug conflict at a conference.

Well, the shit flew, and quite a bit of it seemed to catch me between the eyes. "Why", I wondered densely, "is this happening?" Everyone seemed to forget about the democratic harmony, and gradually, it hit me. LRY is composed of human beings. Some are wonderful people and a few can be, well, not so wonderful. Why didn't someone tell me this before? Disillusionment #3: I also had to deal with the fact that some people (like churches, districts, and various other factions) didn't always think LRY was as wonderful as LRYers thought it was. This is by no means true of all churches, districts, and various other factions, but they could often make things hard for us if they so chose.

Needless to say, with all these disillusionments building up on me, LRY became a drag. It had nothing to offer me. The two of us were washed up. I felt hurt and used. All the injustices dealt me by LRY kept running through my head like a chant until I knew them sideways. The one thing that didn't occur to me was that (in case you hadn't guessed) maybe I had a little growing up to do. Maybe I was the one dealing injustice to myself, and everyone else, by expecting too much of "the group", and not enough of Yours Truly.

A FISH WITHOUT



A BICYCLE

II

Due to some personal headtrips, and a full-time job, I spent alot of time this past spring and summer out of touch with almost everyone, including LRYers. Because of this temporary departure, I was pleasantly surprised to find myself with a changed consciousness at Continental Conference. Oh, I still did my share of hugging and kissing, and game playing, and I managed to fall slightly in love, but I think that for the first time, I saw an accurate composite of what LRY really is.

LRY is socially radical. No matter how middle-class and hypocritical we might be, we are nonetheless an important front of social change. Where else could a person find so much support for diversity? The ongoing option to explore one's self, to experiment with different lifestyles, to take a shot at the sacred and glory in the profane or vice-versa; is vital to personal growth, and in turn vital to the shaping of a fulfilling society.

We are gifted. Most of us are from at least middle-class homes and have educational opportunities ranging from fair to excellent. We are generally mobile, obviously, and therefore are more open to a wide range of experience. We are for the most part liberal. To be gifted in these ways can be a blessing or a curse, in that while it creates more options for personal experimentation, it can also shelter us from perhaps a more difficult world if we let it. The choice, however, remains that of the individual's.

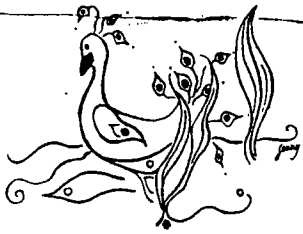
We foster bigotry. Not really in the typical sense, the racial or life-choice sense, but we foster it nonetheless. LRY harbors prejudice against negativism. We often choose not to openly accept the friction and bad feeling sometimes inevitable in human intercourse. Instead, we may sugar the truth with an adequate, if somewhat diluted, form of LRY goo; then hitch to our friends about the offender in question. This solves absolutely nothing, but the atmosphere of harmony can be too easy to live in for us to risk our comfort by being up-front, so we pretend. Honestly, although this is a dramatized view of LRY as a whole, I do think we often deprive our peers of honest and helpful feedback. This is because we have real or imagined fears for our own security, should we get a little feedback of our own. When a person makes a habit of this kind of behavior, everyone loses. The offender remains ignorant, the person keeping quiet has unresolved feelings, and tension develops in the relationship. Clearly, this is a less than ideal situation, but this kind of tokenism can be used as a steppingstone to a more...

A stipulation of our "liberalism" is that we be more accepting than groups deemed "conservative". Therefore, we gain exposure to many diverse elements and gradually integrate them into our realm of acceptability. This integration is a mediocre substitute for true acceptance, but it is more than many groups or communities possess, and it is approaching a goal: A group that can be utilized to suit individual needs.

III

LRY, when it all boils down, is a tool. It allows people, on one level, to find new friends or to congregate with friends already made. On another level, it allows people to form a support group where, by and large, differences are not as important as shared values, and serve to interest and unify the group rather than isolate some individuals. On yet another level, it gives people a chance to look at themselves, to try and understand themselves, and to explore themselves with the support and protection of the group. This last level ties in strongly with the concept of Youth Autonomy. The goals and methods of LRY are a macrocosm of each young person as s/he searches for and demands an equal share in the "adult" world around him/her. It is everything and it is nothing. It is any person who is involved or cares. To me, it represents one of the most supported, scary, changing, rewarding, fucked-up, pleasant and absurd periods of my life. That's a nice association. Thanks.

Andy Hansen



SONG OF THE MOURNING DOVE

Dedicated to Elaine Christine Raffell
my dear sister, the fuzzy-haired cat-lady
There is so much more beyond the words...

