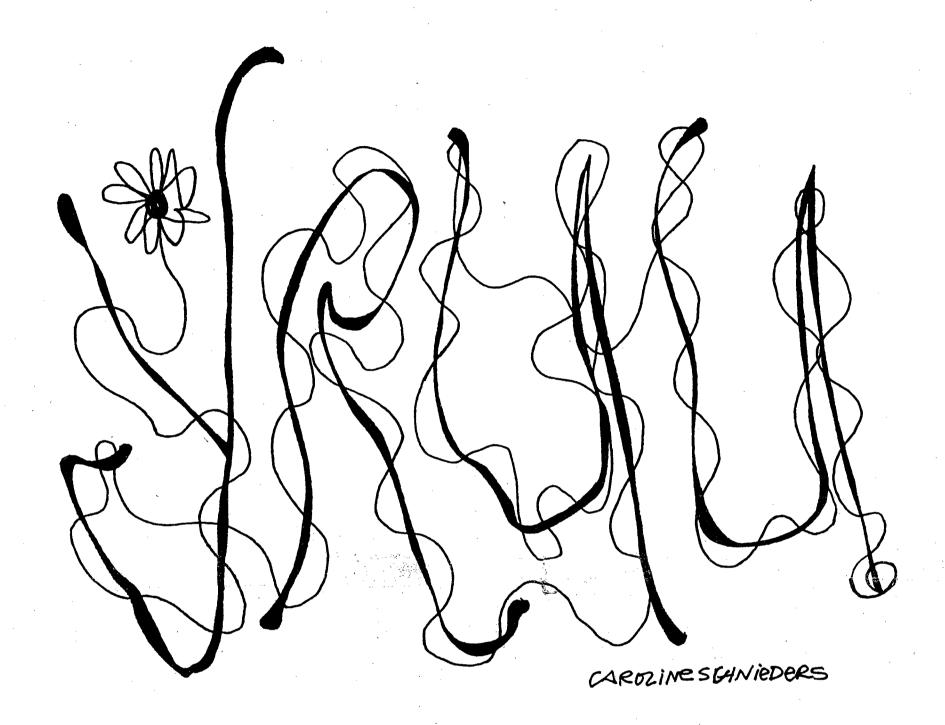
A Point of Contact Where

# Synapse

Printed in the United States of America Volume IX, Issue 2, Fall/Winter 1991

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Energy and Information are Exchanged



# The Blueprint for Our Dreams

#### <u>Option 1</u>

This is not my address!! I have marked my correct address on the right; please change your records accordingly.

#### Option 2

Hey, your paper is really cool! Please add my name to your mailing list. I have written my address and birthday on the right.



YRUU at the UUA 25 Beacon Street Boston, MA 02108-2800

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# Letteri To Thoie Editori

Are You Mad? Are You Sad? Are You Happy? Do You Like Anything You See? Do You Hate the Whole Thing? Write a Letter to Your Editors. Check The Info Box Below For More Details

Dear Synapse, I have just received a copy of your summer 1991 newsletter, and I am curious as to.... a) if you proofread it? b) if not, why not? c) if not, may I offer assistance? Reading through your newsletter, I counted eight punctuation mistakes, eleven misspelled words, three redundant sentences, two things capitalized that should not have been, three grammar errors, two sections that made no sense whatsoever, and also your "I Saved it" box on page nine. Tell me, do you intentionally publish this with fifth grade level grammar?

Your layout is decidedly amateur. I worked in a journalism class putting together the yearbook and the school newspaper, and it wasn't that hard-I'm sure you can do better.

I also noticed two potentially illegal activities listed in your article "Ten Ways to Re-Cycle Your Copy of Synapse Once You're Done With It". Mr. Tyndale spelled recycle wrong, by the way.

Lest I be considered a perfectionist snot, let me just say this: Your paper has definite potential-but your staff needs to "wake up and smell the coffee". Potential without education is worthless. So is your paper, for the moment. I am using it to line my birdcage. -Anne Jensen, Bellingham, WA.

P.S. Tell Sean Ramsey that drugs are not the answer (Great Seven, p.10) Please!

Dear Anne,

We felt with such criticism, your letter deserved to be printed and read by all our Synapse readers. We have a few responses we would like you to hear as well.

First and foremost, of course we proofread. In fact, it is proofread two or three times before it goes to final print. However, people aren't perfect, and we are people. We do miss things, but we feel that if we only had eight punctuation mistakes, we are doing pretty

Secondly, our "staff" is the Youth Office. Both of us. Unfortunately, because we are working on other projects as well as doing our

Look Who's Moving in Together!

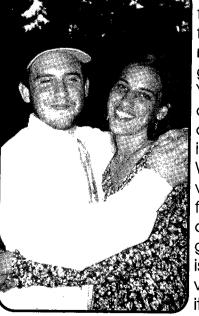
amazing that he's in this position. Honestly, who would have ever It almost seems like they're perthought? As a matter of fact, it still seems like yesterday that his that Sean Ramsey will do fine. love affair with her began. It's He loves her, and all he talks hard to believe he's still in love about is moving in with her and

Seven years. Seven long years. That's a pretty long time for a relationship, and now he's going to move in and live with her. Everyday. Together, It's not like anything will be any different. After all, he pretty much lived with her all last summer when he was running that conference. mean they know

each other's hab-

Considering all the events that | its. He'll throw his glow-in-the-dark have led up to this point, it is still boxers on the floor and she'll go on and on about the age range. fect for one another. I just know with her after all these years. I working in the office. "She" is

YRUU, and is perfect for him. I guess we'll find out when he moves in and begins work as the new YRUU Programs Specialist in January. Of course he'll be working with Julie Rising. What mavhem! It will definitely be odd for these two zanv characters. There goes professionalism - right out 53's window.Yea,won't it be great?



Sean Ramsey will begin work on January 2, 1992, and will have the desk next to Julie . The new Youth Office team is pictured above at Con-Con 1991.

regular office work, we don't have all the time we would like to have to devote solely to Synapse. If we had more time and/or more funds, we would be able to work more towards Synapse's advantage.

Third, what are you basing the word "amateur" on when referring to our layout? You yourself admitted you were comparing our work to work you had done in a class, which to us doesn't mean "professional". We would also appreciate a more detailed criticism from you if you expect things to change. For instance, what things looked amateur? Which section "made no sense whatsoever"? What was redundant? It is difficult to genuinely consider your letter when we don't know the specifics of your complaints.

We really did not appreciate the comment "potential without education is worthless", because you are assuming (incorrectly) that education makes intelligence and fulfills potential. We are intelligent people who work on this paper, and the people who send in stories, articles, poetry, and artwork are also intelligent and some of the best people we have ever known, regardless of their educational backgrounds. There are many people who are a part of this newsletter who don't get a formal education, but have more than fulfilled their potential for being great human beings.

Finally, as far as content goes, this is a paper by and for UU youth. We do not claim to be, nor do we aspire to be, a professional newsletter. We want all UU youth to be able to write what's on their mind, in their heart, or under their skin, without "professional" editors judging their work as "fifth grade level". We enjoy producing Synapse, and try to make it as enjoyable and interesting as possible. We think it's darn good, and we are truly sorry if you do not agree.

Thank you for your opinions on Synapse, and we hope now that you understand a little bit more about our paper you will be able to enjoy it as much as we do and perhaps send in some of your own. creative work. - The Editors.

P.S. Talk to Sean Ramsey yourself, please. He starts working in the office January 1.

