

INTER 1988

SYNAPSE

A POINT OF CONTACT WHERE ENERGY AND INFORMATION ARE EXCHANGED



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Letters To Those Editors

Dear Friends,

I am worried about the spirit of YRUU. I have been told that there is a growing focus on sex and drugs at conferences across the continent, and at last year's Con-Con I definitely felt this party atmosphere. I have no problem with drugs or sex in themselves, but in the drug use at last Con-Con I sensed a desperate search for escape, and in the coupling I felt pain, a grasping for closeness in the midst of loneliness, not love. Con-Con felt fragmented, tense, a lot like the outside world. This scares me. I fear it is a symptom of a much larger problem: we are no longer leaving the outside world at the door and creating an alternative environment.

Of course, this problem is easy to solve: treat the symptoms. There's too much sex at Con-Con? Well, let's get rid of all coed cabins, ban sleeping outside, and ban sharing sleeping bags. But this is like saying, "Got a headache? Chop off your head." Such extreme, Puritanical rules simply deprive us of our freedom rather than encourage us to take responsibility for our actions. But until we begin to take responsibility instead of seeing YRUU as a big party and the organizers as authority to be defied, we are begging for Puritanical solutions.

For me, YRUU conferences strive towards the ideal of a loving group in which everyone is an active participant, immersing themselves in the creation of the greater whole. Of course, sexuality has a place in this dream, but it's a very special, sacred place. It's not what the dream is about. We begin by leaving our outside world and mindset at the door and jumping into the group with lots of touch, hugs, and relaxed sensuality. In this world, unlike in outside mainstream Amerika, a hug, a back rub, does not connote sexual attraction; it simply means I like you, and you're a great human being. As this unity becomes comfortable and our normal mode of operation, we cease to be alone. Each individual is loved

and cared for in a way that is rarely possible in the outside world. For me, this spiritual love is the soul of YRUU, renewing my hope and faith that we can change the world.

If I am attracted to someone and want to express sexual love in this group, it takes more than it often does outside. I need to talk to that person, and I need to make sure that we are sexual responsible. We need to ask those around us, "Hey, are we bothering you?" and be aware enough to understand if they can't quite say, "Yes", but would like to. We must constantly be aware of how our actions affect the group. In appearance, this ideal would probably be very similar to last year's Con-Con. But in spirit and feel, I believe that this ideal would prevent the fragmented, tense, have-to-grab-someone-o'-the-opposite-sex atmosphere of Con-Con '87.

To insure that we do not become just another party youth group (and Con-Con a party senior high camp), we must continuously remind ourselves of the alternative we stand for and act on it. Sure, the adults pretend not to notice drugs and sex and conferences. But that's not the only thing conferences are about. If in our initial loneliness we work to build a genuinely loving, self-transcending community, rather than giving it lip service and turning to the easily obtained support of drugs and sex, we'd all be happier, our conferences would be more spiritually satisfying, and what sexuality we do engage in will be more caring, more loving and non-destructive. It will be less of a temptation and

(see Love page 12)

Dear Synapse,

Some writers, like Richard Bach of "Jonathan Livingston Seagull", use their hallucinations as controlled fantasies. Others, such as Ken Kesey who wrote "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest", experimented with mind altering drugs to create their works. Obviously a radical change in mood or mental state can affect a person's creativity. I

wrote the following story in December of 1986 when I was going through a major depression. Please believe me when I tell you that everything that happened to me in this story is true. Make of it what you will:

Last night I went down to visit the second floor of my dorm, I live on the third. There was a tree in the hallway. It had not been there before, but it was there now. I knocked on a friend's door and told him about it. He replied that, yes, it was strange. We talked for several minutes, me constantly glancing back to make sure the tree was still there. One time I looked back and it was gone. My friend insisted that it was still there. He told me to try to see it without my glasses on. I took them off, and saw this green blur MOVING around the hallway. I whipped them back

(see Trees page 12)

Dear Editors,

As I am a senior in high school, delegate to my district's YAC and three-and-a-half year member of my church's senior youth group, you may be surprised to know that the Fall 87 issue of *Synapse* was my very first. In fact, our youth group was out of touch, we didn't even know about *Synapse* until just over a year ago. We had never heard of Con-Con, never been to a conference, and were dimly aware that we were in a "district."

All that changed in October 1986, when the youth in the St. Lawrence District reorganized (with some help from you folks in Boston) and developed some awareness of each other and our surroundings.

Today, I opened *Synapse* as if it were a Christmas present (tis the season!) and was delighted by the treasures inside. An article that caught my eye was Tracy Lynn Stober's letter "A Farewell To Con-Con '87." She discussed her reasons for not attending, saying that her spirit had risen and that she had grown and changed. Reading it, I gained voice, and had to write.

Sunday, in tears (for the second Sunday in a row, upon returning home from church), I decided to stop attending the weekly meetings of Channing Circle, my church's senior youth group. I have grown, I don't need it as much. I haven't told the other members of the group, because I think they will say "don't leave, Fran, we love you! We'll miss you!" And then I would return. It's like "Girl" by the Beatles - "... I try to leave her, she will turn to me and start to cry. She promises the Earth to me and I believe her, after all this time I don't know why." I'm afraid they wouldn't understand.

I have decided to start attending Sunday Service on a regular basis to fill up the time I spent with youth. That is what I want. I am comfortable with my change, and I believe that accepting and understanding change is part of being a UU.

Tracy Lynn Stober, thank you for giving me a voice.

Frances Poodry

Dear Editors,

I see in my *Synapse* that this issue will be about "traditions". YRUU'ers traditionally have turned their backs to society for the love that has been lost between them. I try and do find love at conferences, and for a long time that is all I have needed. Love is free everywhere, and at conferences too. I give so much love away at conferences and it all comes; that is why I go. The world is the same, I must love it before it can love me. The transition has been hard, giving everything and getting nothing, I even thought about killing myself but I have survived. The easiest things are not always the best, and this isn't easy. It is simple to go back into your shell and to hate, it is all too hard to come out and love. I'm not saying I have stopped fighting, but now I love the people I'm fighting and love the fight, and the world will change, not through hate but through love. The people can accept us only if we accept them first, we have the honor and we have the obligation to make the world understand us.

Love, Peace and Have a Nice Day,

Krishna
P.O. Box 112
Temple, NH 03084

WE STAND CORRECTED

The Editors of *Synapse* apologize for a layout error in the Fall issue. The middle section of Stephanie Doyle's "Legacy" article had its paragraphs rearranged.

The Letters To Those Editors is a regular feature so keep the letters about your ideas and opinions coming. Tell us what's happening in your district, or how you feel about YRUU, UUism, Politics, Fashion, what-ever! UU's have a reputation for being controversial, so go for it!

Everything To Know About *Synapse*

SYNAPSE is a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, the youth organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108-2800. Subscription is free. Three issues per annum.

Staff- Ellen Brandenburg, Leia Durland, Andrew Moeller and UU youth everywhere.

Mechanicals- The UUA Publications Department, especially the talented Suzanne Morgan.

Editorial Policy- Articles for *Synapse* are chosen from among those submitted by Unitarian Universalist youth and adults working with youth, and other interested parties. Articles are chosen on the basis of content and quality, with some preference given to new authors. All written materials are subject to editing before publication, and graphics may be enhanced. The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the editors or the majority readership. Opposing opinions are welcomed.

Submissions Policy- Each submission must have name and address attached. Multiple submissions accepted. The editors observe the following limits for each author's submissions:

Articles: One per issue of each of 3 types—theme, news, and reflective.

Poems: One per issue.

Personals: Two per issue, up to 50 words each.

Graphics: No limit.

Submissions not used will be kept on file for possible future use. Name may be withheld on request. If you wish to be notified prior to publication, enclose a self-addressed envelope (no stamp necessary).

Advertising- Rates for camera-ready ads for UUA-related groups are:

Standard		Special (need advance warning)	
\$5.50	- per (2.25") column-inch	\$8.00	- per (3.25") column-inch
\$42.50	- eighth of a page	\$62.00	- sixth of a page
\$84.00	- quarter of a page	\$125.00	- third of a page

For all other (non-UU) groups, these rates are double. For non-camera-ready ads there is an additional fee of up to \$20, negotiable with the Youth Office. Advertisements do not carry the endorsement of the Youth Office or YRUU. The editors reserve the right to refuse any advertisements.

Submission and Advertising Due Dates:

* May 15, 1988, * September 15, 1988

* subject to change please see posted dates in upcoming issues of *Synapse*



SYNAPSE



Have you hugged your youth advisor today?

a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

20 Pfennigs For "Die Toilette"

(or Babbled Words of a Guru of sorts in a Foreign Country)

by Jennie Phillips

But first a brief explanation - I am spending this, my senior year of high school, in West Germany under the Congress-Bundestag (a parliamentary partnership) scholarship program. I live in a small dorf, halfway between Munich and Garmisch-Partenkirchen of the Bavaria

Alps, with my host family and a lot of cows. I got off the train to meet my host family six weeks ago with three weeks and two cassettes worth of solid German instruction swimming in my brain, too much luggage to manage gracefully, absolutely nothing prepared to say in a potentially awkward moment, lots

of nerves, excitement, and a dash of self-confidence that it would all be wonderful and I'd make it okay.

Since then, a whirlwind of challenges, goals; expectations of building around me and becoming part of a family, a language, friends, interests...I began with my family, whom I adore, having to learn when, what, how to eat, where to put my dirty laundry, how to read a TV guide, where the forks go, when the father comes home from work and who sits where and what the ironing board is called and that the toothpaste is in the cellar in a closet next to the tissues and keep the cat out of the 2nd floor!!! Meaning, I had to learn (am still learning) everything, and so on with my dorf, the bank, the post office, the nearby city, school, bus schedules; always having to watch and listen and make brilliant (often completely false) deductions about what I need, where I belong; how it's all put together.

What I want to share about living in Germany is that I love absorbing the things that are here and I love being part of a very proudly - Bayerisch (Bavarian) dorf. I love the cows and the yellow telephone booth and the small chapel in the woods and the Alps on clear mornings. I love having coffee every day with my butter and jam or honeyed bread and an apple to take with me to school. I love sitting on the school bus with my sister in the morning, and after school, and coming home to a delicious lunch and sometimes having afternoon tea. I love having learned to knit in German, having learned to knit period (but it's so neat that I can't knit in English?)

I also love the struggles (usually not while I'm flustered and struggling, but looking back on in) and the small but all too monumental achievements - understanding a whole sentence, answering questions, having a real conversation or discussing (see Pfennigs on page 12)



Becky Scott sleeps with her Teddy among oodles of Con-Con luggage. Becky is on the Five Year Review Committee whose questionnaire is the special insert in the middle.

IS SPIRITUALITY A SOURCE OF CONFLICT ?

by Candace Corrigan

Inside each of us is the parent and the child, deep within our inner lives, and it is these that take possession of us in time of conflict. The inspired youth feels her soul larger than life, she has expanded and refuses to take orders or suggestions from an authority figure. The concerned adult is torn with conflict between giving freedom and enjoyment to a youth and using their power as authority figures to dominate. Within each of us, in our inner life, is domination, rebelliousness, righteousness and irreverence. What we must come to accept first is that this is inner life, and though it is very relevant to our spiritual development, it cannot always be applied to our daily lives and our literal, material and logistic situations.

It is here, in the physical realities, that we must all be fair. We must see our situations devoid of their immense emotional and spiritual meaning. Simultaneously we must be in touch with all that exists in our inner life, yet we must experience it for what it is, and not transfer its power and its motivation onto a decision over sleeping arrangements, membership on a board, curriculum choices, conference rules, or other issues of conflict between youth and adult structures.

When we come to problem solving in the literal and material world, we must be very practical. We must submit to a certain

process of analysis and communication. We must accept honesty, humility and rationality as our guides, and not wave the personal banners of our souls. Each must allow the other their right to work for their own cause; specifically, adults must know when to relent and allow a youth group to take on the freedoms and responsibilities of a certain endeavor. And specifically, youth must allow adults to reveal to them the world of cause and effect, to display to them the realities and ramifications of their actions. Youth must also accept a responsibility to the laws that pertain to minors and to all people.

Youth must be willing to let go of their feelings of superiority and entitlement and listen to what a group of adults has to offer. Adults must be willing to let go of their feelings of superiority and entitlement and grant youth their dignity as human beings capable of taking on a task and, most importantly as human beings responsible for their actions.

Peace Network Caravan

by Carol Powers,
Caravan Coordinator

Look out! The UU Young Adult Peace Caravan may be coming to your community during the fall of 1988. The Caravan will help knit together education, advocacy training, resources, and networking for UU young adults. Six Unitarian Universalist young adult groups around the continent will have the opportunity to host this Caravan at weekend conferences. Visits will also be made between conferences to UU young adults and congregations along the route. Six UU young adults, ages 18 to 30, will be chosen to be members of the Caravan team.