The birth of night
Bittersweet orange flowing into
Burgundy red swirling about
Rich violet followed by
A myriad of sparkling stars
Shining on
Always shining on
Someone quietly said
"Think of the view she must have"
You weren't just looking
Those colors were you

My dear sunset sister
We've turned over too fast
The familiar just doesn't seem to last
Anymore
Yesterday I was talking with you
Hands touching, laughing
And hoping to catch the falling sun
I guess I never thought
You'd so quickly fade away
Purring cat-lady
You've curled up inside me
I've flown to the sky

Lost to the visions of philosophers
I don't know, my sister,
Where you are
I would give anything
Just to hold you
For a little while longer
And deep in the night
I'm talking to the ceiling
To the darkness
Wondering if you can hear
I'm calling
Calling and crying
Sweet sister, can you hear?

Are you still purring?
Are you finally free of all the pain?
Painting fine inspiration
In the old, hard city
And in the flowered meadows
You're dancing
You're always dancing
Lightly down to the water's edge
Drawing graceful brown driftwood
And shiny green seaweed
To light our smiles
Beloved sister
I really can't believe
You're gone

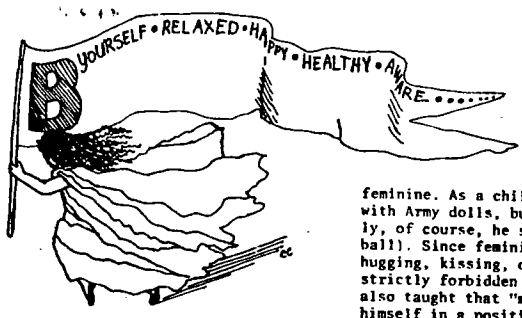
You were strong, my sister
Strong and living each moment
Sharing songs
Endlessly creating
And never giving up
Though thinking you may die
Sometimes knowing
With a trace of fear in your eyes
And I'm now moving on
In the numb motions
From a badly-written script
At times not fearing death
Because you're there

In the darkest living hours
In my deepest dreams
You were alive
Sitting quiet and careful
And smiling
Your sweet sister smile
We held each other once again
Asking how it felt
And I was driving you
To the undiscovered west

Awake
And desperately wanting
To go back
To be with you
But dreams are like the mourning dove
I saw outside the window
Impossible to ever hold
She's flown to the sky

In love and in sorrow,
your sister, Jenny Lane

Touching



In America today (and England, Germany, Japan and many European nations) there is a strict taboo against touching anyone unless he happens to be a lover, spouse or someone with a familial tie. The closest contact one is allowed is a "warm handshake." It is socially and culturally acceptable for females to show somewhat more affection for each other, but this is still limited. There are many people who have associations they say are good friends, but god forbid they should express their affection for one another by hugging, kissing or otherwise touching each other. Thus, spiritual (brotherly or sisterly) love is often shallow and physical love is considered brutal.

The vast realm of loving between these two extremes is neglected and ignored by most Americans, and the individual misses overwhelming opportunities to grow closer to her fellow friends and neighbors. Such physical and erotic contact could, and would, raise the level of love in many friendships.

Many people feel insecure in this realm, however, and feel that in stepping over the border of one pole they immediately enter into the opposite extreme. Individuals feel that reaching out and showing tactile affection toward a friend will be misrepresented by the friend as a desire for sexual contact, eventually leading the friend to promiscuity or (horrors!) homosexuality. So any desires to express tactile affection are suppressed; particularly if the person in question is male (for reasons that will be discussed later on).

How has it come to be that the Anglo-Saxons ignore or are afraid to express the larger part of love? The major reason is cultural. The French hold no reserve in kissing and hugging one another, regardless of sex. In fact, it is often the most common way of greeting both relatives and friends. Russians, Hungarians, Eskimos, Jews and many other cultural, racial, and ethnic groups are much more tactile than the English and Americans.

A person usually adapts to the tactile standards of his particular culture and society. He is most influenced by his childhood experiences. In the contemporary American family, all of the emphasis is usually put on making the child into "a success". This definition of "a success" being any individual with a white-collar job, large salary, two cars and a family. More often than not "a success" is also a neurotic individual with a great compulsion for making more money with little spiritual or sexual happiness.

Through the use of bottles, cribs, carriages and other material objects, the mother and father manage to isolate themselves from the child and to limit physical contact between themselves and the child. When sleeping or resting the child is totally isolated. Most American parents are also not as interested in loving and caring for the child as they are in controlling her behavior and nutritional needs. Love, affection, and touching are not seen as more important to the child's development as instilling a sense of morals (which usually increase her guilt and anxiety).

As the child develops into her teens she is taught that she must become a "mature adult"; which most often means a suppression of emotion and denial of love in friendship.