#### **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. Two issues per annum.

YRUU Staff- Christine Murphy, Julie C. Rising, Meg Riley, and Anne Fleming

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

Submissions Policy-Each submission must have 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 3 types: theme, news, and reflective. Poems: One per issue.

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

Graphics: No limit.

The above restrictions do not apply to letters to the editors. Submissions not used will be kept on file for possible future use. Name may be withheld upon request. If you wish to be notified prior to publication, enclose a selfaddressed envelope (no stamp necessary).

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

Standard \$10.00 -per (2.25") column-inch \$45.00 -eighth of a page \$90.00 -quarter of a page

Special (need advance warning) \$13.00 - per (3.25") column-inch \$65.00 - sixth of a page \$130.00 - third of a page

For all other (non-UU) groups, these rates are double. For non-cameraready 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.

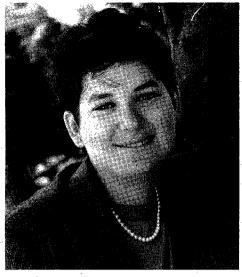
Submission and Advertising Due Date for Next issue: April 1, 1992

### Hello Jory!...Who?

Hi! My name is Jory Agate and I am very excited about being the next Youth Programs Director. Right now I am finishing up my Masters of Divinity degree at Starr King School for the Ministry and my internship at the First Unitarian Church of San Francisco before I will be ready to join Julie, Sean, and the other Religious Education staff in Boston on March 1st.

Igrewup in the Unitarian Universalist church and had a wonderful experience in LRY right about the continue to flourish in our churches. for youth.

I look forward to starting work and assessing what YRUU's cur- has included being a sign language



time it was changing to YRUU. I rent needs are and seeing how those know how valuable strong youth can best be met. I also have many programming is from first hand ex- ideas for projects that I would like perience. It is great to be in a relig- to work on. Some of the things I ious association that honors young would like to do include: 1) strengthpeople and encourages their lead- ening junior high programming; 2) ership development, spiritual dis- developing youth advisor training; covery, and congregational involve- 3) revising About Your Sexuality; ment. I want to work to see that and 4) planning international trips

My previous professional work

interpreter for the deaf, working as a recreational counselor, and teaching high school as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Phillippines for three years. I love to travel and work with people from cultures different from my own. I also enjoy swimming, backpacking, skiing, storytelling, photography, Israeli folk dancing, and playing games.

I can't wait to meet you all, so drop me a note and tell me about yourself, what is happening at your church and what you are doing at your conferences. Keep in touch!

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Little Feet from Florida District **Showing Off Their** Warm Climate Footwear . . . Perhaps They're Getting Ready to Take Them Off and Go For a . . . **SWIM??** 

#### YOU TOO CAN JOIN THE LIST OF CELEBRITIES WHO HAVE HELPED SAVE SYNAPSE!

"If Elvis were alive today, he would write a song about it."—A Fan From Graceland. "It's the best thing since guacamole on rye crisps."—Anonymous.

"Holy Newsletters! I think it's fantabulous!"—Robin, famous sidekick.

These are the words people are using to describe the hottest publication of our time: Synapse. Where else could you find such an honest example of youth culture in a newspaper: poetry about love, reflections on YRUU, political and social commentaries, district news, bad grammar, zany graphics, support for advisors, local youth group ideas, and the low down on continental events? "Almost anywhere?" No, Synapse is a one of a kind publication, and you know it.

Although Synapse has been coming to us (all 6,000 of us on the mailing list) for years, we might be seeing fewer issues. Why? This is the official word. Originally, Synapse was to be published 3 times a year; and the UUA was supposed to fund it. But, things change. We can only put out only two issues a year, and that's just the way it goes. However, there is hope. We are accepting donations in order to produce a special, extra issue. You can become a Friend (\$1-\$5), Patron(\$6-\$20), Benefactor(\$21-\$50) or Super-Duper-Happy-Synapse Celebrity(\$51-a zillion dollars) in the I Saved Synapse campaign. Anyone can make a donation. All donations received will be used strictly to pay for the production of Synapse. Checks may be made payable to YRUU, with a memo designating that it is for I Saved Synapse. Any contributions are appreciated.

#### **Synapse Celebrities**

The following people and groups have generously contributed to help save Synapse. Many thanks go to them for their donations and their helpful suggestions about how

we can improve Synapse. FRIENDS: Doris McShea, David Dav PATRONS: Gail Camp Huggett, Ben Stallings

BENEFACTORS: Senior Youth Group of the First Unitarian Congregation of

#### It's the I SAVED SYNAPSE COUPON

would like to see Synapse continue to be published. I support its future existence by giving this contribution in the name of I Saved Synapse.

Enclosed are answers to the evaluation questions below. I mean, hey, since I as a reader of Synapse, am partly responsible for its content, I will give the editors some really handy evaluation material with which to work.

- 1) My favorite sections of Synapse are-
- 2) Overall, I rate the content of Synapse— 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
- 3) I would like to see more articles about-
- 4) What could be improved?

#### To Leave Office

(Sung to the Tune of Paul Simon's Classic) By Meg Riley, Outgoing Youth Programs Director

The problem is all in changing jobs, I say to you, There must be an end somewhere to the details to get through.

In all of these little bits of junk I've yet to do. There must be fifty ways to leave an office. Fifty ways to leave an office.

Just clean up the files, Giles, Meet again with the youth, Ruth, Throw away the decay, Jay, Now listen to me. Recycle that sheet, Pete, Finish that charge, Marge, Clean off the altar, Walter And then you'll be free.



The youth said, why not have a meeting in the morn, It's obvious your energy is all but worn, You're only moving one floor down; don't get forlorn, There must be fifty ways to leave an office, Fifty ways to leave an office.

Just click off the Mac, Zach, Pick up your shoes, Suze, Blow out the chalice, Alice, And listen to me. Let go of your plan, Fran, Forget your own way, Kay, Wipe off the board, McCord, And then you'll be free.

I know the Youth office when I leave it will be fine, Youth programs can be led by someone's vision besides mine,

So please don't get upset, I've got to whine, There must be fifty ways to leave an office, Fifty ways to leave an office.

Meg Riley will begin as Director of the Office for Lesbian and Gay Concerns on December 1, while working in the Youth Office for ten hours a week until Jory begins.

# 16TH ANNUAL UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

This year's workshop will be held from May 3-5, at the Howard Inn in Washington, D.C. The theme will be "Democracy in Crisis: Reclaiming Our National Values". Partial travel subsidies and scholarships are available for youth! For registration information, send your name and address to:

> UUNWSJ c/o UUA 100 Maryland Ave NE Suite #106 Washington, D.C. 20002

or call (202)547-0254



Youth at the 1991 National Workshop on Social Justice

South Africa:

A Nightmare Dressed in White

By Jennifer Martin

Angry faces
Paramount races
Ammunition
Racial segregation
Iotal alienation
Hatred
Emancipation blacks don't know
Into a Hell on earth they go
Death

This is the nation with a black horse and a white whip. It's where the minority lives in comfort and the majority in poverty.

It's where there is no Bill of Rights, no justice, no liberty.

It's where torture is commonplace and death is at home.

A place where the whites are infected with power and greed. Where the roses never touch the sun: Forever trapped in their seeds.



# Work for a Year at the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office!



The person chosen for the internship will help stimulate support for the UN and the Unitarian Universalist UN Office by contributing to the office newsletter, Window on the World, preparing UN Sunday materials, speaking to UU congregations, helping to organize the April Seminar and the Youth Conference on Disarmament and assisting with office work.

