

ADRIAN  
86

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

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# PERSONALS

Bruce:  
You are a big Shmo. Spirolina Plankton still loves you!  
Hugs and Smooches,  
Mona

To All:  
The road kill terrace has formed in that beautiful little suburb of ours, Jamaica Plain. If you wish to see or hear from us, drop a line to 3 Adelaide Terrace, #1, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.  
See you later,  
Jenny Brooks, Bruce Feine, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Peter Christiansen

To all who were at Con-Con:  
It's a real good feeling I have whenever I tell people about Iowa and cooking. I'll never forget what a bitch it was to feed 204 screaming YRUUers, but it was the funniest hassle I've had yet. Take care, and remember P.D.F.  
Love,  
Bruce Fiene

Lisa, Carla, and all YRUUers in CMD:  
I'm still alive in Louisiana, sorry about the no letters. My address is: 128 Dillingham, Monroe, LA 71203. WRITE. I'll be in Chicago in June. Can't wait to see ya!  
Love ya,  
Sharon J.

Mipchunk,  
How! I yare hou? Ji'm fust ine. Li yove ou! (Rot Neally)  
Yincerely Sours,  
Wheezie



To whom it may concern:  
"The Kathryn" (aka Kathryn Price, Kathryn Beckerman, High Priestess K—p, Katharsis, Kathryn of the North, and others . . .) is alive and well and listening to too much Shriekback. Write before midnight—we'll discuss the terms. P.O. Box 1745, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.  
Blessed be,  
K

Attention to all who attended the Armadillo Conference:  
I really want pictures. BAD! Could anyone who has some write me to tell me which ones you have? I'm willing to pay high prices. Or I could exchange for pictures that I took. Don't forget the salami!  
P.S. I lost my Dead Kennedys In God We Trust, Inc. tape at the conference. If you have it, send it to me. (I'll pay you back for postage.)  
Heather MacLaren

Attention all Armadillo Hunters:  
Beware of the people-eating variety, with the five foot fangs. Darling, if you love me, won't you please, please wink? Hold onto the spirit and remember the love.  
Jill and Becky  
Room Five

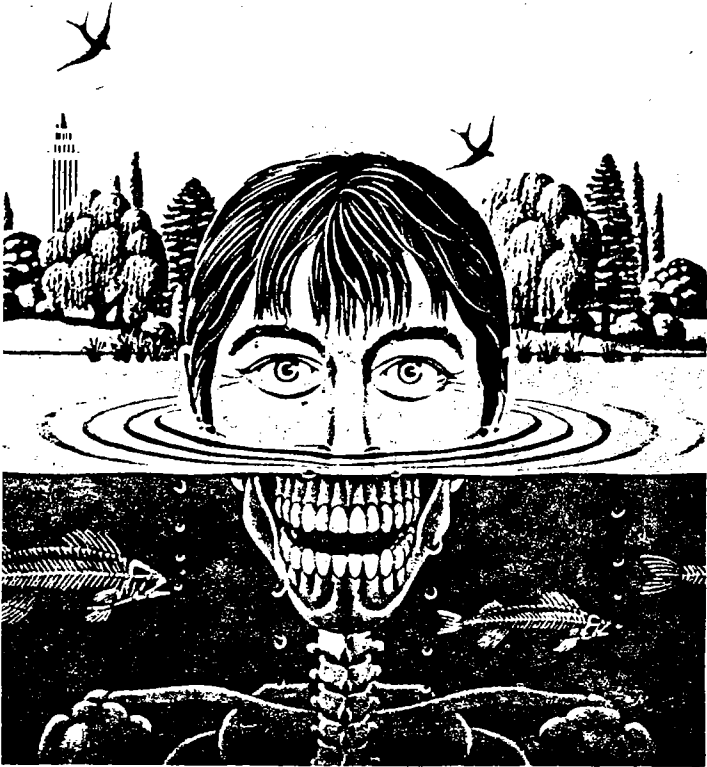
The first tears are shed.  
As the realization dawns upon us.  
The dust rises  
and blends with the slow drip of an ice cube.  
The bonds have been made  
and now they must be momentarily broken.  
Laughter rings anew  
and discord is pushed along.  
Lisa K. Nelson

"4"  
Hi! How are you? Where are you? Write!  
"4"  
7305 Center Drive  
Tampa, FL 33604

Sudha—I told you I'd write one! HA!  
P.S. How's that for non-stick?  
Love you,  
Susan

To all folks who are saying, "Shit, I wonder what happened to Mona"—I'M STILL ALIVE!! (The one with the big you know whats.) I needed to subvert into society (the real world) for a while for some reason I haven't figured out yet. But now I have risen from the dead! Write me for Chrissakes. Oh yea, I'm in college now—write me there! Please, Please, Please!  
Mona Bultman  
339 Ehringhaus - UNC  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514  
or after May 1 260 G Glendare Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27104

To All of Y'all (Ha-ha, Graham) from the Dallas conference:  
Remember mistletoe, juggling, bubble blowing, sunbathing, fishbowls, Wink, This Is A (a what?), the dude ranch (a two-step, David?), dreams and hopes. Brian, Bryan, and Adam: I love long hair. Fadey: converting in the airport! Karen: French and English? Cool! Jennifer: I miss your lap. Michael: Kiowah? Heather Mc: What a pair of Aries, we!  
Hugs, and I love you,  
Heather from Atlanta



To Mark, Rachel, Chris & Sarah:  
I love you cuties! May there be many more surprises on my doorstep (or yours, perhaps?). Let's roll in the litter layer!  
Luv's,  
Wendy Lee

Romanna,  
"License, Registration and Perfido Please." Ski weekends in the Berkshires, R-O-W-D-I-E! Thanx for the trip to W4 440 #1.  
Love you,  
Mary

Bob & Dave,  
Where've you been hiding? Try using a pen & paper sometime! STRIDEX can be fun! Let's see those pics. Visit again soon.  
Love,  
Goldie

Givingtree Bear:  
I love you. You are one in eternity. Con-Con '86 is coming faster than you think. Maybe I'll see the ocean this time. All I see is corn, oceans of corn! I used to be a hawk but I've metamorphosized into an eaglebear. I can fly. Look for me; I'll be the only bird that answers to "Teddy."  
I love you forever.  
Eaglebear

Sparkle-Sparkle:  
I'm so glad I called you, even though you live in Tokyo. I love the cranes. Squishy bear and I love you - many hugs.  
Jana:  
Do you know where your towel is?  
Love,  
Chip

Paul H (in Peoria),  
Yes, you know who you are. The guy who tours the Pabst Building at night, loves to tell stories about everything from how to run from cops to "one lump or two"—don't be so hard on yourself. 'member that I truly care.  
P.S. What was that cologne you were wearing Christmas Eve?  
T.S.

David Brigham,  
Mountain High, River deep, Namaste, I can't wait for what's next!  
I love you - Tracy

Marty,  
Love, Hugs, and Mad Libs. What a way to go. Send letters & money (ha-ha). Hope to see you before school's end.  
Judith  
("10")

To all you Texans:  
I had a wonderful time getting to know you. I hope I see you again. Take care. Peace.  
Cory Thompson in Mass.

D and R in Columbia,  
Hi-hi-hi-hey! Come on up and see me sometime, why don't'cha? It's not like I live in Northern Siberia. Well okay, not *exactly* like I live in Northern Siberia. Anyway, it's warm in the summer. Dats OK, I love U anyway.  
Hugs,  
'll ole me

Too Yoo know Hoo:  
... Who? When? *Why?* Oops!  
oh ... OK. I understand *now*. Bye-ya!  
Jen

American Friends,  
When are we going to do the Soviet again? It was wonderful, and you are all so special, especially you, Jim, for making it possible.  
P.S. If I haven't written you yet, forgive me, please.  
The Canadian

L.B.  
It's so nice to be noted in B & W. I'll write you sometime.  
Eugene-goes the same for the Edmontonians

To Dylan and Heather:  
Dylan, do you have my shoes? Heather, what will we do with the sheet?  
Thank you!!!  
love, Cory

To all Briarwoodians,  
For the man-eating Armadillos, the (ahem) get-together in #9, the flat tire, the ice cream and Jay, the caramel experience with Lubbock, the bagging of rays and catching of Z's, the delicious vegetarian meals, the hope, energy, life, determination and love, I say thanks.  
The Canadian Dundasian

To Whit and everyone else who has been of such support to me—I woke up this Dec. morning and realized that, yes indeed, there is life after July!

Ripper,  
Hamster love & lots of nibbles. I love you!  
Kara

CS:  
I'm truly sorry for everything. Still friends?  
Love,  
KL

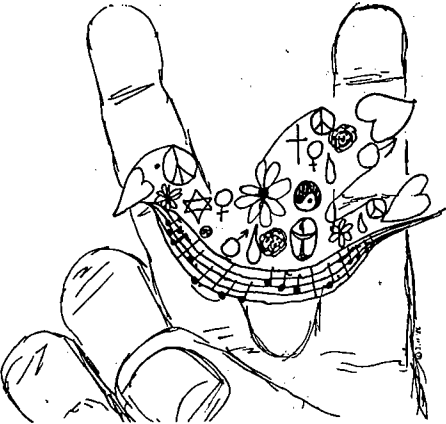
CC:  
YRUUers never lose it. Love & nose cards.  
EC

DEAR AMY,  
Happy two, happy valentine's day. Surprised?  
Love,  
David

Dear Eric,  
How is my little fubzy pollack just slightly east of the Rockies? Well, life is fine just having moved the work into the Big Apple. Here Kathryn, David and I sit missing your pretty ... (ahem) face. Eat lots of Nachos and stay fat.  
Love, the Arab and the Sunny One.  
P.S. Happy V-Times Day

Jay:  
Need a spoon? I've got plenty!  
P.S. Say Hi! to Kundra pour moi.  
Love, Lisa

Dear Ann,  
Keep up all of the good work. Don't lust too many men, and remember that you won't be 16 forever.  
Love, your fearless Advisor



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EDITORIAL POLICY  
Articles appearing in SYNAPSE are chosen for their social, press opinions and or values that are not necessarily those of the editors or of some of our readers and dissenting opinion will be given fair exposure in subsequent issues. We recognize the need to keep from offending the sensibilities of the wide variety of our readers and also a need to respect the integrity of our contributors. Where these values conflict we will err on the side of accurate representation.  
There is a limit to two personals per person per issue. All personals must be accompanied with a return address in case for any reason the editors find it impossible to run the personal.  
Advertising rates are \$4.00/column inch for UUA related groups and \$8.00/column inch for others. For UUA related groups, rates for larger blocks are:  
Quarter page \$60.00  
Half page \$110.00  
Full page \$200.00  
For groups other than UU related organizations, the rates are double those for UU groups.



...oh, wow...  
here's  
**KATHRYN!**

Hello Everyone!

My name is Kathryn Deal and I'm the new youth staff. I moved to Boston on January 1st and started working at the UUA on January 2nd. We've been really busy ever since!

I grew up in Santa Monica, CA, which is in the Pacific Southwest District. A couple of years ago, I moved to New York City to go to school and ended up getting my BA in Theatre with a minor in Philosophy. I'm interested in theatre for the deaf, social action issues, and learning about myself and life...

Now that you know something about me, it's your turn. I am here to find out more about you. If there is something you need to know or express about YRUU, call or write.

I'm excited about meeting as many of you as possible. Also, it's great when we at the office get copies of newsletters, conference flyers, and district YRUU board minutes. We want to be in contact with all of you - OK? Wow - great -

Peace -  
Kathryn

## S.T.O.P. NUCLEAR WAR

It is nine minutes after seven o'clock on a Thursday night. I watch the clock tick away the minutes here in the small room in the basement of the infirmary. I keep hoping someone will knock, but no one comes. A few minutes later, four students burst in—"Sorry we're late," they say. The faithful S.T.O.P. Nuclear War members all turn their faces towards me as I sit behind the desk, waiting for me to spout words of wisdom their way. And I usually can, helped by the news I've seen, or the articles I've read, or the pamphlets I've received in the mail. It's good to have someone who listens, even if it's only four people.

I am president of S.T.O.P. Nuclear War at a prep school in Connecticut, and it isn't an easy job. Not all our meetings are as sparsely attended as the instance I cited above—we sometimes get as many as 20 students at a meeting which may not sound like a great deal but it really is. Sometimes, believe it or not, it is extremely difficult to get students interested.

S.T.O.P. Nuclear War (Student/Teacher Organization to Prevent Nuclear War) was started at Northfield Mt. Herman by students and teachers who wanted to alert their school community about the very real threat of nuclear war. Gradually, the organization spread throughout the nation and is currently run by an equal number of students and adults.

At my school, S.T.O.P. consists of a president, a treasurer, a faculty advisor and of course, our members (although few, very devoted). All of us try to alert the student body to the dangers of actually being a part of a nuclear exchange. We do this through lectures, meetings, speakers on campus and na-

tional events like the S.T.O.P. Day for Peace last year in May. Some refuse to open their eyes and see nuclear war as a possibility. Sadly, they are victims of the "it couldn't happen to us" syndrome. Others are passive, earnestly believing others will do something about the crisis for them.