This is even more the case with the American male. He is taught by precept that he must be a "he-man". This includes the suppression of all activities that might be deemed

feminine. As a child he is allowed to play with Army dolls, but not people dolls (ideally, of course, he should be out playing baseball). Since feminine actions can include hugging, kissing, or hand-holding, these are strictly forbidden modes of expression. He is also taught that "men do not cry", and finds himself in a position of possible ridicule if he weeps. Thus, every effort must be made to stifle these emotions, biting lips, clenching teeth, etc. Such emotional suppression can hardly be deemed healthy.

This suppression of emotion, affection, and love is not a natural development, but rather a social institution. Institutions can be useful, but more often than not the institution itself soon becomes more important than the human relations behind it. When this happens the institution must be overthrown.

In America today there are some limited areas and sub-cultures where this taboo against touching is less predominant or even non-existent. In some ways LRY is such an environment. But as LRY is made up of people from many different backgrounds it is not surprising to find that many people hold, very strongly, their own personal defenses, which do not crack easily.

What can be done about this situation? Disseminating literature on the subject or telling people that they should open up and express their love more freely would do little more than to cause a great deal of embarrassment.

Ultimately, the solution to the problem lies with you. Take a good look at yourself, how loving you are towards others, and your fears about expressing love through touching. Is what you see something you want to change? If so, it may involve overthrowing deep socially-ingrained thought processes, fears, and defenses. But if you really want to change, go ahead.

Reach out.
Touch.

Eric Ellerson

A LETTER

Our world is a full and wonderful place. In our world there are extremes of joy and sorrow, pleasure and pain, love and hate, anxiety and ecstasy, la, la, la. Some say the extremes are but two sides of the same coin, yin and yang, opposite but equal. On paper and in philosophical discussions that all sounds great, but what can compensate for the gut-wrenching feeling I got when I learned that a friend of mine had been kidnapped by some lunatic from Detroit (DETROIT!), who left the man she had been hitching with standing not 15 miles from their destination: my house!

Upon receiving the message that she had been driven off with, I assumed that she would be dead before the sun went down, but hope springs eternal, etc.etc. The state police were called and within 15 minutes had all the pertinent details, including the license plate number. It was nice to assume that within minutes, news would be flashing across the state that a woman had been abducted. No such luck! We spent the next five hours trying to convince various local, regional and federal law enforcement agencies that, yes, a girl really had been forcibly made off with, that, no, we weren't the ones who kidnapped her, that no, she hadn't "probably gone out to breakfast with the guy," that no, we hadn't raped her mother, blah,blah. The state police lost the license number and when the FBI finally caught the guy about 6 hours later, they came down on us like a ton of bricks for not having called earlier (This was the third or fourth time we had tried to tell them).

It's hard being told, "Well, there's nothing we can do, but don't worry, everybody else is probably doing everything possible." It's especially hard when everybody is saying it. After a while the spring of eternal hope wasn't much more than a slowly leaking faucet. We talked among ourselves about our hopes and after a while, our fears and plans, and of our anger, our shock and our disbelief.

Richard and I were at my father's house after spending several hours driving around looking for likely ditches (my father lives off the exit where it all started). Bruce Marshall called and said that she was back at the house, that she'd gotten away from the man, that the man had raped her and was driving around looking for her. Bruce said that the man had a gun, knew where we lived and had threatened to kill people if we called the police. He asked if my father would give us a shotgun and could we hurry back? I was angry and scared enough to ask, and my father was angry and scared enough to say yes. Nothing happened after we got back, thank God, but for the first time in my life I slept with a loaded shotgun within arm's reach.

If the yin and the yang were easily balanced, then the sorrow of losing her should have been balanced by the joy of having her back alive. How do you balance, though, eleven hours of worry, eleven hours of knowing the police have their heads up their asses and the feelings of helplessness, knowing that you probably never will know one way or another if a friend is dead or alive? How do you balance the cold feeling that right now he could be raping her, or killing her, or burying her? How can I balance the feeling of having a gun and being willing to use it on another human being...of wanting to use it, and knowing that, for the moment, I would enjoy killing another human being?

My life has been following a fairly peaceful path till now. I've seldom, if ever, willfully hurt a person physically, or really wanted to. I wonder how a man can hate a woman so much that he will force his attentions on her just to prove to himself that because he's stronger he is better. I wonder if I'm any better than he is, since I want to exert my "power" by killing him. I'm caught in a two-way trap. I can't just passively be

glad that liberal we would never do such a thing. I want to be able to strike back, but liberal we also tells me that violence only leads to more violence. How do I contend with the conflict between my emotions and my virtue?

She talked with a woman from the rape crisis center afterwards. I could have used someone to talk to myself.

Daryl Jones and Rich Tauber



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