Applicants must possess leadership skills and organizational ability. Experience with computers and word processing is required. The young adult (over 18) chosen for the job will work at the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (located directly across First Avenue from the UN), attend UN meetings and live in NYC. A stipend covering basic living expenses is provided.

To apply, send a cover letter with a resume of educational and employment history, pertinent skills and interests, and the names and addresses of three references. The deadline is February 28, 1992. The internship begins on June 1, 1992 and lasts for approximately one year.

For further details, write or call the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office, 777 UN Plaza, Suite 7D, NY, NY 10017. (212) 986-5165

### Salute the Blood Stained Flag

by Liv Anne Gjestvang

America is a proud country; proud of its heritage, proud of its leadership, proud of its independence. In elementary schools throughout our nation, the halls ring with young voices uttering the words of our sacred Pledge of Allegiance. Young voices that belong to young minds, minds that do not know the meaning of the words they are forced to recite at only four years old.

In another country far away, American soldiers assert military force, often in the name of independence. Young vices in the streets of China, Bermuda, and the Dominican Republic cry our with fear and emotion barely audible in our proud young American voices.

In the history of America, the words of the Pledge of Allegiance have been voiced by millions for generations. We are proud enough to recite our faithfulness to our country. Evidently, though we are not proud of all that our flag stands for. When it is clean and new, boasting its elegant stripes and festive stars, when it is not incorporated into art work or left to drag on the ground, we stand to salute this symbol of our nation. It seems as though we hide the blood-stained, dirt brown American Flag that is associated with a war.

I am truly concerned about the priorities of a nation that focuses more on the legality of burning the flag than the morality of our military involvement in other countries. Is the show we create with our flag and our Pledge of Allegiance only to distract us from the true issues our nation faces? Is the ignorance of a young child reciting the Pledge of Allegiance parallel to the American adult's lack of awareness of our military involvement in foreign countries? The American flag, when examined more closely may be a mere demonstration of our nation's ignorance, a bold, shining cover for ideals that many of us do not support. As long as our youth are forced to recite the Pledge of Allegiance their voices running together in a high pitched drone, the adults of our nation will surely not learn to question military involvement.

While a young American boy stands with one hand over his heart reciting the words of a pledge to our nation's flag, in Turkey, in Honduras, in Libya, a small child stands with her hand over her heart holding back the thick black blood from an American soldier's star spangled bullet: she is dying. The final silent scream of this dying child is mingled with a small American voice . . . "liberty and justice for all."

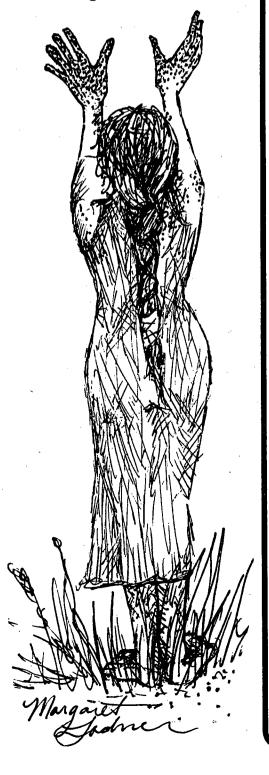


Youth at the 1991 Unitarian Universalist United Nations Conference on Disarmament

#### Women's Issues Are Getting "Sandy"

YRUU is building a Social Action Network for Districts (S.A.N.D.) and we need your help. We are looking for youth who are interested in helping orgainize social action in their area. We are just begining this network and we need people who will take initiative. This year's theme is Women's Issues, and an action packet with ideas on what you can do in conjunction with YRUU should be coming out shortly.

Would you like to be the Social Action Contact for your district? If you would, then get in touch with your district's Youth Council Representative or write Justina Prenatt, the Continental Social Action Contact, at 501 Mt. Royal Blvd, Pittsburgh, PA 15223



#### LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH: GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL ISSUES

Six youth/ young adults will be able to attend an all expenses paid weekend training session in the Boston area May 15 - 17, focussing on issues of homophobia and heterosexism. (Homophobia: fear of gay and lesbian people; heterosexism: the belief that heterosexuality is 'superior' to any other sexual preference).

Those who attend will need to make a commitment to take back what they have learned to other YRUUs, at conferences, YAC meetings, etc. People of all sexual orientations are welcome to apply. The only requirements are a willingness to learn and to share what you have learned.

For more information, and for an application, please contact Meg Riley at the UUA, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.

# YRUU's Year of the Woman

The following resolution was passed at Youth Council 1991, demonstrating the deep commitment YRUU holds for the rights of women and social justice in all aspects. We hope that our focus on women's rights this year will be a stepping stone to an organization deeply committed to working for justice in all areas. If you are interested in taking part in this year's Social Action Theme, plase read the article to the left for more information on how you can become involved.

### Resolution Proposing the Youth Council Social Action Theme for 1991-1992

WHEREAS women's legal, physical, emotional, and sexual rights are infringed upon in many societies, and

WHEREAS young women are a strong part of YRUU, and many UU women, men, and youth are concerned with these issues and

WHEREAS all human beings suffer from the oppressions of women, and

WHEREAS the political climate in respect to women's rights is volatile as a result of pending governmental rulings on these issues, and

WHEREAS the 1990 Youth Council created a Social Action Network to help deal with social issues important to UU youth,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Social Action theme for the 1991-92 Youth Council be women's rights, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that district Social Action Contacts (SACs) or YCRs should promote this theme by encouraging:

- 1. Education and discussion in local youth groups.
- 2. Workshops on this theme at district and continental events.
- 3. District and local groups beginning intergenerational dialogue with the UUWF.
- 4. Dissemination of material on women's issues through Spider, Synapse, and district newsletters.
- 5. Political action in the form of letter writing to appropriate government representatives.
- 6. Lobbying in respect to women's issues.
- 7. Working with women's groups within and outside of the UUA.

### Combatting Sexism in YRUU

#### By Christine Murphy

The pavement smells of urine and broken glass lines the gutter. Darkness is approaching as the sunset lights the sky with traces of red and purple, highlighting the clouds of smog which give rise to this spectacular sight.

The weather is too warm for the wool dress I'm wearing and so I carry my coat. The way the cloth clings to me makes me self-conscious as I walk hurried to the bus stop.

Through my rushing I arrive early. I nervously shift my weight, keenly aware of where I am, what time of day it is, who is watching me, and what I look like. There is van parked across the street, and several men sit there with the radio on, watching me.

I do all the things I'm supposed to. I refuse eye contact, staring blankly away. I put my coat on, hiding my body. I ice over my expression, clenching my teeth and deadening my face. Still the harassment begins.

The scene changes now. I am at a YRUU conference. I am watching the coffee house. About fifty people sit on the floor, looking up at the two young men on stage who are emceeing. They are loud and funny, going through a series of antics that makes the crowd roar in laughter. And I am laughing too, until the use of sexist jokes and language begins. I feel exposed and embarrassed by the language the two young men are using on the stage; the same way I felt that day at the bus stop. A knot gathers in my stomach. As far as YRUU has come, we still have a long way to go.

I look around. Am I the only one noticing this? Am I the only one offended. I leave the coffee house and go outside. I am sure I am not the only one, but still no one speaks out. I am bothered because I have seen this pattern at conferences before.

