

# SYNAPSE

A POINT OF CONTACT WHERE ENERGY AND INFORMATION ARE EXCHANGED

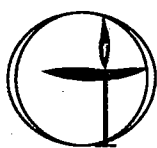
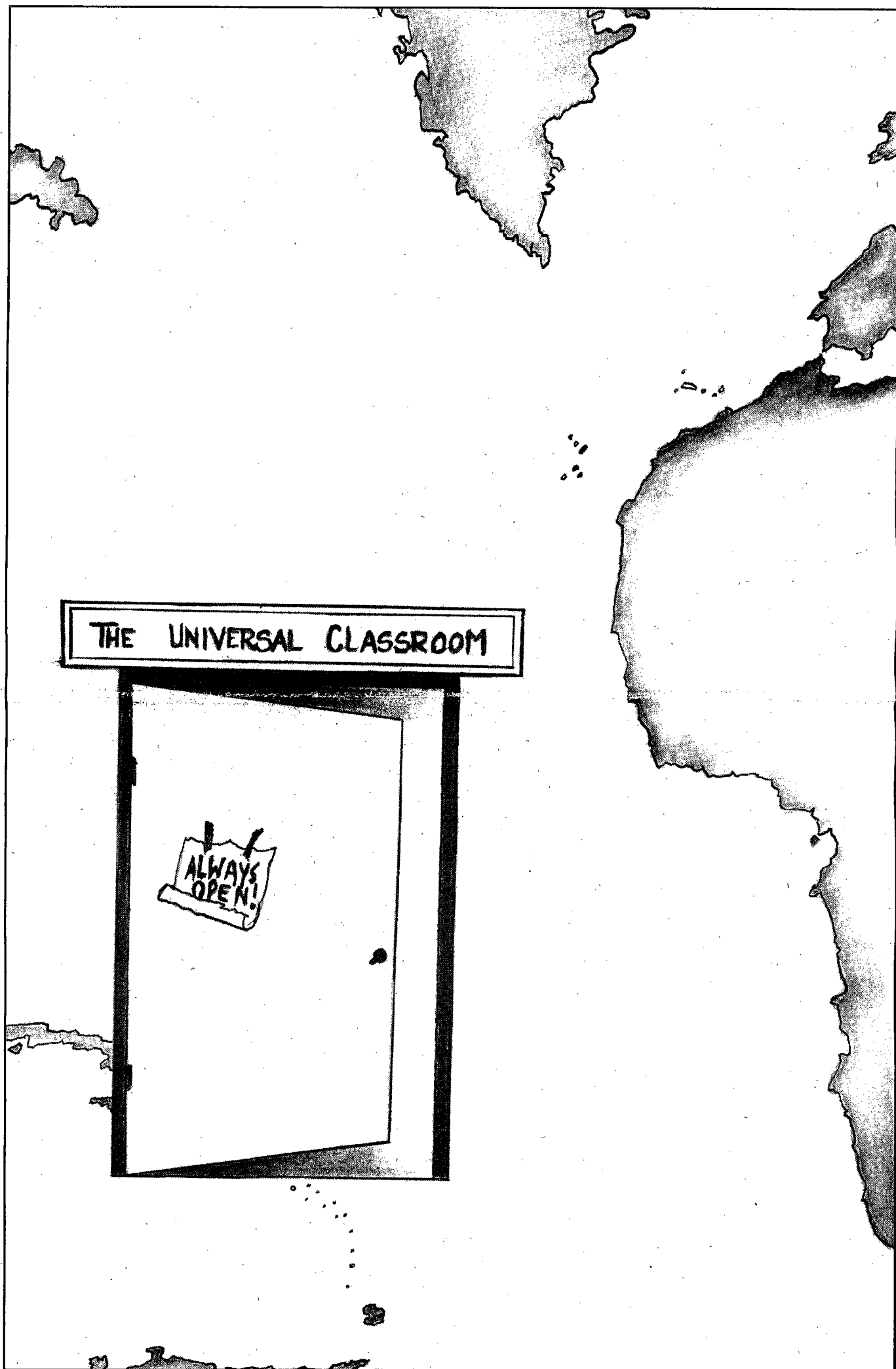
The World is Our  
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And We Fill the  
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UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST  
ASSOCIATION  
of Congregations  
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# PERSONALS



Anyone can write a personal! Simply jot down a hello to a friend in 50 words or less. All submissions over 50 words will be edited (limit--two per issue.) Send your personals today to: *Synapse*, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108-2800. Please include your name, date, and address on each paper you send.

Fl #162- Can I borrow some Chapstick? Vaseline? Jenna feels like I wet my pants. DON'T FORGET WEST-CON. Stephan spreads accurate rumors. Heather, Laura, the squeaky bunks had no wax ends. Channel J will teach you to apply a condom to toys. Wait till someone develops pictures. Peace- Jen

Ladies, gentlemen: I'm a German boy and would like correspondence with Americans my age. I hope you can print my address in your journal and so you can help me to find addresses. Now, to my person: I am 22, blue eyes, brown hair. My hobbies-- CB, computers, and discos. Address: Ralf Friedrich, Alte Dorfstraase 34, 3404 Erbsen, West Germany.

My little hoodlum, Why do you have to live so far in the boondocks? \$68.50 was too much for one month. Spring Con. was GREAT! Boo-Boo Kitty lives! I miss you! Watch out for a hug attack at Tippe canoe. Jennifer Penfield, 18849 W. Valley Drive, Fairview Park, OH 44126

ATTENTION NEON GARDEN GROUP. Flip, good luck in the army. Dan, everybody accepts you. Beaudettes, stay cool. Stephanie, congratulations. Jenny, you still game for "THE BIG PLAN"? Motley, Yo! To the aforementioned Flip: There's a Parker House Waffle shoppe in GERMANY. STAY COOL, ALL OF YOU. LOVE YOU, Sta-puft.

Anne, It's me from CUC, I don't have your address but I have a product I'd like to mail you. Mine's on the address list. (HINT: They're made of ?-cloth.) Warm fuzzies, Christine

Youth Caucus '88, an experience of a lifetime! I will never lose the memories. Thank you all for a new beginning. Love, Peace, and Happiness - Debi See you at GA '89.

Boston, Florida, New Mexico, New Hampshire, California, Maryland - All of you are a part of me now. I love you! And I miss you! - Debi

DADDY TONY - It is you who keeps LRY alive in our hearts, spirits and minds. We need your leadership to thrive and stay alive. With love, one of your many YRUU babies, Kate.

To my favorite matchmaker in Texas: When are you coming to visit Boston? We must meet sometime. Love and Peace, the one with something distinctly Unitarian in her eyes.

Chris, my dear husband. I had a great time with you in Cin. I miss you, maybe the next honeymoon will be in California. Love, Adrienne. p.s.: I've moved. New address: Adrienne Prairie, 235 Loraine Ave. #1, Cincinnati, OH 45220 P.S.S: Hi Alisa and Lake Geneva friends. See ya in June.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION! Mr. Happy Condom has moved. Interested in obtaining your own Mr. H-C t-shirt? Send \$11 (\$9 + \$2 postage): Joseph Kast, 3820 Locust Walk, Box 0137, Philadelphia, PA 19104-6134. Include address, and I'll get your protection in the mail. DRESS WELL FOR EVERY OCCASION!

Dear Jenn, Sarah, Josh, Justin, Jeremy, Adam, Gordie, Tom, and roomies. Jenn--broken glass. Josh, IOU long massage. Justin, lucky we slept. Jeremy, put an alligator up your butt. Adam, you're a caffeine guy. Gordie--a dweebe. Tom, we'll throw rocks. Miss you! Inga-Lil Vickerman, Box 288 Washington, ME 04574

From "Ask the Globe": The Millenium Society's objectives are: To establish a world-wide scholarship program for young people committed to peace, to bring young leaders together for discussions on international peace. 1,100 members. A magazine and newsletter published. Write: 6000 Ranleigh Manor, McLean, VA 22101.

To Lisa Rippon. Where are You, How are You? I miss You. Love, James

To my friends: Well, you heard I moved and you were right. But I moved again. And Again. My new address is: James D. Myers, 2215 S.E. Miller #17, Portland, OR 97202.

To Sara Brown in NY: Hellow, we met at GA in Vancouver, BC, a few years back. I'd like to hear from you. My address is above. Sincerely, James

Dear Biff, Cliff, (B) Duffy, Muffy, Fluffy, and Puffy: Greetings from friendly Elephant! S.I. was fabulous and so are you. You are one of the greatest groups I've ever known-Thanks. Keep in touch. I love you so much! Love always, Snuffy (A.M.)

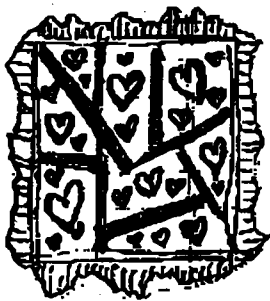
To the drum people at Con-Con: My drums miss you. Nobody has played them since the worship. Please write to them at: Magic Drums, c/o Tom Smith, U.C.S.C./ Kresge #139, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

To Rachel Baker, How have you been since we met in Harvard Square on the evening of Friday, August 5, 1988? Andy Steinberg, 214 Johnson, U. Mass, Amherst, MA 01003.

Jeremy D. Fine, Hey there! What does it take to get ya to write? It's me, Kimlet -Toronto '87. Took us to 7-11, remember? You helped me, now you're gone. Come back, baby! I love ya! Friends, Kimm Phillips, 11 Birch Street, Oneonta, NY, USA 13820

Mouse, What can I say, 2 years now, and I love you as much as that first day! True love comes along once in a lifetime - I've found that with you! Honey, you're the gr8est!! Always, Kimm Phillips, 11 Birch Street, Oneonta, NY 13820

Hey everybody from Con-Con '88! Thanks for a great week. "Don't Worry, Be Happy!" Hi Brown Touch Group - You're the coolest. I love you, Christi! - Jon Lau



To the Dallas group - Joe was right, you folks are wonderful! Thank you for making me feel loved. Write! Shelley Collier, 436 E. Mt. Airy Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19119. Keep smiling and loving! Love always. P.S. Paul, real men flip everything!

To all those in the Northeast District who are working their ass off to get it on its feet - Emily



Hey Space Cadet, Philly-- the city of brotherly love, eh? We did manage to get Jerry home in one piece. Thanks, Emily

John J. - Where are my bootleg Clash tapes, eh dude?

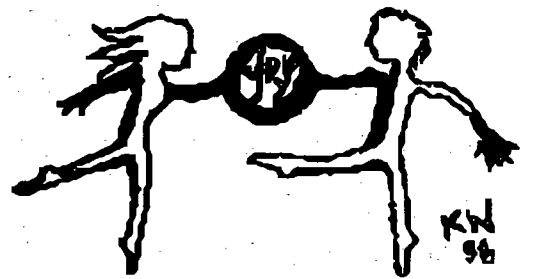
Stefan - your secret bud still loves you, never forget.

