

SYNAPSE

A Point of Contact Where Energy and Information are Exchanged

The Continental Newspaper of the Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Volume XII, Issue 2, Winter 1994. Printed in the USA.



Howdy! Please take a moment to fill out this form and help us clean out our files. Make sure we get your birthdate! Thanks!!

TRIM IT!

Woah! I don't need two copies of Synapse! Please send my one copy to the address below. Thanks.

ADD IT!

Why, yes, I would like to receive Synapse. Here's my name, address, and birthdate for your mailing list. Add me on!

I've Moved!

I no longer reside at 23 Burry'sville. My new house is at 38 Plasma Ave. (Fill in appropriate address). Please make a note of it.

My District Is:

TRASH IT!

Bye, bye Synapse. I no longer wish to receive this wonderful publication. Please remove me from your mailing list.

CHANGE IT!

I sure would like the correct information on my mailing label. Please note the corrections I have made to the right and enter them into your database. Namaste!

I LOVE IT!

Things just couldn't be better. I have mailed this back to you just for the hell of it. Have a nice day!!



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Letters to the Editors

Dear *Synapse*,

Sometimes in your life something wonderfully magical happens, and you want so badly to shout it out to the world. I figured this was the place to belt it out.

Four summers ago, my family and I moved to Highlands, North Carolina... but mainly we moved to The Mountain. (Yes, The Mountain. Original name, don't you think?) The Mountain is a Unitarian Universalist camp and conference center situated in the midst of the Appalachian mountains. It is the only place that I have ever known in which I can truly be myself, in all my liberal glory. The camp sessions that I have attended for what is now eight summers have been the best experiences of my life. Yeah, you get to do all kinds of adventure stuff that is fun—rafting, hiking, rock climbing—but what is truly magical about The Mountain is all the wonderful people who gather there.

You share in spirituality and nature, friendship and growth. I met so many wonderful people in the three years that I was fortunate enough to actually live there; I must have said literally hundreds of good-byes in those years, but more importantly, hundreds of hellos.

Living at The Mountain made my father realize what he really wanted in life was to become a UU minister. In order to accomplish that feat, however our family had to move to Berkeley, California so that he could attend Starr King, the UU theological seminary at Berkeley. Though I was extremely sad that I would have to leave The Mountain and all of my roots there, I knew that it was what my father needed from me. I now can only feel that I am one of the luckiest people in the world for having the

opportunity to spend part of my life in such a wonderful place.

I thank everyone who helped to make the very special memories that I will always treasure in my heart. I encourage all people to find their path to The Mountain. It is the most beautifully magical place on earth.

Sending my Spirit,
Eden King
Albany, CA

[I'm sure you'll be pleased to note that YRUU's Continental Conference will be taking place at The Mountain, July 31-August 6, 1995. --Ed.]

Dear *Synapse*,

I'm finally organized enough to write y'all! I like the idea of this paper a lot, but something about it turns me off. Maybe it has something to do with my feeling isolated from the editors and the other UUs who are writing to you. It feels like one big clique of people who are best friends are writing this for each other. Take the personals, for example. The messages almost always are from people who want to send their inside jokes and messages to their large amount of friends. Who knows me?

I don't mean to sound pitiful or bitchy or whatever, but I guess I feel so lonely when I see pictures of people who live far away and seem so happy together, or read poetry from such creative people. I feel so average because I'm not an "organizer" for anything, nor am I really creative. I don't know what else to add. I feel so lost now because I'm going to be making the transition from being a YRUU to an "adult" UU.

Help?! (Thanks for listening.)
Sincerely,
Elizabeth Doherty
Roseville, MN

Dear Elizabeth,

Thank you for sharing your concerns so honestly with us. We would like to make *Synapse* more inclusive, which is a challenge when writing for a large audience. We appreciate your input. It's contributions like yours that help make *Synapse* a more effective newsletter.