These are the people I try hardest to involve in the struggle against the nuclear arms race. They acknowledge that the problem exists, but believe that the work they do could never change anything. If I believed that, I wouldn't be running S.T.O.P. It is true that as an insignificant minority, we cannot change a great deal. Some of us can't even vote. But if we unite, in nationwide groups like S.T.O.P., we can certainly effect change. One can't let oneself be ensnared by passivism, so much like a vine ensnares an oak tree. It sucks the life out of the tree, taking strength from the oak's sap. I see passivism to be like that vine—gathering strength from our apparent lack of concern about the arms race and clutching us more closely until we can no longer breathe.

But as Antoine de Saint-Exupery's *Little Prince* said, "When it is a bad plant, one must destroy it as soon as possible, the very first instant one recognizes it... because it is something you will never, never be able to get rid of if you attend to it too late." Just like the Little Prince, who worked hard at digging up the bad plants, I too work hard at digging up passivism in my school community. I try to turn that neglect of the situation of the arms race into enthusiasm to help the cause which will, in turn, help us all live in a peaceful tomorrow.

—Gita Panjabi



## LOCAL GROUP IDEA: **Fundraising**

The violin music drifted through the room as we watched the candle at our table slowly dripping. The smell of onions, garlic, and fresh vegetables added to the teasing atmosphere, trying to patiently wait for the specially prepared gourmet meal. At last the meal arrived with a flourish as the chef added the final touches of fresh ground pepper.

The local French restaurant? Hardly! This is just one of many fund-raising ideas the youth group at your church may want to consider.

Before choosing a fund-raising idea, evaluate carefully what your goals are, and why you truly need the money. Interest in the goal *and* the actual fund-raising event is a strong incentive to the entire project.

Need some ideas? Well, there's always the usual bake sale or car wash, but how about something different? You could invite the congregation to a costume party. Why wait for Halloween? All you need is a clever theme—beasts from the swamp? the 50's? the wild west?

Another idea is an evening on the stage. Audiences always love to get involved, so why not have the youth group perform a real melodrama where the audience can actually *BOO* at the villain and *CLAP* for the hero? Ever thought of having a talent show organized by the church group? What do you mean there's no talent at your church? Encourage people to tell a funny joke or story; you'd be surprised at what "tal-

ent" comes out of the woodwork when you keep it simple!

Movie series are fun, especially with greasy popcorn. Does anyone in the church own a VCR? You could rotate homes, provide refreshments, and maybe even initiate some after-movie discussion.

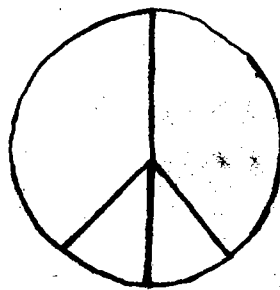
Of course food is a wonderful motivator; but besides a bake sale, or atmospheric international dinner, you may want to try a church breakfast. This always works best when the coffee is strong, and there's lots of syrup and butter.

Have you ever imagined building a hot-fudge sundae when there is not only hot fudge, but twenty-four other items to choose? Butterscotch, caramel, M & Ms, walnuts, peanuts, coconut, strawberries, bananas, whipped cream, marshmallow... are you getting hungry yet?

What about an artist's market, displaying and selling paintings, sculptures, hand-crafts, etc. Remember that atmosphere, and how you present your wares is important. Try having the clerks and/or artists wear smocks and berets. Price lists could be shown on easels; and you could even serve exotic coffees and pastry.

Whatever you decide, keep in mind that the needed funds were the original motivator, but that *fun* and *fellowship* are just as important. Good luck!

—Beth Robinson  
Boston, MA



## THE GREENING OF THE TREES

The denial of civil rights to a people is a fundamental injustice which can cause great political unrest. Recently, we have seen such situations in many, many places on the globe. Possibly the most obvious, however, is South Africa.

Apartheid (which means "apart" in Afrikaans) is the South African government's official policy of racial segregation. In practice, apartheid creates a society in which 72% of the nation's population—the entire black population—is virtually without rights of any kind. Whites, who constitute 16% of the South African population, control the government and the economy of this developed nation.

You have connections with all of this. Not simply because you are a member of the global community. Not because you have kept abreast (or have not) of South African atrocities as reported in the media. You are interrelated with the situation in South Africa because you: 1) are a consumer, and 2) determine your level of involvement in the movement to end apartheid.

As a consumer: Many corporations from all over the world—including the U.S. and Canada—do business with South Africa. Some of these corporations adhere to the Sullivan Principles, a set of guidelines for conducting business in South Africa that is "fair" to blacks.

You can make a decision to boycott all corporations that do business in South Africa, or which don't follow the Sullivan Principles. Or, you can choose to make no change in your buying habits. Any of these decisions will determine your direct impact on South African policy. How much or little money you spend is irrelevant. The point is that, as a religious person, you are ac-

cepting the responsibility for your actions. Mohandas Gandhi said, "Almost anything you do will be insignificant, but it is very important that you do it."

As an activist: Many people are turned off by the label "activist." Try not to be. You don't have to wear buttons and race off to every rally for every cause to be an activist. Determine what your contribution is going to be and define your activities on that basis. There are many things you can do, including:

- Hold a teach-in at your school or college. This is an event at which you attempt to educate people on an issue. Get outside speakers who represent different points of view. Teach-ins are a lot of work, so if you do this, work as part of a committee. Coordinating a teach-in is fun, it looks great on resumes and school applications, and you learn a lot from them.

- If you are looking at colleges, think about the (di) investment policies of the institutions you apply to.

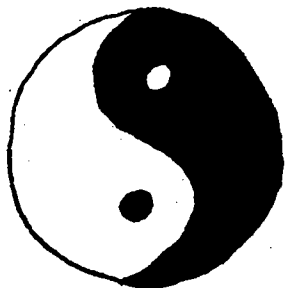
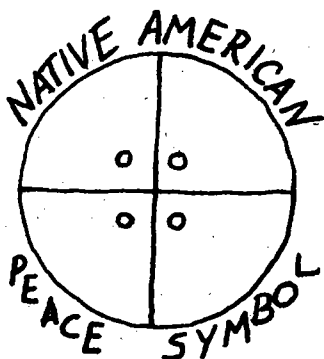
- If you attend a college that has investments, directly or indirectly, in South Africa, get involved in the divestment movement on your campus. If there isn't one, start one!

- Contact the UUA Social Responsibility Office. They have lots of valuable information on this topic. Use the resources available to you!

- **Work with others!** You and those around you, in solidarity, are a tremendous force.

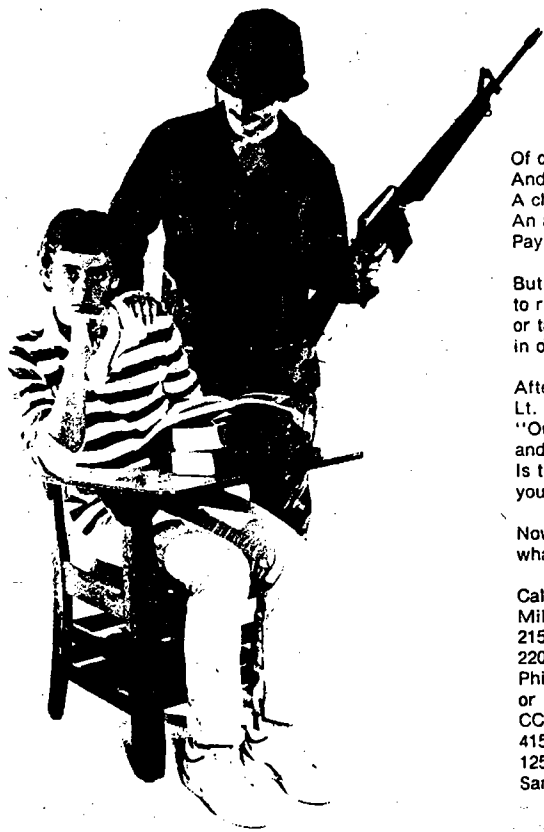
Finally, realize that you will not change the situation in South Africa alone. Don't burden (or, worse yet, paralyze) yourself with, "I'm not doing enough." If you are living a life that is consistent with your values and visions, you will help effect change in South Africa.

—Lisa M. Feldstein





## THE MILITARY OFFERS ONE THING



Of course you need a job.  
And a way to pay for school.  
A challenge.  
An adventure.  
Pay and benefits.

But are you willing  
to risk your life  
or take somebody else's  
in order to get it?

After the invasion of Grenada,  
Lt. Col. Taylor said:  
"Our job is to kill people  
and destroy things."  
Is that the kind of job  
you're really looking for?

Now's the time to find out  
what you're getting into.

Call CCCO/An Agency for  
Military and Draft Counseling  
215/545-4626  
2208 South Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19146  
or  
CCCO-Western Region  
415/566-0500  
1251 Second Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94122

## THAT'S NOT ADVERTISED

## I AM A VIETNAM VET

One of those half-million American GIs was me. I was not even drafted; I volunteered. I based my decision on every responsible source of information I had available to me at that time. According to the information I had—information disseminated by my government and all the major news media—Communists from North Vietnam, supported by the Russians and Chinese, were waging a terrible war of aggression against the free Republic of South Vietnam. Moreover, not only was the freedom of South Vietnamese at stake, but because Vietnam was part and parcel of the Communist conspiracy ultimately to take over the world, my country's freedom and my own freedom were at stake.

I believed sincerely that if we did not stop the Communists in Vietnam, we would one day have to fight them in San Diego. I had no reason, up to that point in my life, to doubt either my government or my high school teachers or the *New York Times*. I believed in my country and its God-given role as leader of the free world—that it was the finest nation on earth, that its political system and its leaders were essentially good, that its way of life was superior to all others, and that any nation or people who opposed us must be inherently bad. Furthermore, I valued my freedom, and I took seriously the notion that I owed something to my country. The draft was already cranking into high gear in the spring of 1966 when I decided to turn down four college acceptances and enlist in the United States Marine Corps. I was 17 years old, nine days out of high school.

The American people had been told that we were in Vietnam to defend the

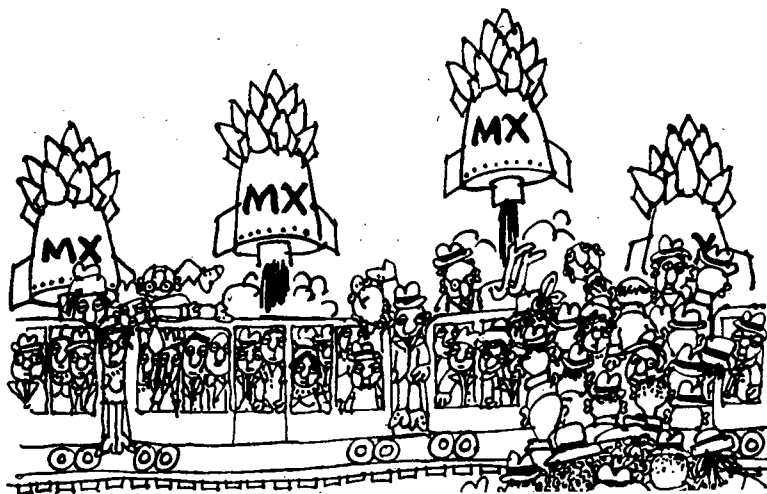
Vietnamese against outside aggression, but I found that we were the aggressors and the people we were supposedly defending hated us because we destroyed their forests with chemical defoliants, and burnt their fields with napalm.

Make no mistake about it: there were indeed Vietcong in Vietnam. And they regularly tried to kill me. But they had reason to, and most of the people of Vietnam, as nearly as I could tell then and believe to this day, were on the side of the Vietcong and wanted little else than for us to stop killing them and go away. In short, I discovered that the information upon which I had based my decision to enlist had been bad information.

But that was Vietnam; that's ancient history. What does it have to do with you?

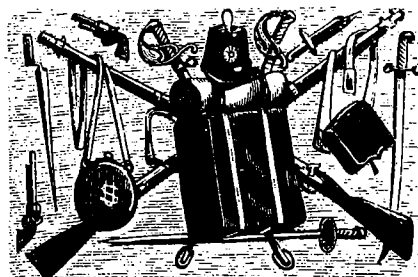
Consider what has happened to those who actually fought in that noble cause. There are approximately two million of us. Fifty-five thousand of us were killed in combat. Another 55,000 died in Vietnam of "non-combat incidents." More than 300,000 of us were wounded in combat, including 21,000 permanently, physically disabled. Thirteen thousand of us were diagnosed as permanently disabled due to psychological or neurological disorders.

All through the decade of the 1970s, responsible medical sources indicated repeatedly that one-third to one-half of all Vietnam veterans suffered chronic psychological problems resulting from the war. By 1976, 500,000 of us had attempted suicide since coming home, while another 55,000 of us had either successfully committed suicide or died of drug overdose or in single-car accidents.