Jeff- I'm drowning - send a life vest, things aren't well.

MDD--Just wanted to say I remember the good old days. Write me in Boston if you're still into that stuff. Maine, best fishes. Undy, good luck at NEC. LD, I can't wait to visit Kansas, your home. SS, my sweetie, I couldn't resist mentioning you for no apparent reason. Jason.

It is Editor's privilege to say that I love you, Jimmy, and am excited to be moving to your town. Blessed cheesecake and here's to many good times! (There. Are you happy? You got one of your own.) LD

Nick M.D.--By the time you get this, I'll probably be sharing your abode. Ooooh neat-o. But that means I'll have given up my cush job and become a Texan again. Well... yea for that, too. Looking forward to spring break and a hug. Love, Leia.



## Everything To Know About Synapse

**Synapse** is a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, the youth organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-2800.

Subscription is free. Three issues per annum.

**Staff** - Ellen Brandenburg, Leia Durland, Jason Happel, Julie Geanakakis, 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, 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 the author's name and address attached. Multiple submissions accepted. The editors observe the following limits for each author's submission:

Articles: One per issue of each of three 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. The author's name may be withheld upon request. If you wish to be notified prior to publication, enclose a self-addressed envelope (no stamp necessary).

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

Standard	Special (need advance warning)
\$10.00 -per (2.25") column-inch	\$13.00 - per (3.25") column-inch
\$45.00 -eighth of a page	\$65.00 - sixth of a page
\$90.00 -quarter of a page	\$130.00 - 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 \$25.00, 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:**

April 1, 1989\*

\* 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*

## In the Spirit of Air-Conditioning

By Jeff Jamison, CMWD

August 8, 1988, a day that will live in infamy. On this day 30 youth and eight adults came together for a week of high-level, top secret meetings, informative and interesting workshops, and a visit to a water park. No, it wasn't a secret military event, it was Youth Council 1988. Each summer this select group of individuals comes together to exchange ideas, share vision, and set the course for YRUU in the next year.

This year's council was marked by a special occasion. Yes, as you've probably guessed by now, the 5-Year Review Committee of YRUU presented their early findings in their long and possibly everlasting (or at least, until April) look into YRUU. The presentation was informative and the council members openly discussed some of the preliminary recommendations of the committee. The committee left with a better understanding of YC rep's positions, and we left with a better understanding of ourselves.

You are probably asking yourself what else could the YC have possibly done. Well, this year's council delivered some landmark resolutions to the UU world on our direction and goals as an organization. Two of the resolutions concerning welcoming the youth into the church and bringing religion back into YRUU sent shock waves through the RE world. Folks are all excited at 53 Beacon and are looking forward to working with us on these goals. But wait, there is more! Were you getting upset at the late arrival of your *Synapse*? Well, the 1988 council passed a resolution requesting that the Youth Office work for more timely publication of *Synapse*. How much would you pay for all of this? Before you answer, here's more. An issue that has been plaguing the UUA since this past



YC '88 members in the pink touch group: Val Tremalot, Erv Miller, Mandi Cohen, Pat Pope, Leia Durland. In Front: Eric D'Acre, Jen Majors.

General Assembly has been equal opportunity for ministerial candidates. Well, YRUU took the first stand, by approving a resolution that supports equal opportunity. That will make some heads turn on Beacon Hill. Last but not least is the resolution concerning diplomacy training, an issue that even the United Nations has a hard time understanding.

One of the most important things to keep in mind is that these issues mean nothing unless we, as a youth movement, stand together in support of them. If you want to know what you can do to help, please contact the Youth Office. Without your support, these resolutions are nothing but a couple of pieces of paper. So let's show the UUA that we care. Get involved. If you are interested in attending the 1989 Youth Council, contact the Youth Office for details.

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The 1948-49 American Youth Council met in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Bet those Okies didn't expect mass quantities of young UUs twice in one lifetime!



# LETTERS TO THOSE EDITORS

The *Letter To Those Editors* section is a regular feature as long as we receive letters to the editors! So, if you have any ideas or comments on how YRUU, *Synapse*, or the universe in general is run--please write us here at the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. (Name withheld by request.)

Dear *Synapse*,

I am in charge of signing up new members to join the American Youth Party. Our organization was started to strengthen the political power of US citizens 25 and younger who have lacked a voice in our democratic government. Our party is pledged to help represent the interests of those under 25. The party was founded by youth like myself to increase their say in the US government. Please write for more information.

Thank you,

Arthur Sondheim  
American Youth Party  
RFD #1, Box 2770  
Buckfield, ME 04220

Dear Editors,

Many YRUU youth become disenchanted with the church and drift away in their late teens and early twenties. Some come back, some do not. The natural response to this has been to establish post-high youth programming that suits the needs of that age group. Both the Continental UUA and the PSWD have taken steps in this direction. While this is admirable and probably useful, I'm not at all convinced that it will keep more post-high youth involved in the church.

In order to understand what's happening, one must look at the big picture. I don't think we are losing these youth in their post-high years. Rather, our weakness is in the early, junior high period. The greatest way we can hold the interest of young adults is by establishing a strong foundation at an earlier age.

In the long term, the solution has to involve programming for junior high youth. There are two reasons for this: first, by involving youth earlier, we get a chance to involve more youth and more will stay involved by sheer force of numbers; and second, involving youth at an earlier age gives YRUU a much greater chance to make a lasting impression, to make YRUU seem like a home worth returning to.

When the 12- to 15-year old age group was cut off from attending district conferences, we lost our one link

with a large body of youth in their vital, formative years. Nothing has been done to remedy this in the past two years. If something isn't done soon, our district will have missed a chance to greatly strengthen the youth movement.

Eric Swanson

Pacific Southwest District

*This letter was reprinted from the PSWD youth newsletter, Youth Update, because we felt Eric's comments deserved a wider audience--The Editors*

Dear *Synapse*,

Hi! I'm a UU minister in Jamaica Plain and like your *Huumor* issue a lot. My suggestions for naming the flamingos are Alice and Willis. Willis Tuthill Burke was born on 2/18/88 and Alice McCabe Laramore on 3/2/88. Both are future YRUU members. Alice has some relatives of your flamingoes in her backyard, showing that she is a flamingo sympathizer. Both babies have red hair, a color close to pink. I'm told that they plan to invest their \$1 winnings so as to be able to afford a subscription to *Synapse* at a future date. Rumor also has it that Willis and Alice might be willing to pose with the birds for a photo opportunity. How can you resist?

Cheers,  
Terry Burke  
First Society Unitarian  
Jamaica Plain, MA

*Thanks for writing and CONGRATS Terry! You are the winner of the "Name that Flamingo Contest." Your prize money is in the mail and we'll be in touch about that photo session--The Editors.*

Dear YRUU,

My name is Judith Short and I am a medical student at Nottingham University, England. I come from a strong Unitarian background, my father and both grandfathers all having been Unitarian ministers. I now belong to the Unitarian congregations in both my

home town, Dukinfield, and Nottingham.

I would very much like to come to America during my vacation in March next year, but do not wish to take an impersonal coach tour or stay in hotels. Rather, I would like to meet other Unitarians in the United States and perhaps enjoy some hospitality. To this end, I wrote to the Deputy Secretary of the General Assembly of Unitarian and Free Christian Churches here in England and she suggested I write to you, thinking that you may, perhaps, maintain a list of people willing to offer hospitality. If this is the case, I would be most grateful if you could send some information to me. Any further suggestions you could make would also be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for your help.

Yours sincerely,  
Judith Short  
72 Beeston Road  
Dunkirk, Nottingham  
NG7 2JP  
ENGLAND

To Elizabeth Ann Leonard and the rest of YRUU:

After reading your letter several times, I decided I must respond. I am extremely upset and feel that you have killed part of my deep love and hope for YRUU.

I went to my first Mass Bay district conference four years ago when I was 13. It was the most wonderful experience I'd ever had. It was the first time I felt totally comfortable with a group of peers. I had never felt so much love and positive energy before.

Since then, I've been on the YAC, helped organize half a dozen conferences, been to NH/VT and Central Mass Cons, went to the UU-UNO Con '86, and the National Workshop for Social Justice '87, and this summer ('88), Youth Council and Con-Con.

YRUU has never been an escape for me. It is an integral part of my life, a place where I am able to be creative to my maximum capacity, a place where I am appreciated for everything I am. Of course, I too "thought I was in love" at 13 at a conference, and felt the same "need for love," the same "pain of loss." But I learned from that experience, and I continue to learn. Maybe someday I will know what love really is. YRUU has taught me about feelings, my own and others'.

When you get large groups of people together there are always problems, as you said, "cliques, pettiness, loneliness..lack of openness, of communication, of welcoming toleration."

However, YRUU is the only place I have found where these negative things are at an absolute minimum and often absent. I have always felt completely accepted at conferences, always felt loved and never lonely. I think it is very important, however, for YRUU to recognize these problems when they exist, as you have done. Yet, it is equally important to come up with and work on solutions.

You spoke of the *Personal's* page as a place where "people must publish to the world that they have friends." Have you ever sent in a "Personal" before? If not, you can't understand the



thrill of seeing your friendly message printed and knowing you just made someone's day. Also, even when I haven't written or received a personal, I love reading all the love that is passed through that page and knowing I am a part of this continental community.

In terms of the "rootlessness of being a UU," it is true that many people find it unfulfilling. Even though our religion does not have a set dogma, I have found that it has helped me understand my own strong beliefs. This is the creed I turn to for security and comfort. I do not believe "there is something inherently wrong in...having such an unstructured, free, somewhat ambiguous religion." It is simply not for everyone.

You mention over and over "loneliness" in your letter. I fear that you might have mixed your own loneliness with your experience with YRUU. Is it possible that they are actually unconnected and you are simply blaming YRUU for something totally personal?

I cry to read of your lack of faith in people. "We must not forget our weaknesses," you said. I say, "We must not forget our power, our strength and our potential to make this world a beautiful place."

YRUU is obviously not special to you right now. I do not doubt that many people outgrow it. You must now find other ways to fulfill your needs. Please do not kill the spirit and hope that is so dear to our young hearts.

May YRUU live in peace forever,

Kate White  
21 Lake Avenue  
Newton, MA 02159

Dear *Synapse*,

*Synapse* has almost everything:

- poetry
- peace
- personals
- humor and even
- Lucy Buuth

In my opinion, it lacks just one thing -- music. It would be great to see anything on music!

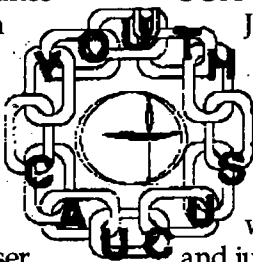
Aphra Leach  
24 Chaplin Avenue  
St. Catharines, ONT  
CANADA L2R 2E6

*We agree! We would love to have submissions that share YRUUers' thoughts on music and invite everyone (as always) to send contributions to Synapse, c/o The Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108 -- the Editors*



## Be a part of the action... YOUTH CAUCUS

If you've always heard about GA, now is your big chance to be a part of the youth programs at the largest UU gathering in North America! Whether you are a delegate from your church, a first-timer at GA, or a returning Youth Caucuser, you'll want to be sure to con-



nect with other youth at the UUA General Assembly held June 22-27 at Yale University in New Haven, CT. We'll plan our worship service, meet to discuss plenary sessions, attend workshops together, and just have fun in the Youth Caucus suite.