Sexism is ever present in our society, and we are ever affected by it. When we enter the realm of YRUU conferences, we do not escape the attitudes that permeate our society. Sexism is one of the many pieces of emotional baggage that we carry with us. It is important to identify and confront this fact.

Consciousness raising workshops and rap groups on the issues of sexism are more than needed in YRUU. Often times conferences are the only place where youth can openly discuss gender issues, and within this framework, oppression needs to be addressed.

In addition to consciousness raising, community standards to combat oppressive language need to be developed and enforced by youth attending conferences. People need to feel empowered to speak out if they feel offended or threatened by the use of certain language, and it is the conference's responsibility to see that something is done to resolve their concerns.



# Shock. Sunday, August 25th.

By Justina Prenatt

John and I step off of the plane into the Chicago-O'Hare airport. The thought crossing both of our minds is "what the hell?"

What the hell, indeed. Who are these people; these creatures making up the rest of the world? After spending a weekend, a week, two weeks with a mass conglomeration of UU youth suddenly you are faced with- other people.

I think that John and I were afraid. We laughed nervously, but no one was smiling at us, rushing up to hug us, or trying to "foof" us. In fact, they were ignoring us. It felt odd.

Thankfully, the loving people that we are, we survive because we all realize that they are people, just like us, even if they don't want to share a lifesaver that you and five of your friends just munched.

This culture difference can have some strange results. Sometimes, at work, I'll burst into song; then, strangely, no one chimes in. So there I'll be hollering Kum Baya with fifteen people glaring at me.

Ever try walking up to someone you don't know and rubbing their shoulders? Don't. It's a mad, mad, world. A mad, mad, mad, mad world; start by shaking their hand.

Don't you start to miss seeing men wearing skirts?

Another time, I was wearing my name tag around. Outside, in public places. Hell, if I weren't me, I probably would have shaken my head in absurd misunderstanding too. I got a lot of rib-poking. "Hi, Justina," followed by guffaws of delight, like they pulled something over on me, or like I wasn't going to know how they knew my name. Go figure.

And let's say you are a smoker, are you not craving a clove cigarette? Don't you want to sit down with three or four people and share a clove? (As badly as you may want a clove, please don't smoke those things alone. I don't know about you, but petrified lungs just don't appeal to me.)

But-we survive. In fact, I suspect that we enjoy bringing our unique perspective to the rest of the world. I thrive on it. So don't lock yourself in you room wallpapered with recently developed photos of your wonderful conference friends, but go out and find more. Make more friends. Annoy people if you must! Deep down inside everyone has the potential to love you, just as much as I do.

By Erin Walter

Life has a tendency to pull you in many different directions at once. No one knows that better than YRUUs. I am no exception.

Between school, family, extracurricular activities, and socializing, I hardly have time to breathe. Even now, as I write this article, I know I should be sleeping. But I continue to write because once I start something, I stick with it. Unfortunately, that leaves me with about a dozen projects, each one demanding my full attention.

I'm not asking for sympathy because I realize that I am not alone in my struggle to organize my time. But I would like to offer some suggestions to help those who share my stress.

First of all, I have found that the most helpful thing to do is to make a list. Write down everything you need to accomplish during the week and the time each project needs to be finished by. Put the list someplace noticeable, like on a bulletin board or refrigerator.

Secondly, don't over commit yourself. If you are already involved in may projects, don't continue to take on responsibilities. Don't let your eyes be bigger than your "stomach"!

Then, once you've established your responsibilities, don't put them off. Procrastination never got anyone anywhere! Tackle all projects head on.

Finally, save some time for yourself. If your life is so hectic that you don't have time to breathe, you need to slow down. Save some time before bed to write in a journal or just to read. Whatever you do, do it for you. If you spend your life just giving to others, although you've bettered the lives of others, you've left nothing for your own.

BAYSEAT

6'6"

MICEDAR MESH

HEAT BOND

#### WALK CLOSET

#### That Crazy Post-High Church Thing By Charlie Arnold

So now you're in college, huh? You've got a place of your own, a bunch of books that cost you \$87.50 apiece, and four different professors named "Staff." You've got everything covered, right? Wrong. Remember that funny smelling building where lots of sloppily dressed people walk around drinking coffee and having discussions about social justice? Yeah, church. The place you go on Sunday mornings. It seems to me that a lot of people tend to lose touch with their UUism once they hit the big campus. This is definitely not a good thing, for several reasons: the Unitarian Universalist age range, the numerous great things that your church can offer you, and the numerous great things that you can offer your church.

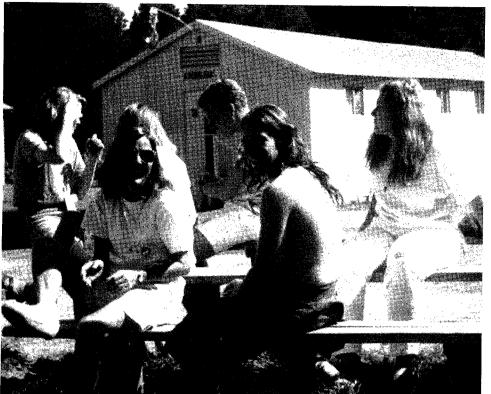
The average Unitarian (average Unitarian, yeah right!) is 52 years old, according to Elizabeth Lavoie Brown's article "Taking" the Young to Heart" in the Sept./Oct. '91 edition of The World. Now folks, I'm not saying that this is a bad thing, but don't you think everyone could use a jolt of youthful enthusiasm? And what about the future? What is to become of Unitarian Universalism without young adults (aged 18-35) to move in and become solid members and leaders of individual congregations? College aged people, just coming into their adulthood, must assume their place within the church. If they don't, there may not be a church to go to one day.

Besides, it's not like going to church is an unpleasant experience, is it? No! Your local fellowship has a lot to offer you. If nothing else, it can be a refuge from an oftimes unfriendly campus. Seriously, nobody at church is going to look down on you for being a freshman. Nor will they try and evict you, or send you a bill. It's a place to find a friend. And if you're bored, it's a place to find a book club, or a tai-chi group, or a service club, or underwater cross stitching group, or whatever. Give it a shot-things change as you get older. Maybe you will find something there that didn't interest you before.

Finally, the church needs you. Even as you stand to gain from the programs and workshops offered by your fellowship, so can the church be benefitted by the influx of new ideas and enthusiasm that accompanies a new member. Even one really motivated person with original thoughts and concerns can go a long way toward enriching a congregation. Besides, the college experience can generate a lot of new insights on a variety of issues. Perhaps you just feel like venting your opinion on something. If that's the case, the church is definitely a good place to turn. Be assured, someone will listen to you. They need to listen- new opinions, and the people that present them, are the basis for congregational growth.

Well, the evidence has been laid out. Now you must take it and weigh it against the benefits to be gained from sleeping until 2:30 in the afternoon next Sunday. Personally, I've found it to be a worthwhile experience. So give your church a try, I think you'll like it.

or Our Dreams, who of the second seco



#### **Drugs and YRUU**

By Jeanna Steele and Margaret Ladner,

Co-Chairs of Summer's End 1992

Drug use at conferences has become an issue of which we have become increasingly aware. We wonder if those using drugs at conferences are aware of the LRY story or the various problems such as loss of community, legal difficulties, and advisor distrust which are caused by drug use.

Many people may not be aware of the story of LRY (Liberal Religious Youth), but for us it's a story we have heard for many years. It's a story that we, sometimes, have taken for granted, until now. LRY was shut down by the UUA when conferences became overridden with drugs and sex. Advisors hesitated in having their names associated with an organization which made them liable because of the widespread drug use. Despite LRY's end, many dedicated youth and adults worked hard to get YRUU started.