The Young Adult Peace Caravan has made possible by a peace partnership of the Unitarian Universalist Peace Network and the Dana M. Greeley Foundation for Peace and Social Justice.

Historically, UUs have made significant contributions to the struggle for peace and justice. In the early thirties, over a period of five summers, Unitarian and Universalist college students went "on the road" in Peace Caravans to discuss peace issues in communities around the United States. These were some of the first joint efforts between Unitarian and Universalist young people.

Applications are available from the UU Peace Network and must be returned by May 1, 1988. Final selection will be made promptly. Participants will be expected to contribute \$500 towards their expenses. In some cases, college credit can be arranged. The selection committee will take the following into consideration: familiarity with peace and nuclear disarmament issues; public speaking skills, musical and drama experience, experience with worship and demonstration of interest and commitment to UU principles, goals and institutions. Priority will be given to those who will give ethnic and racial diversity to the team.

The project begins with a training week on September 19th which ends the last week in November with a debriefing and evaluation week where participants will prepare a report on the impact of the Peace Caravan and form a strategy for how they will share their experiences with UUs in the future. For more information and an application write: Young Adult Peace Caravan, UU Peace Network, 5808 Greene Street, Philadelphia, PA 19144 or call at 215-843-2890.

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NEWS FROM THE DISTRICTS

Mid-South District Report

by Pepi Acebo

This past year, YRUU has been extremely active in the Mid-South district. Atlanta's "Strawberry Jam" conference - attended by more than 101 youth and adults - kicked off the year, February 13-15th. About 20 Mid-South District youth trekked up to Knoxville, TN for a T.J. District conference April 10-12th. June 26-28th, Montgomery, Alabama's small, but conference-devoted youth, group put on a very close conference ("MontCon") attended by 35 caring youth. Here, at this kiosk of liberal religion, discussion arose about starting a Mid-South District Y.A.C.

September 25-27, Atlanta's "Conferencedom" introduced 53 Mid-South YRUU to "touch groups" and to the infamous "touch group activities list". One group even partook of the list's "fully-clothed group shower" as an opportunity to wash the conferencedom's 25 pounds of grapes.

As a result of MontCon's discussions, 15 youth and adults from all the Greater Mid-South District gathered, October 23-25, in Birmingham, AL to attend the one, the only, the first-ever GREATER MID-SOUTH DISTRICT "YOUTH / ADULT COMMITTEE" ("YAC"). Are we organized now! The new YAC, the youngest members especially, made a great leap towards responsibility by conscientiously working out a set of rules that will help YRUU survive in the Mid-South but will not stifle the YRUU sense of community, just in time for Jackson, Mississippi, to exchange them on their conference registration forms for the legendary but archaically brutal "Big Four" wording.

Untold numbers (that means that no one has told me) of Mid-South District youth attended the Senior High Weekend at The Mountain, November 25-27. The Mountain is a special UU retreat center in Highlands, NC, with a beautiful view.

Jackson, Mississippi's "Mississippi Mud" conference wound up the year the following

weekend of December 3-5th with a human sexuality and AIDS workshop and a lemon worship service, both attended by the 81 Jr. High, Sr. High and Advisors present. No "touch" groups at this conference, but everyone was assigned to a "mud group" to facilitate clean-up.

Next year, the UU Congregation of Atlanta's youth group throws their first conference, February 19-21. Nashville, TN, is planning for one later in the year. The YAC meets January 15-17 in Birmingham, AL, and then during May, concurrent with the District Annual Meeting at Chee-hah State Park, AL.

Update: The Mid-South YRUU now have a newsletter.

Thomas Jefferson District Report

by Heidi Johnson and Kate Matteson

Every time we open *Synapse*, articles about Con-Con, Opus, Boston and West Coast conferences seem to pop out on every page. Seldom have we seen articles on our own district - Thomas Jefferson. It soon dawned on us that - Hey! - maybe that's because nobody from our humble little corner in the vast network of UU districts has taken the initiative to write to *Synapse* So....we decided it was our turn to show off what TJ has to offer.

First of all, we exist. The Thomas Jefferson District includes North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, the tip of Tennessee, and parts of Georgia. We are southern but that doesn't

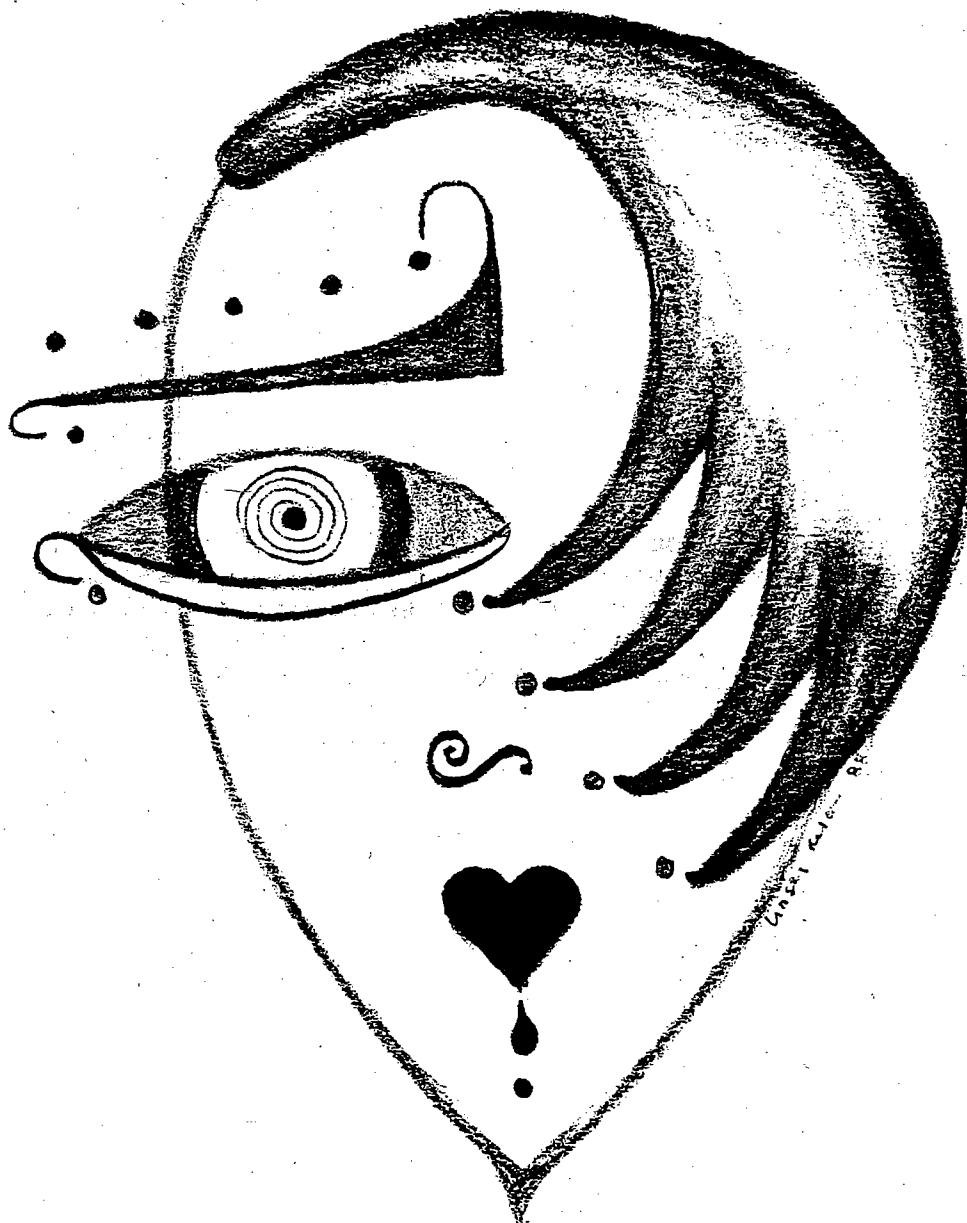
mean we're all plantation owners, southern belles or hillbillies. We're every bit as YRUU as any Bostonian.

In the past years our conferences haven't been too frequent, but they are making a comeback. A couple years ago, Knoxville, TN started an annual conference which takes place every April. Raleigh, NC and Spartanburg, SC have also been conference hosts in recent history.

The Mountain is a UU retreat located in Western North Carolina. Though a lot of you non-district YRUUs may have heard of it, we are proud to say that it is a part of the TJ district. Along with its many family-oriented programs such as family week and church retreats, it offers activities for local and out of district youth. The summer camps include everyone, but work/ski weekends and Sr. High "fun" weekends are directed towards district youth.

Shelterneck, on the other hand, is not a place you'll read about in your average travel guide. Located in the southeastern corner of North Carolina, it was used as a Universalist boarding school from the 1800's. Today it is owned by the Universalist Convention and is used for intergenerational weekend gatherings. Shelterneck is very small and used mainly by local churches, but it is growing.

These are just a few of the "goings on" in the Thomas Jefferson district that we have thought of offhand. Sooo....if you are sitting on your couch reading *Synapse* and thinking, "Gee, I wish there were something going on in my district", Wake Up - there probably is! Maybe it's your turn to find out about it and tell everyone!



HOW HONEST ARE YOU ?

Are you always honest on surveys? I'm not. To me, questions like, "Have you ever had a date before?" have a lot of leeway. Remembering the time I walked the girl next door to the supermarket in sixth grade, I marked "yes."

Are the statistics we read about or see on T.V. accurate then? When I hear that five out of seven persons surveyed exercise daily, I wonder if the survey was taken in a slave labor camp.

"Four out of five scientists chose 'Superyummy' gum for whiter teeth and bones." They do not mention that those dentists were asked at gunpoint in a dark

alley, or that the other one out of five dentists that refused to endorse their produce were fed to some hungry dogs.

We might know that five million Americans sing in the shower, but how many of them shower with another person? Inquiring minds want to know!

Surveys can never be totally accurate, but they can be fun. Here are some questions for you to answer:

Do you think surveys should be banned?

Do you hang up on telephone surveys?

Do you read the front cover of gossip magazines?



ABOUT THE COVER

The cover of this issue was designed by your friendly neighborhood *Synapse* Staff with the aid of YRUU, and LRY photographers from past and present. If you have photographs or graphics you would like to see in *Synapse*, just send them into *Synapse* c/o the Youth Office (please include your name, address, month/year and district on the back of your art) and who knows your picture might be on the next cover!

BOOK REVIEW

The novel "Cry, the Beloved Country" was written by Alan Paton and copyrighted in 1940. This fictional novel tells the story of a family in South Africa and presents the reader with a better understanding of how the South African situation began.

I strongly recommend this book of 300 pages to those who wish to have a better knowledge of Apartheid today. The paperback is five dollars and is published by Charles Scribner and Sons.

-Christina Braaum

"DREAM A DREAM" of the AURORA INSTITUTE in

the Alberta Rockies for worship and workshops, fun and fantasy. A YOUTH PROGRAM within a family conference. For info, contact Katie Sather, Box 1794, Lacombe, Alberta T0C 1S0 Canada
903-782-6807
August 7-13, 1988

(This is a new regular feature written by youth or adults about anything to do with advisors in YRUU.)

PLANNING IN A YOUTH GROUP -- IS IT POSSIBLE?

by Clark Olsen, UUA Vice President for Program and Planning

It certainly is. And it could be just the thing to bring cohesiveness and purpose to your group.

"Planning" can sound a bit dry and boring, as if you are going to compile statistics and keep a lot of records. But that needn't be the way it's done.

Here's an outline of a Planning Process that could help bring purpose and zest to your group:

WHAT'S OUR VISION OF WHAT WE MIGHT BECOME?

Have about ten-fifteen minutes discussion about what the group is like now. Just random thoughts, describing things as they exist. Don't try to solve problems. Stick to brief sentence descriptions of how things operate, what kinds of programs, characterize the group as it is.

Then, ask people to envision a possible future: Ask them to close their eyes and respond to: "Imagine it is three years from now, and this group is very successful. Lots of people, lots of good feeling, people finding enormous personal satisfaction in being part of the group. What do you see going on? Describe the group and its activities?"

Have someone quietly record the answers. Don't do it in such a way as to delay responses from the group. A taperecorder would do well, or someone who takes notes quickly and unobtrusively.

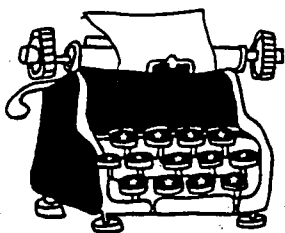
WHAT ARE THE KEY FACTORS NECESSARY FOR OUR SUCCESS?