Youth Housing is handled through the Youth Office.

Limited scholarships are available.

For more information please write to the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108, or telephone (617) 742-2100 x351

Local Youth Group  
Programming Idea:  
Friends Wanted

Jeff Jamison  
Central Midwest District

"A man cannot improve himself, he cannot think what he wants. The future of our country looks darker and darker so I decided to leave." This cry comes from Ho Quang Minh, a 31-year-old man who left his home country of Vietnam in search of a brighter future. Like Ho, many thousands of people flee the country of Vietnam to find a homeland where they are guaranteed freedom and justice. The plight of these refugees is frightening. Risking their lives on flimsy homemade rafts, they set out on the seas in search of a place where they can live without the fear of torture or oppression by their own government. Many do not make the journey alive, and the ones who do are often placed in confinement camps. These people are not just adults, some are youth our age who are crying out for support and friendship. As one 13-year-old wrote; "Are you happy? I am unhappy because I am not free."

All these youth ask for is a little support in their search for freedom and safety. We are very fortunate to live in a country where our freedoms and rights are protected; sometimes we forget how fortunate we are. As Gandhi once said, "Even

the smallest light can dispel the deepest darkness." So, reach out and bring a little light into someone's life. Below are letters from Vietnam refugees in camps located in Hong Kong. If you are interested in lending a little time to become a pen pal with these youth or others, please contact the Youth Office.

Dearest Friend,  
I'm one of the refugee's students in the closed camp, I'm sixteen years old. I come from VN (Vietnam). I came to HK (Hong Kong) after July, second, nineteen eighty two. I have been in the closed camp for four years. I was waiting for the western humanity. I'm an orphan boy. I came to HK with no relatives and nearest friend to my heart. Hello friend. Who are you? You are England aren't you. Since I have on this earth, I haven't met you any where, so this is the first time. I'm writing to you in English to make acquaintance with you. If you are agree me about that point, would you please write to me a letter. Hello friend. I don't know you are! and I don't know where are you living in England but now I do in a letter. I wish you to good health and happy in the new year. Dearest friend. Would you please sympathy me. This is the first time I do letter to you and my English is so poor, when I had any mistakes in this page please sympathy me is it okay.  
Your Sincerely

Vu Quang Dinh

Por favor—¡Subscribe!

the Connexion

Thoughts from C•UUYAN facilitator Linda Ferguson

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Are you looking for a newsletter that gives you romance, gossip and stories bound to make you gape in disbelief?

Well, the Connexion doesn't have any of those. We simply offer you inspiration, thoughts from people like and unlike you, good feelings and news about young people's doings in and around the UUA.

You are invited to subscribe for US\$5 (CAN\$6) and get four issues of this believable newsletter.

Make checks payable to Continental UUYAN. Mail to: Kate Patterson, 3210-A Blair Blvd., Nashville, TN 37212.

UYU-Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network serving the needs of UUs 18-35 yrs. old

☐ New  
☐ Renewal  
☐ Address correction/change

☐ YRUU regular: US\$5.00, CAN\$6.00  
☐ YRUU Helper: US\$5/CAN\$6 + donation

Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Friend!  
Hello how are you? My name is THO. I am a boy. I am fourteen years old. I come from V.N. (Vietnam). I go to Bowring school. My teacher's name is Mrs. Baron. She is very good teacher. I have two brothers and one sister. They are living here. They are learning English at home. In this camp has one thousand people living here. My favorite are Maths, Englishs, Historys. What

favorite do you like? Do you like any sport? I likes football, Basketball, tennis and Volleyball. Sometimes I feel very sad. Because My grandfather and grandmother alive in V.N. (Vietnam)  
Goodbye  
See you next letter  
Yours Sincerley  
tho

"Have you seen  
this child?"



name:  
Anne Sontheimer

d.o.b:  
Oct. 21, 1968

hair:  
brown

eyes:  
green

favorite food:  
green pepper

favorite flavor of ice cream:  
bubble gum

Last seen:  
running conferences in the  
Mass Bay district.

NEWS FLASH

Miraculously found--

Anne Sontheimer has been discovered to be in Boston impersonating a YRUU youth staffer. Anne was reported as saying "I'm quite enthused to be representing this wonderful organization."

"What I Learned in  
the Soviet Union"

by Ellen Brandenburg

"I learned more about Americans in two weeks than 16 years here had taught me. And I learned about the extreme smallness of the world." -- Melissa Simard  
This past summer Dawn Rose Graves and I accompanied a group of 25 YRUUs on a three-week trip to the Soviet Union and Hungary. After two days of preparation in New York City, we flew via Swissair and Malev Airlines to Budapest, Hungary. If you have a desire to visit the 1940s, fly Malev. All our bags arrived, however, which was a miracle. Budapest is a beautiful, old city and a wonderful transition zone for trav-



ellers going from New York to the Soviet Union. The standard of living is quite high, the shopping is great, and the food isn't bad. There are Unitarian churches there as well, one of which we visited. The head of

Hungarian Unitarianism, Bishop Firenz, offered us hospitality in his study and spent time talking with us. His concern for the Hungarian Unitarian refugees fleeing persecution in Romania affected us all. As he spoke, the stained glass flaming chalice in the window of the chapel symbolized our unity. We took the train from Budapest to Kiev, a 24-hour ride in cozy (to say the least!) compartments. We reached the border in the middle of the night, experiencing our first taste of Soviet officialdom. Stern-faced border guards barely old enough to shave grimly searched our luggage and triple-checked our customs declaration forms. Meanwhile, the most amazing thing was happening to our train. Because the rail gauge is different in Hungary than in the Soviet Union, huge cranes picked each train car up off its wheel base and slid a new set of wheels in place: kerchunk! I learned at the border not to ask "why?" Nobody knows why things happen the way they do in the Soviet Union. One must learn to laugh a lot. That lesson learned, we travelled from Kiev to Simferople on the Crimean Peninsula. We spent time in Alushta and a day in Yalta. Alushta is the sister city of Santa Cruz, CA and resembles it in many ways. It's colorful, warm, sunny, jumpin'--not your stereotypical Russian village by any



YRUUs on the 1988 USSR trip hanging out with Soviet youth.

means. Moscow was our next and final stop. It is huge, grey, powerful and fascinating. One of the first things I learned on this trip was not to take so much luggage. There is no one to help you carry it. I also learned that I am much more of a capitalist than I thought I was. I cannot count the times I exclaimed to myself, "There are millions of dollars to be made in this country!" Someone could sell popcorn or ice cream out-

side the circus in Gorky Park. Someone could sell soft toilet paper (I wrote letters home on the stuff). Have they ever heard of computers? A TV repairman could make a mint. I could have sold a YRUU t-shirt for a fortune. Everywhere we went there were young people hanging around us who wanted to trade fur hats, beautiful lacquer boxes, and nesting dolls, for shoes, shirts, cigarettes, tapes, and the most coveted prize of all--a Sony Walkman. Of course, goods such as these are valuable status symbols, but it is also true that centralized economic planning in the Communist system does not favor consumer goods and services, not even essentials such as housing, food, and decent plumbing! Foreign goods are extremely hard to obtain. Gorbachev is attempting to make the economy more efficient and productive by introducing some ele-

## LEARNING FROM A SOLDIER?

Tom Smith, PCD

Last year at school I took an international relations class. Nobody in the class was interested in what was going on around the world except for myself and this guy who just got out of Army boot camp. Right off the bat I thought that I would not get along with someone who had been in the Army.

At the beginning of the school year I spent time protesting at the Concord Naval Weapons Station in Concord, CA. This particular weapons station is the West Coast's largest supplier of weapons to the government of El Salvador. A train had severed the legs of someone protesting the weapons shipments, so a 24-hour protest had been set up to continue to block the "death trains." The soldier in my class, Darren, had to guard the tracks occasionally to prevent protestors from entering the base (some protestors tore up 100 feet of train tracks.) During this class we talked about our experiences being on the opposite sides of the fence at the base. We mostly put down each other's beliefs.

As the year went on, Darren and I got into some very intense debates. One of our biggest debates happened the day before Congress decided to continue to aid the Contras. I am very much against any type of aid to the Contras, and Darren is a staunch anti-Communist, a send military-up-the-butt kind of person. We argued with each other, each of us was convinced he was right. After class Darren came up to me, shook my hand, and said that he was glad we were in the same class because most people are afraid to say what they feel. I felt really happy and decided that we both learned a tremendous amount from each other.

I had always decided to dislike people because of their beliefs without ever getting to know them, but I actually became good friends with Darren. We looked pretty funny talking to each other: dreadlocks and a crew cut look very ridiculous together. He told me why he joined the Army. He wanted to help people and nothing else mattered except the Army. I told him that I became involved in the peace movement because I wanted to help people and nothing else mattered. Wow! I was amazed. There was a real human inside of Darren; the Army had not turned him into a violent vegetable. I guess I am trying to say that your enemy may be more like you than you might think. During my last year in high school I learned more about myself from dealing with a soldier than I learned in any of my classes. Next time you encounter a soldier, a policeman, a drug addict who is a born-again Christian, an athlete making millions, the Pope, a bad Elvis impersonator, god-forbid Morton Downey, Jr., Dan Quayle, or anyone else who you may normally dislike right away, try to look inside and see the real person.

Tom Smith  
Pacific Central District



## America Discovers Columbus, Canada Discovers Diversity

Loretta Williams

Director of the UUA Social Justice Department

So Canada picked up on your De Colores YRUU theme?!

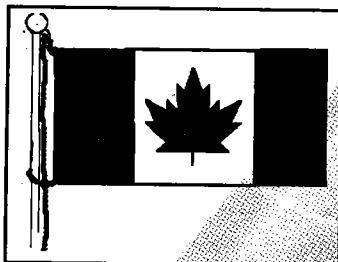
Now that's influence!

Canada just this fall declared itself a multicultural nation. Already bilingual, Canada has chosen to honor multicultural and multiethnic diversity. The government funds organizations seeking to maintain cultural uniqueness. It's a different mindset, a different way of looking at national purpose and world identity.

Here in the States it's another story. Have you heard about the plans for 1992? The 500th anniversary of Columbus' "discovery" of America is coming. (That this land had already been discovered by some other folks seems to be beside the point!)

The official plans-- there's a high-level panel of political appointees making the decisions-- are to celebrate "civilization" coming to this land. Needless to say that there was no American Indian appointed to this committee to point out the arrogance of European culture being the sole definition of "civilization." Instead, the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee Commission (CCQJC) is headed by a real estate developer; his colleagues come mainly from the business community.