Community is what conferences are all about. In a community everyone is working together on the same level. By using drugs one is placed on a separate plane of thought. While on drugs one can not interact with other people in a natural way. For some, drug use is a choice made by an individual. Once the individual enters the community individual's choices are sacrificed for the community as a whole. As soon as a person enters a community such as a conference, drugs should be left behind. We do not condemn drug use, we condemn drug use at conferences.

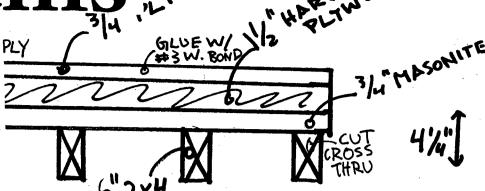
Legally, drug use is prohibited. It is understood that for some drug use is a political statement. As Unitarian Universalists we have a long tradition and history of challenging laws which we feel are unjust. But by using drugs at conferences, one puts advisors, conference leaders, conferees, and the future of YRUU at risk.

While it is easy to believe that a conference is a safe space for drug use, if anything were to happen it would be devastating. The community of love, trust, and friendship would be taken away. Conferences may seem like an ideal place for drug use, but individuals using drugs are not the only ones affected.

Caring, responsible, and trusting adults are hard to come by. Drug use at conferences alienates advisors and puts them at risk. To maintain heathy relations between youth and adults, which is a goal of YRUU, it is important to establish honest communication. Drug use inhibits that communication and introduces deceit and distrust. No matter what the advisors' opinion on the use of drugs, they will not, and should not, allow themselves to become liable.

We hope that the LRY story and the many other arguments against drugs at conferences have brought you to understand how and why drugs are prohibited in YRUU.

Editor's Note: We understand that the situations described above are not representative of all members of LRY nor YRUU; however, we recognize the significant problems that drug use at conferences incurs., and support the dialogue that is necessary in exploring this issue.



#### The Blueprint for My Dreams

By Julie Rising

Being a lifelong Unitarian Universalist and a 8 year YRUUer, I have done a lot of exploration into my inner self to find out just exactly who I am and where I am going. I think this is a common practice for Unitarians - since nobody tells us what's going to happen, we have to figure it out for ourselves.

As I have pondered this theme year in YRUU, I have been trying to define the blueprint for our dreams as an organization and how it will affect our future. I don't want to leave YRUU without knowing that the generation to come will be able to have the most enriching experience possible - as I have had.

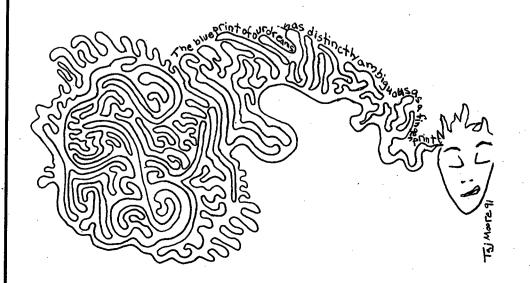
I have been looking at the young people of our faith and looking at inspiration. We are the ones who will capture and hold the future as we mold it to our ideals. I think we must make the present open to what the future can bring. As UU youth, with intelligence and passion working for us, we can turn the world around.

Being open to new ideas, understanding each other and looking for our spiritual ideals as part of a young UU community gives us great power. We must dare to continue the spiritual, intellectual, and liberal growth for the youth that will be joining our organization in the years to come. This world can have that kind of atmosphere if we treat each other and our dreams with respect and love. The UU world as a faith opens us to allowing dreams to be reality. We, as young UUs, are the future of this religion, as well as the future of the world as a whole. Our dreams will create the world for the next generation.

The foundation we leave behind and take with us on our life paths is really our blueprint. Knowing the legacy will grow and continue to help others has allowed me to express myself and my dreams. Dreams are the future. We must create and maintain a safe place for everyone's dreams to grow and have the potential to be realized. They can only develop if they are allowed to be expressed fully, and the world around us is supportive of working for those dreams. In today's society, it is easy to have your dreams crushed and put in the background. As a community of loving, caring, hopeful beings, I have seen UU youth revive each other's dreams, and allow them to be in the foreground of our lives.

I dream of a community of individuals that always allows me and the people I so desperately care about to live out their dreams and know they are valued and loved no matter what obstacles cross their path. My dream has come true. We all need to make sure that it holds true for years to come.

This is our blueprint. The plan, outline, map of a place that invites all young people to discuss their dreams, their fears, their hopes. This is YRUU. It is you and it is me. We are our dreams and our future.



### The Continental Scoop . . . The Continen

#### Resolutions Passed By Youth Council 1991:

- Youth and Advisor Leadership in the UUA
- Affirming the Inclusion of Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Youth in YRUU
- Mandating Action on L.B.G Youth
- Development of Adult Advisor Training Model
- Rights of Privacy and Free Speech
- Implementation of Junior High **Programming**
- Interdenominational Outreach
- Building a Transition Program btwn YRUU and UUYAN

If you would like copies of these resolutions or would like to work on or get information about any of the above issues, please contact the Youth Office or your District Representative.

# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*



The Youth Council Bubble Blowing Policy at work!

#### Putt-Putt, Sand, and Singing-Con - Con 1991

The Continental Conference of YRUU. 188 youth and adults from all over the US and Canada. Washington St. on the Pacific coast. Sean Ramsey as the Dean. Gee. Dancing in a rustic (sorta) cabin structure to the beat of REM, Dee-Lite, Prince, and the B-52s. The green rope net that could hold about half the conference - asleep and awake. Burrito, the camp owners' burro that hung out in the field, and joined in the scavenger hunt. The cabins, filled with sleeping bags, clothes, incense and baggage, but where did all the people go? The coffee that was so nonexistent when it was neeeded so badly. Releasing energy through volleyball the UU way. The juggling and beadworking, weaving and tye-dyeing that expressed the creativity. The big man with the voice to match allowing us to lift our voices to exhilaration every day. The Good Morning song that woke up the late sleepers. The bell that rung throughout the town to let us know that the food was there (though there wasn't much of it). The beach that we all carried home in our shoes, between our toes, and all through our bags. The poker chips that were traded, won and lost. The warmth of the sun during the day. The ocean breezes. The hugs. The smiles. The kisses. The tears. The sorrow. The learning.

These were the elements of this year's Continental Conference that we all shared. There were more. Much more. It was a time of love, hope, worship, and learning that allowed all who attended to experience the joy of Unitarian Universalism as young people, and as the young at heart. We created and shared the blueprint for our dreams, hoping to recapture some of the child within from the past and use our knowledge to explore the uncommon ground of our future.

The tears of pain heard and understood and the tears of joy realized, gave to each other the life of youth and the love of caring. We carried the flame of inspiration from our worshipping candles home to our lives, hoping for the security and warmth of the YRUU flame to burn as bright every day from August 25, 1991 to August 17, 1992, when again we will all join in love and life and caring.

Thank you all who believe in the spirit of YRUU for keeping it alive and open to all who need its power. Con-Con 1991 was a time to experience that power, but it must be shared, expanded, and brought to life from now until eternity.

#### Youth Caucus at General Assembly

This year about sixty youth from around the continent gathered in Hollywood, Florida for a long weekend of policy battling workshops, and some playing in the sand at the 1991 General Assembly.