Having described the vision, above, now ask: "Looking back to this year, from three years in the future -- experiencing the success of the group -- what do we now consider were the 'key factors' in our becoming successful?"

With this question, generate a list of 15-25 ideas. Some will be trivial, some big ideas. Write them on a flip chart or some other large sheets of paper, for all to see.

With so many ideas offered, you'll now need to condense them into about six more manageable categories. Thus: combine the above 15-25 ideas into six (eight maximum) "KEY FACTORS" for success over the next three years. Use a separate piece of paper to list these six factors.

Now you'll need to prioritize the Key Factors. You can do this in a number of ways. A quick



method is to divide your group into groups of three and ask each group to come up with a consensus about the relative importance of the six factors. Ask them to rank order them, 1-6.

Then combine the lists to get the consensus of the whole group.

You now have a VISION and a prioritized list of KEY FACTORS that will help you attain the vision.

DECIDE ON SPECIFIC ACTIONS TO CARRY OUT THE KEY FACTORS

The group now needs to decide specifically what it will do to begin to achieve the vision. For each Key Factor (starting with the first priority), ask for ideas. Make sure each idea is developed down to a specific action that someone agrees to be responsible for to get it going -- a "Monday Morning Action", as UU layperson, Michael Kami (a consultant in planning for large organizations), says. Kami points out that most failures in planning stem from one of two reasons: 1) failure to prioritize ("You can't manage effectively unless you have decided which is more important than another thing" or 2) failure to pinpoint who is responsible for doing what, specifically, to get things going (the "Monday Morning Action").

Why the above sequence of decisions?

People usually start with a problem and go immediately to particular solutions to the problem. A "problem" approach fails to generate enthusiasm and a vision to carry you through the next rough spot. And going right to a solution, means you have

failed to generate an understanding of the context for your solution. Further, unless you generate a number of possibilities, you have no clear sense of the relative importance of the route you have taken compared to others.

You need the Vision, you need clarity about Key Factors, you need a sense of Priority for the path you take, and you need agreement on the Specific Actions that will be taken to get things moving.

Once you have acted on one Key Factor, you can go back and decide on some additional possibility for that Factor, or you can proceed to making decisions about the Factors next in priority.

Does this sound elaborate ? It isn't.

Will it take time? Some, but not as much time as is wasted without a vision.

Maybe the language is new. But the procedure is simple. Try it. It will probably take less than an hour for the Visions and Key Factors part. Then you can spend another 30-60 minutes deciding on some specific actions to take concerning one or more Key Factors.

It will be an evening's program. Worthwhile. Gets you moving.

Don't lose the vision. Return to the Key Factors for additional decisions. Revisit the Vision at least once per year.

Plan to have a good time. Celebrate your successes!

From the land of blue sky, sunshine, and spurs...

Hello Everybody! I'm the new Youth Staffer, Leia Durland, and I joined the office in January just as the big move to "53" Beacon was becoming a reality! Our new office is the best in the building with a gorgeous third floor view of the Boston Common and a fireplace (even though it is for decorative purposes only). We have lovingly named our new space "The Pink Flamingo Lounge" and hope to add a few lawn ornaments to our potted plants in order to make the title appropriate and the experience

complete. I love Boston and am adjusting to being a temporary Easterner -- even though, at heart, I am a Texan. I grew up in Lubbock, Texas, which is in the Mountain Desert District, and I am a member of the church there although I have been living outside of Dallas (in Denton) attending North Texas State University as a student of the Humanities. So far, working at the UUA in the Youth Office has been a wonderful experience. I am enjoying working with Ellen, Andrew, and Julie as well as the rest of the Religious Education Department. I am learning lots-- and under Andrew's influence, I have not only become a coffee drinker, but also a Cappuccino fan (but of course, my true love is Steve's coffee ice cream with Jr. Mints! YUM!!) I hope that you all will write and call with your news, questions, suggestions, or just to keep in touch. We love to hear from ya! (and if you happen to come visit, I don't think it will take much to twist our arms to go on a taste-test with you to sample and critique all of Boston's ice cream spots! I still say Steve's is the best... but Ben & Jerry's is good!)

♥XOX♥

Leia

YRUU WEEK AT STAR ISLAND

SOLD OUT

JUNE 25TH TO JULY 2ND, 1988.

FOR AGES 15-21

STAR ISLAND IS A JEWEL OF NATURAL BEAUTY & OLD CHARM OFF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S COASTLINE. THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE IS ABOUT BRINGING NEW FRIENDS & OLD FRIENDS TOGETHER TO EXPLORE THE THRESHOLDS WE ARE ON, INDIVIDUALLY & AS A YOUTH GROUP... TO REALIZE OUR POTENTIAL AS INDIVIDUALS & BRING THAT FORTH WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH WORKSHOPS, ACTIVITIES, SELF-REFLECTION, SHARING WITH OTHERS & FUN FUN FUN!

★ FOR MORE INFORMATION, GET IN TOUCH WITH: ★

LISA MCCANNELL (REGISTRAR)
404 MARY LYON
U MASS
AMHERST, MA 01003
(413) 546-4865

OR, IF AFTER MAY 15TH:
180 PARTRIDGE RD.
PITTSFIELD, MA 01201
(413) 499-0869

OR: PHIL JOHNSON (CHAIR)
246 MOORE
U MASS
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(413) 546-5355

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COST:	
\$192 (ROOM & BOARD)	
\$30 (REGISTRATION FEE)	
\$7.75 (BOAT TICKET)	

ELEVEN FIFTY-FIVE P.M. (PLUS FIVE)

by Tony Donatelli

Five years ago, Linda Lotto wrote an article called "11:55 p.m." which appeared in the first issue of *Synapse*.

It was about the emotions that swept through herself and her fellow LRYers in that five minute period between 11:55 p.m., December 31, 1982, when LRY was officially dissolved, and 12:00 a.m., January 1, 1983, when YRUU took its place.

I guess you could say it was about the final moments of LRY, and what the last LRYers hoped for the newborn YRUU to become.

It was only a few paragraphs long, but it reflected the feelings, the hopes, and the dreams of that generation of LRY/YRUUers, of which, I am one of the last to still remain active.

Also, it was set within the halls of the very same building upon whose steps I now sit. Linda made no mention of the "First Night" festivities which are so intrusive now on my thoughts. Linda, however, had the luxury of not having been locked out of the building.

I sit here alone, except for the occasional lost soul asking for directions to Hancock Street. A quick glance from the police assures them that I seek only a quiet spot to myself, in which to write down a few thoughts, and am not a misguided terrorist seeking to bomb the governor's office.

Now I have only to worry about my pen freezing.

Despite the distraction of the elderly couple standing in the middle of Beacon Street, kissing each other with more drunken "gusto grabbing" passion and love, not to mention lust, than any seventeen year olds I have ever

Deny it as much as you want David, but there are people who will always believe that you are my long lost brother.

And Scott, in spite of your reactionist points of view, you will always be my friend.

So many more. So many faces that I cannot remember all

But would it last?

Would YRUU last the five years until its mandatory review? (For that matter, would any of us?) No one was absolutely sure. The same ghosts that claimed LRY might return to haunt her child.

Who could tell?

One thing was for sure though, she would not be unloved.

We made sure of that.

And there was ample evidence to show that we were right.

In "11:55 P.M." the new child was instructed to "...not grow petty. Be always for those who work for you, a labor of love."

When I look at these "new faces," I see a fire in their eyes that looks very familiar. It reminds me of the fire that once burned in my eyes, and still does in my heart.

Linda's wishes have not gone unheeded, for the love that we treasured so much that we wanted to insure that it, above all else that we held dear to us, be sustained and nurtured in the newborn child called YRUU. And still it exists to this day.

My eyes are drawn to the skyline and bursting fireworks flood the night sky. It's 12:01 A.M., January 1st, 1988.

Happy Birthday LUUCy BUUth.

Happy Birthday YRUU.



met, my head is filled with memories of faces and friends I have known.

Lucy and Tammara playing spoons all through the night. David and Dawn arguing over which radio station to listen to. Tina scolding me for my raunchy jokes. Nat dumping someone's floor lamp down a manhole, and Kim asleep in my arms. Kevin's Santa Claus laugh, and Colin's dry rhetoric. Ben's discreet humor and Chris' street-wise idealism.

the names. So many new young voices.

Things were very different five years ago. We were sure that the new youth group would work, but we were afraid of what would happen if it didn't.

LRY had given so much to make sure that its heir would find a place for itself. Much love and care went into creating that child.

The Common Ground baby had more parents than any child could ever possibly wish for. She would never be an orphan.

ROCK WITHOUT THE ROLL

by Graham Smith

Last week in my Soviet studies class we were having a discussion about Hederick Smith's book, *The Russians* specifically, we were talking about the chapter on teenagers and rock music in the USSR which was called, "Rock without the Roll."

As the discussion progressed, and my teacher prodded the class for the significance of the title, it became apparent that most of the class could not grasp the concept that the title was trying to put across. In the '70s, the youth of the USSR had rock and the styles which went with it, but the politics which rock in the west was imbued with didn't get across to them.

However, discussing the youth of the USSR is not the purpose of this piece. Analyzing the shift in attitudes about rock, and the changes in rock in general is.

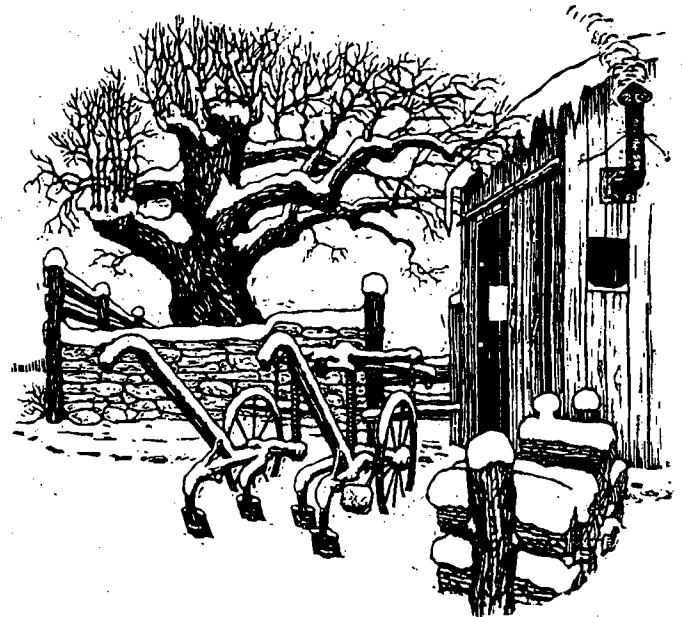
In the '60s, even listening to rock music was considered rebellious by many people and actually playing in a group was considered even more so. As the youth of America began to show their discontent with the status quo through the lyrics of their music, a strong bond was formed between rock and politics. Groups like Country Joe and the Fish, CSN+Y, Buffalo Springfield, and The Who questioned the actions of our

government and the attitudes of our society; the war in Vietnam, racism, and the general state of the world were challenged.

Groups sang of drugs, sex and other social taboos. Rock expressed the rage and frustration of a generation, and its desire for change. This continued into the early '70s, but increasingly there was a trend toward softening rock and depoliticizing its message. Punk music broke out in the late '70s but it did not carry the mainstream appeal that disco and pop did.

Now, in the '80s, there is even less social criticism in our contemporary music. Our mainstream music is pat drivel with an electronic beat, and hardly any of it carries a meaningful message. Punk and new wave continue to question the powers and practices that be, but only a small number of people listen to them.

Rock has taken the path of slick commercialism and abandoned its role as the cutting edge of social reform. With groups like Poison, Bon Jovi, and White Snake, and soloists such as Tiffany and Michael Jackson topping the charts, there is no denying that today's mainstream music is politically apathetic and has become Rock without the Roll.



A LOOK AT MEMORIES

by Leia Durland

Traditions are a big part of my life. I don't think that a day goes by when I don't incorporate a tradition into my existence in some way, shape, or form. When I think about it, the problem is traditions are not necessarily always positive things. Often times, the behavior and traditions that I grew up with are haunting things that keep me from the freedom of really being my own self. I forget that my parents, siblings, teachers and friends views and beliefs don't have to be mine and that my truth and happiness are perfect—for me, anyway. To be able to analyze your self and discover that what

you are thinking or feeling is really someone else's tradition or truth and not yours is a really freeing experience. It is also liberating to realize that you have the power to change your thoughts and create new traditions for yourself like celebrating Martin Luther King Day, Passover or Easter in ways that are meaningful to you.

This is not to say that traditions passed down from families, friends or organizations are not wonderful. They can be beautiful and important as well as lasting memories of happy times. When I think about the various traditions that I grew up with the one that sticks out the most in my mind is

"Coloring Outside the Lines"

DeColores!