The transition out of YRUU into adulthood can often be very difficult. In this issue you'll find testimonials from three people in transition. One is about to leave YRUU, one maintains connections with both YRUU and UUYAN (the UU Young Adult Network,) and one has left YRUU for UUYAN. Hopefully these articles will give support and insight as you make this transition.

—Sarah & Dan

can relate to what was said by Jennine Lanouette about LRY being mentioned in hushed tones. I was also interested in the historical note that LRY had merged the Unitarian and Universalist youth eight years prior to the overall merger of the two denominations. I very much favor the acknowledgement of LRY at the 1995 General Assembly of the UUA. Keep up the good work with *Synapse*, and please keep me on your mailing list.

Love & hugs,
Mary Ann Somerville
Florida

[Editors' note: The following letter arrived at the UUA addressed to UUA President John Buehrens]

Dear President,

We established Uni-Uni Youth Forum of Sri Lanka on the tenth of June, 1994. This was organized under the patronage of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Sri Lanka. We hope to promote this movement among the Sri Lankan youth.

Please register this under YRUU of USA—our main ambition is to build a friendship between American and Sri Lankan youth. Please grant your cooperation to our endeavor. Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,

Naveen Jayewardene
President, Uni Uni Youth Forum of Sri Lanka

To our friends in Sri Lanka:
Thank you for writing and asking to be part of YRUU. We look forward to establishing a connection between YRUU in the United States and Canada and the Uni-Uni Youth Forum in Sri Lanka in the future!
Peace.

All About Synapse!

Synapse is a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU), the youth organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association; 25 Beacon Street; Boston, MA 02108. Subscription is free. Two issues per annum.

YRUU Staff: Dan Ross, Sarah Gibb, Jory Agate, and Anne Fleming.

Mechanicals: Proofreading, edits and layout by Youth Office staff. 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 in this publication are not necessarily those of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists, the Unitarian Universalist Association, the Youth Office Staff, or the majority of *Synapse's* readers.

Submissions policy: Each submission must have the name and address attached. Multiple submissions accepted. When submitting photographs, please include the name of the person who took the photo to provide proper credit. The editors observe the following limits when possible for each author's submission:

- Articles:** One per issue of each of three types: news, theme, reflective.
- Poems:** One per issue
- Personals:** Two per issue, up to 50 words each.
- Graphics / Photographs:** No limit

The above limits do not apply to letters to the editor. Submissions not used will be kept on file for possible use in future issues. 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 vary depending on size and type of organization. UUA affiliate and associate organizations and events sponsored by these and UUA committees or an organization's committee receive special rates. Also, non camera ready, or odd-sized ads have special rates. Advertisements are not endorsed by the Youth Office, the UUA, or YRUU. The editors reserve the right to refuse any advertisement. Contact the Youth Office for specific rates for your organization.

Submission and Advertising Due Date for Next Issue: April 15, 1995.

CONVO '95

CONVO '95, the eleventh annual convocation of INTERWEAVE, will convene in Raleigh, NC, February 17-19, 1995. Over 200 participants are expected to meet for three days of celebration, worship, programs, workshops, panels, speakers, fun, learning, music, and of course, food. INTERWEAVE is a continental membership organization and UUA affiliate comprised of some 500 members. INTERWEAVE is dedicated to the spiritual, political, and social well-being of UUs who are confronting oppression as lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, transgender persons and their heterosexual allies. INTERWEAVE facilitates the celebration of the culture and lives of its members.

The host congregation for the conference is the UU Fellowship of Raleigh. The Raleigh-Durham area is easily reached by interstate highway and by an international airport.

Workshop topics and presentation themes include: "G-L-B-T Youth: The Movement of Today," "Bisexuality," "The Welcoming Congregation," "The Religious Right: Our Silence Will Not Protect Us," and "Race, Class, and Gender: Confronting Oppression Begins at Home."