## Fund Begun To Help Non-Registrants

A Fund for Education and Training (FEAT) will provide financial assistance to young men refusing to register for the draft, regardless of religious or school affiliation. In 1982, Congress voted to deny federal financial aid or government-sponsored job training to non-registrants. The fund will begin accepting applications this month and hopes to provide limited grants and loans by September 1986. The sponsors include the Fellowship of Reconciliation. For more information write: Fund for Education and Training, Suite 600, 800 18th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20006.



Military Goods.

All this has a great deal to do with you because you are the next potential crop of American war veterans. You, or your boyfriends and brothers and husbands and cousins and friends. Consider the recruiting ads currently on television these days that proclaim in slick technicolor: "The Few, the Proud, the Marines;" "Air Force—a great way of life;" "The Navy: it's not just a job; it's an adventure;" "Be all you can be in today's Action Army."

Consider that the U. S. government maintains that the guerilla movement in El Salvador is the brainchild of the Russians and baby of the Cubans—an argument almost identical to the claims made about Vietnam 20 years ago—and this in spite of the fact that a former U. S. ambassador to El Salvador has characterized the president of the Salvadoran National Assembly as "a pathological killer." Consider that the present U. S. government has created the largest increase in the military budget since World War II. Consider that the United States sells more arms to the world than all other arms-exporting nations combined.

I can't possibly tell you here all that I would like to tell you—all that I have learned in the 16 years since I sat where you are now sitting. But I can tell you a few things. I still believe that all of us owe something to our country, but I am no longer convinced that what I owe to my country is military service whenever and wherever my government demands it. Furthermore, if I owe something to my country, my country owes something to me: it owes me the obligation not to ask for my life unless it is absolutely essential.

I sincerely hope that all of you begin now to learn things that I failed to learn until it was too late, to question beliefs and assumptions that I failed to question until the damage had already been done.

I hope that none of you will ever have to face the kind of decision that I faced when I was your age. But if you do, I hope even more that you will be able to look back on your decision and honestly conclude that you made the right choice. Because you will have to live with that choice for the rest of your lives—if you live at all—and I can tell you from hard experience that the wrong choice is an awesome burden indeed.

from "Learning the Hard Way"  
by W. D. Ehrhart  
compiled by Kathryn Deal

## PEACE COLLEGE

In the cold winds of last Thanksgiving weekend, 64 women and men searched for a 65-year old hunter missing in the Pecos wilderness of New Mexico. After two days, forging through heavy mountain snows, they found him in a dense forest, cold and hungry. Surprisingly, nearly half of the searchers were students - members of a highly trained mountain search and rescue unit from a new and unusual school called The Armand Hammer United World College of the American West. The young mountaineers, who came from Norway, China, Brazil, and Zaire, were selected from an extraordinary 200 teenagers from 67 nations around the world.

The mountain rescue instruction is only one aspect of a strong public-service requirement that each United World College student undertakes. Students may elect, for example, to perform other community service, such as volunteering in hospitals, day care centers, or nursing homes.

The three-year old Armand Hammer United World College is one of six United World Colleges in six countries. It occupies the historic buildings of an old hot springs resort in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo mountains of New Mexico. There 200 students - 50 Americans and 150 from other countries - study, work and live together.

But the real foundation of the World College is an idea - an idea based on the philosophy of the late Dr. Kurt Hahn



who founded Outward Bound, the survival program. Dr. Hahn held that the education of young people should involve non-academic experiences - mountain survival, service to others, a mixture of all kinds of people coping with adversity - as well as top-flight instruction.

The first United World College, founded in 1962 in Wales, brought students from around the globe to live and study together for their last year of high school and first year of college. Subsequently, other United World Colleges were established in Swaziland, Italy, Singapore and Canada in 1974.

Most of a student's classroom time is spent in history, mathematics, laboratory sciences, languages, and an omnibus course called "The Theory of Knowledge." Time is also set aside for the whole student body to discuss contemporary issues such as terrorism and the Mideast. Much productive interaction takes place in the dorm rooms, on long hikes or at meals, but the faculty also designs forums at which students confront the great issues that divide the peoples of the world.

"We think their experiences at the college can only lead to a better

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## College

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world," says Dr. Theodore Lockwood, the school's president. "They are literally learning how to manage the issues that produce conflict among peoples."

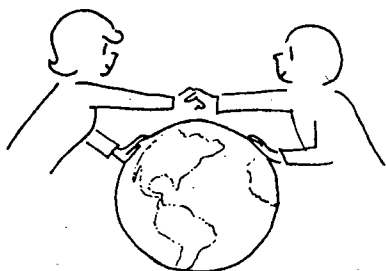
A graduate who passes the final baccalaureat examination receives an international degree, roughly equivalent to an Associate of Arts, which has been recognized by many prominent universities.

The new U.S. campus bears the formidable name of its principal founder and financial supporter, Dr. Armand Hammer, 87, chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corp. College officials say that Dr. Hammer, his wife, and their charitable foundations have given more than \$15 million to the college.

"I'm very proud of what's been created here," Hammer says. "The dream of world peace is more than just a dream. Here we are finding a way to it. The world must do away with nuclear weapons - there is no other way, if we are going to survive. All people **can** live in friendship and goodwill, and we must start someplace. Here, national origin, religion, and ideology don't matter. Here, we are beginning."

—David Levine

from an article entitled:  
"This College Teaches Peace"  
by John Ehrlickman



## YAMS Update

The Young Adult Ministries (YAMS) Task Force met for the second time in Madison, Wisconsin on January 31 through February 2. The meeting took place at the J.F. Friedrich Center, on the University of Wisconsin campus, immediately following the Meadville/Lombard Midwinter Institute which happened to be on the subject of Young Adult Ministries. With two of the five members absent, the Task Force felt somewhat limited in the scope of what it could accomplish at this meeting.

We did hear reports from the members present on the work that they have been doing since the last meeting. Tom Kunesh (sic.) reported the results of a survey that had been sent out to locate young adult groups now existing or that have existed in the recent past. He reported that 56 groups have been located on the basis of 202 responses to the questionnaires. Of those groups, 65% are student/campus organizations, 80% are groups made up primarily of singles, and 20% are affiliated with YRUU/LRY. In the comments section a few recurring themes emerged: the need for outreach to young adults from the denomination; the need for programming resources; the need for representation of young adults within the UUA; and the need for ministerial preparation for campus/young adult ministry. Gerry Krick, the chair of the committee, reported on his research into demographics; his report to the UUA Board of Trustees which included a request for a one-year extension for the Task Force, including funding; his activities at the Madison conference celebrating the 100th anniversary of Campus Ministry, and at the Meadville/Lombard Midwinter Institute. Debby Raible reported that she has been maintaining the Task Force budget and had met with the UUA president, Bill Schulz, to assess his views on the direction YAMS should go. Yvonne Chapelle and Peter Haslund were unable to attend. The YRUU staff, who are acting as UUA staff liaisons to the Task Force,

## To Grow Together

The day before I went to the Continental Youth Leadership Conference in Dallas, Texas, a friend cut my hair. As he clipped, he asked me: WHY are you going to Texas for the *whole* weekend with your *church*?" And I began to wonder, too—why was I going to fly 800 miles to spend a weekend with fifty people I didn't know?

Still wondering, I boarded my flight Friday afternoon and landed in what must be the most confusing airport ever built. As I finally struggled out to the YRUU van, I began to make friends with the other delegates. As we slowly but surely got lost finding the retreat center, we became a group laughing at ourselves and our map-reading abilities.

At last we arrived at the conference, and there I felt what YRUU is all about—warmth, caring, and community. All weekend we talked about ourselves, about our families, our youth groups, our districts, and about YRUU; we sang, we argued, we laughed and cried, we played, juggled, danced, blew bubbles, and hugged.

We learned how to solve problems in our local congregations, problems such as leader burnout and group cooperation; we learned how to spice up conferences while still keeping them manageable and how to improve our district YRUU structures. We shared our successes and failures and our dreams.

And the people—the most important part of our weekend: Steve taught us about listening; David and Kathryn led wonderful worship services with candles and Martin Luther King speeches; Ellen kept us sane and gave us quarters for the Coke machine. And then we had to say good-bye.

Now I know the answer to my friend's question, "Why?" I went to Dallas to learn: about myself, about YRUU, about the other YRUU'ers across the continent. I went to grow, to make friends, to build a community, and to experience something wonderful.

What have I gained? I now have renewed hope and enthusiasm for YRUU, and methods with which to improve our district. I have resources to use and fall back on if necessary. And most of all, I have fifty new friends across North America.

—Heather Elliott  
Atlanta, GA



reported the possibility of using Billing's Fund monies (a fund established for speakers on college campuses) for a speaker at GA.

The Task Force also reviewed input from the Meadville/Lombard Institute YAMS hearing on the last day and from a survey handed out and collected at the conference. We used this information to come up with questions to be compiled into a survey to assess the wants and needs of young adults for a special ministry effort.

The Task Force feels that we finally have a firm grip on the task and our way seems clear. We have developed a time line for the next several months and feel confident that we can have useful recommendations for the UUA Board by April of 1987. We already have some models in mind and are awaiting the results of the "need" survey to decide which to recommend and then flesh it out.

We would like to make our information as complete as possible, so if there is a young adult group in your area that you feel we may not have located or if you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at: YAMS Task Force, c/o Youth Office, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.



Participants of the CYLC

## CYLC in Dallas

Under unseasonable warm and sunny skies, in spite of rumors that man-eating armadillos were prowling the surrounding woods (there really were armadillos out there but they weren't man-eating, or woman-eating either for that matter), 26 youth and 26 adults from across the continent convened at the Briarwood Retreat Center outside Dallas, Texas in mid-January. There were representatives present (one youth and one adult) from each of the 23 districts of the Unitarian Universalist Association.

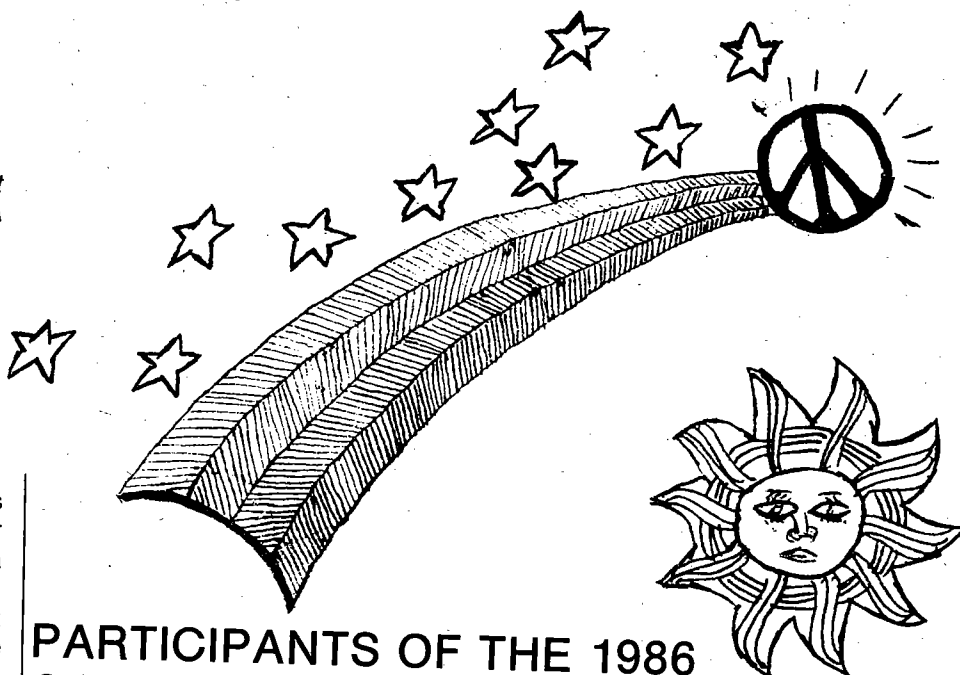
The program, which was led by the staff of the UUA Youth Office and Dr. Steven Emmett, a UU minister, psychologist, and author of two "Life Issues for Teenagers" sessions, was designed to help a new generation of youth leaders understand how YRUU can help UU young people come together with the kind of community spirit which will nourish a growing faith and identity. There were sessions on communications, leadership, group building, and youth-adult relations. There was singing, dancing, and sharing of personal joys and sorrows; ideas that worked and things to be avoided were exchanged. We rejoiced with those districts which are going great guns, and commis-

erated with those which are suffering from a lack of support and enthusiasm.

Each participant left the conference with a training model which they are expected to use back home with groups of youth and adults at the local, cluster, or district level. Hopefully, some of the energy, enthusiasm, commitment and skills which were evident in abundance at the Dallas conference will find their way into district and local groups. A list of the participants follows this notice. Find out who from your district was in Dallas. I hope you will be hearing from them; if not, give them a call and find out what their plans are for sharing the Leadership and Group Development Workshop.

The best news out of the Dallas conference just may be this: Youth and adults can work and play together and enjoy it! The "flow of communication between youth and adults" was extraordinary. At least 52 people know how good it can be when youth and adults recognize their mutual responsibilities toward one another in the service of a common vision.