**Celebrating YRUU's Year of
Interracial/Intercultural
Understanding
August 15-21st**



Con-Con is the continental conference of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU). This year is the sixth Con-Con since the founding of YRUU but it is one of the traditions that we have carried on from the time of LRY, the organization from which YRUU was birthed. The conference is organized by the Steering Committee of the Youth Council (the governing body of YRUU) and the Youth Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Con-Con moves around from location to location each year and this year's hostess is Camp Takatoka in the wild west (forty minutes outside of Tulsa, Oklahoma). Oklahoma is a part of the world with a long history of Native American (Ya-a-tay!) and cow-person (Yeehaw!) interaction and will be an appropriate location to begin celebrating YRUU's year of Interracial/Intercultural Understanding. Incredible workshops, horseback riding*, swimming, stupendous worships under the stars, canoeing, arts and crafts, and a ropes course*, are a sample of what is offered at this year's experience. Con-Con is a conference full of fun, love, and UU community. It is part of the heart and soul of YRUU.

(* small extra charge for activity)

The Theme:

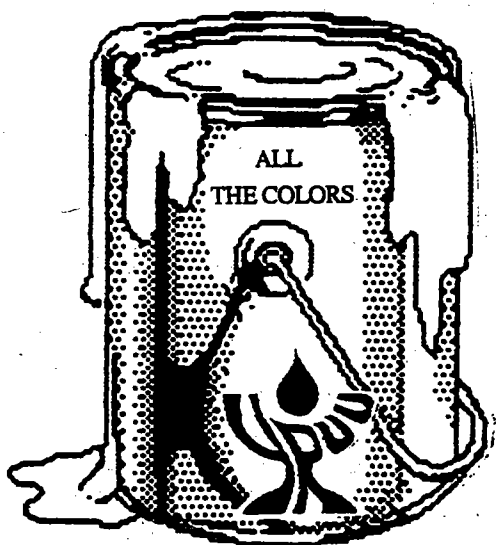
"De Colores! (All the Colors); Coloring Outside the Lines" is the theme for this year's Con-Con. This theme was given to us by the 1987 Youth Council and Steering Committee to kick off YRUU's year of "Interracial/Intercultural Understanding" which runs from Con-Con 1988 to Youth Council 1989. This theme was instigated to remind us to be racially and culturally sensitive and inclusive.

Camp Takatoka:

What a place to have Con-Con! The facilities (as well as the temperature!) are going to be HOT! Clustered cabins that sleep 12 are located near horseback riding facilities*, a lake for canoeing, a ropes course*, a giant swimming pool, tennis courts, hiking and nature trails, as well as art and craft space for tie-dye, clay work, etc.

The Program:

This year's program is centered around how to promote interracial/intercultural understanding in our lives. Workshops offered by both youth and adults include, "Black Pioneers" led by Loretta Williams, director of the UUA Department of Social Justice, "Astrology and Religion" with Don Male (previously Secretary of the UUA Board of Trustees), and "Tai Chi" with David Kimball. But Con-Con is more than just great workshops... it is many voices in unison, warm embraces, massaging until the early morning hours, listening to wonderful travel adventures, meeting new faces and reuniting with familiar ones, crying and laughing in your friend's arms, worshipping together, and changing, learning, and loving.

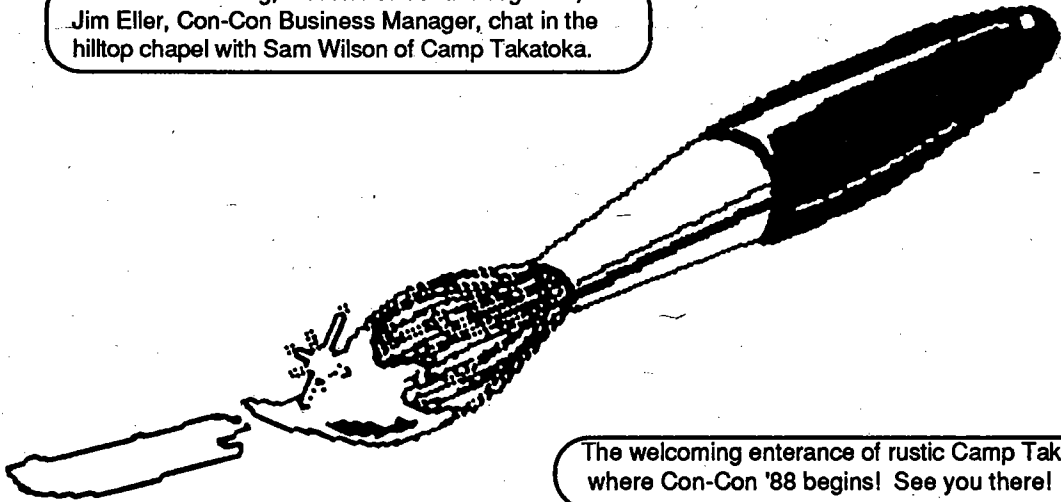


If you have any questions, please contact:
Andrew Moeller or Leia Durland at the Youth Office,
25 Beacon Street, Boston Ma
(617) 742-2100 ext. 351 or 352.

No Walk-ins! You must pre-register!



Ellen Brandenburg, Director of Youth Programs, and Jim Eller, Con-Con Business Manager, chat in the hilltop chapel with Sam Wilson of Camp Takatoka.



The welcoming entrance of rustic Camp Takatoka where Con-Con '88 begins! See you there!

Code of Ethics For Persons Working with Youth in UUA Sponsored Programming

Adults and older youth who are in leadership roles are in a position of stewardship and play a key role in fostering spiritual development of both individuals and the community. It is, therefore, especially important that those in leadership positions be well qualified to provide the special nurture, care and support that will enable youth to develop a positive sense of self and a spirit of independence and responsibility. The relationship between young people and their leaders must be one of mutual respect if the positive potential is to be realized. There are no more important area of growth than those of self-worth and the development of a healthy identity as a sexual being. Adults play a key role in assisting youth in these areas of growth. Wisdom dictates that youth and adults suffer damaging effects when leaders become sexually involved with young persons in their care; therefore, leaders will refrain from engaging in sexual, seductive or erotic behavior with youth. Neither shall they sexually harass or engage in behavior with youth which constitutes verbal, emotional, or physical abuse. Leaders shall be informed of the code of ethics and agree to it before assuming their role. In cases of violation of this code, appropriate action will be taken.



Rules

- (All attendees (youth, adults, and staff types) must read and agree to these rules before their participation can be approved.)
1. I agree to uphold and keep sacred the conference community and will be aware that my behavior has a direct effect on this, and I will, to the best of my ability, try to strengthen and not disrupt this community.
 2. I understand that such things as alcohol and drug use and patently sexual behavior, besides being illegal for those underage, are behaviors that are not acceptable to all participants and disrupt the conference community. Therefore, in accordance with rule #1, I will refrain from such behavior.
 3. I also understand that I will be expected to abide by the rules of the camp and the laws of the country and I agree to do so.
 4. I also know that the UUA 'Code of Ethics' will be in effect during the conference, and I will respect and adhere to it.
 5. I further understand that as a participant, I have the right and responsibility to uphold these rules and that this responsibility extends to encouraging my co-participants to uphold these rules while at the conference.
 6. I realize that the good times, the community, and the spirit of Con-Con are waiting for me to share in.
- Please sign (on the consent form) acknowledging that you agree to abide by these rules.

CON-CON REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Postal Code: _____ Phone Number: (____) _____

Favorite song: _____

Church/Fellowship: _____ UUA District _____

Special Dietary/Health Needs: _____

Date of last Tetanus shot: ____/____/____ Gender: _____ Most important life dream/goal/ambition: _____

Housing Preference (if 18 or over) co-ed: _____ non-coed _____ Favorite food: _____ Have you ever been to Con-Con before? _____

Enclosed is a cheque made payable to: "YOUNG RELIGIOUS UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS" for \$50.00 (US and CAN) Deposit _____

OR \$160 (US)/ \$220 (CAN) full Registration fee _____

A late fee will be charged on registration postmarked after June 30th. This cost DOES NOT include horseback riding or ropes course which will be a slight added fee. The exact extra amount and more information regarding these activities will be included in your registration confirmation packet. At least a deposit is needed to process registration. Balance must be received by August 1st or is due upon arrival. When we receive your completed registration and check, you will be sent all the information that you might need, such as how to get to the camp from the airport, workshop selection information, what to bring, camp emergency phone numbers, etc.

Consent Form and Acknowledgement of Rules

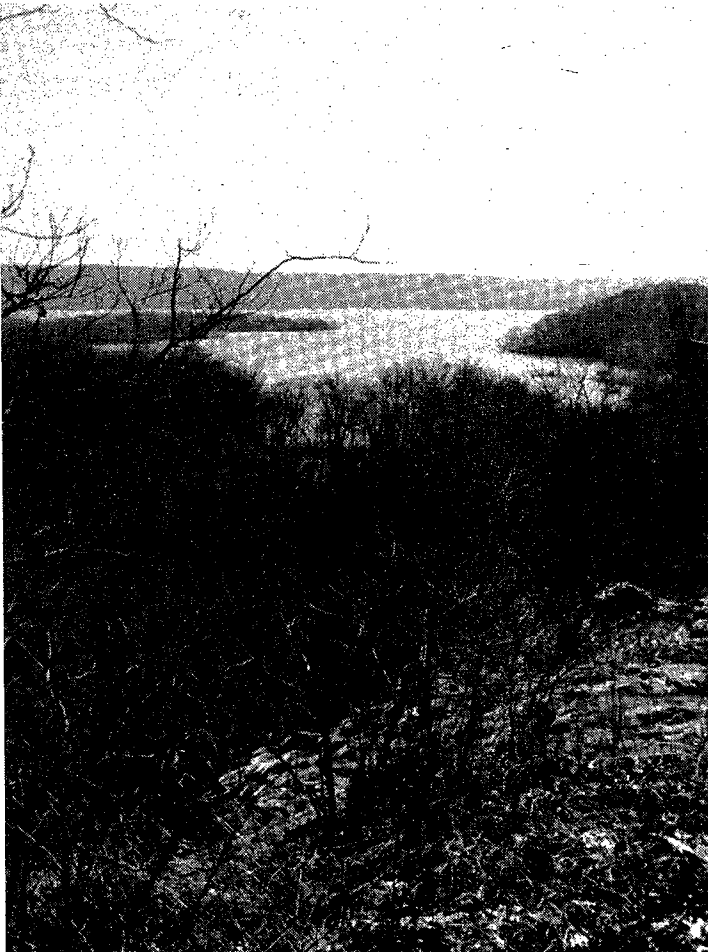
I, _____ (please print), am the parent or legal guardian of _____, who will be attending the Continental Conference of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists of 1988 at Camp Takatoka, Tulsa, Oklahoma. I hereby give my consent and authority for the staff of said conference to take any reasonable action to help insure the safety, health, and welfare of my child, _____ and I give consent for any necessary medical treatment, including emergency surgical care as might be needed. I further understand that my child will be required to follow the rules of the camp and the conference and that a breach of those rules may result in my child being disallowed to participate in the remainder of the program and/or any future continental programs of the YRUU. Date: _____ signature of the parent or guardian: _____

Incase of emergency, I can be reached through the following phone number(s) between the dates of August 15-21, 1988.

(_____) (_____)

I, _____ (participant), have read the rules listed above and acknowledge them as my guide for participation at Con-Con (including the "Code of Ethics".)

Signature _____ Date _____



View of the lake from a bluff



ATTENTION YOUTH !!!

The YRUU Review Committee wants to hear from you! (ADULTS: a questionnaire for you will be sent out in the REACH Packet or is available on request from "YRUU Review", UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108)

A committee to evaluate the first five years of YRUU's 'life' has been formed by the UUA Board of Trustees, with the full support of the YRUU Youth Council. The committee is in the process of examining many aspects of YRUU by consulting a wide variety of people presently or formerly involved. The report of findings and recommendations will be presented to the UUA Board and YRUU Steering Committee in January 1989.

Please help us with our data-gathering by answering these questions, and returning this sheet to: "YRUU Review", UUA, 25 Beacon St.; Boston MA 02108. Please return by DATE TO BE SUPPLIED APRIL 15, 1988

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Your district, (state, or province if you don't know) _____
Your society or church _____
Your age and birthdate _____ Your sex _____
Your school grade (or when graduated) _____
Number of years that you've been involved in UU youth activities since you were twelve years old _____

We are interested in the full extent of your involvement in, and opinions about, UU youth programs. Questions are about local, district and continental programs. You need not be active on each of those levels to answer the opinion questions about those areas, nor do you need to be a Unitarian Universalist to fill this out. Thank you for responding to this questionnaire; the broader the scope of responses we receive the more accurate our report will be.