YRUU "Lock-In"

The conference is for UUs of all ages. Youth and advisors are invited to participate in CONVO on a donation basis (\$45 suggested.) This includes meals, and of course, lots of munchies in between. Youth and advisors will "camp out" at the conference facility - bring a sleeping bag! In addition to regular conference events, youth programming will include activities and workshops of special interest to teenagers.

To register, contact:

CONVO 95
Raleigh UU Fellowship
3313 Wade Avenue
Raleigh, NC 27607
(910) 722-0421

For youth programs info., contact:

Coleen Murphy
CONVO Teen Director
624 2nd Avenue
Decatur, GA 30030
(404) 373-1327

Youth Speak for Children at U.N. Conference

The following statement was composed by participants in "Peace it Together," YRUU and the UU United Nations Office's 15th annual youth conference. The conference took place from November 17th to 20th, 1994, in New York City. This statement was delivered by the participants on Sunday, November 20th to the members of Community Church, a UU church in Manhattan.

We are children. We are Unitarian Universalist children from the United States and Canada, and we came to New York to learn about peace, to learn about the United Nations, and to learn about people and problems from around the world. We came from Long Beach, CA; Fort Collins, CO; Coral Gables, FL; Pasadena, CA; Lutz, FL; Kennesaw, GA; Des Moines, IA; Pocatello, ID; Shelbyville, KY; Duxbury, MA; Charlotte, NC; St. Louis, MO; Swampscott, MA; Marlton, NJ; Marston Mills, MA; Cape Elizabeth, ME; Seward, NE; Cresskill, NJ; Los Alamos, NM; Princeton, NJ; Fairport, NY; Kent, OH; Kingston, ON, Canada; Portland, OR; Austin, TX; and Madison, WI.

A lot of people in all of our states talk about social justice, about world unity, and about unalienable rights. We want

specifics. We have talked about the lives of people and their rights, about communication and listening problems that keep countries apart, and about the life, food, shelter, education, and love that each person should have.

There are many basic principles of Unitarian Universalism; the first one: "We will affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person." The second: "We will affirm and promote justice, compassion and equity in human relations."

We want to devote this time to children. Children are a part of the "every person" of our First Principle and a part of the "human relations" in the Second Principle, but they are a part which is often forgotten. We the children want to speak for the children. We want to share with you what we have learned, and we want you to do something about the things we have learned.

-For every soldier killed in war, five children also lose their lives.

-Thirteen children are killed and thirty are wounded by guns each day in the United States alone.

-In the five minutes that our statement will take, 84 children will die.

We would like you to think about this. Children have special needs. These needs are taken into account in the resolutions passed by the International Convention on the Rights of the Child. The resolutions deal with violence, labor, abuse, freedom, armed conflict, and education in relation to children. Over 150 of the 184 nations involved with the resolutions have ratified them. The United States has not.

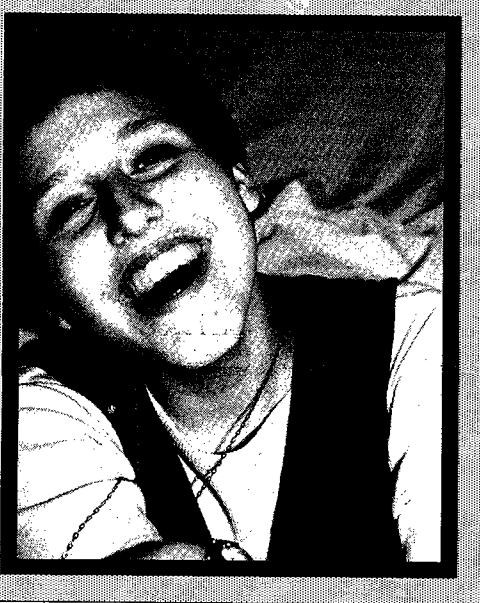
We ask you to write to the UN, to your congress person, and to the president. Tell them that you support the resolutions put forth by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and ask them to ratify the document. Tell them that children have special needs.