Ellen Brandenburg  
Consultant on Youth Programs



## PARTICIPANTS OF THE 1986 CONTINENTAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

**Ballou Channing District**  
Douglas Bryant (Y)  
Paula Fisher (A)

**Central Mass. District**  
Cory Thompson (Y)  
Dorothy Boroush (A)

**Central Midwest District**  
Heather MacLaren (Y)  
Polly Vaughn (A)

**Conn. Valley District**  
Jessica Kehl (Y)  
Diana Heath (A)

**Florida District**  
Lee Wandel (Y)  
Pamela Schrimsher (A)

**Joseph Priestley District**  
Joel Petty (Y)  
Catherine Bowers (A)

**Michigan District**  
Anna Maria D'Angelo (Y)  
David A. Hahn (A)

**Mass Bay District**  
Elizabeth Collins (Y)  
Ann McClorey Fisher (A)

**Mountain Desert District**  
Dylan Smith (Y)  
Lark Matis (A)  
Michael Wood (Y)

**Metro New York District**  
Bryan Calvert (Y)  
Julie-Ann Silberman (A)

**Mid-South District**  
Heather Elliott (Y)  
Scott Buxton (A)  
Roger W. Comestock (A)

**Northeast District**  
Krista Zidoweki (Y)  
Faith Moore (A)

**NH-VT District**  
Graham Smith (Y)  
David Day (A)

**Ohio-Meadville District**  
Jill Cabe (Y)  
John Marshall (A)

**Ohio Valley District**  
Jay Dolen (Y)  
Martha B. Shadley (A)

**Pacific Central District**  
Adam Leite (Y)  
Brian Maus (A)

**Pacific NW District**  
Rebecca Scott (Y)  
Beatrice Griffith (A)

**Prairie Star District**  
Lisa Katherine Nelson (Y)  
Gillian Nelson (A)

**Pacific SW District**  
Barrett Madden (Y)  
Erin Fitzgerald (A)

**St. Lawrence District**  
Jennifer Reid (Y)  
Timothy Jay Turecek (A)

**Southwest District**  
Ginnie Kilgore (Y)  
Duane Dowell (A)

**Thomas Jefferson District**  
Michelle Lee (Y)  
Arlene Wouters (A)

**Western Canada Area District**  
Karen E. Green (Y)  
Risa Royer (A)



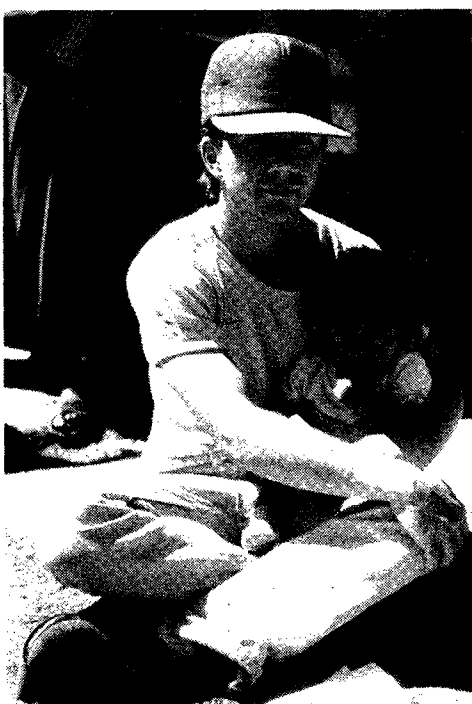
# Letter to the President

Dear President and Mrs. Reagan,

A quiet and gentle spirit hovers over the earth which is covered with snow this Christmas morning. I write in hopes that children for the next 2000 years will continue to delight in this special day. I know you share this wish. The birth of the baby Jesus represents a breakthrough into a new world, and now another baby is waiting to be born. When the time comes, the birth is necessary or the baby, and often the mother, dies. Peace is the baby whose time has come and you are the attendants at the birth, along with the Gorbachevs. Because I believe you share the desire for a real and lasting peace, I write to both the brave cold warrior and the compassionate, loving partner.

Your Presidency has been remarkably effective. It has been two decades since the presidency as an institution has been respected, and you have used that respect to advance the agenda of the right. As the foundation of your support, this is to be expected as part of the political process. You have also attracted a large portion of the center of our political spectrum. Now you have the unique opportunity to become the President and First Lady of all our people, which is why I am writing this letter. The problem we face with the arms race is there is no foreseeable end to it, except for using the weapons. Due to the facts about nuclear winter, this is suicidal. Plans that our government has to build 21,000 nuclear weapons in the next ten years will not enable us to deal with the two trillion dollar deficit in a sane and conscious way, but will divide and weaken our country more deeply than any time since the Civil War. The best, and perhaps the only time to put a stop is when we have a President with the support of the majority of the people, especially the right wing.

According to a study by Stanford University, 75% of our teenagers believe they are going to die in a nuclear war. This leads to cynicism, alienation and drug abuse, and is undermining the future of our country. The Strategic Defense Initiative, the MX missile and all the Trident submarines the Navy desires will not reduce our feeling of vulnerability. Only real moves toward peace can do it. Over the past five years the only political movement that has demonstrated anywhere near your support has been the citizen's initiatives to stop the arms race. Throughout this century there is a pervasive view that it is the Democrats who lead us into war and the Republicans are the party of peace. You are eroding that perception, but if you were to unite your supporters with the vast majority of the American people who want to stop the arms race, you will enable us to keep the best of the old while adding the finest of the new.



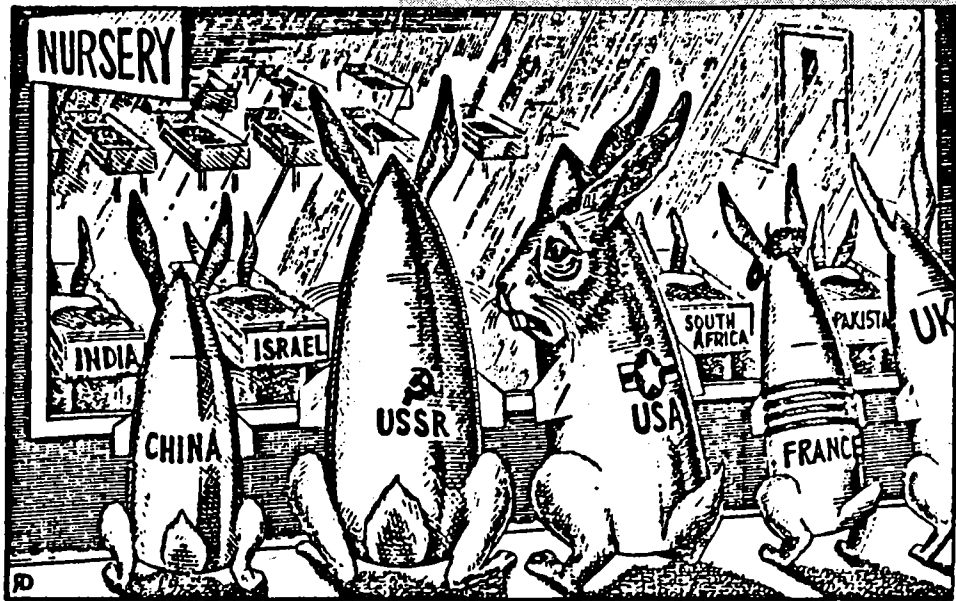
Tad Waddington and Nicaraguan child

Change is coming faster than ever, and if we are to avoid the wrenchings (or worse) of ecological catastrophe, economic collapse, revolution or nuclear war, we need leadership. Our people need to find the common ground where the different factions that make up this country can come together. You are presented with a unique opportunity.

I am a minister and have heard it said that the real judge of the effectiveness of one's ministry is to see what happens when the minister leaves. If he or she has done an excellent job the church will continue to thrive when the minister is gone. If a strong structure within the institution has not been built, there will be a drastic decline when the leader leaves, particularly if the leadership has been charismatic, as yours has. When we are talking about the entire nation the analogy holds, but the stakes are far greater. They concern all life on this lovely and generous planet. What will happen to the Republican Party after your tenure? What will happen to the military? The great pendulum will swing back toward the left. Congress and an enlivened citizenry are going to erode and undermine all you have worked for while the monolithic U.S.S.R. will match our rearmament without internal opposition. If the Republican Party was to reclaim the title of the Party of Peace, when our military was at its maximum strength, you would leave a party and a country that would endure. We could begin the long road toward a balanced budget and the longer road toward ending the massive deficit, which is your Achilles heel.

Rather than weakening our country, a bold act such as this would give birth to a new hope, a new job. The immense burden that rests heavily upon your shoulders, the potential destruction of life as we know it, will lighten. It will take a long period of time, beyond our lifetimes, for these weapons to be eliminated. A beginning is essential, and you are uniquely situated to bring it about. The natural, and easy, first step is to match the Soviet moratorium on nuclear tests, which ends on January First. You

## THE NUCLEAR FAMILY



Ray Dineen

Reprinted from the American Policy Register

# International

*This issue's subject matter revolves around Peace. We, the importance because it seems to be our universal dream a United Nation's celebration of the International Year of Pe*

## Heat of the Battle

Home: Aug. 6, '84  
This probably isn't what you had in mind when you said you wanted a postcard from Japan. The picture is of Hiroshima after the bombing. It's funny. I walked through the city, attended the memorial service, and went to the museum here but none of this had an effect on me— not until I asked myself, "What if this happened in my town?" and "What if that shadow was my little sister?" I was overwhelmed. Can you imagine if this happened today?

Home: July 4, '85  
It seems I'm always sending you the cheeriest postcards. I guess I just want to share with you the most important parts of my trips. This is the Leningrad cemetery where 500,000 people are buried. That's half our city. I've met some great people here. One woman and I have become friends. It is disturbing, though, to hear her say, "Oh, I can tell you why there is an arms race. America is capitalist and your arms' manufacturers make money from the weapons." God, how I wish what she said wasn't true.

Home: Dec. 25, '85  
This is sunny Nicaragua, isn't it a great picture of kids playing? Look closely. See the stream in the back-

ground? It's dead. For 40 years U.S. companies dumped cyanide into it. That is what is meant by the term "U.S. interests abroad." The burnt out building on the left was a hospital until the contras visited. That is what "protecting U.S. interests" means. They have a song with a line about "Yankee, enemy of humanity." Do you wonder why?

Home: Jan. 15, '86  
This is the UU camp that I'm staying at. Gorgeous isn't it. I was telling somebody about my trip to Nica the other day. We talked about the immorality of killing and the reality of the world. What **would** I do if somebody threatened my family? I've wondered about this before but it was philosophy then. Now it is much more real. I've met people who were in just this dilemma. I've found a quote from John W. Gardner that describes it: "...good men belong in the heat of the battle, where issues are confused, where you're never sure you're right, where good and bad are inextricably fused with the partly good and the partly bad, where often you can't do one worthy thing without endangering some other worthy thing." It's true. So what are we to do?

—Tad Waddington  
1130 E. Orange St. T7B  
Tempe, AZ 85281



Obligatory Military Service

must have the whole change firmly in place by the third summit, or you will miss your chance. The last years of your leadership can be that of statesmen, recipients of the Nobel Peace Prize, proud grandparents of a growing and healthy world order. There will begin a long thaw from the grip of the fears of nuclear war and the ensuing nuclear winter, our breath will flow more freely, we will sleep better at night. America's leadership in the world will once again be based on respect and admiration rather than the seething resentment that grows from economic and nuclear domination.

I realize that I am asking you to expand your belief system, and that a faithful adherence to what you believe has brought you to the highest place a couple can achieve in this world. If you can change you will serve as an example that will release a flood of creativity and imagination that will amaze and delight us all. I take my own citizenship and my integrity seriously. It is not easy to open myself to you, to invite you to solidify the position of the Republican Party. I regularly scrutinize my deeply held beliefs, and come to conclusions

much different from your own. I hope communication is possible.

In Western movies the most degrading and humiliating act is to be forced to dig one's own grave with a gun pointed at one's head. When the labor is finished one is shot and buried in the grave. I believe this is what we are being asked to do as we are required to pay for the next round of increasingly ingenious, destabilizing, bankrupting weapons. Until the arms race is stopped I will continue to refuse to pay for these weapons which are no longer protecting us. I invite you to begin the process that has the potential to transform this world. The Russians will follow our lead. If they do not, we still have our weapons. The time for the birth of the long held dream of peace, so beautifully manifest in the manger almost 2000 years ago, can begin to be ours. I look forward to the time when I can be proud, once again, to be a citizen of this country. I cordially invite you to become the President and First Lady of **all** our people.

Sincerely,  
The Rev. Douglas Wilson



# Year of Peace

editors, feel that the topic of Peace is of utmost desire. Furthermore, we would like to contribute to the



Statues in Salaspilis depict Soviet anguish in that place

## A TOUCH OF REALITY

Salaspilis lies 18 km outside Riga, in the Soviet Union. It is a German concentration camp from W.W. II.