Because of protest from indigenous groups, there's now a nonvoting American Indian on the panel. But the power and danger remains. The celebration, the planning of



which has been budgeted for seven years, does not recognize Native-American people and their relationship to the land.

I'm hoping that you can initiate talk about all this within your group and neighborhood. Call your local Congressperson's office and ask for the 1987 report of the CCQJC. Read it, and take action. See if others see the same misplaced and dangerous priorities in the plans for national and local celebrations. Let your elected officials know how you feel. (Send me a copy too, please!)

I'd like to hear from Canadian UUs about your multicultural national identity and culture. States-side ethnocentrism and racism abounds: a quadrupling of racial incidents on college campuses; the meanness of the presidential campaign and the manipulation of deep-seated racial fears; the color line making the experience of people of color the best of the worst and the least of the best is woven deeply into the fabric of America.

1992 has enormous symbolic importance. The arrival of Columbus with guns and African slaves initiated centuries of colonialism and genocide. This, too, is part of our collective history. Let us not as a nation and as citizens continue the central contradiction in democratic society: the structural barriers of race and color determining how goods, services, and power are distributed in the United States.

Eurocentrism equals white supremacy and the power imbalance that perpetuates the best of the worst and the least of the best. Contrast that with De Colores. I'm filled with hope that YRUU groups across the continent are spending time this year looking at the new face of racism. And, importantly, acting to better align principles of openness and antiracism with actual behavior.

## Kidnapped in Pakistan

Sasha Khokha

7511 Cowan Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

Pakistan, part of India until 1947, became a separate country when rivalry between Hindus and Muslims reached its peak. My father's family was Hindu and was forced to flee to New Delhi to escape riots and terrorist attacks from Muslim neighbors. My grandparents and their small children fled from the tiny village with only a few suitcases. After 41 years, with the help of my father (an American citizen), my grandfather was finally permitted to visit Pakistan. It was an amazing experience for him. He honestly thought that he would never see the village of his birth again. Our trip was most exciting.

Pakistan is a totally religious state. It is tiny and crowded with people. The visit was amazing; there seemed to be no women there at all. The streets were full of men who stared at me in my western clothes. My T-shirts and shocking knee-length skirts certainly threatened their ideas about modesty. Muslim women are usually kept at home, locked in a lonely world of serving their husbands and children. If they do go outside, they wear the "burka," or face veil. Beginning at puberty, girls are kept inside, shrouding their faces from men's eyes.

Of course, we were quite a shock to the village people of Sheikupura, the place where my grandfather was born. The open sewers, dirt roads, and fly-covered fruit stands really surprised me. It was hard to believe that my dignified grandfather, with his well-tailored clothes and huge house, had come from such meager beginnings. But it was true. He had tears in his eyes when, after much searching, we found his childhood home. The people living there now were so hospitable-- they gave us cold drinks and invited us in; and Hindus and Muslims are supposedly mortal enemies!

My grandfather succeeded in finding someone who remembered him--an old classmate from fifth grade! I could see my grandfather beaming with happiness as the two old friends, who met after 60 years, walked hand in hand through the village. They had the same beginnings but turned out so differently. My grandfather's



friend had missing teeth, a *dhoti* (cloth wrapped around the waist and between the legs in a skirt-like fashion) and a torn native headpiece. My grandfather wore his Western clothes, and proudly introduced his American grandchildren.

The next day we travelled to the village where my grandfather was born. We also shocked the people there. Curious children began to follow our entourage--leaping in front of our cameras, clapping and singing for us. The village drummer appeared and began to play for us--leading the children through the narrow streets as they clapped along. Soon afterwards, I felt myself being pulled inside a doorway. I was really scared. As I was shoved into a chair, I looked up to see a group of seven or eight teenage girls standing over me - laughing and whispering. They were dressed in the traditional silk *Salwar-kameeze* (loose, baggy pants, knee length skirt). They offered me a Coke, and began talking to me in a strange language. I

Pakistan Continued on Page 7

# We Fill The



# Our School

## EDUCATION TOWARD CULTURE

Jason Happel

Education is critical in Unitarian Universalism. Without a formal doctrine or creed in our religion, we are left to create and cultivate our own faith. But how can we do this? A certain type of education is needed in our quest—a liberal education.

Three important words must be defined here. First, "education," from the Latin word *educere*, means to "draw out." Education then must be connected with anything that draws out from the mind, exercises the mind. Getting an education means being handed two books, so to speak, that disagree about the nature of things, and then thinking about the differences. Education's opposite is "indoctrination," meaning to "put into." Second, "culture." Leo Strauss, author of *What is a Liberal Education?*, writes that "liberal education is education in culture. The finished product of a liberal education is a cultured human being. "Culture" (*cultura*) means primarily agriculture: the cultivation of the soil and its products, taking care of the soil, improving the soil in accordance with its nature. "Culture" means derivatively and today chiefly the cultivation of the mind." Strauss proceeds to say that there is an obvious difference between "culture," used in the plural, and "culture," as a *singulare tantum*, which can only be used in the singular. "Culture" is now no longer, as people say, an absolute but has become relative. It is not easy to say what culture susceptible of being used in the plural means. As a consequence of this obscurity people have suggested... that "culture" is any pattern of conduct common to any human group. In other words, every human being outside of lunatic asylums is a cultured human being, for he participates in a culture. If we contrast the present-day usage of "culture" with the original meaning, it is as if someone would say that the cultivation of a garden may consist of the garden being littered with empty tin cans and whiskey bottles and used papers thrown around the garden at random." Third, "open-mindedness" means considering ideas other than one's culture or one's own. It does not necessarily mean believing nothing is true.

We declare the world around us our school. "Experience the world firsthand," we say, meaning, not through books, for they are secondhand interpretations of the world, but through cultural empathy. The value of conversing with friends and experiencing people directly is obvious to us, but, our understanding of ourselves and others is limited by the fact that we stop short in our education. Meaning, we do not read. Granted, we feel deeply; yet it seems we as young religious liberals do not think for ourselves as much as we are capable. It seems that jumping on the liberal band wagon is our moral dogma.

The world can only be experienced firsthand to a limited degree; our culture is a cave, some say, and it supplies us with many artificial things. How can we tell which things are truly worthy? An education provides and cultivates thoughtful opinions that help us discriminate between meaningful and worthless things. Luckily, our great school,

the world, is not limited to a cave as we are, it has a history of great minds who have left behind great books for us. Alternatives to our way of life can be found in these great books. As young religious liberals, we may distrust authorities who declare one book, such as the *Bible*, the Truth. Knowing that the answers to our questions cannot be found in one book, we are compelled to turn to the many texts that help us understand ourselves and cultivate our questioning minds. Allowing the books "have conversations" with each other educates and even allows us to recreate those conversations with our friends. Our "free and responsible search for truth and meaning" consists of a liberal, freeing, education, not some goofy indoctrination.

Today, many students hold the conviction that liberal education must strive to understand other cultures in order to overcome ethnocentricity (a word branded with negative connotation.) Ask any YRUUer and he or she will tell you that all cultures are equal, that no culture is better than another. He or she will claim that there is no absolute truth that is right for all people, everywhere, but that every value system is relative to the time and place in which it is practiced. Then if we ask, "What about Nazis?" the young liberal automatically declares that the Nazis infringed on other people's rights. Can he or she be saying that infringing on others' natural rights is wrong always and everywhere, and therefore is an absolute?

With the world around us as our school we see various and fundamentally different teachings about justice, goodness, love, and so on. These conflicting messages might raise the question in some of us that not all of those opinions about the world are equal. *The Communist Manifesto* teaches something different than, say, Plato's *Republic*. We cannot be sure which cultural tradition will be

most helpful in our search. And, we cannot assume the greatest minds are limited to any given culture. But we must choose a tradition in which to begin our study, because it serves as our ground until we find the proper ground. When asked which culture we are capable of understanding, our own culture comes to mind as a good place to start: it is the only place that those of us who were born into it can understand. Only when we have a ground to think from can we begin to think, and begin to compare the different traditions judicially. It is difficult to experience Eastern thought, for example, without having been born into that culture. The point is that it is difficult to practice "interracial/intercultural understanding" without having a solid understanding of our own tradition. Just because we begin with the prejudices of a culture does not mean we are destined to end there. Only liberal education can direct us properly. A liberal education must be based on the presupposition that understanding is not limited to a culture, but is above all cultures, and hence, the standard for judgment.

Education is essential for making the judgment about whether to march against apartheid, whether to be vegetarian, whether to vote Republican. When we give appropriate consideration to the alternatives, we are strengthened, whether we opt for one side or the other. Our goal in education, when it replaces indoctrination, is to attain knowledge about the most important things.

tle English. "You husband?" she asked. "No!" I laughed. I am taller than most Indians/Pakistanis, and I looked to be about 18 or 19, a marriageable age.

As I got up to leave, the girls held me back, grabbing at my rings, my jewelry. I guess they wanted something to remember me by. I also wanted to remember them, and so I pointed to my camera, asking for them to go outside. They refused, because of the village men who were out there. I realized that is also why they pulled me inside, instead of coming out to meet me. I managed to take a picture of their younger sisters, who weren't yet old enough to have to hide their faces. They were really sad that I had to leave. How often do people with lives so different from their own come to their tiny village?



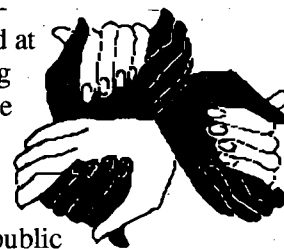
## Con-Con Theme Inspires a MUSIC VIDEO

What's hot, new, and exciting and going on in your very own Youth Office? "I have no idea," you say? Well then, turn on your TV and soon you (and hopefully millions of other people) will be seeing *The De Colores Rap!*

In cooperation with the UUA Social Justice Department, the YRUU Steering Committee decided at its fall meeting to donate some money from our budget to help fund the creation of a public service announcement (PSA) dealing with the YRUU Year of Interracial/Intercultural Understanding. The theme for this 30 second rap will be color, race, and culture appreciation! A complete version (three minutes or so) of the rap will also be produced in hopes that youth groups and congregations will watch the video and catch on to the important message that "color-blindness" is not the way to approach interracial/intercultural understanding.

The talented Leverock Hazell, who is both an employee of the UUA and an up-and-coming music/rap/video artist, is making the video come to life. Previously, Leverock has created music videos dealing with issues like drug abuse and staying in school. A video he put together for the Florida Citrus Growers called "The Orange Juice Rap" won grand prize in a recent national competition.

The video will be finished in December and hopefully available for use by YOU in early January. Contact the Youth Office for more information.



*Pakistan. Continued from Page 6*

was really scared - I couldn't communicate at all.

The eldest girl began combing my hair, and her younger sister got out a bottle of nail polish and began to paint my nails. Another took out some vegetable dye (henna) and began to decorate the palm of my hand. By this time my father was frantic. He had no idea where I had disappeared to, and was a little paranoid that the old hatreds against Hindus in Pakistan had not yet died.