We the children want to speak for the children, and we hope that we have. New York has taught us about learning and we will never forget. Learning about other people and acting on what you learn is one way of peace. Follow it.

Song: I shall remain wanderer / till my brothers have learned / my sisters have learned the ways of peace / I shall remain wanderer / till humanity has learned the ways of peace.

YRUU PROGRAMS SPECIALIST INTRODUCTION

Hi. I'm Jenny Axel, and I'm the next YRUU Programs Specialist. I'm originally from Indiana, but I'm currently living in Illinois and working at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. I'll be moving to Boston in January to help out in the Youth Office. I like to sing and play piano and go on long walks with my camera. I love fall and my sister Emily. I hate winter and onions, and I think that Kevin McDonald from "Kids in the Hall" is God. So there I am. I hope to meet you soon.



"A small group of thoughtful, concerned citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Mead

Mountain Desert YRUU Stands Up On Dec. 3rd

by Kathy Vaughn

Out in the Mountain Desert district of the UUA something amazing occurred—a group of youth got together at a conference called "Stand-Up Con" at the First Unitarian Society in Denver, Colorado, and made December 3rd into a real YRUU Social Action Day. The 67 participants at this conference dedicated Saturday morning to standing up for their Unitarian Universalist beliefs.

Participants were given a choice of four community service projects to take part in. One crew volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, working for four hours painting ceilings, texturing walls, and dry-walling a house for a low-income family. This hearty crew returned to the church polka-dotted with spackling and satisfied with the job they had done. Another crew helped out at Urban Peak, a shelter for homeless teens. They toured the shelter and learned about what it's like for teens living on the street. The crew sorted clothes, organized the pantry, addressed envelopes, and cleaned up outside the shelter. The shelter's walls were decorated with paper stars to acknowledge residents for their achievements throughout the years. These achievements ranged from, "I had a good day today," to "I found a good job." The paper stars were hung throughout the shelter and served as a powerful symbol to this crew. A third group volunteered for the Colorado AIDS Project's "Santa's Workshop." They put on elf hats, armed themselves with coupons and flyers to promote the project's fund-raising gift wrapping and delivery service, and hit the streets to distribute these to downtown businesses. They also made bows from recycled materials for the gift wrapping service and decorated a tree. While back at the church, another group of youth made gingerbread ornaments and wrapped presents for the Sewell Children's Center for children who are developmentally challenged. Some of the conference's participating local youth groups brought toys to donate to the Sewell Center.

Thanks to Jay Jordan-Chase for all his work organizing these projects. This kind of conference can happen when adults and youth trust one another, and are able to get past the power struggles and controversies that weigh YRUU down.



Cody Saxton spackles for Habitat for Humanity on Social Action Day

photo by Bre Mason

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Is There Life After YRUU?

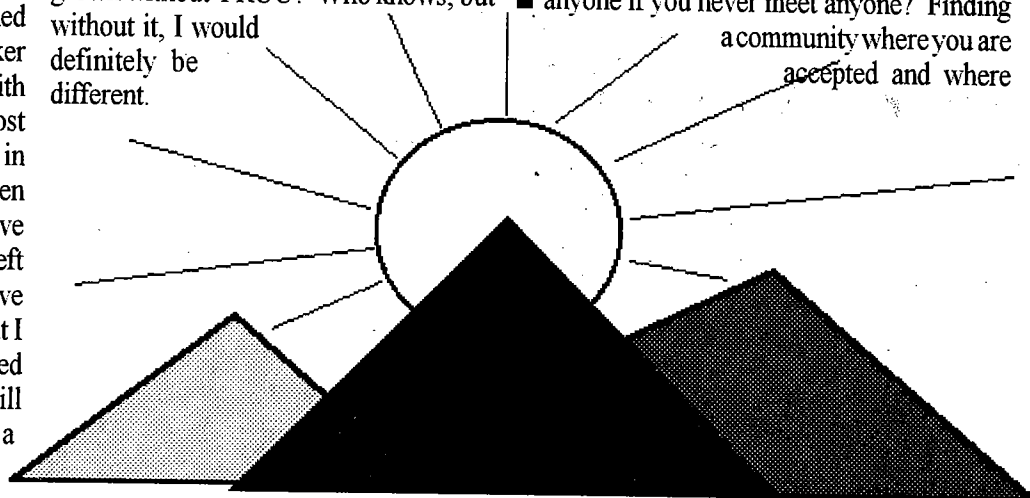
Three perspectives on the transition from YRUU to young-adulthood