Local Programming

Fill in the to the right of the programs available in your church or fellowship whether you have attended them or not. Use the following keys to circle the appropriate letter or fill in the boxes.

- 1: O= Often; S= Sometimes; R=Rarely; N=Never
2: Fill in Ages as they are, and then as you would prefer them if you don't like it as is.
3: Circle the letter of the style that comes closest to what happens in each area:

- A = Adult Led With Little or No Youth Input;
I = Adult Led With Active Youth Input
P = Youth Led With Little Or No Adult Input;
Y = Youth Led With Active Adult Input

Activity	Do You Attend	Age Range		Led By	
		as it is now	as you may prefer	as it is now	as you may prefer
Regular class/ Program (AYS,LIFT,etc)	OSRN			AYIP	AYIP
Other Regular Activities	OSRN			AYIP	AYIP
Social Gatherings	OSRN			AYIP	AYIP
Other: (Describe)	OSRN			AYIP	AYIP

2) Why do you attend the events that you do? (Rate each factor by circling: 0=not a reason; 1=small reason; 2=medium reason; 3=large reason)

intellectual stimulation	0 1 2 3
friendship & companionship	0 1 2 3
spiritual experience	0 1 2 3
leadership opportunities	0 1 2 3
learning something important	0 1 2 3
social action	0 1 2 3
way to pass time	0 1 2 3
fun activities	0 1 2 3
parents insist	0 1 2 3
to learn about UUism	0 1 2 3
other _____	0 1 2 3

3) Why don't you participate in activities? (Rate each factor; 0=not a reason to 3=large reason)

I'm too busy	0 1 2 3
don't feel welcome	0 1 2 3
don't like class/ program	0 1 2 3
not religious enough	0 1 2 3
group not structured enough	0 1 2 3
don't like leader	0 1 2 3
I moved away	0 1 2 3
don't like group	0 1 2 3
group is too structured	0 1 2 3
don't hear about them	0 1 2 3
other _____	0 1 2 3

4) How are your local youth active in, and supported by, your district/cluster youth organization? (circle all answers that apply)

a) °We are invited to district/cluster conference	seldom	sometimes	frequently
b) °My local group plans district/cluster conferences	seldom	sometimes	frequently
c) °Someone from my local group is on the district board	seldom	sometimes	frequently
d) °Leadership training	seldom	sometimes	frequently
e) °Other _____	seldom	sometimes	frequently
f) °I don't know	seldom	sometimes	frequently
g) °There is no active district youth organization	seldom	sometimes	frequently

5) How are your local youth active in, and supported by, continental youth programs? (circle all answers that apply)

°We use UUA curriculum (LIFT, AYS, etc.)	seldom	sometimes	frequently
°We receive Synapse	seldom	sometimes	frequently
°We get resources from the REACH packet	seldom	sometimes	frequently
°Someone from our group is on Youth Council	seldom	sometimes	frequently
°Someone from our group has attended (mark applicable):	seldom	sometimes	frequently
°Continental Conference (Con-Con)	seldom	sometimes	frequently
°Youth Caucus at General Assembly	seldom	sometimes	frequently
°UU Camps and conferences (Rowe, de Benneville,etc)	seldom	sometimes	frequently

Five Year Review

***UU UNO disarmament conference**

seldom sometimes frequently

• Youth leadership development conference

seldom sometimes frequently

What would you do to improve local youth programs? Please describe.

[illegible]

District Programming

Fill in the boxes to the right of the programs available in your district whether or not you have participated in them. Use the numbered keys to circle or fill in the boxes.

1: O= Often; S= Sometimes; R=Rarely; N=Never

2: Fill in Ages as they are, and then as you would prefer them if you don't like it as is.

3: Circle the letter of the style that comes closest to what happens in each area:

A = Adult Led With Little or No Youth Input
I = Adult Led With Active Youth Input
P = Youth Led With Little Or No Adult Input;
Y = Youth Led With Active Adult Input

	1	2	3
Activity	Do You Attend	Age Range as it is now as you may prefer	Led By as it is now as you may prefer
District Cluster Conferences	OSRN		AYIP AYIP
District YAC/ Youth Board	OSRN		AYIP AYIP
District Leadership Development	OSRN		AYIP AYIP
Other: (Describe)	OSRN		AYIP AYIP



2) Why do you attend the events that you do? (rate each factor; 0=not a reason, 1=small reason; 2=medium reason; 3=large reason)

intellectual stimulation	0	1	2	3
friendship & companionship	0	1	2	3
spiritual experience	0	1	2	3
leadership opportunities	0	1	2	3
learning something important	0	1	2	3
social action	0	1	2	3
way to pass time	0	1	2	3
fun activities	0	1	2	3
parents insist	0	1	2	3
to learn about UUism	0	1	2	3
other	0	1	2	3

3) Why don't you participate in activities? (rate each factor; 0=not a reason to 3=large reason)

I'm too busy	0	1	2	3
don't feel welcome	0	1	2	3
don't like class/ program	0	1	2	3
not religious enough	0	1	2	3
group not structured enough	0	1	2	3
don't like leader	0	1	2	3
I moved away	0	1	2	3
don't like group	0	1	2	3
group is too structured	0	1	2	3
don't hear about them	0	1	2	3
other	0	1	2	3

**What would you do to improve district youth programs?
Please describe**

[illegible]

Continental Activities

Fill in the boxes to the right about continental programs whether you have attended them or not. Use the numbered keys to circle or fill in the boxes.

1: O= Often; S= Sometimes; R=Rarely; N=Never

2: Fill in Ages as they are, and then as you would prefer them if you don't like it as is.

3: Circle the letter of the style that comes closest to what happens in each area:

A = Adult Led With Little or No Youth Input
I = Adult Led With Active Youth Input
P = Youth Led With Little Or No Adult Input;
Y = Youth Led With Active Adult Input

1	2	3
Activity	Do You Attend	Age Range as it is now as you may prefer
		Led By as it is now as you may prefer
Con-Con	OSRN	AYIP
Youth Council	OSRN	AYIP
Youth Caucus at GA	OSRN	AYIP
Other (Describe)	OSRN	AYIP

What would you do to improve continental youth programs and services? Please describe.

[illegible]

Relationships

How strongly do you feel a part of or identify yourself with the following (Circle an answer for each.) Use Scale and circle number that fits you: 1=little feeling of being a part of or **low** identification to 5=great feeling of being part of or **high** identification):

1. Your local congregation

1 2 3 4 5

2. Your district youth organization

1 2 3 4 5

3. YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

1 2 3 4 5

4. Unitarian Universalism As a Religion

1 2 3 4 5

5. The Unitarian Universalist movement

1 2 3 4 5

THANK YOU !

Now please mail me to "YRUU Review", UUA, 25 Beacon
St. Boston, MA 02108



BEST FRIENDS



By Dave Kroesser

Friends, as defined in the dictionary are "Persons attached to another by feelings of affection or personal regard". This is the basic understanding. Friends are people you can talk to when you can not talk to your family, husband, or wife. They are

us at some point would be able to pick one of our best friends and recall day-by-day the events that have happened; for friends usually communicate best. My best friend is someone I can remember clearly. When I was in eighth grade, we met. Our friendship has lasted through his

solution. The results may be good or bad, but would you not expect the same results from other people? No more scolding by mom or dad.

Best friends help us change our lifestyles for the better and keep us updated. When your friends are given secrets they are expected to keep, the first thing they do is come to you, because they want to share the news or gossip with you. Your friend tries to keep your lifestyles at a peak and he or she knows that you will do the same for him or her.

Best friends are those that take a fun situation and make it more fun. Anytime you go to the movies, or to an amusement park,

or other various places, do you not usually take a friend? They always make our bright days brighter.

Friends, especially best friends, should always be cherished. In a world without friends, we would have to take the punishments of life upon ourselves and work them out ourselves. We would have to take what we receive and hope that it is accurate. We would be as low a class as a dog, always receiving praise or punishment and living forty-five percent of the time in boredom. Think how friends have affected you. Spend time with your friends and cherish them forever.



people to do activities with for extra fun, and people to go to when you fall short of money.

People tend to go to their "best" friends because the relationship is most similar to them. They do the things that you do, feel is most similar to them. They do the things that you do, feel the way that you feel, and basically think the way you think.

Best friends tend to go through life together. I am sure that all of

relocating from Charleston to a southern Virginia boarding school, from Virginia to Charleston, to relocating to Penn. Our friendship grows stronger each day overcoming more and more obstacles.

Your best friend is someone you can talk to when others will not listen or when you wish others not to know. They will not purposefully fail you. In a given situation, they will help you find a

A TRADITION OF CONSCIENCE

by Andrew M. Moeller

My four year high-school career lead up to my eighteenth birthday and during that time I was constantly reminded by posters, JROTC students and teachers that when I turned eighteen, one of my "official" responsibilities as a American citizen was to go down to my local post office and register for the draft.

Registration and a military draft have been American traditions since before the Revolutionary War to the thousands of young men who were drafted and served in WWII and the Vietnam "War."

Another tradition that is as least as old as the draft but not nearly as recognized in the U.S. is that as long as there has been a military draft and registration for a draft there has been People who have been opposed to both. Some of the first European settlers came to America in order to escape being forced into

instance. Conscientious Objectors serving in alternate service in WWII were greatly responsible for many of the badly needed reforms in the treatment of mentally ill persons and as a result, established the National Mental Health Foundation. Thousands of other Conscientious Objectors with families to support worked without pay in Civilian Public Service, fighting forest fires and building badly-needed roadways.

In the 1960's, objection to military service reached its height in the United States. About 1% of all men drafted in the Korean War were classified as Conscientious Objectors, and during the Vietnam "War" thousands of men obtained "CO" status thanks to many volunteers who trained as draft counselors to support people who were trying to avoid military induction.

Today many young men register even though they are opposed to military service because they don't know their options such as how to obtain CO classification. They register because new regulations such as the Solomon Amendments (named after Rep. Solomon R-NY) make Selective Service registration a requirement to receive government financial aid.

If you are a resident of the United States and are opposed to military service and/or a draft and are about 18 years old; or if you haven't registered with Selective Service and want more information about becoming a CO, call or write the Youth Office (ask for Andrew) or write:

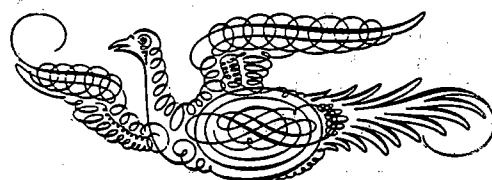
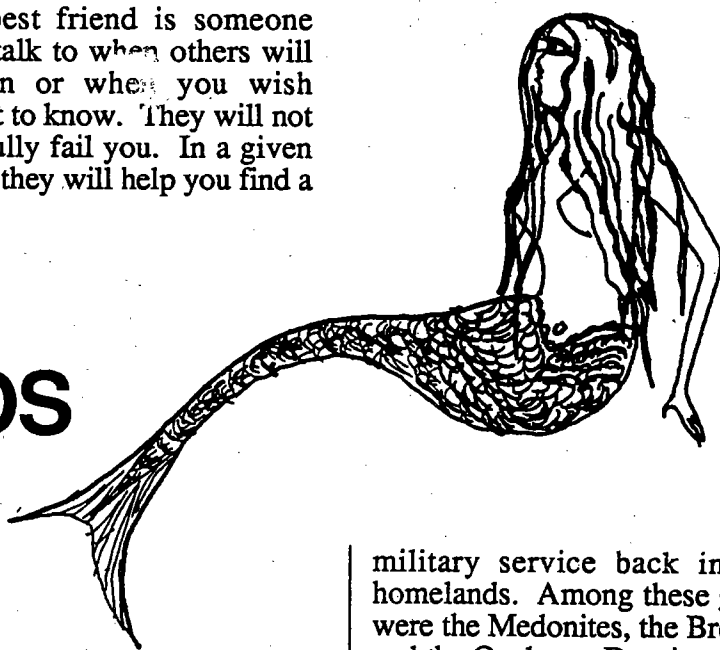
National Interreligious Board for
Conscientious Objectors
15th Street & New York
Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
or
Central Committee for
Conscientious Objectors
2208 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146

AND MEMENTOS

my youth group's weekly pilgrimage to Furr's Pie Kitchen. Every Sunday after meeting (and occasionally instead of meeting!) we'd all pile into the various cars that were working that week and drive to our favorite hang out space. We'd joke about the scudzy looking water glasses and forks (were they really clean? Was that stained on there or ...), order our assortment of Sourcream and Blueberry pie, Strawberry pie (with extra whipped cream), German Chocolate, Strawberry and Banana, etc., knowing that we'd all want a bite of each others. We would try to be nice, but always seemed to end up just slightly

harassing our favorite waitress, Tiny (who must have been about 90 years old!) It is hard to say what my favorite memory is of that tradition-- was is the 1970ish wallpaper and curtains that looked like they would attack you if you got too close, the cattail lights, our friend 'Ms. Beehive' who we were suspicious lived there? No, my favorite memory has to be of Doug LICKING his plate clean (honestly!) every time! That tradition will stay in my heart forever.

military service back in their homelands. Among these groups were the Medonites, the Brethren, and the Quakers. Despite the fact that these people of Conscience were threatened and ridiculed, they still held fast to their beliefs that violence is not an appropriate way of solving problems. It has been my experience that even today in the 80's, people who object to war or preparing for war are told they are a disgrace to their country when in fact they have every right to be proud. Conscientious Objectors ('a person who objects to warfare because they believe that it is wrong to kill') have made many meaningful contributions for



Attention Everyone: Emily Biss has won the official position of "Bill the Cat" replacement. The girl in Texas with the one blue triangle earring.