Youth Caucus is a gathering of youth to discuss issues important to them and you. Most of the Youth Caucus participants are delegates from their UU societies, which give them the power of voting on the floor, but non-voting members of Youth Caucus also have a strong voice and a great time.

General Assembly is a great place to see how the denomination runs, and to meet ministers, advisors, and other youth. Hollywood's GA, though very hot, was a blast for everyone. Midnight swims in the hotel pool, walks on the beach, and morning rituals with the Stopping Violence Against Women group.

Many great things happened, and the Youth were a big part of the action. People came up to many youth and praised them for the issues they raised and the comprehensive way they discussed all the issues. The 1991 youth Worship service was so full people were sitting in the doorway, and there was barely enough room for people to sit.

This year the General Assembly will be in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and should be a whooping good time. Travel to Canada's cowboyland is expensive, however. Appeal to your churches for financial help and delegate status NOW. Also, write the Youth Office for information on scholarships. See you in Calgary - Yee-

## Box Of Post- and Jr- HighGoodies

POST HIGH:

-the Post High Survival Kit - A plethora of information, support and resources for the fresh out of high school UU who wants some spiritual guidance. It's in its final stages, and if you would like to give advice to any upcoming UU HS Grads, write a testimonial and send it to the Youth Office.

- Young Adult Groups - Look on Campuses and at churches for the current Young Adult Group in your area.

- Contact your Steering Committee Post-High people, Jan Gjestvang and Charlie Arnold, and the Youth Office for more info.

JUNIOR HIGH:

- District and Cluster Conferences Many districts are having Cons just for the Junior High aged folks, so ask your YCR to find out some more details.
- Resource Packet This is in its planning stages from a resolution at Youth Council 1991. The Steering Committee contact for information on the task group is Laura Peterson. Get in on the ground floor for this helpful new idea!

Call the Youth Office if you find anything left out or ignored

#### Con-Con 1992

will be in Raymond, Maine, 20 minutes from Portland, and the theme is "Un-Common Ground - YRUU's Tenth Anniversary" Write to the Youth Office for more information and a registration form -

WE NEED STAFF: We are still looking for an Editorial Staff for the 1992 Mugbook, preferably someone in the Portland or Boston area. If you or someone you know would be interested, contact the Youth Office ' ore March 15, 1992.

### tal Scoop . . . The Continental Scoop . . . The

# the stars have fallen to mingle among us ...the dreamers of YRUU by Liv Anne Gjestvang, former member of Steering Committee

bench at the 1991 meeting of YRUU Youth Council, I am amazed by the power of our youth. I look into the faces of my peers: Sean, sporting a green baseball cap, rests his head in the crook of his elbow. Leah, with her fist on her forehead, scribbles a pattern onto her agenda. Hughes wipes a stray strand of orange hair from his wrinkled forehead. I am proud of the intense pain in this room. The decisions we make will affect continental YRUU and it is an extreme struggle to try to discover what is best for our youth movement. The earth tone flowers of Julie's courdoroy hat slide into her eyes. She is minute-taker, recording the concerns, fears and dreams that emerge

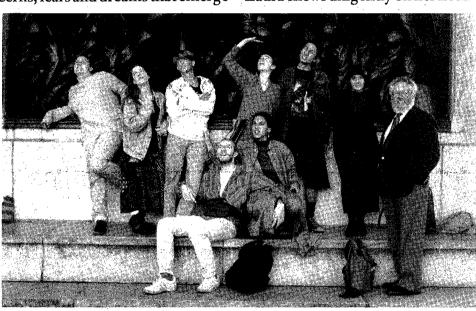
As I sit on the end of a hard, wood ench at the 1991 meeting of XRUU Youth Council, I am mazed by the power of our youth. look into the faces of my peers: Sean, sporting a green baseball cap, ests his head in the crook of his elbow. Leah, with her fist on her orehead, scribbles a pattern onto her agenda. Hughes wipes a stray from the complicated formal procedure of our youth governing body. So many of today's youth are not listened to, respected, or understood in a world that hears status and position more clearly than ideas and intent. Youth carry beauty inside of them. The eloquent, passionate words, spilling from the mouths of my peers move me.

It is indeed a bizarre mix, a swirl of identities in this room. A stack of crumbling Oreos shift and fall onto the packets of resolutions and agendas littered carefully across the table. Jennifer runs her fingers through her hair. Lara is asked to speak up, so that the intensity of her voice, with its subtle Canadian accent can be heard. Clare blows her nose. Laura chews diligently on her neck-

lace. Serena, craning her neck, streches to relieve her tense back. Jan rubs Christine's shoulders as she chews her fingertip, a distant look in her eyes. David scratches his beard. Charlie's eyes wander to the fire, dwindling in the corner of the room. We began the week as a community of dreamers, stringing our wishes together, looking to the stars. Now, after this week we shared, the stars are no longer distant dreams in the night sky. They have descended from above, lingering among us, extreme points of light and energy, forcing ourselves to grow, struggling with our decisions. We listened, fought, discussed, rested, and danced.

The mixture of freedom and that droppempowerment I experienced at the breakfast.

continental YRUU Youth Council was incredible. I love being young, and as I grow older, I am afraid that perhaps I will be pulled into an adult world. One that doesn't always wait for people when they aren't sure, one that doesn't let us stop in the middle of a complicated business procedure to do the hokeypokey, and one that doesn't let us drip hot oatmeal with fresh blueberries onto the crisp paper of a resolution. These are all silly, unimportant things, but together, they make Youth Council a place for youth, a place to develop, a place to fight for what we believe in and a special place where no one cares about the purple smear of oatmeal that dropped onto your lap during



**The 1991-92 YRUU Steering Committee in Boston**: sitting: Jan Gjestvang, Julie Rising. Standing(I to r): Justina Prenatt, Laura Peterson, Charlie Arnold, Serena Smallin, Tim Pinto, Christine Murphy, Erv Miller. - More dreamers looking for stars.

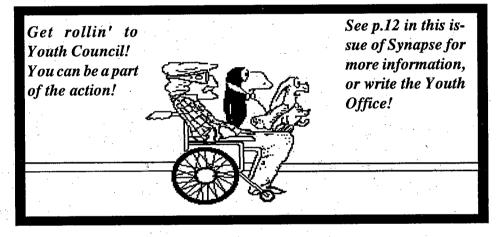
#### What Cam U Do 4 YRUU?

Write a Resolution for Youth Council and be a part of YRUU Policy Making!

There are four ways to get an issue written in the form of a resolution on the Youth Council Agenda (if passed, the resolution becomes policy of YRUU):

- Submit the resolution to the District Youth organization, who can submit it for the agenda through the Steering Committee
- Submit the item directly to the Steering Committee after getting the endorsement of a) ten UU youth b)three UU adults c)the district Youth Council rep and d)either the Dist. President, the Dist. Executive, or the District RE Chair.
- Seek the endorsement of another district's youth organization
- OR talk to a Steering Committee member. If your resolution looks like something that the Steering Committee would endorse, they can work on it and submit it as the Executive Body of YRUU.

For names of your District Youth Council Rep or a Steering Committee member in your area, contact the Youth Office.



#### What A Change In Our Age!

This year the Youth Council voted in favor of the final change in YRUU's age range! Starting January 1, 1992, the official age of YRUU will be 12-20.

Though this may seem like a big change, have no fear. This age range only officially affects continentally sponsored events, which are only Youth Council and Con-Con.