My father finally burst into the girls' house. They were shocked and made attempts to cover their faces. My father, relieved, and amused at the beauty parlor they had set up, waited outside for me. One of the girls knew a lit-

# Classroom

Dear Luucy,

I have been romantically involved for about two years with a terrific guy whom my parents really like. Things get a bit tricky when my boyfriend and I go to visit them and stay at their home. I sleep in my old room and my boyfriend sleeps on the couch in the living room. I have never talked with my parents about the sleeping arrangement but the arrangement feels contradictory to me from the way my boyfriend and I lead our lives. I don't want to be rude or insensitive to my parents, but I also feel like my relationship with them is not as open or honest as I would like it to be.

Signed,  
Curious in CA

Dear Curious,

Your dilemma, my dear, is serious, yet it presents an excellent opportunity for that oh-so-mportant personal growth and for a more grown-up relationship with your parents (which Luucy suggests may be somewhat risky but perfectly necessary if you are as old college[?] as Luucy suspects you are.)

O why, o why do young people think their parents can't take a bit of honest truth? If you want your relationship to be more open and honest,

*you must be that way yourself. Pay attention to the following rules: Don't dump the whole load on them at once. Don't be defensive. Don't accuse them of living in the Dark Ages; respect their values and desires (after all, it is their house and they have the right to set the rules.) Invite the parent you can talk to most easily out for tea and tenderly broach the subject over teacakes. Do maintain your composure and sense of humor. Don't be surprised if your parents have been wondering why you never brought it up before. Don't be surprised if they're shocked and hurt and/or think it's just fine for your boyfriend to sleep on the couch. But do talk and remember they love you.*



-Luucy

family just to hang out with my YRUU friends and I don't want to drop out of the group. What should I do?

Signed,  
The Big Sis

Dear Big Sis,

Luucy's advice to you is to grin and bear it. Perhaps you could do your most private hanging out in a context other than with your youth group. Also, you may be surprised to find your little sis is worth a bit of initial inconvenience.

-Luucy

Dear Luucy,

I hope you can help me with this very troubling problem. Like many YRUUers, I have developed a very special long-distance relationship. Besides the large phone bills, the only other problem is conference sleeping arrangements. We love each other very much, and due to the distance we only see each other three times a year at conferences. During these times we are not even allowed to sleep near each other due to the no-sex rule. We don't want to have sex, we just want to be near each other.

Signed,  
Lonely, frustrated, and in love

Dear Lonely,

How delightful that you are in love, but you really musn't presume to use YRUU conferences to satisfy your nocturnal yearnings to be "near each other." Please be a little more community spirited--coupling up so excludes others from your attention and company, which Luucy would suggest may be in demand.

Perhaps you could arrange to be together for a day or evening either before or after the conference and use that time to express your love in private and in appropriate ways. Now, wouldn't that be nicer anyway?

-Luucy

## Advisors' Column

### So, what are you doing Spring Break?

What about a youth group trip? Whether a quick weekend trek or a two, week mega adventure, trips build community, create memories, and are a great way to get to know the youth you are working with. For information on planning a trip with your group, contact the Youth Office. We have all the juicy details and would be happy to get you started!

*An Ideal Spring Vacation*  
by Adele O'Neill

Everyone ought to spend spring vacation with 12 teenagers hiking to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. This experience offers the opportunity to commune with nature, youth, and the Native Americans. How do you do it?

First, rent a big van and stuff it with teenagers, backpacks, and other necessary items-- comics, joke books, jam boxes, music and other interesting noises, and an assortment of snacks. Drive to Kingman, Arizona, amidst a chorus of, "Are we there yet?", "Where are we eating?", "Play this tape!"

Kingman can be very cold and windy this time of year; naturally teenagers don't want to set up tents and sleep in them under such circumstances. But with the incentive of going out for pizza, the tents will get up. Vince's is good for pizza and there's a waitress who can handle 12 teenagers who all want pizzas with three toppings on one half and four on the other half. She'll tell you that she's never been to Havasupai, but you can always tell if a person has been because they do the Supai Shuffle after hiking out.

Now for a good night's sleep--12 teens who have been cooped up in a van all day stuffing themselves with sugar, pizza, and caffeineated drinks will be ready for bed, right? Wrong! Yelling, jokes, etc., between

tents begins. When it becomes unbearable, one of the "sane" adults will yell, "Cool it," and they might. After such a night, they'll all be up early of course--not. It will take hours to get everything going. When you arrive at the trail head, it will be afternoon.

But the canyon will look beautiful. One adult should lead and the other be the "rear guard." This sounds easy, but the adult in the front should prepare to be run over by the young stallions in the group, and the one in the rear needs a whistle to let the leader know when they are too far behind with the people who "just know" they cannot make it. The chorus changes to "Let's rest now," "I need a drink," "I'm tiiiired." It is amazing to see energetic youth jumping, straggling, falling all over the trail. At the village of Supai, you'll register with the Indian Tourist Office, pay your money (for this misery?), and discover that it's two more miles to the campground.

As darkness begins to settle, you continue down the last two miles with flashlights and the waxing Easter moon. When you finally get to Havasu Falls and see the view, you will know that this trip was worth the trouble.

*Notes from the UU Heritage trip*  
(Boston, New York, Washington D.C.)  
made by the youth and advisors of First Church in San Diego, CA:

I've spent considerable time doing wrap-up things regarding the UU Heritage trip. Now all that remains is to encapsulate the incredibly rich week; that's difficult. The following memories convey a hint of this adventure.

Arlington Street Church's sanctuary, 1:00 a.m. Sunday morning, after walking through the rain from a citywide "Dance for Peace" attended by a thousand people. We listened to the organist practicing, many of us in tears at the beauty of the music and the feeling of home in this

building.

King's Chapel, Sunday morning. Was that us, with dress clothes, sitting in a balcony box reading from a prayer book? Since it was Palm Sunday, the children handed out palm fronds, and the story of Jesus' trial was told, with the congregation shouting on cue, "Crucify him, crucify him." This is part of our UU roots. Consensus--it was interesting, different, and not something we want to import to our congregation, though most of us were glad to have seen it.

The UUA Headquarters felt like our home. We sat on randomly arranged couches, saw Channing's pulpit, toured the building with its jumble of bulletin boards, and met busy inhabitants who were happy to greet us and answer questions.

The Granary Burial Ground on the Freedom Trail contains the graves of Samuel Adams, Ben Franklin's family, Boston Massacre victims, and others.

The trip to Boston wasn't entirely serious, however. Joy and Heather finally got inside the Benetton store that had a 70 percent-off sale on winter clothes. Matt located Tower Records.

New York was different. It felt bigger, dirtier, faster--for some it was scary. From the Empire State Building, we saw Statue of Liberty, Central Park, and too

many skyscrapers and cathedrals to count. Later, we walked in Times Square with the youth group from All Soul's Church in New York City.

In Washington we began at the Capitol, and proceeded to the Air and Space Museum. Friday night we cruised the Potomac. Saturday we visit-



ed a series of memorials, including seeing Vietnam Memorial Wall--we were all subdued; column after column of names of those who died is powerful.

There's no easy summary of the trip. I think that it deepened the perceptions of most of us about UUs. We learned to use different public transportation systems, to do laundry in odd places, and to argue with taxi drivers. We found places to shop, ate hotdog-stand meals, and shortened the lives of several shoes. It was a FANTASTIC trip!

### Spring-Summer Issue

☞ Deadline for submissions is April 1, 1989

☞ Due on your doorstep in June (before GA)

\$\$\$\$ WELCOMING YOUTH INTO THE CHURCH:  
AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE \$\$\$\$

Youth Council '88 passed the  
"Resolution on Welcoming Youth into the Church."

This next issue of *Synapse* will provide  
a laissez-faire market for the exchange of  
mental commodities relating to youth and the church.

Take stock in your future; invest today.



## The Destruction of Our Unitarian Heritage in Transylvania

Dear Unitarian Universalist Friends,

Our Unitarian sisters and brothers in Transylvania are in serious trouble. In the past they have suffered, but recently the situation has deteriorated. Today their homes are threatened with destruction. Whole villages are scheduled for demolition. It's important to understand the background of this problem and what we can do to help.

Unitarianism arose 420 years ago in Transylvania. It was there in 1568 that King John Sigismund proclaimed religious toleration. For over a thousand years, Transylvania belonged to Hungary. All of our Unitarian relatives in Transylvania are of Hungarian ethnic origin.

Following WWI, Transylvania was awarded to Romania. For a brief time in the 1940s northern Transylvania reverted to Hungarian control, but in the Treaty of Paris, signed in 1947 following the defeat of the Axis armies in WWII, Transylvania was awarded to Romania again. The Treaty of Paris contained a clause in which Romania agreed to "secure all persons under Romanian jurisdiction, the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms...expression, press, religious worship, political opinion, and of public meeting." That of course is a commitment that has never been kept!

Nicolae Ceausescu acquired power in Romania in 1965. One of his goals has been to "Romanianize" the entire country. He aims to eliminate Hungarian culture within Romania's borders. The result has been a policy of harassment. Gradually Hungarian schools, theaters, newspapers, and books have disappeared. Travel to Hungary by Transylvanians has been curtailed. Parents cannot give their children Hungarian names. Only the churches have remained to nurture the Hungarians; they have been allowed to transmit Hungarian culture to young people. But, now the Churches themselves are mortally threatened.



The Romanian government plans to destroy some 8000 villages, and move the inhabitants to agro-industrial centers. Ostensibly the plan is designed to free more land for agriculture, but the result will be cultural genocide.

The 1988 GA passed a resolution concerning the situation. Since then, both the United States Senate and the House of Representatives have passed resolutions condemning the rights violations in Romania.

We are approaching church leaders with the request that they join in seeking appointments with the officials of the signatory powers of the 1947 Paris Peace Treaty. We will ask these nations to declare publicly Romania's violation of the Treaty. Also, we will ask the United Nations to investigate Romania's treatment of her minorities.

Futhermore, we will try to get permission for a small delegation of UUs to visit our churches in Transylvania next spring. Meanwhile, you can help:

1) Ask congregations to petition the American Sec. of State or the Canadian Foreign Minister urging them to begin consultations with the signatories of the Paris Treaty with the goal of persuading Romania to cease its abrogation of the treaty.

2) Ask congregations to petition Ambassadors to the United Nations requesting that this situation goes before the UN Commission on Human Rights.