James (The Beaver) Myers, I keep writing but you never write back! Do I have the wrong address or have you passed into another dimension? I'm lonely! Write soon! Love, Marah, 1108 Craig Avenue Ellensburg, WA 98926

AUDJ, There is all this confetti all over the floor. Love and nuggies, Gwynn.

Dawn, Emily, Stephen and Shireen, We became the "Five Mousekateers" let loose on 5th Avenue. Thanks for the memories. I'll never forget our nights in the suite of the Vanderbilt. When we finally got comfortable, there wasn't room for our damned legs. Christina.

Dear FRIENDS, Unitarians, SOVIET travellers, LOVINGLAUGHINGPEASELOVING peoples...augene nanning has climbed back to the community of ??? Yes, y'all I'm back and would love to hear (read) from friends of the past and friends of the future. PLEASE send laughs, tears, jokes, pictures, newsletters, notes to Augene Nanning, 161 Parkmount Rd., Toronto, Ontario CANADA P.S. Hi Jim O.!!

Dayna and Dan (NH and MI) Where's Mars? We love you!!! Thanks for coming to visit, you're so...cute! Love, Jackie and Kate (CMD)

Lisa Nelson, I love you. How are you? I miss you. Love, Dayna

Tina Adkinson - Do what's right for you. You're wonderful. Love, Dayna S.

Dan, Kate and Jackie, Mars Lives. I love you, Dayna

DAN - MSY and Con-Con '87. I love you, Dayna

Leia and Andrew - Can I move in? Love, Dayna

To all the Pittsfield UU'ers (Beth, Nikii, Jason, Sarah, Jessica, Seth, Aaron and everybody else), We miss you all! Youth Group just isn't the same without you. See you at Star '88. Peace, love and a bunch of warm fuzzies - Claire and Aimee XOXO

TO: JQ's and all of may new friends from Con-Con '87 - I LOVE ALL OF YOU AND MISS YOU ALL TOO! Love always - Jana Write me: 23166 Westbury, Midland, MI 48640

Dave G., We could go skating or we could throw-up upside-down. Can you come out and play? Bring Sid. I love you muchly. A basket case f

Prsnls

Anyone can write a personal! All it takes is for you to take a pen and jot down a hello to a friend in 50 words or less and then mail it off to Synapse at - 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108-2800. (limit of two per issue). Please include your name, date, and address on each piece of paper that you send.

TO: Jason I love and miss you! Especially those bockwurst! Love forever, Jana

Anne Sontheimer: WELCOME HOME! All of us from First Parish YRUU have missed you. Yes, even Jane! Love you, Jay

To anyone who still remembers who I am...I'm at college, so I'm guaranteed to have the same address for at least 9 months...so write to me! July Siebecker, 221 Bliss Hall, SUNY New Paltz, New Paltz, NY 12561 or call!! 914-257-2955

To the Womyn's Workshop from Star: You're all wonderful! Be proud of who you are! I love you...and thank you so much for making my week so speical! Love, July



Dearest Ash, I love you - I don't know if taking a shower with you beats our menage a trois avec pita but it comes damn close. I love you. You're the sister I've never had. You're the "friend" I've never had. Colorado Springs this spring? Yes? I love you, Jennifer.

John, Graham and Liisa, Now that you've had a semester at UMASS Amherst, I was just wondering if you've noticed any strange plant life growing in the dorm hallways? Andy Steinberg, 216 Johnson, UMASS Amherst, MA 01003 (413) 546-3227

DAN! I miss you lots. We'll have to get together and write another sunrise. Always remember surrealist fish. Love, your Philadelphia friend.

To Jennie from one of those JPD/YRUU kindred spirits - You never sent me your address. If I had it, I'd write to you. SEND IT NOW!!! Conferences aren't the same without you. By the way, how do you submit a budget to the board? Just wondering. Love and green Jello, Shelley.

Pat, Kate, Jimmy, Doug: Smooch, Smooch, Warm Fuzzies. I love you and miss you. XO- Your misplaced Texan in Beantown!

Yo! Rejects! I'll be leaving sometime soon, but the idea will be around long after I'm gone. Josh, we accept you. Jenny, we reject you. Who knows? Who cares? Throw me some tofu!! Ha! Ultramegahypenperpentripicul ar!! Stay forever, Jack

To all the people I'll never know like: Andy Hommel, I'll never forget you. Lioness, you see a beauty that poets like me wake up with tears of joy over. I'll see you tonight and every night. CAT and Tony Donatelli, if I could control the wind, you two would be together forever. To everyone else: Love doesn't cost 89.9¢ a gallon. Try to imagine all my love in your heart for 1 minute. Then, imagine all my love plus the love of hundreds of other youth in there forever. Believe it or not, I love you. Don Davenport

Military UU's, gosh you joined and now you are confused. So am I, but I survived and actually made it fun. So if you need mail, help on how to get a religious retreat for a conference, or advice on all sorts of military matters, write me: (SPF) Eric Vigil, 20937 N. Scott Avenue, Barrington, IL 60010

My dear Mr. Integrity: I love you. I miss you. And you know what? My socks are up! (Hoping yours are too), Ms. Wonderful

Andy Husbands, where are you? I've been looking for the return letter for some time now. The nasty, threatening postcard I sent came back marked "changed address". But believe me, I'll find out where you are, so you'd better watch out! (Or find me first). Love, Marie.

Zip! He's gone again! But wait, never fear, he's back again, and still in dead end Cedar Hill Texas. That's right, for those of you frantically searching for Paul Klipp, he can be found at 945 Cannady, Cedar Hill, TX 75104 So relax, and, hey, smile, it's a beautiful day!

Sarah and Jesus, Congratulaton to my favorite two red heads (three if you count Nigel, Astrella does!) I never would've thought you'd go for it again. If you've broken up since I wrote this I'll...Love, Your Favorite Stud Muffin in NY

To those who didn't get any sleep from Nov. 19th -22nd, Yum-Yum: Cat Lard and milk. Thanks. What a treat! Charismatic Christina



Mom, Are you sleeping? Look auntie, 12 different shades of red. Did I tell you that I love your hugs, smile, hair and shoulders? No, well I do! Too bad I missed out on the snowball fight. I would have loved to get scraped up. Thanks for being there with a hug when I really needed one. You are a real sweetie. WRITE ME!! Love ya tons, Tina, your couch potato.

Special thanks to S.A.M.Y.'S - 1st Palatine Group - for making it possible; Goon - for the couch, Eric V. - toothbrush, John - massage; Val - for remembering, Eric P. - Moe/Joe, Rachel - Simon, Bryan, Eric, John - your togetherness, St. Louis - interesting train ride, Brad - YOU, all of S.A. M.Y. - your love, Kristin - finally taking my advice. Peace, warm fuzzies, chipmunks, ism, arms, politics - Simon (Tina) P.S. "You hath wings"

Sarah and Jesus, Congratulaton to my favorite two red heads (three if you count Nigel, Astrella does!) I never would've thought you'd go for it again. If you've broken up since I wrote this I'll...Love, Your Favorite Stud Muffin in NY

To The Cow Commune: MOO! (Cazanovia, NY, here we come!) Love, July

To all the Tauruses that weren't (but were): LOST IN NY?! "Hooly sheepshit, Emma Mae! Why back in Pigslop..." (They cut off my arms!); Dhoni-Joey; the band of merry pranksters (THIS SEAT OCCUPIED - victims, you know who you are); Steve, you gotta stop desecrating US \$!; Chris - sorry about the moans (OH! Jen! OH! Jen! ahhhh!!); Oona No Ticket Padgham - I'm sorry we met so late; Sorry, ya'll about the midnight freezing deli walk (20 degrees and wind chill) to call "Jay Dee" (with the proper accent); Laura! OH MY GAWD, there's a BUG in my bed!; and oh, Rachel, Fifi lives on forever...PSWD'ers, I'm so glad you're ALIVE; AND OH WOW! We've all finally met a happy practising Roman Catholic nun! Thank you Vicious Vern, Smiling Sue, Ellen, Silly Scott, and falsely named Apathetic Andrew (my five year old fish salesman) I love you, all thirty of you. WE WILL CHANGE THINGS IN THIS WORLD....Love and imaginary Pakistani nukes, NUTIFAPA (the Californian that doesn't look like one) P.S. JAY and PARISA - something was missing...

To the young lady who was with the crazed lunatic who exclaimed, "we would like to buy this ice cream please!" I have a message. The lunatic wishes you to know that he cares about you more than he loves ice cream (a lot).

Sincerely,
The Turkey
Hill Lady

No, I haven't changed the funky name, UU matchmakers, the best UU pen pal service in the district, in the country, in the world (no, I'm not proud of it), is still alive and strong, thanks to friend-hungry UUs like yourself. If you want a wonderful UU pen pal that's all your own, just send your name, sex, age, address and a little about yourself with a stamped envelope to: Paul Klipp, 945 Cannady, Cedar Hill, TX 75104 P.S. I have a young boy in Israel looking to trade stamps with an American pen pal. Write me if you're interested.

Dear Wonderful "Rev. Mark": You are making a change in this world. You are adding meaning to life. And I LOVE you for doing so. Thank for so, so much. You are so, so special. -XO, from little me.

Candace, Who would've thought things would work out as they did? Six months, whoa! Brooklyn sure is cold though. Wheeee! Life's fun! Love, the dBP STUD



TO Nils, Graham, John, Andy , Becker, Lydia, Thor, Zeb, Rachel, Kay, Jennifer (STAR '86), Jennifer and Martha and the world. I love you and we will never be apart. See you soon. Carry on my loves. Love, Peace, Thomas Krishna



Daryl, Beth, Glen and Tom, Audrey, Joelle, Seth, Jenny Jane, Alex Flemming and Melissa Yodel-ay-hee-hoo and wienerschnitzel, sending love and lederhosen i have been playing with confetti and those funky insta-creatures (Does anyone know what happened to A.D.??) My PJ top from Grandpa is a hit and what are y'all doing anyway? Stay authoritative, rebellious and hip reversed and respectfully and if the heavens move you drop me a gumdrop, lime preferably. Love, your continually confused but happy Jen (P.S. The Munsters, subtitled, are fun in all countries if you can speak English)

Once a s great participant, organizer, teacher, learned, friend, I lay dormant for three long years. Prepare ye now for I have awoken to bring unto you a new era of my presence. A JPD, YRUU creator is returing.

Pad

Pad Pad Pad

To Tammi Pierce - a woman who I love but never see. You must get in touch immediately if not sooner because I miss the blazes out of you!! I love you, July (221 Bliss Hall, SUNY, New Paltz, NY 12561, 914-257-2955)

Scott-now-of-Toronto, Our Spiritual Leader Opus inhales jello with love for you, and invites you to correspond with us through means of ink on paper. Greetings from Sla (the Almighty Dude) and the Pizza God, too. Pizza and Penguins Forever, EMU

Dear Lisa Anne, Howdy do? AT M's U? Save some of that wonderful Michigan spring weather for me (I'll share if you'll share) Did Haggas Hall survive your spring decorating? See you in a month and a half and remember to start saving Cracker Jack tatoos for that thigh-roid condition!! J'aimez vous Angus Moo!

Darin, Everyone you touch you fill with light. I love you, my friend. - Lisa

Mara Lyn - I don't know what I would do without you. Honestly I don't. Just remember, NYC won't eat you alive (Just nibble a bit). - Piglet

Chevy- You are my bestest sister all the days long. Big loves, Dobo

JDB- Forever is a long time to be friends. I'm looking forward to it. I love you, Lisa

To all of the Michigan UU Youth - You guys have changed my life...I'll never forget any of you. Love and Peace, Dan Renstrom

To Con-Con '87 - Thank you for the best week of my life. I love all of you. Love and Peace, Dan Renstrom

Dearest Nick - Oooh, La Bella Luna, I miss you! Happy Chinese New Year, my little goat. Scenic isn't the same with you not here. "Blow out Mr. Candle, please, blow out!" Love, XO, L

Rachel, Eric, Curtis: Sledding down the Rockies with you fools was outstanding. Corn Root Worm 4-ever. I love you all. Eric V.