"The Earth Moans," our Soviet guide translated of the words on the entrance.

Our group grew quiet as we moved through the solid stone entrance. It's a small opening in the 100-meter long and nearly 13-meter high concrete wall. We entered the compound. No original structures remain. The Soviets, who liberated the camp, burnt the buildings to the ground. In spite of there being no original structures, the area breeds emotion.

It was a bright sunny day, blue sky, light wind, but there was a heaviness to the area. The atmosphere was thick with pain and suffering. At this camp, where green healthy grass grows and flowers dot the ground in the forest area around us, 100 thousand people died in a span of three years.

People of all ages, all creeds.

Not only men. Not only Jews.

The torture, starvation, hanging and shooting was applied to Russians, Poles, Austrians, French, Czechs...and women and children.

Seven thousand children died at Salaspilis, children who were never given the chance to grow, explore and create. Children were killed as mercilessly as the adults, their parents, aunts, uncles and friends.

My stomach tightened. I gritted my teeth and my eyes burned. I didn't want to hurt. I didn't want to cry for those people I never knew, those people whose lives were meaninglessly cut short 40 years ago. I didn't want to feel the pain of the past when pain still exists today.

I wanted to wander through the memorial, noting the words spoken by our guide, words that told the history of this evil place. The words that I would tell others, so they would know. I wanted to snap photos to bring home so I could share the visual impact.

Our guide led us through the compound square. The pain, misery, cruelty

of the area slapped hard and left me stinging. Monuments, figures of suffering, stand boldly, towering over the tree tops.

The five immortal figures depict the emotions and feelings of the time and place, symbolize the strength and pain of the prisoners who died 40 years ago.

A mother figure shields her two children, defying those who attempt to destroy her spirit. The children have pained, wrinkled faces and vacant eyes. Their bodies are shriveled. Children grew old, quickly, surrounded by death and destruction.

"Solidarity" raises his fist in defiance. Two figures, "The Oath" and "Rot Front," stand to his sides in support. One more figure nearby, "Unvanquished," with his legs broken, stretches up in a final surge of protest.

We continued our walk around the compound on the gravel path that, like a noose, surrounds the field of heather where the figures stand.

We were led to a black stone, squared like a tombstone. Carnations and candies lie upon it.

This is where the children's barracks stood. Children, separated from their parents, were packed into the cramped structures.

I left a few candies on the stone and turned around. People moved past me.

The pain was there as I walked past the monuments but it became excruciating when I passed the children's barracks.

The tomb was a memorial to children who had died terrible deaths. At this concentration camp 7,000 children died. In all of Latvia, during the Nazi's occupation, 39,835 children died in camps. That was 40 years ago. Children and adults continue to die through war, disease, starvation.

These thoughts hit me hard.

People continued to walk by me. One stopped and put his hand on my shoulder, "You okay?" he asked. It was Andrew Stelling. I shook my head. He kept his hand on my shoulder and we moved together to the exit. Kent Kroeger joined us on my other side.

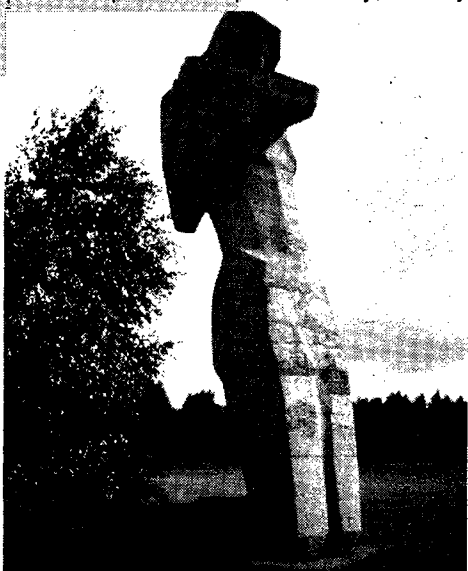
Together we walked to the exit. A breeze played at my hair and at the leaves in the trees that shaded the path back to the bus. The sun was still shining, but I felt cold.

We boarded the bus. The doors closed.

We headed back to the hotel for lunch. A few people on the bus began singing quietly, more joined. We became louder, singing "I ain't gonna study war no more." A chorus of "Feelin' Groovy" followed. I turned around to those singing. I was still hurting, but began to laugh with the others as we mixed up the lines of the song.

I wasn't forgetting what I'd seen and felt. I was just carrying on with living.

—*Augene Nanning*  
Edmonton, Alberta



Statue of Rape Victim next to Soviet Tree of Peace, The Birch

# NUCLEAR CONCERN?

With increased military budgets, international tensions, and terrorism, we must ask if the existence of nuclear weapons is contradictory to the existence of a peaceful world.

Every year we continue a battle, investing in nuclear technology to counter dangerous opposing nuclear arsenals. This battle, deftly fought over four decades, is funded by diminishing the social and financial strength of both nations. How many people could be fed, how much taxes lowered by halting the expansion of nuclear arsenals? Add the anxiety felt by millions and the price of nuclear security becomes questionable.

Extend our problem to our allies, those friends who are made targets, diverting hostilities generated by us. Millions abroad question the value of this friendship when the cost is their lives for another's fight.

Today, terrorists inflict death and destruction upon others on a grand scale.

These people are unconcerned about personal safety or repercussions. They express their opinions through wanton violence, with fear as their vehicle for change. The world already shakes at the superpowers' experienced handling of these weapons. Elaborate laws, lengthy debates, and worldwide summits have built these weapons into objects of envy and lust to terrorists. What will happen if violently idealistic people obtain these perfect weapons of terror—the ultimate forbidden fruit? An undergraduate physics student can design a nuclear weapon using declassified information, and security measures for fissionable materials are questionable at best. A terrorist nuclear weapon is possible.

Considering the results of four decades of nuclear weapons, can we survive their presence any longer?

—*Stefan Adler*



The Suburbs of Matagalpa

## IMPRESSIONS OF THE BRIGADISTAS

*Aaron Christiana—New York*

I think that what this brigade experience has done for me above all else has been to vanquish the conditioned distrust that so many of us in the US (including we who consider ourselves aware of and sensitized to the inherently exploitive nature of US policy in the developing world) harbor in our hearts against all revolutionary movements.

The suspicion belongs in the same camp as knee-jerk reaction and blind intolerance. All are by-products of ignorance coupled with information manipulation and perhaps most profoundly, the insufficient development of one's own spiritual bond with the rest of humanity.

The perpetrators of my new enlightenment, the emancipators of my sense of trust, were the Nicaraguans themselves. They did it with their many welcomes, with their personal radiance, with the unassuming and earnest way in which they go about their daily lives—walking, talking, singing, working

through their days, I believe, with a superior sense of themselves and their pivotal place within the human community.

The Nicaraguan people are doing it in the face of overwhelming aggression by the US, my motherland, the most powerful nation on earth. Their strength and resilience have rejuvenated my determination to do what I can to tame from within that aggressor—my big, beautiful, prosperous, confused, ailing, homeland.

And I'll do it with an enthusiasm I've never known before because I saw with my own eyes that the Nicaraguan people won't be stopped and that they are, in many respects, as the Canadian folksinger Bruce Cockburn says, "the best of what we are."

*Andrew Davis—Vermont*

Picking coffee in the Nicaraguan countryside has been a difficult and humanizing experience for me. I saw with my own eyes the terrible challenges facing Nicaragua today. More importantly, I was humbled by the genuine aspirations of the Nicaraguan people for peace and self-determination.

I was told by one businessman in Matagalpa that the Nicaraguan revolution is "neither communist nor socialist" in essence, but is firmly nationalist. I believe that to deny the Nicaraguans the opportunity to pursue their truly unique path of national development is to deny the very possibility of a peaceful world. Let Nicaragua live—it's their right.

*Cyndi Kerr—New York*

There's an aliveness in Nicaragua that I felt I could swim through. The expectations of fear built up by the press disappeared really rapidly. As I photographed the campesinos and mobilized workers from the city picking coffee, it was evident that this new freedom meant a lot to them. For some of the full time farm workers, it meant more time with their families. For some of the city workers, it meant being a part of the political process through the work they chose. For both of them it was working and fighting together for peace. This government is living and learning the best they can. They will go on with or without the support of the US government. These people are living day by day for the freedom we had over 200 years ago.

## To Challenge Apartheid

*There are many ways that UUs can act locally to generate national and international opposition to apartheid. Its tentacles are long-reaching. Some suggestions to get you started:*

1. Continue to educate yourself and your community about the nature and operation of the South African apartheid system. Blacks and other people of color in the United States have faced oppression that was, and is, a pox upon us all—but the South African system is a hundred-fold worse. How can one learn about the uniqueness of this constitutionally grounded "Christian" ideology of irreconcilable differences? Schedule speakers from South Africa, local coalitions, universities, TransAfrica.
2. Design public service announcements, bookmarks, posters, etc., that graphically show the reality of separateness, "whites only." Many people do not know the indignities experienced by black South Africans and thus do not know the rage that undergirds the latest efforts for freedom.
3. Display bumper stickers and buttons protesting apartheid. Create the opportunity for dialogue by publicly witnessing your faith in human kind.
4. Organize or participate in events



commemorating important dates in the South African liberation struggle:

*June 16*—Soweto Day, remembering the military firing upon school children who were protesting the limited nature of their education;

*July 16*—Nelson Mandela's Birthday, commemorating the recognized leader of black South Africa;

*August 9*—South Africa Women's Day, recognizing women's role in the struggle against apartheid;

*September 12*—The anniversary of the death of Stephen Biko, a martyr to the anti-apartheid cause.

5. As student or alumni, let your college president know that you support divestment of the school's funds from businesses currently in South Africa.

6. Explore the legislative options for leverage. In the States, a 24-hour hotline is maintained by the interreligious community through the Washington Office on Africa. Dial 202-546-0408 for a recorded message on what is happening on the federal level. The recording, updated weekly, often also contains news of one or more state or regional efforts.

7. Join UUs Against Apartheid, a coalition formed initially in the Mid-Atlantic area and now expanded to a chapter in Illinois. Write the UUA Interim Coordinator Mark Sharp, All Souls Church, 16th and Harvard Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20010.

8. Are you on the mailing list for the United Nations Center Against Apartheid? Their materials offer news and analysis of what is being done in countries around the globe. Their address: UN Center Against Apartheid, United Nations, New York, NY 10017.

9. Join the postcard campaign being coordinated within the US interfaith community directed to the computer industry and the Chief Executive Officers of Burroughs, Control Data and IBM. Blue preprinted postcards are available from UUA/SR (Y.O.)

—Kathryn Deal  
from a UU Section on Social Responsibility pamphlet entitled  
*33 Ways to Challenge Apartheid*

## 1985 Conference on Disarmament

From November 7 to November 10, 26 YRUUers from all over the US (and one from Canada) gathered in New York City for the Sixth Annual YRUU Conference on Disarmament, sponsored by YRUU and the UU United Nations' Office (UU-UNO). We met to find out more about groups working for peace and disarmament and to share our own ideas on disarmament.

The conference was interesting and a lot of fun—and also a lot of work! (Between the fun and the work, nobody got much sleep.) Thursday, November 7, we met the other participants and had an introduction to the conference, orientation, and worship. This was led by four UU staff people: Caprice Young, David Levine, and Ellen Brandenburg (YRUU staff) and Pamela Vinicombe (UU-UNO staff). We did serious things such as gather in small groups to talk about how we got involved in nuclear freeze activities, and not-so-serious stuff, such as playing silly (but fun) games while waiting . . . and waiting . . . and waiting for Caprice, who was late because she shared her taxi with a Mid-eastern diplomat who needed to get to his destination first. We went back to the Vanderbilt YMCA to (supposedly) sleep and discovered Channel 13 and long conversations.

Friday, we met for a day of workshops. We had an overview of the United Nations structure and policies in general and UN disarmament work in particular, toured the UN and observed a meeting of the UN Committee on Disarmament, and met with Silvana da Silva from the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs, Kathryn Deal, one of the UU Youth Delegates to the USSR, and Andrew Petrouk, a correspondent for the Soviet youth newspaper, *Konsomolskaya Pravda*. We talked about both

the Soviet culture, with the help of Kathryn's slides, and government, putting Mr. Petrouk through an intense question-answer session. It was especially interesting to hear views on Soviet and American politics from Mr. Petrouk, a staunch Communist Party member. The conversation was somewhat awkward at times, but very informative.

On Saturday we had more workshops: International Priorities, Militarization and Human Needs with Pamela Vinicombe, Conflict Resolution, International Dialogue, a simulation game on conflict between two countries and methods of solving it, with Faye Bennett, and information about the UU Peace Network and its "Say Your Peace" campaign with director Stephen Shick. It felt really great to be with other concerned YRUUers and to be doing something—or learning so that we could go home and do something, anyway.