The crisis is now; we must exercise all our options. If you would like detailed information, please write to: Ms. Jan Steinbrenner, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

Warm personal wishes,

William F. Schultz



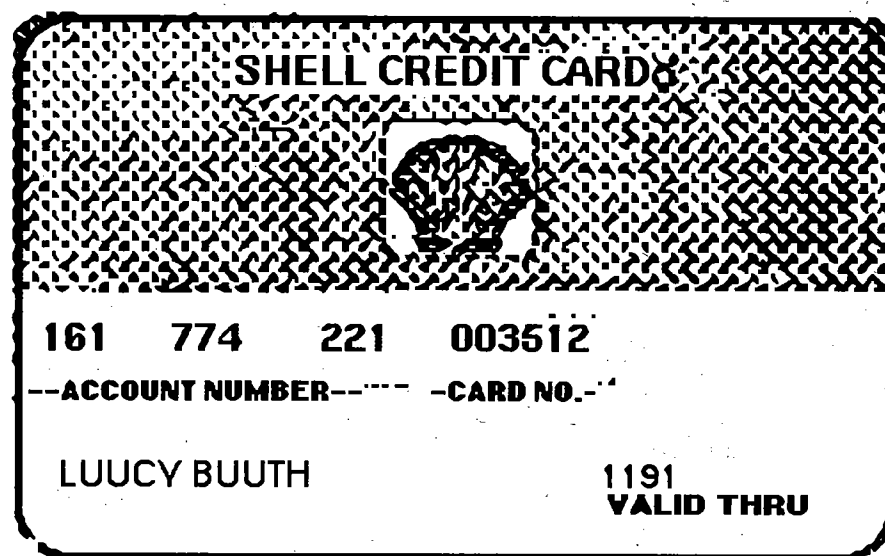
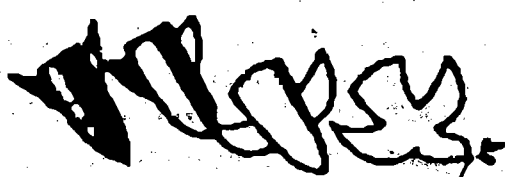
## An International Affair

The gathering together of young "peacemongers" has never been anything less than remarkable. The November 1988 UU-United Nations Office Conference on Disarmament was such an event. New York wholeheartedly agrees.

From across the continent (and from W. Germany), youth came together with a common goal in mind: to learn the possibilities for disarmament. The United Nations has always been a proponent of diplomacy and conflict resolution. "In the spirit of the UN, we learned just how complicated the issues of disarmament are. Yet, in the spirit of YRUU, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience," said one participant.

An informal discussion by the celebrated Silvana da Silva, a UN Political Affairs Officer, was, as in the past, a highlight of the week. Other guest speakers included Tom McConkey of the UU Peace Network, who presented a history of disarmament, and Janet Shanks, a volunteer educator for social responsibility, who led an appropriate workshop on propaganda.

Keep a lookout for information about next year's UU-UNO Conference.



## SHELL-SHOCKED: A CUT-UP CAMPAIGN

Loretta Williams, Director of the UUA Social Justice Dept.

-Rock'n'roll, rock-shock banter and general locker-room rowdiness - that's WBCN-FM in Boston. Charles Laquidara is the morning DJ on the "Big Mattress Show" with a metropolitan Boston audience of three quarters of a million listeners, predominantly young and suburban.

Since August, Charles has been creatively promoting the boycott of Shell Oil for "fueling apartheid" in South Africa.

My part in all this has been fun! Serendipity and hard work combined in my catalyzing this ground-breaking harnessing of the power of radio, and a radio personality to the cause of ending apartheid.

Conversations with Charles led to a staged phone call from me to Charles on the air asking him why the station was continuing to accept advertisements from Shell when there was an international (16 countries) boycott of the company for its support of the apartheid government in South Africa that legally oppresses blacks and terrorizes the neighboring black-run nations in the southern regions of Africa.

What a conversation! Charles' alter ego periodically emerges as Geraldo Laquivera, investigative reporter. Geraldo got fired up upon learning that Shell is fueling apartheid. So, Geraldo and I called the headquarters of Shell Oil, a corporation worth \$21 billion, and what I had assured Charles/Geraldo would be a brief phone call turn's into 18 minutes of live airtime on the station! And in response to inadequate, misleading corporate statements, Geraldo told the Shell spokesperson that his company was into apartheid "up to your big fat greasy necks." The Shell Shock campaign had begun.

On every show now listeners are invited to cut up their Shell credit card, wrap it in a piece of paper with their name and address and a statement along these lines: "I am shocked to hear that Shell is providing fuel to the South African military." This is then mailed to Shell Shock, The Big Mattress, P.O. Box 104, Boston, MA 02215. Consumer

power rules, says Charles!

As the campaign began, I arranged for a black South African professor and a religious corporate responsibility person to go on the air and respond to listener call-ins about whether the boycott would hurt or help. The campaign took off! Bumper stickers were donated. Promos were done by Roger Clemens of the Red Sox, the band *Boston*, the mayor, TV actress Tyne Daly and many more, and local folk called in and told why they're joining the boycott.

Charles has been written up in papers, including *Billboard*, for publicly cutting up his credit card on the air and launching this campaign. "I've got 100,000 watts of power behind me, and a live audience that will at least listen," says Charles, so he decided to "throw it out to them while they're rockin' and rollin'." Daily he airs the endorsements by what *The Boston Globe* called "an otherwise incongruous collection of politicians and celebrities."

So what can you do about this? A lot. Two things, in particular, though:

1. Get a Shell credit card and turn it in to YRUU-UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108, including a letter with your name and address and why you're sending in your card. Leia, Jason and I will make sure it gets turned in.
2. Visit your local "Geraldo Laquivera" radio star and see if he or she will do the same thing as Charles: go live on the air promoting the boycott. Tell the station that you'll arrange for a tape of the WBCN promotion to be mailed to it. Let us know, and we'll make sure that the tape goes out quickly. You make contact first.

Can you help us spread the news of the boycott? Need more information about what's really going on in South Africa? *Ethics and Action*, the UUA-SJ newspaper, should be at your church's office. It carries news concerning a host of Social Justice issues. Ask your church office to save copies for you.

Remember, consumer power rules!

**1989 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
in Washington D.C.  
April 16-18**  
For more information, write:  
UUNWSJ, 333 Dubois Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401;  
or call: (301) 266-8044.  
Youth scholarships available.



# Where Have All The Old Staff Gone?

Old Youth Staff. What a concept--what a contradiction. Do the folks who have spent a year of their lives in the Youth Office ever get old? Old Youth Staff don't die; they're just born again as youth advisors, Board of Trustee members, and ministers (or so they say). Yes, it's true and it happens to the best of us.

**Julie-Ann Silberman**, where are you?

Ms. Julie-Ann Silberman (YS Jan-Sep't '83) is finishing her tenure as Chair of the UUA Nominating Committee, and preparing for her career as a UU Minister. Julie-Ann is actively involved in the UU Young Adult movement and has been instrumental in the formation of a new congregation in Richmond, Indiana. Julie-Ann can be reached by writing to her at 330 College Ave., Richmond, IN 47374.

What about that guy who was Consultant on Youth Programs--what was his name? Oh ya, **Wayne Arnason!**

Rev. Wayne Arnason is currently serving as the minister of the Jefferson Memorial Church in Charlottesville, VA. He is married, has three children and is trying to regain his sanity after his time in the Youth Office. Drop Wayne a line at 717 Rugby Rd., Charlottesville, VA 22903.

Oh where, oh where, has **Colin Bird** (YS Jan-Dec '83) flown?

Mr. Bird is living in Boston (once you're here, you got to like it--even if you're Canadian!) and is a student as well as a member of the UU Service Committee team. Colin is also active in the Boston UUYAN group and is in the process of writing his first romance novel. If you want to get in touch with Colin, contact him at the UUSC, 78 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

Has anybody seen **Mara Schoeny** (YS Sept '83-Aug '84) lately?

The latest word on Ms. Mara Schoeny is that she is working in some exotic store in the Boston area. If you are really curious, contact her

at 116 College Ave. Somerville, MA 02144.

What is going on with **Eric Kaminetzky** (YS Jan-Dec '84)?

Eric is keeping himself very busy. Is anybody surprised? Not only did he write an article for the last issue of *Synapse* (see *Humor*, pg. 10), he also greeted the boat after YRUU week on Star Island, was staff at Rowe Camp, and is in LAW SCHOOL. Geez Eric! If you want to send him a note, write to him: 3455 Table Mesa Dr. #C 188, Boulder, CO 80303.

**Laila Ibrahim** (YS Sep't 84-Aug 85) was seen very recently at the UUA!

Ms. Laila is still a Californian--but you would never know it because she is forever bopping around the country! As a member of the YRUU Five Year Review Committee, Laila has played an active roll in accessing and evaluating what is going on with YRUU today. Laila, a recent graduate of Mills College, is currently working as a nursery school teacher and applying to graduate schools. Laila's address is 3855 Clarke St., Oakland, CA 94609.

It's a bird, it's a plane, it's **Caprice Young**. (YS Jan-Dec '85)

Ms. Young (otherwise known as "Cappie") has graduated from Yale and is off in the whoosh of that hectic *real world*. Living and working in California, Caprice has a neat-o job and is rumored to be getting along quite successfully (of course!). As expected, Caprice has done tons o' things since she left the Youth Office like traveling around the world (to Italy) and working as a governmental spy. (Oops! Sorry Caprice, didn't mean to....) If you want to talk with Caprice, contact her parents and try to get her address out of them (8009 N 13th St. Tampa, FL 33607).

Let's have a big round of applause for that darlin' Texan, **David Levine** (YS Sep't '85-Aug '86)!

All we seem to know about David is completely based on rumors--in fact, we haven't a clue as to what he is really up to. One story was that he

was in Washington state attending graduate school. More recently we have heard he is living in the Cincinnati area. Hey, don't say you heard any of this here.... The address in the Youth Office computer for David is: 3233 Vine St. #2, Cincinnati, OH 45220.

Has anybody caught sight of that gorgeous **Kathryn Deal** recently? (YS Jan-Dec '86)

Ms. Deal is living in the Big Apple and her career is blossoming. Kathryn is a talented interpreter and has been involved recently in signing theater productions. She is also still involved with IRF as well as the Young Adult Group at the All Souls UU Church in New York City. Kathryn helped out the Youth Office by leading a workshop at the annual Youth Conference on Disarmament at the UN in November. Kathryn can be reached by writing to her at 31 Sterling Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11217.

**Meg Wilson** (YS Sep't '86-Aug '87) is lost! We haven't seen her in cons!

Our last update on Ms. Wilson is that she has graduated from Reed College in Portland, OR, and is about to become a grad student at UC Berkeley. The address we have for her is 3840 Sunset Rd., Santa Barbara, CA 93110.

Hey ho, hey ho where is that blonde bearded fellow, **Scott M. Keeler** (Jan-Dec 87)?

The spirit of Scott M. Keeler, like the spirits of all previous staffers', lives on in the Youth Office. Daily as we turn on our Macintosh computers--we pay homage to Scott. Especially when the ever-hectic August rolls around and registration for Con-Con starts up. Scott is living in Toronto and working, rumored to be making BIG BUCKS, as well as serving a church as their RE Director. As you would probably suspect, Scott has continued to stay active with UUism on the continental level. He is currently serving on the Continental UUYAN Steering Committee. Send your fan mail to: 78 Westmount, Toronto, ON M6H 3K1 CANADA.