In a nutshell, the post-high at-large applicants and Con-Con attendees or staff must be 20 or under from now on.

The only other thing it effects is the age of the YRUU Programs Specialist applicants, who must now be 20 years old or under at the time of application.

District and regional events have the power to set their own age range, and only need to use the continental age range as a guide.

The Youth Council felt that Continental programming was only specifically addressing the needs of youth aged 12-20, and felt that the age group from 18-35 had sufficient programming through the Continental UU Young Adult Network and the Young Adult Ministries Office.

Next Youth Council could mean another age range change from 12-20 to 14-20, with a pending by-law change on the 1992 agenda. Currently the Steering Committee and Youth Council District representatives are working to improve programming for youth aged 11-14, in order for the potential age range change to have minimal negative effects.

If you would like to express your opinion on this or any other continental issue, contact your district representative or the Youth Office to have your voice heard.

FROM PUDDINHEAD TO POOK-IELIPS and EVERYTHING IN BETWEEN, This is for you who are at SWIM right now, or next week, or last week, or whenever it happens to be, did JamieSpoog Greenfield show up (w/ his lovely and talented family?) what of Tom, Mr. TooLame ForaNickname himself, and did we run out of creamcheese already? Hello to Suki & Jason, who can always be counted on, Vonnie, Josh, Mark, Jill, Jeremy, The Chicken, Lea, Matthew, Maureen, Carlw/alltheir 12 year olds (12 year olds rule!), little michael Condom, Jon, Jenny (all of them), Jess (ditto), NewBoyDan, New-esque Eliz, David(multiple), Keith, and everybody, everybody, everybody, even Steve Johnson &my brother, plus Willie B., the other Jamie, Rick, Lisa, Laura, Lilith, Katie, Noah's way too cool, whatever happened to Matt Evans? and absolutely every one of the people who are digging the Miami UU wintertime scene, remember to do what Kathy sez &SWIM DORKS RULE!!! hypoluxo dude, coleen.

Hey Con-Con '91 - Want a Life-saver? Joan.

ALBERT HERBERT MUFFINHEAD REINHARDT III, we still think of you often Keep in touch, C&M

Julie and Alex - Hellabad night at the Thunderbird. Was I the only one shitfaced? You guys rock! - Joan

# 

Alan Medvick-Look, I put your name in SYNAPSE, I have so much power, I love you to death.

HEY! I am desperately seeking TAMARA NINA CURRAN. If you are this person or know her, WRITE ASAP!!!!! Adria (ANDI) Wekenman 1107 Gulf Oaks Dr. Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Hellabad Cheerios-You guys are awesome. You made my Con-Con great. I love you. - Joan

Harry I. Brau-I miss you.-Mama Samoa.

Very special hellos and I love yous go out to Lisa Stevenson, Laura Smith (SC), Heather Bregger, Terry Turner, Leila, Jamshidi Heather Lacy Rachel MacCleery, Marcus Missavage, Tanya Moering, Denis and Marc (you know who you are!) Amy Pedersen, Steve and Dave Pond, Hilary Smith, Jonathan Turner, Erin Ulmer, Marisa Allen, Janell Huyck, Rebecca Algenio, Erick Gallun, and Jen Alldredge. Obviously, I have not had time to write, but I miss you... and you better write me WRITE NOW Lauralll

John, Tim, Jeanna-We need a pizza shop and a fountain.

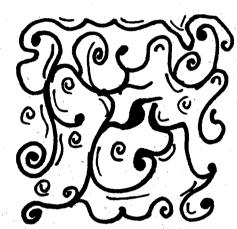
Help mel I'm trapped up in this small private college with people who've never heard of alternative music, don't appreciate a good fresh bagel, and think a UU/YRUU is something I've made up. I need to hear from normal, solid, sane people! Kimm Phillips PO Box 1237

Keuka Park, NY 14478-1237 PS. Tanah, are you out there?

Clare-It didn't get into the Mugbook. You <u>are</u> worship at Con-Con. You touch my heart. Write me Joan

Samoas-Your mama loves you! Eat your Golden Yangles, whether real or imaginary!

Warning-spooning, lifesaver passing, and Youth Council people may cause some absurd (but fun) results.



You too can write a personal!
Just send us your message in 50
words or less, preferably typed, but
we'll take what you give us. Send it
to the Youth Office, 25 Beacon St.,
Boston, MA 02108. We reserve the
right to edit inappropriate material
and limit 2 per person unless we
have space for more.

Hi. I am new to Albany and the East Coast (from San Diego). Please write or call and let me know about UUism here. Debi Gelfand 220 Myrtle Ave. \*1 Albany, NY 12202 518-433-8857

Hey! Anyone who's thinking of writing me - I moved. Send to Katie's address. - Joan Orloff

Hello everyone! I miss you all terribly. Please write me and Susan. We love you all very much. Love, Roger.
Roger and Susan Hollon 17828 Foxtail Drive Penn Valley, CA 95946 (916) 432-9497

Any metro New Yorkers who would like to contribute artwork (please!) or other materials to our newsletter please send them to:
Leela Sinha
17 Diamond Crest Lane
Stamford, CT 06903

Are Joe Taco and Suzy Creamcheese dead?

# Poetry and Other Creative Juices

### The Night the Heathers Communicated with God! - Con-Con 1991 The lights that he

They were all dancing to a beat Inside a lodge one night When suddenly the lights went out And gave them all a fright

These people had to move outside Because they could not see. Dependent on the light they were So they used flashlights three.

Tim decided to lay a fire
To share with all the rest.
Nick led songs with amazing skill
We all know he's the best.

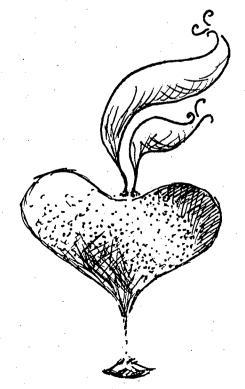
Nick said "Why don't we sing this song: Music is in the air So there must be a God somewhere." What happened next is rare:

Christine said, "Let's just change one word From music into light." And as they sang the newborn song They couldn't believe their sight.

The lights that had turned off before Were shining bright again.
The song turned into one big shout-But not a shout of pain.

Their joyful shouts from all around Filled the sky with laughter.
The message of the spirit spread
To them forever after.

-Caroline Schnieders, Germantown, Tennessee



#### A Storm

Power Raw and Beautiful Pierces the night Sometimes I feel like that So Alive So Strong But I could die at any moment Just like the storm That's what makes life so exciting One moment I could be standing on a street corner The next I could be struck by a car and dead Life is so fragile Like a desert Dry and Dead But after a storm it comes alive Indefinite A storm is, life is, and so am I But powerful Change comes in actions, words, even feelings To be able to change Is to have Power I have Power You have Power The time is now Change is up to us Let us pierce the night Raw and Beautiful -Christy Wilson, Quakertown, PA

**SEED** 

we speak. . . of the past Of history, made . . . and, History broken. Proposed, it is, that we-We make the changes. Said, we have, that they were them. . .but whose "they" are we? And will we -letting-down-our-hair-... and sharing... Will we move again -Or join the ranks leaving The few inspired talking in the dust? -Leela Sinha, Stamford, CT



#### Visionquest '91

Silence filled with sounds of peace Slender giants personify grace. I ask the insects - who am I? I ask the trees - why am I here? I ask the sun - what is out there? -Caroline Schnieders, Germantown, TN