We left on Sunday after worship, hugs, and good-byes. It was hard to go because the conference was fantastic, great, wonderful, intense . . . and very important. It was something that every concerned YRUUer should try. So, next year, go to the conference if you can. If you go, you'll love it, and you will never forget it. Until then, three good books to read are "Beyond the Hotline" by William Ury; "The Russians" by Hendrick Smith, and "Nuclear War: What's in It for You?" by the Ground Zero Coalition. In the words of the "Say Your Peace" campaign: "Say Your Peace. The fear of nuclear war is on everyone's mind. If it were on everyone's lips, we might get somewhere. Join. Write. Call. Talk. Meet. March. Vote. Nag. Scream. But don't be silent."

—Kathy Szoke  
Champaign, IL

## YOUTH HOPE

My eyes filled with tears as I heard the announcement of the Space Shuttle explosion over the loud speaker at school. Two seconds later, it was all over the school—some were convinced that it was the outcome of a mechanical error, a human error and over all of this dialogue came the exclamation, "The teacher's dead, HA HA!" And I thought to myself, "How could anyone say that, and worse, how could anyone ever really feel that?"

Now looking back, I think to myself about the universality of a happening like this. Airplanes thought to be safe are crashing all the time after take off, and all sorts of automobile defects are going unnoticed. People react with apathy to all of these things to try to act as if they haven't happened, to ease some of the emotionality of them. This was the case with many people after the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Hundreds of unfeeling comments were made about this atrocity similar to the one made by my classmate.

The thing that concerns me most is the possibility of a tragedy like the Shuttle happening with our nuclear weapons. It is well known that we now have enough nuclear weaponry to blow up the world several times over, making the outcome of a mistake many times more severe than it would have been years ago. Furthermore, it is less well known that there have been countless close calls, near disasters, with our so-called "safe" system of deployment. It is scary to think that one of these days, at any moment, this fear could become a reality.

Because of this concern and many others, 26 U.U. youth met this past November for the sixth annual Conference on Disarmament. We spent four days at the Church Center for the United Nations voicing our concerns, reading, writing, worshipping, and learning about the issues of disarmament. At the end, we discussed ways in which we could bring home the knowledge we had gained from the conference, and from our various other peace work. As the year of the 40th anniversary of the U.S. comes to a close, we expressed our hopes and fears for the future of the world.

The conference has, and will, continue to spark the minds of youth and their communities through its focus on questioning, and pursuing our goals as peace-loving people.



St. Basil's Cathedral in Red Square

## FEARS

"that people will direct their inner anger towards the total destruction of humankind;"

"... we cannot control the bombs we build;"

"... even if we achieve disarmament, peace won't last because we still won't know how to solve our conflicts peacefully;"

"... countries and people are selfish, intolerant, apathetic, and unsympathetic;"

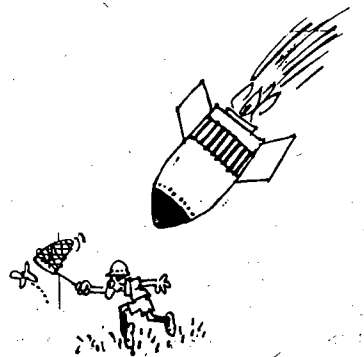
"... we are too different to stay in harmony for long;"

"... this power crazed push for nuclear superiority will end with the annihilation of the Earth's life through calculated war or by accident;"

"... my mother will wake up one day and find me dead. I can picture my mother standing there, crying. I think of the millions of other people, all dead. I could never let my mother, or other loved ones, feel that sorrow;"

"... the economic and political leaders of the world really don't want peace;"

"... people of the world will become so distressed thinking about the immensity of the issue that they will give up. Giving up will be the start of our self-destruction."



## HOPES

"... the people of the world will learn to have peace within themselves;"

"... those people who build weapons will see how wrong that is;"

"... we can come to a compromise in which both countries would gain security, and lose weapons;"

"... people will learn that no one can win a nuclear war and that we gain more security by creating better education, economic, social, and crisis control programs;"

"... the world will slowly become a spaceship Earth where all people work together to create a society of peace and to promote better understanding transcending all cultures and political ideologies;"

"... people will cooperate and share resources, technology, and love;"

"... a time will come when people can live together without fearing oppression;"

"... individuals will accept, aid, and encourage one another;"

"... that a person can be a person, not labelled a race, religion, or income level;"

"... someday the people of the world will reach out their hands to others without having to worry about their hands being cut off;"

"... we will overcome our differences and work for disarmament and a good life for all people;"

"... there will be no more war."

—Anne Southeimer  
Lexington, MA  
and the participants of the  
1985 UUUNO Conference on  
Disarmament





## Dan Gibson Represents YRUU in the Great Peace March

When I tell someone about The Great Peace March, the usual reaction I get is, "Wow, you're really gonna walk that far?" as if they feel sorry for me because I'm misled or something. Initially, they don't seem to notice the cause that the March is for, or its impending importance. My job, and the March's job, is to make them notice. Another response is, "You're gonna sacrifice nine months of your life?!" The way I look at it is I'm going to experience the most exciting nine months of my life: I'll be meeting a lot of interesting people, seeing areas of the country that I have never been in before, living in an alternative society (no rat race, MTV or Reagan propaganda) and working towards a nuclear-free future.

But how do I explain why I am marching to YRUUers? Those of you to whom I've mentioned my involvement seem to know why. "Oh - you're doing the March across the country! Excellent! I wish I could." There is already a fairly good understanding of nuclear arms concerns among many YRUUers, or at least an eagerness to learn the facts. I know that my local group has had several discussions on the topic.

But, alas, the rest of the country is not YRUU. Many are convinced that we need an arms race to protect us from the Soviets. They feel that bombs are security.

I feel that more weapons do *not* make us more secure. On the contrary, they are only endangering our lives. Throughout history, every arms race has led to armed conflict (WW I, for example) - this one simply cannot. A nuclear war will not be fought in some distant land. The entire northern hemisphere, if not the whole earth, will be devastated.

I feel the peace movement needs a "boost," to put it lightly. We will not be a bunch of angry idealist slogan-chanters. We plan to hold educational events in the communities we march through. Besides increasing awareness, we will be getting extensive media coverage, so that the issue will be constantly on America's conscience where it belongs (this is an important election year), and not the usual news story on page 38 about 20 people who held anti-nuke signs on their lunch breaks and then are forgotten the next day. ABC-TV will broadcast the beginning of the March live on March 1, as we leave the L.A. Coliseum - and I'm sure they will be there at the end when we are joined by thousands on November 15 for the last ten miles to the U.S. Capitol.

There are plenty more reasons for marching. Some are deep inside of me. Some I cannot put into words. But know that your concerns about the arms race are in some way represented on this Peace March.

I hope to see many of you along the March route and I hope I have your support.

—Daniel Gibson

## PRO-PEACE

PEOPLE REACHING OUT FOR PEACE

PRO-PEACE IS ...

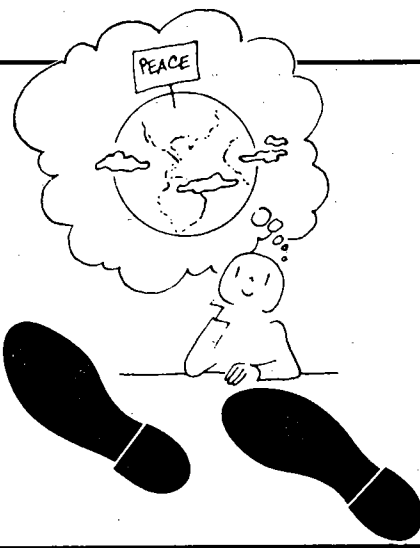
Pro-Peace is an international citizens movement with a single goal: bilateral nuclear disarmament. As citizens of the world, we have an obligation to ourselves, our children and our planet to end the threat of nuclear war.

Pro-Peace was born from an idea: 5,000 people walking across the United States for peace. Pro-Peace has grown into a professional, well-financed, non-partisan organization because of the beliefs that each individual can make a difference and that great ideas put forth by honest people will alter history.

THE GREAT PEACE MARCH IS ...

The Great Peace March is an idea which will inspire the world. On March 1, 1986 5,000 people will leave their homes, their jobs, their families and friends to begin a 9-month march for peace from Los Angeles through the Mojave Desert, over Colorado's 12,000 foot Loveland Pass, across the Great Plains to the East Coast. The marchers will encounter rain, snowstorms, and heat as they make their way eastward. The night before the marchers enter Washington, D.C. hundreds of thousands will gather at campsites around the city and, as one, will walk the last 15 miles to our nation's capital. With one voice, in the spirit of peace, we will call upon our leaders to make bilateral nuclear disarmament a reality and inspire other citizens of the world to change the course of history.

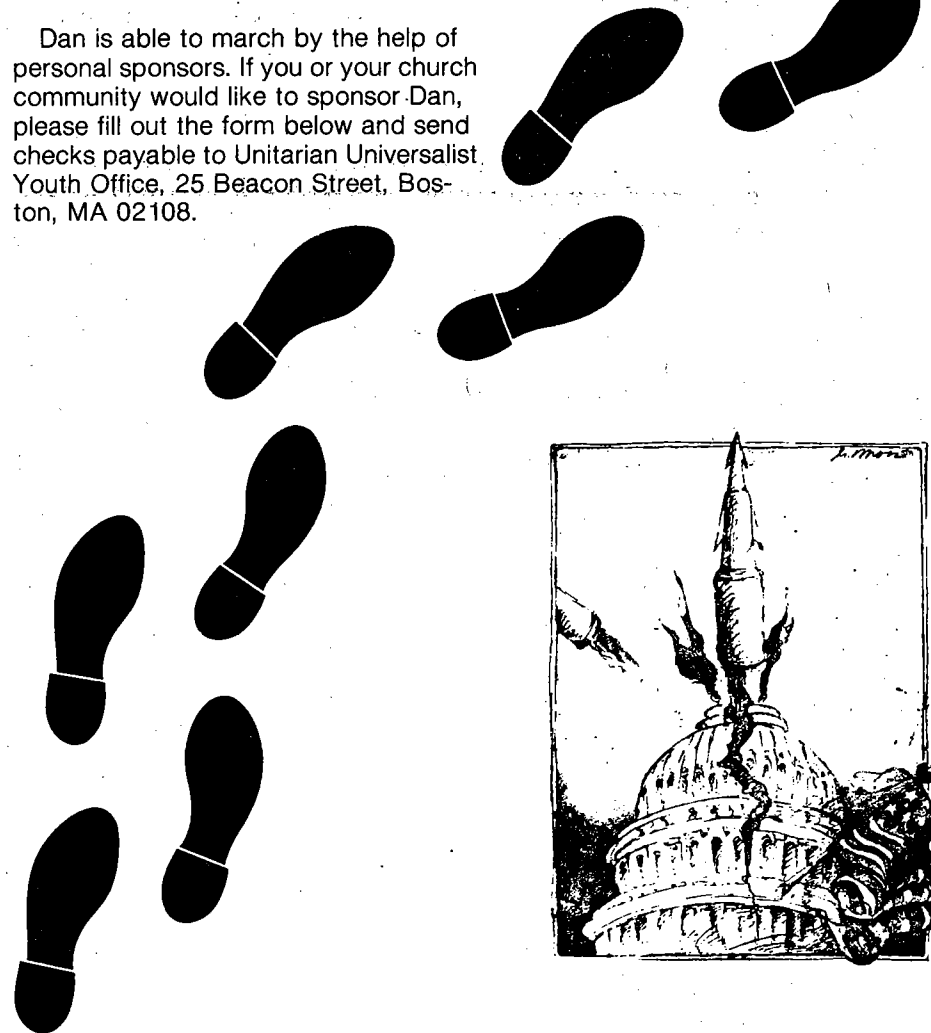
Dan is able to march by the help of personal sponsors. If you or your church community would like to sponsor Dan, please fill out the form below and send checks payable to Unitarian Universalist Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.



Here is a schedule of the Great Peace March if you would like to cheer the peace march on in your local area.

### GREAT PEACE MARCH March-December 1986

Leave	Arrive	Arrival Date
Los Angeles	Las Vegas	3/21
Las Vegas	St. George	3/29
St. George	Grand Junction	5/1
Grand Junction	Denver	5/21
Denver	North Platte	6/12
North Platte	Omaha	7/4
Omaha	Des Moines	7/17
Des Moines	Chicago	8/14
Chicago	South Bend	8/22
South Bend	Toledo	9/3
Toledo	Cleveland	9/13
Cleveland	Pittsburgh	9/25
Pittsburgh	New York City	10/25
New York City	Philadelphia	11/1
Philadelphia	Baltimore	11/10
Baltimore	Washington, D.C.	11/15



PLEASE PRINT

Name of Marcher DAN GIBSON

Contributor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I'll contribute a penny a mile to help you get to: (check one)

☐ Cedar City, UT (500 miles x 1¢ = \$5)

☐ Denver, CO (1000 miles x 1¢ = \$10)

☐ Chicago, IL (2000 miles x 1¢ = \$20)

☐ Washington, D.C. (3300 miles x 1¢ = \$33)

☐ Other amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

All donations are tax deductible • PRO-Peace, 8150 Beverly Blvd., Suite 203, Los Angeles, CA 90048 • (213) 653-6245

## Get ACTIVE

Do you want to become socially aware but don't know where to get the inside information on current political issues like: Apartheid, Central America, and the Nuclear Freeze? Here's a list of helpful resource guides and newsletters put out by the UUA and other informative organizations.