Dear Editors: My parents tell me I am a Unitarian Universalist. Although I have never had the opportunity to attend a UU Church, I have gathered through your publications the free and meaningful ideals of this Church. I used to receive a publication for isolated UU's and I have come to realize that Synapse isn't that exclusively. I love this magazine, and I find goals, viewpoints, feelings, and people I can identify with in its pages. However, I often read Synapse feeling left out and alone. My family has no strict religious rules or guidelines but I feel that UU is as near to ideal as any I have explored. Are there any more out there like me? I know of no one my age in this area who considers themselves Unitarian Universalist. I desperately want to get involved! I am a 14 year old girl, freshman in high school and would love to make some new friends. Love, Robin McPherson, Rt. #1 Box 188-C, Aberdeen, WA 98520.

Lisa, How's the Pig? Never guess

BT - Smooch, smooch - miss you - come see me.."Can I have a few minutes of your time for a survey...?" XO LT

“Be
ashamed
to die
until
you
have won
some
victory
for
humanity.”

*Horace Mann
Social reformer and abolitionist
First president, Antioch College*

Antioch College possesses a strong historical commitment to social issues and humanitarian values. Antioch has also been a leader in implementing innovative approaches to higher education. Within the context of a challenging liberal arts curriculum, Antioch students participate in an extensive co-operative education program that enables them to become liberally educated in the broadest sense--by including work and travel experiences in their studies. While students have opportunities to work and travel across the United States and abroad, they return from these co-op experiences to a closely knit community that supports their experimentation and encourages independent, critical, and creative thinking, a community characterized by caring, humor, honesty, informality, and activism.

For more information about Antioch College, contact the Admissions Office at 1-800-543-9436 (toll-free outside Ohio) or 513-767-7047 (collect inside Ohio).

BLACK HISTORY: PAST REVELATIONS, PRESENT SITUATION

by Leia Durland

As an individual brought up in the loving arms of a denomination that espouses "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," the fact that our history is full of examples displaying racism and prejudice is saddening to me. One of our most highly praised leaders, William Ellery Channing (1780-1842), professed the belief "I should expect from the African race less energy, less courage, less intellectual originality than in our race. There is no reason for holding such a race in chains. They need no chains to make them harmless." Channing, a Unitarian minister and abolitionist leader, held views that were consistent with the racism of his day. While this is no excuse for his beliefs, it is an example for present day UU's of our embarrassing contribution to a racist history.

Channing's unsettling quote as well as the similar thoughts of Theodore Parker and others were brought to my attention when I

had the opportunity to view the video "Black Pioneers in a White Denomination." The video is the VHS version of the multi-media production based on Mark Morrison-Reed's ministerial thesis that subsequently became a book. It is the basis for a new UUA curriculum dealing with the response of UU's to the facts of racism and oppression surrounding our past in relation to the black community.

The upcoming curriculum includes a section on how UU's have responded to blacks desiring to join the movement and start churches. The curriculum also deals with UU views of interracial marriages, our involvement in slavery issues, and the civil rights protest in Selma, Alabama. As a conclusion, the program invites participants to devise ways in which UU's can promote greater inclusivity within our congregations. Elizabeth Anastos, UUA curriculum editor, stated that the fieldtest responses

indicated that the program forces UU's to confront racism that exists in our congregations and motivates them to eradicate it.

The video, which was created separately from the upcoming curriculum, highlights the isolation black UU's feel within the denomination and the difficulty of having a religious commitment to Unitarian and Universalist beliefs as well as a loyalty to the black community. The Reverend Morrison-Reed, now serving the First Universalist Church of Rochester, New York asks "How do you live in both worlds with the whole self?"

The video's advertisement describes it as a "presentation which tells the honest, at times painful, story of the experience of people of color in Unitarianism and Universalism. From 1830 to the present, blacks have been part of our movement. Despite little encouragement and sometimes outright rejection by denominational leaders and local congregations, many stayed, some to become highly committed ministers and lay leaders. The drama carries us from the struggle over slavery and the preservation of the Union through the struggles on civil rights, urban violence, and Black Empowerment to the present day in which we are still a largely white denomination."

"Black Pioneers in a White Denomination" (produced by Carol Lynn Dornbrand) is a 1/2 inch VHS video cassette running

33 minutes with a guide to presenting a sixty to ninety minute program. Although the cost is a bit high for a youth group to purchase (\$25.00 plus \$3.00 postage from the UUA



Bookstore), perhaps the church and the youth group could share the expense and as an intergenerational program idea, view the video together concluding the program with discussion including both youth and adults.

"Black Pioneers in a White Denomination" is one of many resources available for individuals and/or groups who are interested in furthering their knowledge or increasing sensitivity to black individuals within Unitarian Universalism. Although it is important for us to be aware of what is going on in our own denomination, our awareness and sensitivity needs to expand to the global level. Afro-Am Incorporated

(Publishing/Distributing Company, 819 So. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60605) has a catalogue offering many different ethnic and interracially inclusive educational materials for youth of all ages. For further information and resources, contact the UUA Department of Social Justice (25 Beacon Street, Boston, Ma 02116 {617} 742-2100 ext. 501.)

Next Issue

In preparing for fun in the sun this summer the theme for next issue is:

"Boning Up on Your H (U-U) mor"

Humor is the best medicine and here is your chance to write and tell us about funny experiences you or your youth group have had, share your favorite UU joke, display those zany photographs and graphics, or just drop back and Pun. There is also a serious side to humor as well. Humor can be healing, damaging, enlightening, and motivating. Tell us what humor means to you. Please mail your submissions to:

Synapse - YRUU
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108-2800

Deadline for submissions is May 27, 1988



Youth Caucus

Join the sun, fun, and festivities of this year's Youth Caucus at the UUA's General Assembly. Whether you are a delegate from your church (hint, hint!), a first timer at GA, or a returning Youth Caucuser, you'll want to be sure and attend the exciting programs available this year. Youth Caucus is offered by the Youth Office and includes daily meetings, creating a worship service for the entire GA community, friends to attend workshops with, and use of the Youth Caucus suite for "hanging out" space.

Youth Registration is handled through the GA Office (\$50)
Youth Housing is handled through the Youth Office (\$115, based on quad. occupancy and includes use of Youth Caucus Suite.)

There are limited scholarships available. Late fees are applicable after May 10, 1988. For housing/scholarship forms contact:
THE YOUTH OFFICE 25 Beacon St., Boston, Ma 02116 or call (617) 742-2100 ext. 351 or 352.

IF YOU KNEW SUUSI, LIKE I KNOW SUUSI...

As Teen Director at SUUSI, I would like to invite all you Synapse-reading teens to set aside July 24-30 on your calendar and join us in Radford, Virginia, for a week you'll never forget.

What is SUUSI, you ask? SUUSI is the Southeastern Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute. SUUSI is over 1,000 people (a hundred or so of which are teens) getting together for a week of hugs, nature, fun and frolic. SUUSI is whitewater rafting, tubing on the rapids of the New River, hiking to a waterfall, sitting around a campfire under the stars singing "Dear Friends." SUUSI is a dance every night, sometimes even with a live band. SUUSI is working all week to put on a musical at the end of the week (this year we're doing "Tommy"). SUUSI is arts, crafts, banners, tie-dyeing, balloons and T-Shirts. SUUSI is picnics and hayrides and suntans and sunburns. SUUSI is work and worship.

SUUSI is whatever YOU make it, and by coming YOU can make it something special for yourself and for others.

If you've never been to SUUSI, ask around. Someone you know probably has, and I'll bet they'll tell you it's the best week of their year. The SUUSI regulars well attest to that.

So if you think a week with about a hundred teens (in their

own youth-only dormitory) within a larger community of loving UU's of all ages sounds like just what the doctor (or therapist) ordered, come join us in the sunny South July 24-30. SUUSI takes place at Radford University, and for teens the entire week (meals, lodging, and programming costs less than \$200. And there are scholarships available, too.

For a copy of or 50-page full color SUUSI brochure --with LOTS more information and registration forms --write Nancy Fraese, SUUSI Outreach Coordinator, 41 Inman Street, Fairburn, GA 30213. Or if you have specific questions about programming or just want to hear about the sublimity of the SUUSI experience, write me, Bill Gupton, SUUSI Teen Director at 819 Belgrade Ave. N.E./ Atlanta, GA 30306

CLASSIFIED

Need a place to live? FREE? UU family in duplex home near University of New Hampshire will provide a two bedroom apartment in return for 15-20 hours per week babysitting/housekeeping, hours flexible. (We have 2 boys: 3 years; 6 months) Near bus route, lake, ski areas, Portsmouth. Car not needed. Call (603) 335-2693 for interview.



Expressions



A SACRIFICE

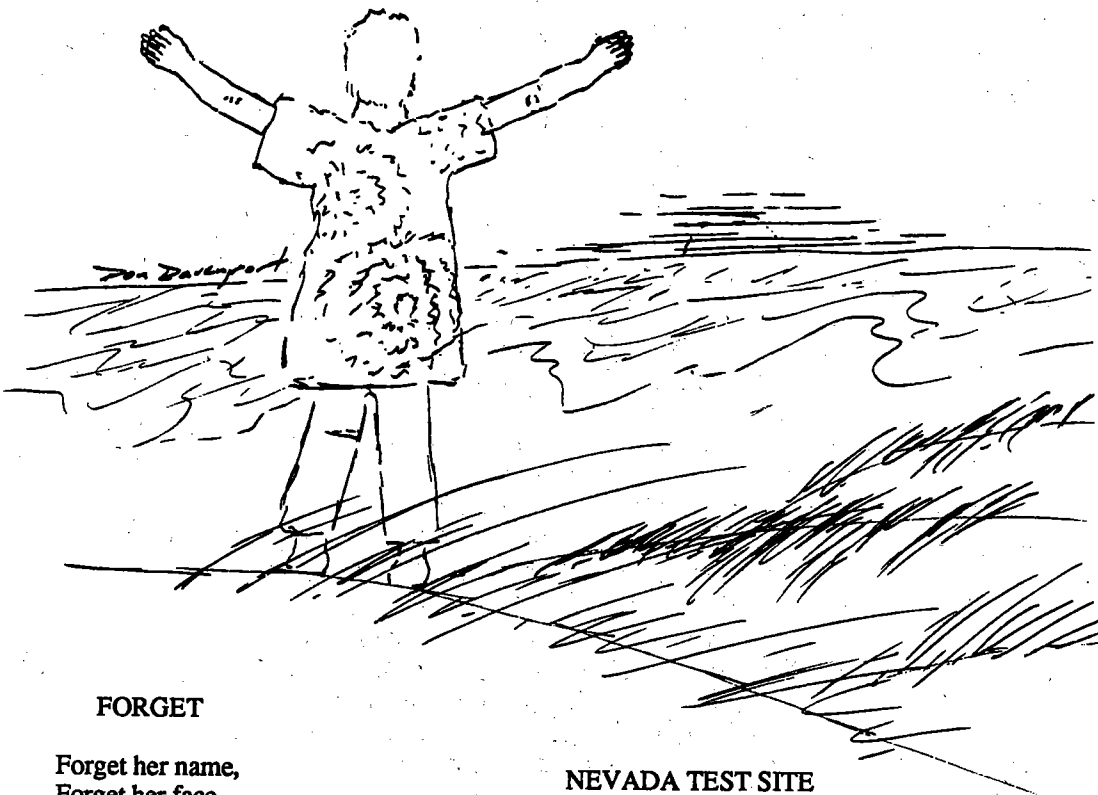
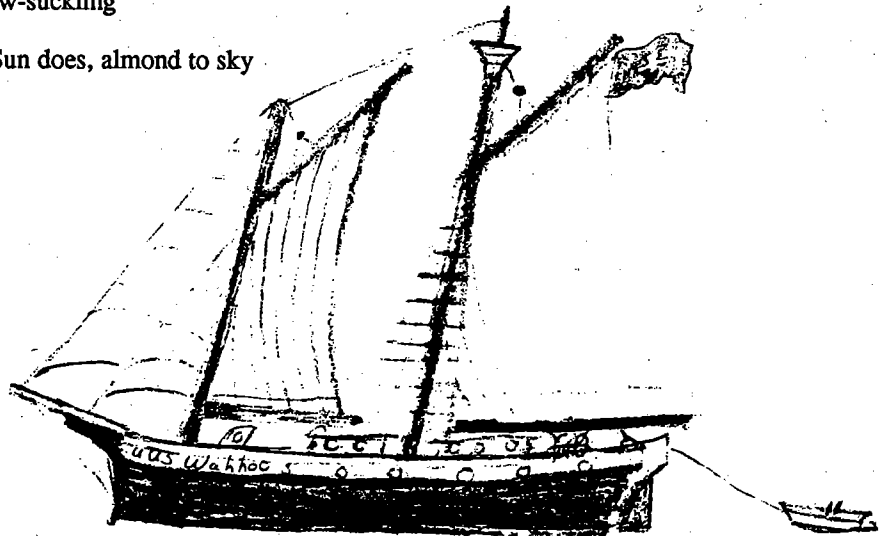
When we were little
my brother and I played separately.
He played on rocks
while I played on the grass.
Once he fell on a rock
and cut a quarter-sized hole
in his knee
which had to be stitched-
it bled so.
Another time I played hopscotch,
close to the ground,
but my brother jumped off dumpsters
and cut his head open.
Other times I read, or played school,
Or thought, or sat with the grown-ups.
Always my brother
was throwing, catching, leaping,
swimming, shouting, crawling
and bleeding
I think half the time he bled for me, not bleeding.