What rare and inexplicable mystery enables seed to work its will Plans that no man contrive breathe about the womb of things An entity that one day may stand distinctive extraordinary a tulip shell or mammoth Lies hidden maturing waiting its moment of arousal

God within without around announces not what yet may come Within the quest of need lie nurturing answers man does not conjure Time alone and its Master prepare the need the way the seed



-Doris McShea, Chatham, New Jersey

Follow my candle, come with me Down the path of forgotten dreams. Those joyous, peaceful, and painful as well, They are a part of you, you must not lose them, For dreams are our only legacy, And all that are truly ours. -Joan Orloff, Michigan



#### The Blooming

by Jasmine Nielsen, Boca Raton, FL



The day that you gave me that rose, I was sure that I loved you, but how could one as young as I even know what love was. In between long pauses, you declared me to be your rose bud, full of promise. You described, in detail, the metamorphosis that I would undergo. I pictured my pure white petals opening to embrace the sun and absorb the fresh breeze that caressed my body as you once did. I could almost feel the raindrops as they pattered upon my stem, nourishing the soil that held me. You filled me full of hope for the beautiful flower that I would blossom into. But this wasn't the case, and you knew better.

I'm still not really sure when things started to change, but gradually, like the changing of the seasons, our relationship departed from the warmth and security of autumn and entered into the bitterness of winter. You were no longer content with the light kisses that I bestowed upon your lips, you wanted more. You were no longer content with anything I did, I just wasn't good enough. It seemed that no matter how carefully I acted, and regardless of how much time I spent trying to please you, you were never satisfied. I changed my appearance and concealed my true feelings. I abandoned my friends. Nothing seemed to matter as much as simply making you love me like you used to. I was perched precariously on the mountain of demands that you had for me, and I was starting to lose my balance.

I guess that I should have seen the warning signals screaming out to me, but I've always been quite skilled at blocking out what I don't want to know. The cautions from my friends fell upon deaf ears. Your abuse fell upon my numbed body and closed eyes. And, worst of all, my own feelings fell upon a closed mind. I was living purely within the confines of my own head, in a world that I had created for myself, a world in which you were everything. This world seems perfect, as I used to think that you were. Doesn't everything appear flawless at first?

That night haunts me constantly, not only in my dreams, but when I'm awake. Sometimes, in the middle of the night, I awake screaming, and your once beautiful face hovers above me, full of the rage that you thrust upon me. Often, I can't even leave my house, for fear of what is waiting for me out there. Other times, when there's no one around, I begin to panic. How can you know what it's like to be abandoned when you need someone most, both mentally and physically. But then maybe you do. Maybe in some warped way, your attack was a plea for help. Maybe, if I had seen this sooner, I could have answered your cry of despair. I'll never know, because you never said goodbye.

There I was, my petals spread, still craving the warmth of the center. I was opened before my time, and unprepared for the harsh reality that awaited me. I may have made a beautiful bloom, but trapped within this vase of pent up emotions, with no solid roots to speak of, I am doomed to wither fast. The sunshine did not embrace my battered body, instead it scorched me. The cool wind did not caress me, but ripped through my wounds. And the drops of rain that fell were not seeds of nourishment. They were tears that fell for me, and my loss of innocence.

You left me, without so much as a goodbye, to fend for myself in a world beyond my comprehension, a world that I had never even dreamed about. I had no friends left to help me pick up the pieces of my shattered existence. My obsession for you had driven them all away. I found myself bouncing from support to support, grasping on to anything that would keep me afloat in this sea of confusion. An endless stream of saviours floated through my life, but each one left me even deeper than the one before. I was losing the battle.

As I lie here, allowing the pills to slowly weave a protective cloak over my body, it becomes easier to look back. I'm numb, and suddenly everything is falling into place. It all makes sense, the missing pieces are being placed into the incomplete puzzle that my life has become. I can see the picture clearly now, right down to the tiny dots that make up the fragile rose. Each broken promise stands out distinctly from the pale gray sky, as I clutch onto these last moments. If only I had seen all of this before, but now it's too late. You never said goodbye, and this is your rose. I just wanted to say goodnight.

# Magic: How to Make the Flame Appear



Okay, so you've just finished reading *Synapse*. For the past half hour, you've had the pleasure of hearing other people's thoughts, looking at other people's artwork, reading other people's personals, and absorbing the atmosphere of the continental YRUU community, which you are a part of. **Now it's your turn to contribute.** Sit right down this instant and do something creative. Send us your art work, poetry, short stories, personals, or anything else you'd like to see published. Oh, and the next issue's theme will be "Magic: How to Make the Flame Appear" (hense the headline above).

#### SAY YES TO YRUU

#### Searching For A New YRUU Programs Specialist

#### Job Description

The YRUU Programs Specialist position is a one year internship for youth working at the UUA headquarters in Boston. The new YRUU Programs Specialist will work with the other YRUU Program Specialist and the Director of Youth Programs to manage day to day business of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. Responsibilities include: editing and laying out *Synapse*, managing the continental YRUU office, planning and administering conferences and other youth gatherings, participating in meetings, implementing decisions of the YRUU Youth Council and Steering Committee, and traveling to district and local groups for outreach. The term is one year, beginning September 1, 1992 and ending August 31, 1993. The stipend is \$13,000 per year, and moving expenses to and from Boston are paid.

#### **How To Apply**

To apply, please write to the Youth Office at: 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108 for an application kit. Applications must be postmarked by March 15, 1992. Call the Youth Office at (617) 742-2100 if this deadline is an impossibility.

#### SIMON'S ROCK COLLEGE



Taj Moore, 16

Joseph Priestly District YRUU

"I STARTED COLLEGE AT SIMON'S ROCK AFTER MY SOPHOMORE YEAR IN HIGH SCHOOL. IT'S AN IDEAL PLACE FOR YRUU FOLKS. THE PEOPLE ARE WONDERFUL AND THE WORK IS REALLY CHALLENGING. SIMON'S ROCK IS AN OPTION MORE OF US SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF."

If you're ready to start college early, call (800) 235-7186 or write to: Admissions Office, Simon's Rock College of Bard 84 Alford Road, Great Barrington, MA 01230-9702 Simon's Rock accepts students after the tenth and eleventh grade.

Simon's Rock was ranked #1 among Northern Regional Liberal Arts Colleges by *U.S. News and World Report* in 1991 and 1990.



1991 Youth Council, Longview, WA

# After seeing the picture above I Bet You Want To Be An At-Large Rep at Youth Council 1992

The YRUU Youth Council is the governing body of YRUU. They meet once a year to make policy decisions, pass resolutions, worship, and share ideas about continental YRUU. There are three At-Large positions for youth (Jr. High-12-15, Sr. High-15-18, and Post High-18-22), and there are seven positions for adults (25 and up). This year there are four adult at-large positions open. The term for youth lasts one year, and for adults, two years. This year's meeting is in August in the North East Region. Travel and expenses for At-Large members is paid for by the UUA.

#### Applications should include:

Vital information: name, address, phone number, and which position you are applying for (i.e.: Adult At-Large, Junior High At-Large, etc.)

A letter of intent: Why you want to be on Youth Council, what you think you can offer the group, any experience you have to bring to the group, and what your dreams and visions for YRUU are.

Two letters of recommendation: These can be from Ministers, YRUU Youth, RE Directors, YRUU Advisors, Teachers, or others with whom you have worked.

Address your applications to the YRUU Steering Committee, c/o the Youth Office, 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108. *All applications are due by March 15*, 1992.