This article is dedicated to all YRUU's; past, present, future and especially those in the Pacific Northwest District. Each of you has contributed to my wonderful experience. My thanks and gratitude go far beyond words. I would especially like to thank the adults who have dedicated their time and energy. Keep the Spirit Alive! With all the love in my heart now and forever,
Alicia Lyman-Holt.

I have been attending youth conferences for four years now. For a long time they were my life. I attended them, I planned them, I waited for them, and what ever came in between them was my "other life." At conferences, I would stay up all night, sometimes until three o'clock in the morning, talking and playing stupid games like silent football. I would then spend the day expanding my horizons, listening to the theme speaker and sleeping through the workshops so that I could stay awake for the talent show. I would be up all night again. It was what I lived for. There was a certain community about the place and a feeling I got nowhere else in my life. Friends from far and wide would be there to hold me and we would be wonderful. Leaving would always be very hard. I would spend the next week in post conference blues, boring my friends with stories. I have left a large part of me at those conferences; a part of me that only comes out when I'm at a conference.

Recently, I went to my last youth conference. I spent it with the few people that I have left that I know. I spent it going to bed and missing part of the talent show. I spent it feeling old. Something that I learned from the conference (the theme speaker spoke on rites of passage) was that with every change in life there is something lost and something gained. I have lost a lot in leaving a community that only exists when 150 YRUU's laugh and cry together. I have left some dear friends behind. I have left some very good times behind. But I have gained a sense that I am more mature, that I belong with another group. I have gained the right to discover what that group will bring me as a young adult. I have found a new place with old friends. Most of all, after four years as a youth in YRUU, I

have found myself. I have found a person I am very comfortable looking at in the mirror. I found a person in me who is willing to stand up and say what she believes. A person who is proud to be woman. A person who knows how to cry when she is sad and laugh when she is happy. A person with more imperfections than she is willing to admit, but with a will to work on them. A person who is lovable and able to love. A person who can lead and a person who can follow. A person who is her own person. After four years in youth activities I have grown past what I would have been without them. This was not without growing pains. I have changed from a sweet innocent 14-year-old girl with a great fear of leaving home and a do-it-myself attitude to a more mature, less sweet and less innocent 18 year old who can stand on her own two feet and cry out for help if she needs it. I have become less dependent on people while deepening my ties with them. I have become more centered and solid. I have grown so much, yet would I have not grown without YRUU? Who knows, but without it, I would definitely be different.



Yes, Fear by Deacon Wardlow

The smell of hazelnut coffee and hot chocolate waft through the dim room of the coffeehouse. Rocking back and forth on the back legs of my chair, I nervously stir another packet of sugar into my mandarin orange tea. I'm just another twenty year old college student in the coffeehouse....

Coffeehouses are great places to go, depending on the coffeehouse. You can sit, read a book, get some writing done, and meet people. With Internet access becoming greater and more available to a larger group of people, actually meeting another person is becoming a rarity. People have developed a fear of intermixing. People are afraid of actually talking to a stranger, other than an occasional, "Yeah, two blocks up the street and it'll be on your right." Why are people not going out and meeting others? Why don't they just go out and talk to someone? I've been asking people these questions. The usual reply is something like, "There are too many weirdos out there," or "I feel uncomfortable talking to people I don't know."