-- Joy Christine

GAEA TERRA

Living off the teat of Good Green Earth marrow-suckling
until her nipple becomes hard rising like the Sun does, almond to sky
till honeysalt comes pouring then
Killer whale wings me to underocean cave
my grandmother of Spirit
(Dark as a soulpoem and too knowing)
I sucked the nook in my lip to blood
The first tender stripling, alive as fire
Aching with the seduction of Earth,
oh to peel off skin and dance 'round her!
yes and pulling myself from muddiness
to greet nightsoil like a goddess waking.

--Natalie Hamm



TOUCH

A whisper in the breeze
carries knowledge
And if you listen
to whispers at night
you'll hear love.

A ray of sunshine
brings a blinding light
And if you see
the rays within your heart
you'll see love.

A moonbeam
circles luminously around your spirit
And if you feel
passion swirling within you
you'll feel love.

And if it feels like love
you can touch the Water and not be cold
you can touch the Fire and not be burned
you can touch the Winds and feel a rush of excitement
you can touch the Earth and not fall

And you can touch your heart and know it's love.

--Arianna Collins

FORGET

Forget her name,
Forget her face,
Forget her kiss,
Forget her embrace,
Forget the bad times
Create new space.

-- A. Knapp

NEVADA TEST SITE

Thinking of Her as we boarded the bus
Singing songs about Her the entire way
Sacrificing our bodies in the cold for Her
Even getting arrested for Her
We've never even known Her
But we want to
Isn't that what we're all about?

It wasn't mere talk this time
Without supervision, finally doing something

LIBERAL

The experience was more
RELIGIOUS
Than any stuffy, controlled meeting
Five Southern Californian

YOUTH

With a common goal
Isn't that what we're all about?

Of course, Las Vegas is still
Recovering from our visit
But, hey, isn't that what we're all about?

--David Sitko

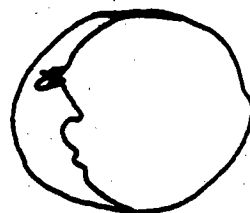
MY LOVE, MY FRIEND

Your quiet ways, your loving touch,
All of that I miss so much.
Your loving words that warmed my heart,
Your passionate touch just made me start
To think of all the special ways
You said the things you had to say.
Now its gone and we're just friends,
But my love for your will never end.

You came to me so scared yet strong,
Afraid to love for too long.
As the day turned into night
You sat pondering, could this be right?
I gave you freedom and watched you grow.
You found yourself, your highs and lows.
Now you're not scared, but strong, so strong
Longing to love for so long.

Your quiet ways, your warm dark eyes-
You look at me I'm hypnotized.
Your big strong hands have a gentle touch.
You're the one I love so much.
I sit and watch so proud to be
Your friend, the one that was to see
You rise far above the rest.
You, my love, you are the best.

-- Carrie Stone



UNTITLED

Another night that you don't call
Like them all, like them all
And still I keep waiting
Still I can't believe
that you don't feel
and care
as I do.

What makes the foolish heart hang on
When it's gone, when it's gone
And keeps it still hoping
What shows is not real
that you don't feel
and care
as I do.

--Nancy Hoffman

CARING

"Do you ever wonder,"
I ask, holding your hand,
"How the earth feels when the Sparrow
leaves the land?"
You smile in my eyes, then you stand,
Spread out your wings and fly.
I sit on the beach,
put my head down and cry.

"Do you ever wonder,"
I ask, holding you tight,
"How a poet feels,
when there's nothing to write?"
You hand me your blood,
On a Japanese knife,
And I hold you
And wish I could give you my life.

"Do you ever wonder,"
I ask, holding you for hours,
"How a bee feels
when it touches the flowers?"
You pick up my chin,
And touch my lips, with a kiss
And I sit down and write
such a poem as this.

--Don Davenport

THOSE DOGGONE INHIBITIONS

by Zoltan Lazar

Walt was in the T.V. room watching music videos when his mother called from work.

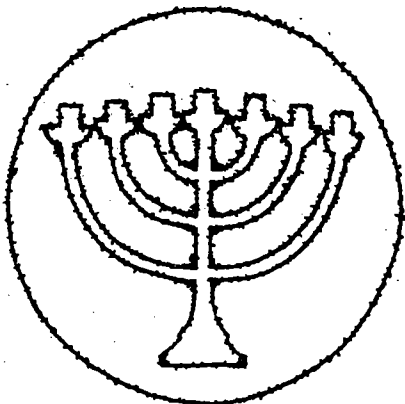
"Hello Walt . What are you doing?" "Nothing" "Did you empty the dishwasher like I asked?" "Yup." "Did you take out the garbage?" "Yup." "Well, since it seems you've got nothing better to do, why don't you take the dog for a walk. He needs exercise." "Oh all right." "Good-bye." "Good-bye."

Walt turned on the T.V. in the kitchen and emptied the dishwasher. after taking out the garbage, he found Shep's leash and started his walk.

The large dog, who was very energetic, found Walt's gait too slow and practically dragged Walt to every bush and mailbox. He sniffed each landmark thoroughly

and left his mark before Walt could drag him onwards.

The neighborhood seemed deserted since every one was



either at work or hiding indoors from the summer heat and humidity . Only the whirring of air conditioner and the sounds of insects penetrated the dense air.

When they reached he edge of the woods, Walt unclipped the leash and Shep took off like a rocket into the greenery. Walt tramped along the over grown trail . He stopped now and then to clear a spider web or to cross the stream that the path followed. The dog was nowhere in sight, but Walt wasn't worried.

He called out "Shep! Hey She-Shep!"

Walt heard the thumpety-thump thumpety-thump of the rapidly approaching Shep long before the dog finally popped of the underbrush. The dog's long fur was half matted down with mud.

"Oh Shep. What have you been doing ?" Walt asked.

Being a dog, Shep didn't answer but rather stood there wide-eyed, panting heavily. "Come on boy." Walt said. They plunged into the underbrush.

Walt realized that climbing through underbrush might seem immature for a 15-year-old. He used to do it with friends when he was little . They carried sticks



and whacked their way through the vines pretending to be African adventurers, but this time he glad a purpose.

A stick, or better yet - a machete, would have been useful, though, since the thorny plants and vines kept sticking to his clothing and to his skin... "ouch!" Walt carefully removed a thorny vine from hes right leg. Finally , they came to the edge of the forest and Walt called the dog. Shep rocketed towards him straight through the vines as if they weren't even there. Walt clopped the leash back on the dog.

Kathleen Sullivan's house was in this development. Walt's stomach felt fluttery when he thought about her. He had found out a lot about Kathleen: her last name , where she lives, what she does after school... In fact, she

was the main reason that he joined the lighting crew for the last drama production. Little did he know at the time that lighting, sound and set construction workers were in different cliques than the performers.

"Those actors and actresses rarely associate with lowly Techies," he said to himself. Walt would have tried out for a small acting part but he knew he wasn't the acting type. Now he was going to walk past Kathleen's house hoping she might see him and notice him.

Of course when Walt walked nonchalantly past the house nobody seemed to be home. He walked around the block and came back in the opposite direction. A casual glance to the right. "Nope, she's definitely not home. Oh well" he thought. "Enough excitement for the day." and he headed back along the street towards the woods.

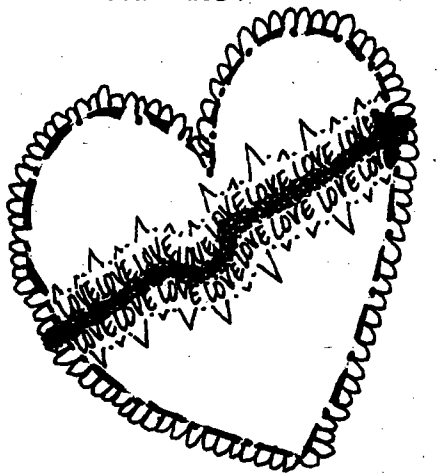
He walked on the sidewalk beside some very tall hedges. Then as he turned the corner.. there was Kathleen Sullivan with her dog, Princess! (Walt even knew the name of her dog) Walt yanked Shep onwards. " Sorry about that" he said. "That's alright:" she said "They don't know any better."

Walt just smiled and pulled the dog along. "Darnit," he thought afterwards, "I should have started a conversation."

Walt was thinking deeply as he and his dog walked back through the woods. "I think it's inhibited humans that don't know any better. I've been waiting all this time for an opportunity to meet this girl. I should be able to go out and get to know her without waiting for an opportunity."

But he knew that "Hi, can I buy you a drink?" wouldn't work for him. Walt flushed red when he thought about the results of a similar foolhardy opening line that he tried.

I need a group where I can meet lots of people like myself without feeling inhibited. This is when Walt made the fateful decision to join his local YRUU



(Love from page 2)

more of a celebration. I fear the selfishness (and accompanying lack of responsibility) I sense creeping into our group; I remind myself: YRUU is about us, not me.

Am I way off base? Fearing phantoms? I would really like to hear from somebody on these vital issues; only in honest dialogue can we find the truth.

in love and peace,
Adam Leite



(Pfennings from page 3)

(fragmentedly) something more than "Oh, you're an exchange student? How wonderful. Do you like it here?," starting friendships, family jokes, sharing emotions, taking and failing dismally a quiz in school but having done it, finding a meeting place for the class trip, and asking a question all alone at the bank. Each one was something new and so exciting. Communication and building relationships with the people around me is so important and the most difficult adjustment/struggle/challenge I've found.

Inwardly, I'm developing great awareness of not only what is happening around me, but how I am feeling, why I am feeling that way; analyzing and evaluating where I am at peace with myself and sometimes adjusting my goals and expectations, especially looking at this year in a perspective of where it blends into my life, my family and friends at

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home. It is so stark and isolated because it is entirely me alone experiencing the here, and when I come home in July, I come home alone, unable to bring it all with me to show, just what is rushing through my head and knowing I can never express it all. Now writing letters, letters, letters, keeping a diary; but it's all such an avalanche of feelings and impressions and pictures and I want to share it all at once and all my lettter were such a mishmash of things never said quite right and all meant fully me but not said fully me or never completely enough. And because my life is my friends, my people, I want to share it all fully with them. Reflecting how I, intrinsically me, have been lifted out of my world and dropped lightly into an alien atmosphere and I must breathe stange gases and eat new things as food and find new ways and means and meld and adapt, as I slowly absorb what is around me, I am happy to exist here and to function here and to learn and then know and then understand; then to exert a little bit of me on this atmosphere and continue to absorb and to radiate, still being happy, ever more challenged and stimulated by the process and the results, always amazed by the details and the knowledge and the experiences of joy and frustration and contentedness and miss-you-ness and report and vicarious experience to the mothership and getting through only a sketchy drawing indicating where the best landing spot is on the far side of the crater.

Anyway, have I made any kind of point? Even if I haven't, so far I'm the only issue I can expound upon fairly. When I actually understand, I'll pick a more sane and easier topic to explain (something social, economic or moral; maybe the nuclear arms issuce or such light topic, or maybe, for instance, why is it so appalling that Americans eat their peanut butter bread with jelly? No joke, no joke. Anyway, der quatch, noun; (KVATCH) = nonsense soooo... Auf Wiedersehen!!

Letters to the Editors cont.

(Trees from page 2)

on, and the tree was gone again. I decided to forget the whole thing and went back to my floor, and what did I find in the hallway? BOOKS. And where do books come from? TREES. I suddenly realised what had happened. The essence of the tree had departed its body, causing the body to crumble to dust. The essence had risen one floor and transformed into its future state, books. I don't want to see what will be on the fourth floor tomorrow morning, but I suspect that there will be lumps of coal since this is what books eventually turn into.

--by Andy Steinberg