And what about them Detroit Tigers, I mean, **Andrew Moeller** (YS Sep't '87-Aug '88)

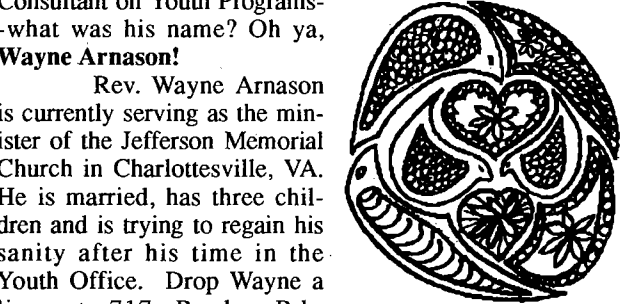
Mr. (Angus) Moeller is back in Detroit and working three jobs and attending McComb County Community College. Drew says his freshman year is moving right along and that life is good but crazy. He's taking it, however. All we have to say to him is, you owe us a dollar and REMEMBER to stop by the store and get "a loaf of bread, a container of milk, and a stick a budda." If your fingers are itching, write: 15495 Eleven Mile Rd. #2, Roseville, MI 48066.

And last but not least in this saga is retiring staffer, **Leia Durland** (Jan-Dec '88)


Ms. Durland (Spud) left the Youth Office this month to continue her academic career in the southern Texas sunshine. Leia is attending the UT at Austin and studying the humanities while enjoying the modern conveniences of life like driving to the grocery store and not carrying her laundry to the sleazy joint down the street. She is also happy to be back with her old Texan buddies and dog--but she says howdy to everyone and sends her love (she misses you, too... and by the way, why haven't you written?) Leia can be reached at 58 East Lakeshore Drive, Ransom Canyon, Texas 79366.



Outgoing Youth Staff, and extrovert, **Leia Durland** seen here dressing up like a cowboy. Photo by Bob Hill's Hats and Photos Ltd.



**Young religious unitarian universalists**



**1988-89 Youth Council Representatives**

**Connecticut Valley** ('88-'89)  
**Kathy Pinto**  
1856 State Street  
Hamden, CT 06511  
(203) 624-6196

**Pacific Central** ('87-'88)  
**Adam Leite**  
77 Willow Ave.  
Walnut Creek, CA 94595  
(415) 939-4911

**Florida** ('88-'89)  
**Jill Huebner**  
10258 Fontana Court North  
Jacksonville, FL 32225  
(904) 642-1637

**New Hampshire/Vermont** ('88 only)  
**Tom Doyle**  
P.O. Box 118  
Temple, NH 03084  
(603) 878-1654

**Junior High At Large** ('88 only)  
**Heather Wright**  
5490 Douglas Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
(707) 887-7752

**Ohio Meadville** ('88-'89)  
**Spencer Medvick**  
4690 Streetsboro Road  
Richfield, OH 42280  
(216) 991-9536

**Mass Bay** ('88 only)  
**Kate White**  
21 Lake Ave.  
Newton, MA 02159  
(617) 332-2446

**Ballou Channing** ('88 only)  
**Brendan O'Neal**  
20 Carver Street  
Green Harbor, MA 02041  
(617) 837-9389

**Mid-South** ('88-'89)  
**Colin Kirkman**  
3474 Hallcrest Drive  
Atlanta, GA 30319  
(404) 252-5161

**Michigan** ('87-'88)  
**Randy Reiss**  
592 Hanna  
Birmingham, MI 48009  
(313) 644-8954

**Mountain** ('88-'89)  
**Jen Majors**  
Box 970  
Monument, CO 80132  
(719) 481-4256

**Prairie Star** ('88 only)  
**Mandi Cohen**  
8010 Lillibridge  
Lincoln, NE 68506  
(402) 483-0480 or  
(402) 483-5754

**Ohio Valley** ('88-'89)  
**Eric D'Acres**  
6650 Iris  
Cincinnati, OH 45213  
(513) 531-7432

**Adult at Large** ('87-'88)  
**Rev. Polly Leland-Mayer**  
119 Mill St.  
Sherborn, MA 01770  
O (617) 729-0949  
H (508) 655-9576

**Metro New York** ('89-'90)  
**Kamal Nigam**  
102 Howard Way  
Pennington, NJ 08534  
(609) 446-4109  
**Senior High at Large** ('88 only)  
Position Unfilled

**Thomas Jefferson** ('88 only)  
**Erin Coleman**  
1817 Rivershore Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37914  
(615) 525-7056

**Central Mass** ('88-'89)  
**Heather Bell**  
5 Waco Circle  
Chelmsford, MA 01824  
(508) 256-6114  
**Desert** ('87-'88)  
**Parisa Parsa**  
208 Columbia SE, #16  
Albuquerque, NM 87106  
(505) 266-4203

**Post High at Large** ('88 only)  
**Jeff Jamison**  
610 Cedar Lane  
Mt. Prospect, IL 60056  
(312) 253-8647

**Joseph Priestly** ('87-'88)  
**Dorothy Haigler**  
103 Leete Hall  
University Park, PA 16802  
(814) 862-1728

**Northeast** ('88-'89)  
**Emily Biss**  
P.O. Box 355  
Blue Hill, ME 04614  
(207) 374-2175

**Adult at Large** ('88-'89)  
**Roger Hollon**  
265 Hanna Road  
Mason, MI 48854  
(517) 623-6770  
**Pacific Northwest** ('88-'89)

**Natalie Hamm**  
511 E. Roy, #415  
Seattle, WA 98102  
(206) 842-7150  
**Adult at Large** ('87-'88)  
**Duane Dowell**  
929 Loganwood Ave.  
Richardson, Texas 75080  
(214) 644-2233

**Saint Lawrence** ('88-'89)  
**Catarina Penalosa**  
435 West Delavan  
Buffalo, New York 15213  
(716) 881-0621

**Adult at Large** ('88-'89)  
**Pat Pope**  
2825 23rd Street  
Lubbock, Texas 79410  
(806) 793-2674

**Central Midwest** ('88 only)  
**Valerie Tremelat**  
1212 Wellesley Road  
Madison, WI 53705  
(608) 223-1558

**Adult at Large** ('88-'89)  
**Connie Goodbread**  
478 Linewood Ave.  
Dunedin, FL 34698  
(813) 733-5831

**Adult at Large** ('88)  
**Susan Dermon**  
118 Garden Street  
Roslyn Heights, NY 11577  
(516) 484-5965

**Pacific South West** ('88-'89)  
**Becky Silva**  
3246 Los Coyotes  
Long Beach, CA 90808  
(213) 420-6192

**Southwest** ('88-'89)  
**Christina Branum**  
8903 Rowan Dr.  
Houston, Texas 77036  
(713) 771-8495

**Western Canada**  
**Christine Gowans**  
702 Crescent Road, NW  
Calgary, Alberta T2M 4A7  
(403) 282-1026

**REAC Representative** ('88-'89)  
**Graham Smith**  
5 Madison Lane  
Amherst, NH 03031  
(603) 673-3634

**Board of Trustees Representatives**  
**Erv Miller, PS and WC**  
921 Third Ave. SE  
Rochester, MN 55904  
(507) 282-2429

**Continental Steering Committee members are in bold print**

*This issue's cover artwork is by Christina Branum, SW District Youth Council Rep and member of the Continental YRUU Steering Committee. She is 18 and lives and works in Houston, Texas.*

## YOUTH STAFF POSITION

Applications for the UUA Youth Staff position for the period from September 1, 1989, through August 31, 1990, are now being accepted.

**The successful applicant will:** be between the ages of 16 and 22 at the time work begins, have an amiable personality with leadership qualities, have good written and verbal communication skills, have the maturity and creativity to handle an often hectic but rewarding full-time job, and have the freedom to live in the Boston area and travel.

**The following qualifications are also considered important:** Some experience writing/editing a newspaper, YRUU and other leadership experience, the ability to work sensitively and diplomatically with people of all ages, an understanding of Unitarian Universalism and of YRUU history, issues and structure, good mental, physical, and emotional health, and an ability to work under pressure.

**The responsibilities include:** working with the UUA Director of Youth Programs, in conjunction with the other Youth Staff person, to carry out the administration of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. Duties will include but not be limited to: preparing a youth newspaper, traveling to district and local groups for outreach, planning and administering conferences and other youth gatherings, participating in meeting and implementing recommendations of the YRUU Youth Council and Steering Committee, and managing the continental YRUU office.

**To apply:** Please submit a resume typed or printed on 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper, including UU and pertinent non-UU skills and experience relevant to the above qualifications. Don't forget to include your phone number and date of birth. Along with your resume, please submit an application letter and three letters of recommendation.

**Questions you might address in writing your application letter:**

- 1) *What's in it for us?* Include your visions for YRUU, your special areas of interest or focus, your experience with leadership development and problem-solving, and your experiences working with different age groups.
- 2) *What's in the job for you?* Include how it will fit into your life plans and personal goals.
- 3) *What is your relationship to YRUU?* What does the "religious" in YRUU mean to you? What influence has YRUU had on your life and what would you like it to have?
- 4) *What are your strengths and where do you feel you need to improve?*

**Your application MUST be postmarked by April 15, 1989, and sent to YRUU, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108-2800.**

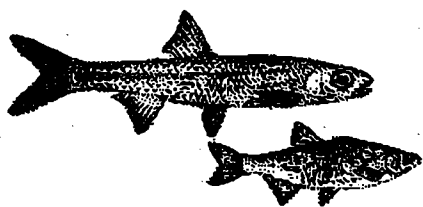
# EXPRESSIONS

## Rich Heritage

Savage Drumbeat  
Indian Ritual  
Tribal  
Nestled  
High in the Andes.

How can it be  
That I,  
Product  
Of the High-Tech World,  
Of Digital Playthings,  
Am of their blood?

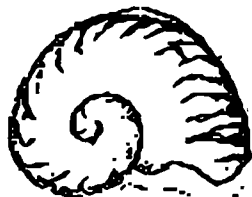
Marcia Ochoa  
Michigan



## Fade to Black

Life it seems, will fade away  
Drifting further everyday  
Getting lost within myself  
Nothing matters noone else  
I have lost the will to live  
Simply nothing more to give  
There is nothing more for me  
Need the end to set me free  
Things not what they used to be  
Missing one inside of me  
Deathly loss, this can't be real  
Cannot stand this hell I feel  
Emptiness is filling me  
To the point of agony  
Growing darkness taking dawn  
It was me, but now he's gone  
No one but me can save myself, but  
it's too late  
Now I can't think, think why I should  
even try  
Yesterday seems as though it never  
existed  
Death Greet me warm, now I will  
just say goodbye.

James Hetfield  
Florida



## Visions of Eutopia

Rays of sunshine filter through the  
clouds  
on a glorious morning.  
Shades of pink and blue  
reflect the innocence of the world.  
As cold releases his grip on the earth  
the morning begins to blush.  
Birds sing harmonies of love,  
the wind rustles to the song of peace.