Yes, there are weirdos out there, and yes, it can be scary meeting people you don't know, but how will you get to know anyone if you never meet anyone? Finding a community where you are accepted and where

you can meet other people that you can relate to can be difficult. In YRUU conferences I found acceptance, love, and a welcoming community of people my age. Now that I'm in college I find it difficult to feel as close to people as I did at conferences. UUYAN (Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network) offers programs for my age range, yet UUYAN doesn't have a presence everywhere, yet. In an effort to build a better community, I'm starting a UUYAN group on my campus.

Life isn't an easy thing and it's even harder when you face it alone. Last year I met a lot of people who were lonely. They were stuck in jobs that they were unhappy with. It seemed to them that they had nowhere to turn, and no options before them. They never saw the options that they did have because they were looking by themselves. There are always options and if you can't find options, create them yourself. No matter how bad things get, remember there's always somebody out there willing to lend a hand.

If you don't like something, go out and change it. I often go to coffeehouses and talk to complete strangers who later become my good friends. The only way to combat the cold world of cyberspace relationships is to go outside and meet people. Start a youth group or young adult group. Get people together and try to get them to realize that we're all looking for friends and that there are good people out there. Have a group over to watch bad movies, just so you can share the experience. You affect the world around yourself. What you do is your choice. Life can be rough, but with friends, it can be livable. I'm just one UU trying to make the world a little nicer. The more people work on it, the better it's going to get.

Opus '94: Weaving the Tapestry of Life; A Personal Transition into C*UUYAN - by Caitlin Rooney

At Con Con 93, my fourth Con Con, I spent a lot of time in the Texas heat saying goodbyes. Only eighteen, I was saying goodbye to YRUU. This was not a small choice for me. I had been Secretary of the Michigan District YAC for three years, Con Con '93 was my sixteenth YRUU conference, and many of my closest friends were fellow UU youth. Yet, I was going to college, starting a new life and for a variety of reasons I felt it was time for me to move on. As Michelle Shocked sings, "The secret to a long life is knowing when it's time to go."

Of course, I wasn't bargaining on Con Con 94 being in Michigan, just a few hours from my house, with Derek McTaggart as Con Artist and Sarah Stewart as Worship Co-Coordinator. I remember the first day Derek ever came to RE at my home church in Lansing. And one of my favorite parts of YRUU had been planning worship services with Sarah. It was tempting to register, not having anything to do that week. But as much as YRUU meant to me and will always mean to me, I am no longer truly a part of it.

I'm having a hard time writing this. I can't tell you all that I outgrew YRUU, because you can't tell folks who haven't outgrown something yet that they will. At least, you can't do that and have them listen to you. And yet, I need to tell you that I outgrew it, because someday you will, too. Some of you may already have, and may be hanging on for lack of anywhere else to go. But there is somewhere within UUism to go after YRUU, to take everything that became

a part of you within YRUU. That place is C*UUYAN, the Continental Unitarian Universalist Young Adult Network.

On August 13th I left for Wake, a tiny crossroads town which doesn't even show up on my atlas' map of Virginia, to attend Opus 1994: Weaving the Tapestry of Life. Opus, a weeklong event for UUs between the ages of eighteen and thirty-five, is C*UUYAN's equivalent of Con Con. I'd never actually been to any other C*UUYAN event; my only direct contact with the organization came at the coffeehouse put on at my first Con Con where members of C*UUYAN came from their campsite to the Mountain to perform for us. So, I guess wandering in like that was sort of a daring thing to do.

It was a long drive from Michigan to Virginia, and when I got to the Sangraal-by-the-Sea Youth Hostel, I was greeted by a host of friendly faces, none of them familiar. It had been literally years since I'd walked into a conference knowing no one, but there I was. Rachel Lawrence, one of the Co-Conveners, painted my middle finger blue. I sat there with my middle finger blue, making name tags and mail bags, wondering what on earth I was doing there. Then touch groups met, and there was no going back.