- First, if you're male, turning 18, and feel Uncle Sam tapping you on the back, *The Draft Resistance Packet* may be of interest to you. Send \$3.00 to: The War Resistance League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012.

- Declare your home, school, church, or local McDonald's a "Nuclear Free Zone!" Just send \$2.00 to: Nuclear Free Zone Registry, PO Box 172, Riverside, CA 92502.

- The *Nuclear War Prevention Kit*, published by the Center for Defense Information, is like the yellow pages of peace resources. Send \$2.00 to UU Peace Network, 5808 Greene Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144.

- What about the UUA resources? The UU-UNO (UU United Nations Office) puts out *Window on the World*, a newsletter dealing with global problems and international relations. Also, the International Dialogue Project can give you the opportunity to correspond with a citizen in the Soviet Union, Central America, etc. If interested, write the UN office at: 777 United Nations Plaza, #7D, New York, NY 10017.

- The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has created *SEEK*. I highly recommend *SEEK* if you are starting a peace group, or are interested in the UUSC and their programs. Send \$10.00 to UUSC, 78 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. (I realize the handbook is expensive, so take a helpful hint; ask your church or RE director to pay for it.)

- UUA Washington Office for Social Concerns puts out the *Action Alert Network*. This mailing will keep you informed of upcoming legislation, and the many important decisions in Congress. To sign up, write to: 100 Maryland Avenue NE, Washington, DC 20002.

- The Unitarian Universalist Peace Network is working on the advertising campaign, "Say Your Peace" and needs your help in spreading the news. Please encourage your congregation, or better yet, get your own campaign started. The best resource the Peace Network can offer you is me, Paula. If you're having a problem or just need resources, I am more than happy to help you. For example, if you need workshop ideas for a conference, articles for a term paper, or want info about marches, protests, and other events, write to: Paula Gardiner, UU Peace Network, 5808 Green St., Philadelphia (home of the soft pretzel, the Hooters, MOVE, and my house) PA, 19144.

In the UUA there are many organizations such as: Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East, UU Peace Fellowship, UU Women's Federation, UUA Committee on Aging, UUA Section on Social Responsibility, and UUA Office of Lesbian and Gay Concerns. An impressive list. You can contact any of these organizations by writing to 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108 or try your UU directory (your church should have one). Lots of literature, pamphlets, and program ideas are published. So, write, ask, and see what happens; you may be pleasantly surprised.

—Paula Gardiner  
UU Peace Network

# Expressions

## TOY SOLDIER

The bullets and shrapnel fly out  
as the soldiers scream in doubt,  
and the mothers are all crying  
with fears of their sons all dying.

But the war continues on  
with many young men gone—  
each of the leaders thinks it's his right  
to keep up their bloody, pointless fight.

One day two enemies do meet  
told to kill, the other to defeat,  
they stare into each other's eyes  
in fear, they remember their comrades' cries.

And they see that they're the same  
programmed to kill in a silly game,  
then one of them puts down his gun,  
they realize a battle has truly been won.

Unarmed they both walk away  
and to their allies they say,  
my friends, show them who's right—  
lay down your guns, let's win this fight.

—Charles V. Somervill



Come lady wind  
Climb the high mountain  
And cuddle me under your bosom.  
Blow, throw back my hair  
Enter my skin, and  
With your velvet caress,  
Lead me on the path to the sunrise.

Grey is your color, mistral maiden  
The piercing intensity of pre-storm skies  
You toss my soul to the corner of the horizon  
You spit the dawn drizzle in my face.  
No other woman have I  
As long as you are near.

You are old, lady wind, so much older than old  
That my youthful love must seem a trifle  
In the face of all your years.  
But when the short decades have scratched my face  
and I shudder a little as I walk  
I only hope that you will accept me  
and let me die in your arms.

—Quince Marcum  
Winston-Salem, NC

## Spring in Boston Commons

I remember last winter	and I'm 500 miles away
the newness	and it's so green
the excitement of you	and it's fresh and
and the snow	new again
was a virgin quilt	except for me
on our dreams	the dreams are gone
and then	and so are the nightmares
the summer	and I'm so empty that
the sun	all I can think of
ignited our nightmares	is that
and this winter	a seagull's cry
the snow	is
was a death shroud	the saddest sound
on those dreams	in
and now	the whole world.
it's spring	

—Judy Siebecker



## PEACE BEGINS WITH US

Pausing to listen to my inner needs, tuning into  
my feelings and taking time to feel the space  
around me, I can nurture the peaceful aspects  
of my spirit. Peace begins with me. While I  
run about frantically attending meetings or  
work to solve the intricate problems of others  
around me I am not able to be sensitive to  
that part of me that is calm and peaceful.  
Taking time each day to slow down and listen  
to the messages from within, I'm open to  
feeling the peace resulting from the total nurturing  
in the fetal period. My commitment to peace  
must begin with concentrating on the inner,  
spiritual sense of my being. A quiet time each  
day enhances my ability to cope with the  
bombarding of external experiences and impinging sensory  
stimuli so often dominating  
my world. As I develop an inner peace  
I'm better equipped to interact peacefully with  
the people around me. I can't rely on the  
world's superpowers to create a peaceful  
world. The power to create that lies in individual  
people, and as a vital member of the human family  
I accept the responsibility that peace  
begins with me.

—Marge Wurgel



## Blood of Others

I am asleep now,  
Dreaming of the Atomic War.  
Waiting for the windows to blow in.  
The house to vaporize.  
It happens—like I always knew it would.  
And I am alive still,  
Falling two floors to the ground.  
Where my house used to be.  
But gravity is pulling strangely,  
Slowly, I drift to Earth.  
Then I wake up, puzzled.  
Lying naked on our front lawn,  
Sweating and shaking.  
I stumble inside and crawl upstairs to bed.  
Before I fall asleep,  
I write a poem and call it Blood of Others.  
I don't know why.

—Lorne  
Ottawa, Ontario



## i will learn

each night i slip from exhaustion  
into a dream where i'm running in place.  
i thrash the sheets into upheaval  
and still i've lost when i awake.

to drop this yoke of suffering and move on,  
so frightening in a desperate way;  
i'm not used to even wanting freedom,  
i've been playing so long as slave.

and even if things are painful now,  
i will learn.  
and even if there's nothing to hold onto,  
i will learn.  
suffering the world, as if a symptom  
will get me no further than playing victim.  
and even if things are painful now,  
i will learn.

i guess i have been unrealistic  
when i think about the roles i play.  
do i expect too much of myself?  
that's still difficult to say . . . .

to drop all this tragedy and move on,  
so frightening in a hopeful way;  
to do so much to feed the cycles  
with faith it will return again.

and even if things are painful now,  
i will learn.  
and even if it hurts to grow like this,  
i will learn.  
fighting the world by way of mirrors  
i have found in myself a new recourse;  
and even if these tools feel awkward,  
i will learn.

—Ryk McIntyre



Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there,  
I do not sleep.  
I am the diamond glint on snow.  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.  
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush,  
of quiet birds in circling flight.  
I am the soft starlight at night.

Do not stand at my grave and weep  
I am not there.  
I do not sleep.

—An Indian Prayer

## PEACE

Peace is acceptance, caring, sharing;  
a respect for others' feelings and opinions.  
Peace is opening your heart and your mind;  
a commitment to understanding.  
Peace is taking responsibility for now and  
creating hope for the future.  
Peace is love and hugs and friendships.  
Peace is togetherness.

—Jennie Phillips



## AN OBSERVATION

True gardeners cannot bear a glove  
Between the sure touch and the tender root,  
Must let their hands grow knotted as they move  
With a rough sensitivity about  
Under the earth, between the rock and shoot,  
Never to bruise or wound the hidden fruit.  
And so I watched my mother's hands grow scarred,  
She who could heal the wounded plant or friend  
With the same vulnerable yet rigorous love;  
I minded once to see her beauty gnarled,  
But now her truth is given me to live.  
As I learn for myself we must be hard  
To move among the tender with an open hand,  
And to stay sensitive up to the end  
Pay with some toughness for a gentle world.

—May Sarton



## YRUU Participates in Nicaraguan Exchange

Twenty-one people from seven states and one province spent three weeks over the winter holidays picking coffee in Nicaragua as part of the UU Young Adults brigade. Sponsored by YRUU and organized by the Nicaragua Exchange, the goals of the work brigade were to promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations, with the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, by sharing the daily culture and work of bringing in the harvest with the people of Nicaragua as well as other brigadistas from around the world.

On December 23, we went to our state farm (UPE) in the Matagalpa area, called "La Pintada." On La Pintada, we lived and picked coffee with many other brigades and the campesinos (farm workers) who live on the farm year round.

While at La Pintada, we had organized talks with the BEP and Sandinista youth, the Germans, the Ministry of Culture, and Richard Donald, a Canadian agriculture expert working in Matagalpa. Plus, one evening, the UU brigade held a discussion of North American sanctuary and solidarity movements. People were very interested to know why a country, the US, with poor and homeless of its own, is giving millions of dollars to support Contras who are killing Nicaraguan teachers, health workers, and youth, on top of burning farms and clinics. It is very difficult to answer, perhaps impossible.

Back in Managua, after more than two weeks on the UPE, we met with various people who work in Managua. First, Judith Butler, from the Center for

Nicaragua wants autonomy and independence. They refuse to be controlled by any country. Yes, the Soviet Union gives them aid, but so do Cuba, Holland, and Canada. They are not going to be told, by the US or any country, who can be friends of Nicaragua and who can't. "If you were us," he told us, "what would you do? The USSR gives us medical aid, technology, and educational scholarships, while the US supports Contras who kill our young people and attack our villages. Which friend would you choose?"

During our last week in Nicaragua, we heard about two major world events. The first was the announcement of US sanctions against Libya. The other was the bombings in El Salvador by a US naval cruise ship. Only one of those events made it into the US press. This is the contradiction we saw.

January 10, big news! Front page news in two papers in Managua. FMLN/FDR revolutionary forces in El Salvador report that January 7, during a battle between revolutionary and El Salvadorean government forces, a US naval cruiser fired on FMLN/FDR forces. The nurse who was traveling with us picked up a confirmation of this report by short wave radio on Voice of America, the US radio network abroad. When we returned to the US the next day, all I could find out about the bombings was in the last paragraph of an article on page three of the *New York Times*. It said that the US Ambassador denied the charges. Why? Did it ever happen? CISPES, the national organization in solidarity with the people of El Salvador, put out an urgent alert for



Julie Rank from Michigan picking coffee beans in Nicaragua

## CHILD WOMAN

A child woman, with deep brown eyes, found me and followed. Why, child woman, is there something you want? But there doesn't seem to be—you sit here and speak, in a tongue as fluid and sweet as it is foreign. And you know I don't understand, child woman, but you continue on anyway. I search your eyes for an answer. Could it be a simple child's fancy that has brought you to my side? But no, it couldn't be—your eyes are not a child's eyes; they lack the youthful innocence that makes room for such a game. What has brought you to me, child woman, with your eyes so deep and knowing?

—Amy Rue  
Managua, Nicaragua

## NICARAGUAN HISTORY

Nicaragua is a Central American country the size of the state of Iowa. At the time that all of Europe was out conquering the New World, the Spanish took over the Pacific side and the English set up shop on the Atlantic coast. The two coasts have remained relatively separate—separate economies and varying languages—ever since then. Multi-national corporations and many countries, especially the United States, have used Nicaragua and its people to gain wealth and power usually without concern for the Nicaraguans. In the late 1920's, the US Marines invaded Nicaragua. Sandino, a bold Nicaraguan nationalist took up arms against the US armed forces in the name of Nicaraguan independence. Sandino and the people he led fought heroically. Partially due to the resistance and partially due to other factors affecting the US (World War II and the Depression), the Marines left in 1933. But not without setting up a dictator loyal to US and corporate interests and training the National Guard, a brutal police force which inflicted the will of the dictator on the people. Sandino was assassinated in 1934 and with his death the resistance lost strength.

A handful of students, led by Carlos Fonseca, renewed the resistance in 1961 by forming the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). The FSLN began an education project, teaching the workers and farmers, men, women, and children that they don't have to accept poverty, that they have a right to a democratic say in the workings of their own country. Many people went up into the mountains with FSLN leaders to learn how to fight. Others worked in their communities teaching people about their ideas for independence.

In 1973, a huge earthquake completely destroyed most of the country and reduced Managua to rubble. Much of the international aid that was sent to Nicaragua for aid was stolen by the dictator, Somoza, for his personal use. The vast majority of the population continued to live in abject poverty without access to clean drinking water, a living

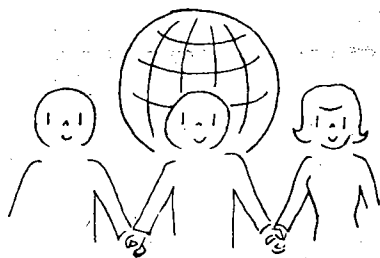
wage, health care, or education. During the mid-1970's, the resistance gained momentum and strength. The National Guard was so frightened by the increased strength of the people that they killed anyone even suspected of helping the FSLN. On July 19, 1979, FSLN forces stormed Managua and kicked out Somoza and his brutal National Guard. In Nicaragua, that day is known as the Triumph.