A world not of fear, hate and war  
but of joy and wonderment.  
Children do not cry at night,  
fearing a blinding blast;  
nor does hunger fill stomachs,  
or streets serve as homes.  
Wars are fought over God  
prayers are instead said in thanks  
for the morn and  
knowledge there will always be  
another.

Debi Gelfand  
PSWD

## Ode to Elvis

The world may never know  
Anyone like the King,  
Hey ding a ding ding.  
Boy, could that guy sing.

A fashion vanguard from head to toe:  
Side-burns full or shaven clean,  
leather jackets, boots and jeans,  
Sometimes fat, sometimes lean.  
(Jason, you are really mean.)

Only once he couldn't show  
Anything but his upper lip.  
Censoring his stylistic hip,  
Avoided audiencial quip.  
(He liked to party with a whip.)

Some say they saw him go  
Shopping in Kalamazoo.  
Many question this ado,  
But, faithfully, he walks ashoe.  
(Does this mean anything to you?)

T'was not his dough  
That made gorgeous babes drool.  
And his motorcycle could not fool  
Anyone with some degree of cool.  
(Or did he really ride a mule?)

It was his spirit, we now know,  
His golden soul, essentially  
Is everywhere for all to see.  
He lives in you as well as me.  
(Ellen and Leia say, "Not Us!")

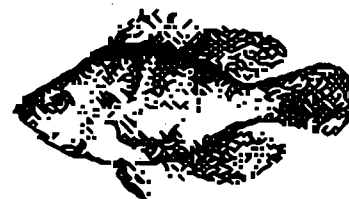
JH, JJ, LD



## The Adventures of Travis

"Well, there was this brilliant  
flash followed by smoke and hissing  
noises. Then several little aliens exit-  
ed the craft. I told my sweetie to go  
in the house and get me my shotgun.

"As they approached it  
became evident that they were friend-  
ly. Me and the missus invited them  
in for coffee. So, to make a long  
story short, we did end up buying  
their encyclopedias."



A story by Emily Biss, written when  
she was three.



## An Address to High School Seniors

I want to eclipse the sun--Conquer  
its banana brilliance. Can you imagine  
What fun! I'll zoom away  
with Halley--

(credit card shopping in Neptune's  
fashion galleries)

And that same afternoon, tea and  
crumpets on the moon.

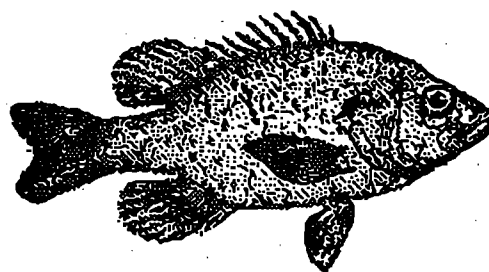
Do you know what I feel?

I want to explore every corner  
of the globe--Examine every glittering  
gossamer web; Drink in each  
wonderful crack

of plaster and chip of paint; Talk to  
every distinguished bug  
as if an adored saint--I'll not cease my  
journeys until

(from exhaustion) I do faint.

Do you know what I feel?



I want free  
of these lovinshackles and chains--  
cast me  
from this oppressive reign! I've had  
my fill  
of bread and water--I shall dine on  
crunchy clouds and sparkling  
sweet stars.

I will rule the world with my foolish  
dreams, and all  
will gleam--or so it seems.  
Do you know what I feel?

I want to capture the breathless blue  
marble in my palm--spin it 'round and  
'round until it knows no calm. I'll set  
it afire  
with a tap from my magic wand--youth.  
Do you feel what I feel?

Rachel Rodriguez



The frog  
I have a pet frog he is  
nice I Love him he is  
so nice. he is play ful  
but he is dead. I  
Loved him. he was  
nice.



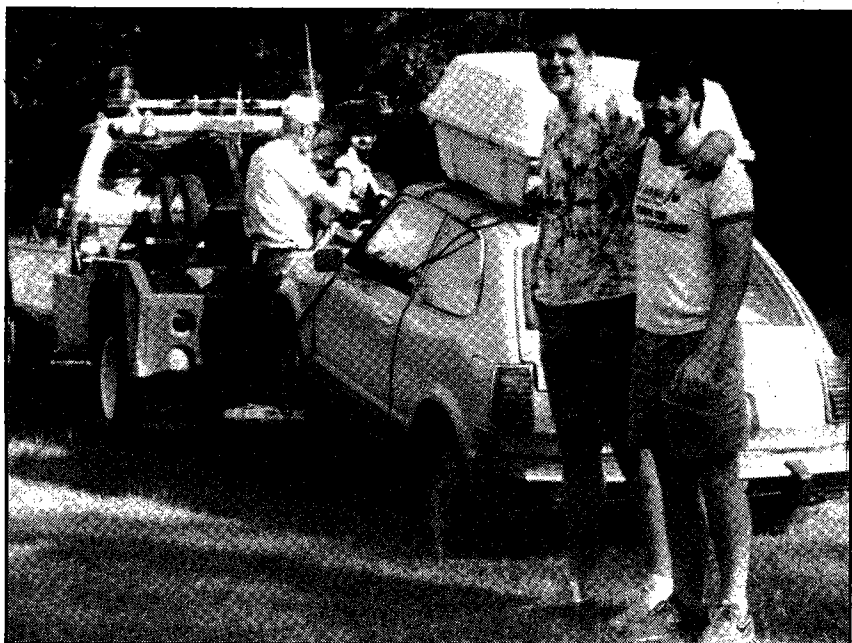
# UYU CON-CON '89

It doesn't matter how you get there,  
You can go by rail or air,  
Use your wings  
Use your boots  
Get back to your roots!

An Encore Celebration: CON CON '89 "Roots and Wings: YRUU's Traditions and Visions."

Even though it's in Michigan, we can all "SAY YES TO CON CON."

Write to the Youth Office for application information.



A highlight of Con-Con '88: Erik Swanson's arrival.



**YOU'VE GOT ME  
WRONG!**

**DO WE HAVE YOUR RIGHT ADDRESS?**

**DO YOU STILL WANT SYNAPSE?**

**PLEASE HELP US UPDATE  
OUR MAILING LIST**

Name

Address

Phone ( )

\*Birthdate

- ☐ PLEASE REMOVE MY NAME  
☐ PLEASE CHANGE MY ADDRESS  
☐ PLEASE ADD MY NAME  
☐ I AM AN ADVISOR  
☐ PLEASE ADD THIS AS A COLLEGE ADDRESS (KEEPING MY OTHER ADDRESS FOR ALL SUMMER MAILINGS)

**Mail To:  
Synapse**

25 Beacon Street  
Boston, MA  
USA 02108-2800

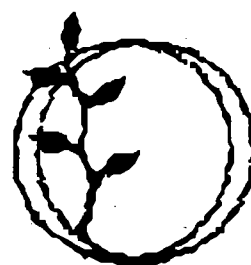
## HEY, LOOK! IT'S A CONTEST

The Scott Newman Center, founded by Paul Newman in memory of his son, is dedicated to drug-abuse prevention. It produces videos and other very good materials for youth and their parents in English and Spanish. The thrust of their work is to teach people to recognize and resist media influences. One of their programs is a TV public service announcement contest for high school students, requiring research on drug use and surveys of local community attitudes. The winning entry is professionally judged, and makes national television. The 1987 winners were three students from California. For more information contact the Center at: 6255 Sunset Blvd., Suite 1906, Los Angeles, CA 90028; (213) 469-2029.

## Russia Continued from Page 5

ments of capitalism into the system (*perestroika*) but these reforms will take many years to bear fruit. In the meantime, Soviet citizens will have to endure many challenges to the economic security and relative equality they so highly value.

The other thing I learned is that Soviet citizens are serious about their commitment to peace and they work very hard at it. In fact, it is government policy to work very hard at it. Many towns have an official Peace Committee, some with lovely offices and well-financed operations. Peace posters seem to be everywhere. In the United States the peace movement is a private, voluntary, and not particularly mainstream effort. Peace workers have been called "peaceniks" and branded as left-wing radicals or even kooks. It is different in the Soviet Union. They live with the memory of their countries ravaged by war; they have seen the horror of war with their own eyes and they don't want to see it ever again. People of all ages, from old grandmothers in baboushkas to young children in Pioneer Camp uniforms, enthusiastically embraced us



when we told them we were working for peace and understanding between our two nations. Many Soviet people fear Americans. If they don't actually think we will start a war, they are afraid of what will happen to their

economy if they have to participate in the arms race. They will never leave their country vulnerable by allowing the United States to gain decisive military superiority. I learned that people in the Soviet Union are both different

and the same as us, and that comparisons must be made with care. We share the dream of a world at peace and a better future for all people. We may have different ways of going about reaching for our dreams -- which is precisely why we need to listen, understand and learn from one another.

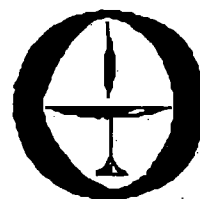
"When we arrived they made us feel so welcome. We broke up into small groups and talked about everything from *The Beatles* to *perestroika*. After dinner we met them at a concert hall to see a play. At the intermission, several of us decided to leave because we couldn't understand the play at all so we went to a disco..."

-- Rebecca Kinraide

## Star Island position open:

Assistant Manager from mid-June to Labor Day. Responsibilities include supervision, personnel admin., staff evaluation, hiring end of season replacement staff members, and taking charge in Manager's absence.

Starting salary: \$7,000. Please send address inquires or letter of application and resumé to: Anthony S. Coddington, General Manager Star Island Conference Center, P.O. 447, Stratham, NH 03885.



## B.O.O.K R.E.V.I.E.W

### Allan Bloom, Millionaire.

Allan Bloom's 1987 best-seller, *The Closing of the American Mind: How Higher Education Has Failed Democracy and Improvised the Souls of Today's Youth*, is a very important book for any serious student planning to enter college. In this age of modern liberalism, Bloom's thoughts on education are a refreshing alternative. His arguments for a liberal education and are very UU, yet capable of withstanding thoughtful criticism. Bloom, currently Professor of Political and Religious Studies at the University of Chicago, is one of the country's most distinguished political philosophers. But, it is his experience in more than 20 years of teaching that provide him with the credentials needed to make such insightful criticisms of our American school system.

Bloom's analysis of the academic crisis is essentially an analysis of our social and political crisis. The book, divided into three parts, illustrates today's students, outlines the

intellectual history that led to today's academic crisis, and finally, offers a solution to the problem in universities.

A popular chapter in the beginning of the book, "Music," gives a frightening account of today's erotic relationship between youth and music. Bloom illustrates that this generation's addiction to music is less than noble.

The middle section of the book gives us, as students, an exciting introduction to the history of the many great minds of our past. Bloom traces movements in political thought up to the

German influence on American minds, and how "values" replaced the ancient concept of good and evil. One encounters an in-depth and engaging tour of intellectual history.

Finally, Bloom says, "Our problems are so great and their sources are so deep that to understand them we need philosophy more than ever." This statement follows his celebration of Socratic thought, and how the university should be "the community that is exemplary for all other communities."