On that day, the Nicaraguan people received control of their own country, a country ravaged by war and drained of its natural resources by irresponsible industries. Somoza and his generals had fled, leaving only enough money in the treasury to run the country for two days and no money with which to pay the foreign debt.

Since the Triumph, the government held a national literacy campaign which taught three quarters of the country to read and write. They also instituted a free health care program which reaches almost every person in the country. Women have equal rights and equal pay because they participate equally in the formation of the country. The elections of November, 1984, included the participation of several political parties and were acclaimed by international observers as fair and democratic. The government has also confiscated the property of Somoza supporters who left the country during the revolution. Although 65 percent of the industry and agriculture is still owned by private individuals, the government controls the workers' wages, buys all the produce centrally, and has an overall plan for the country's economy. Like the US revolution, a major part of insuring democracy was maintaining the people's rights to bear arms. They have to spend 40 percent of their gross national product to defend their country from several groups of armed aggressors known collectively as the Contras.

—Caprice Young  
New Haven, CT

To  
**STRIVE**  
for a world community  
based on the ideals  
of peace, liberty  
and justice for all.



Research and Documentation of the Atlantic Coast, explained the 400 year old conflict between Nicaragua's Atlantic and Pacific Coasts. She said that the most important thing to remember is that the problems are very complicated. It is not a case of racist Sandinistas oppressing poor Mosquito Indians, plain and simple. It is as, or more, complicated than the problem the US government has had reconciling our Indian problem. That may be because we see it as "our Indian problem" as opposed to our inability, as a diverse national community, to find ways to exist together without losing our cultural individuality.

Then Lesbia Heron, from ANLAE (the major women's organization), spoke about the role of women in the revolution. She pointed out that women have been the main beneficiaries of the new literacy, health, and family planning programs. Women fought right alongside the men during the revolution and now take an equal part in the formation of the new country. That is the goal, but the society is still largely dominated by men because men are more educated and because women don't know that they can do what they want. She said that it is really very simple to change laws, but it is difficult to change the mindset of the people. The government has instituted laws that enforce equal pay and equal opportunity, punish wife beaters, allow for free birth control and family planning, give both parents equal responsibility in caring for the children, and create new day care centers.

Lastly, Armando Zuniga, from the Department of International Relations, answered questions about Nicaraguan foreign relations policies. He stressed that

people to call their representatives and demand an explanation. I did. My congressman's aide called up the State Department and Department of Defense, which told her that they were denying the bombings, but that El Salvador has recently bought ships from the US. They refuse to either confirm or deny whether US ships were actually in the area of the bombings. What have I learned? Not to trust only one source of information. We may have a free press, but that doesn't mean we have an unbiased press that covers every important event equally. It is important to look for information from many sources, comparing evidence and thinking about the validity of their sources. Everything is from someone's point of view.

Since I have returned, I have had some time to reflect on the trip. I know the Sandinista government is not perfect. "After all," our leader, Judith Rew, was fond of telling us, "most of them were illiterate six years ago." But their intentions are good: to bring themselves out of poverty, to provide for health, education, and defense, and to give each citizen a voice in the shaping of the nation's future. They are not all capitalists, indeed, a purely capitalist economy would not bring the population out of poverty. Let there be no doubt about one thing, however, Nicaragua is a democracy. A democracy that has the right to decide its actions for itself, without coercion from the US. We have no right to pay insurgents who can only pretend to have the support of the people of Nicaragua, to overthrow a popularly elected government, no matter what.

—Caprice Young  
New Haven, CT



Delegates to the YRUU Nicaragua Exchange

**"YOU'VE GOT ME WRONG!"**

Do we have your correct address?  
Do you still want *Synapse*?  
Do you want to start receiving *Synapse*?  
Please help us update our mailing list.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please remove my name from the *Synapse* mailing list.

\_\_\_\_ Please change my address on the *Synapse* mailing list.

\_\_\_\_ Please add my name to the *Synapse* mailing list.

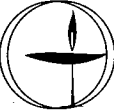
Comments:

Mail to: *Synapse*  
25 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
U.S.A.

### Share your Unitarian Universalist history with the world!

Lubbock's Young Religious UU's are offering t-shirts with the following inscription: "Important Unitarians/Universalists: Thomas Jefferson, Emerson, Clara Barton, Charles Dickens, John Murray, Susan B. Anthony, . . . & Me!" The t-shirts are sand colored with green print and come in adult sizes: Small, Medium and Large. The cost is \$10.00 per shirt plus \$1.50 postage. For orders of 5 or more the postage will be paid. For more info. or to order contact:

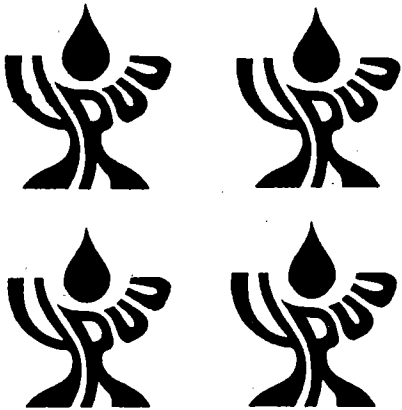
Judy Weninger  
4514 20th St.  
Lubbock, TX 79407  
(806) 797-7414

**SUMMER POSITION OPEN**

Unirondak is looking for counseling staff, ground and maintenance crew. For information contact Pamela Vinecomb, at: 320 Rockingham, Rochester, NY 14620, or call (716) 271-6434.

### Con-Con '85 Coffeehouse tapes!

Miss the coffee house at Con-Con in the cornfields last year? This is your lucky day! Con-Con '85 coffee house tapes are \$5.00 each (including postage). Signify if you want Dolby B or C and how many you want. Send requests and check or money order payable to: Nora Van Houten; 1578 Lexington Ave.; San Mateo, CA 94402. If you have questions call Nora at (415) 349-8133.

**NEXT ISSUE — Intergenerational Experience**

What Youth/Adult experiences have you had that you would like to share? Does your local or district have an active Youth Adult Committee? Do you have any Youth Sunday ideas? What intergenerational family issues are important to you? Please contribute pictures, stories, articles, poems, and drawings to the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

**Deadline for submissions:** April 30, 1986.

## TAKE UP THE SONG

The General Assembly of the UUA will be held in Rochester, New York this year. At the assembly, UUs from around the continent gather to meet, attend workshops, worship, and make policy.

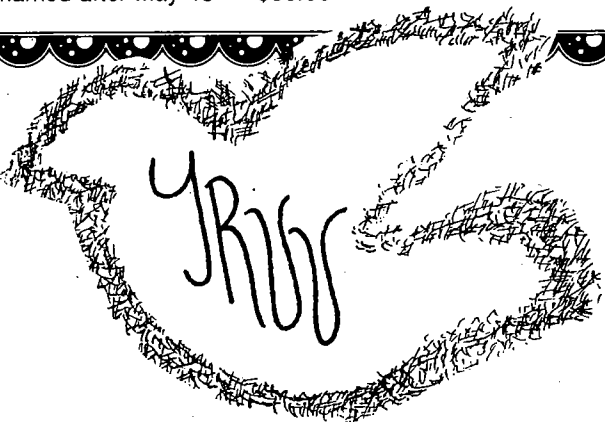
Youth Caucus is an opportunity for young people to voice their views at the GA, so ask your church if you can be a delegate and/or receive funding. Youth Caucus participants will be housed together in regular dormitory housing on the Rochester University campus, near where most of the GA activities will take place.

This year limited funds are available for Youth Caucus scholarships and so will be granted on a need only basis. If you would like to apply for a scholarship or have any questions, contact the Youth Office at 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108. Or you may call us at: (617) 742-2100, ext. 246 during regular business hours.

**Cost for the 1986 GA**

Registration for Youth (Delegate or Non-delegate)	\$47.00
One day Registration	\$18.00
Youth Housing	\$11.00/night
Meal plan	\$12.00/day
Surcharge for registrations postmarked after May 15	\$30.00

Housing and registration for youth at GA is through the GA office. Registration forms are available from your local society or the GA office at: GA Office, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

**T-SHIRTS AND BUTTONS AVAILABLE FROM YRUU!**

Striking 2½" turquoise and indigo buttons bearing the new YRUU logo may be purchased for only 25¢ each from the YRUU office. Buy a bunch for your entire group now before we run out!

Beautiful 100% cotton T-shirts, emblazoned with the YRUU logo and "Young Religious Unitarian Universalists" in a 2 color silk screened design, are ready for immediate shipment to your youth group! Only \$5.00 each! Colors are lilac and black on white, or white and black on red. While they last, both colors are available in medium, large, and extra-large.

Mail orders to **YRUU Enterprises, Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.**

YRUU presents

# Con-Con '86

## Circle Games

**hints:**  
No Walk-Ins! You must Pre-Reg. CON-CON is limited to 200 confreg. & req. deadline is July 15. A \$30 late fee is charged for reg. received after the 15th of July. Workshops will deal with life's circles, cycles, and changes.

**For more info. or registration form write:** Meg Wilson  
5506 Holgate  
Portland, OR 97206

**Cost:**  
US Funds \$140  
Canadian Funds \$189

**what to bring:**  
rain gear  
sleeping bag  
personal stuff  
flashlight  
toiletries  
happy things  
No drugs, alcohol, or overt sex

**site:**  
Camp Adams  
Portland, OR  
August 16-22

**activities:**  
worship  
learning  
social action  
workshops  
spirituality  
games  
hikes  
Unitarian Universalism  
star gazing  
music

## Come to the Young Adult Gathering in COLORADO, Aug. 21-26

In the mountains west of Denver, a special event is being planned. A gathering for Young Adults aged 18-35. An opportunity to attend a conference, have a vacation, or do both if you wish.

We will gather to explore the possibility of creating a community of diverse individuals, to live in a growing conference environment, to create a continent-wide network of Young Adults, to have a good vacation and a good time.

The title of the conference is Opus I. The cost will be \$75. We, the conference committee, are accepting applications for people who would like to be on staff for this gathering. Your input is welcome at the level of offering workshops, special skills, cooking, general help, or anything you feel might add to this experience. There is no upper age limit for staff so please feel free to apply. Please note that all staff and the conference committee will pay full price for this gathering.

We have reserved Camp WonderVu, a beautiful if somewhat primitive site, 40 miles west of Denver. It is a 140-acre retreat with a six-acre lake and a view of the Continental Divide. It sits at 9,000 feet above sea level and the weather should be beautiful, sunny and dry for our dates. There is space to hook up your RV or pitch tents, and there are quonset huts for those of you who would like a more traditional roof over your head.

We chose these dates with the idea that some of us cannot leave jobs or responsibilities for five full days. You can come for a weekend or any part of the conference if you pre-register.

There is space for 250 people so y'all come.

If you would like more information on this gathering, and you would like to receive registration materials, please send two self-addressed stamped envelopes to:

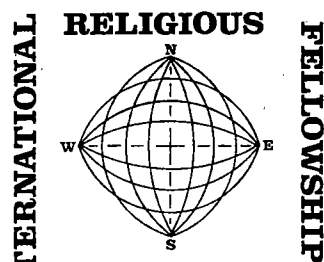
**OPUS I**  
c/o Eric Kaminetzky  
1815 17th St.  
Boulder, CO 80302

## and the winners are...

The winners of the *Synapse* writers and artists contest are...

**Poetry—Marge Wurgel**, "Peace Begins w/Us"  
**Short Story—August Nanning**, "A Touch of Reality"  
**Article—Rev. Douglas Wilson**, "Letter to the President"  
**Drawing—Adrian Smith**, cover

The winners will receive an award certificate and a YRUU T-shirt. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who contributed.

**IRF CONFERENCE**

Poverty or prosperity?  
Which way now?  
**BRITAIN**

1986

# TRAVEL ABROAD THIS SUMMER

Has every country the resources to feed its people? Has the world the will to be fair? Are our governments acting as the majority would wish? Think of how an ideal world could be. Think of how governments and people could work together to form relationships of interdependence instead of dependence with equal powers and rights.

The theme of this year's IRF conference is "Poverty or Prosperity—Which Way Now?" The conference is to be held at Barnston Dale Camp which is on the Wirral in England. The camp has extensive grounds which include a wooded dale, good sports facilities and a swimming pool.

The program will include the traditional day out, stunt night, auction, etc. The theme of the conference will be covered in the work shops. Come along and enjoy the good company at a positive, thought-provoking conference.

**Dates:** July 19th-26th, 1986

**Approximate Cost:** £60-£65, British  
\$91.00 American

**Second Week:** Tour of Northern Ireland.

**If interested, contact:** Youth Office  
25 Beacon St.  
Boston, MA 02108