C*UUYAN is not YRUU. Opus was not just like Con Con. It wasn't even similar to Con Con. It was its own entity. But it was an entity which shared YRUU's principles and some of YRUU's practices. The blue finger indicated I was a member of the adventure "family" group, a far less structured group than any touch group I'd ever been in, but

essentially the same thing. We had worships, workshops, a coffeehouse and "Circle Up!" And the key word, of course, was community.

I have never seen a group of people more interested in forging community. And no, I didn't just say, "I have never, outside of YRUU..." but, "I have never..." I was at the young end of the group, though not the youngest and I was taken seriously and welcomed by my the group as an equal and a member of the community. Because Opus is the governing body of C*UUYAN assembled, there is a much larger business component to it than to Con Con. Personally, I believe that helped foster community. Although the meetings got tedious and conflict did arise, the sense of responsibility for the group that long involved meetings created was, in my view, essential to bringing community-building to a higher level.

If you're interested in more information about C*UUYAN, please feel free to contact me at (413) 597-6537 or by writing me at Williams College, S.U. Box #2998, Williamstown, MA 01267. My e-mail address is: caitlin.m.rooney@williams.edu. Anyone interested in joining C*UUYAN and receiving The Connexion, The Newsletter of the Young Adult Network, Unitarian Universalists ages 18-35, should send a check for fifteen dollars to Mark Demma, C*UUYAN Finance Coordinator, 18 S. Blvd. #6, Richmond, VA 23220. The check should be made out to C*UUYAN.

General Assembly News

Youth Caucus at GA '94

The 1994 General Assembly's Youth Caucus was a definite force to be reckoned with at the annual business meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association in Fort Worth, Texas. The Youth Caucus held daily meetings to discuss and debate the issues on the GA plenary floor and invited knowledgeable members of the GA community to help clarify a few of the more confusing resolutions. Comprised of eighty youth, aged 14 to 20, from all across the continent, many of whom were representing their local church or fellowship as delegates, Youth Caucus was one of the most vocal bodies of the General Assembly.

After realizing that a resolution calling for the inclusion of comprehensive

sexuality education in public schools' curricula had failed the final agenda, the Youth Caucus took it upon themselves to write up their own Resolution of Immediate Witness (see page 6) and collect well over the 400 signatures of petition needed to have it put on the final agenda. After a moving presentation of the resolution by Alison Miller of New York (see cover), and a few friendly amendments, the General Assembly passed it with a nearly unanimous vote.

Along with the long hours of meetings, workshops, and plenary sessions, Youth Caucus members also took some time to sing songs, play games, talk, and get to know one another. It was an experience that is sure to be sustained by the memories each person took home with them. Bravo!

Youth Caucus Will Meet Again!

Start planning for General Assembly in Spokane, WA! GA will take place from June 15-20, and once again there will be a Youth Caucus. Youth Caucus at General Assembly is a wonderful experience; often exhausting but nearly always a good time. Start petitioning your societies to provide scholarships and send youth delegates now.

Youth wishing to take part in Youth

Caucus will have the option of staying with other youth in a nearby hotel. It is an excellent way to get to know other UU youth from around the continent.

For information on youth housing, call the Youth Office. If you would like to register for GA, contact Ben Auburn or Beth O'Connor in the GA office at the UUA. (617) 742-2100 x207 See you there!



William and Allison Miller proudly carry their home church's banner during the 33rd annual banner parade at General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas.

Young Adults Take Notice!

- ⌘ Do you like physical exercise?
- ⌘ Do you appreciate the outdoors?
- ⌘ Are you a crazy bicycle enthusiast?
- ⌘ Are you interested in making new friends and sharing your experiences with them?
- ⌘ Would you like to go to GA '95, but can't afford it?

If you answered yes to any of the above, you should know about...

"Spokes to Spokane"

"Spokes to Spokane" will be a cross-country young adult (ages 18-35) bicycle tour to the UUA's General Assembly (GA) in June of 1995. Leaving from Boston, MA sometime early in the month of May, we will make our way west, stopping along the way at various churches and fellowships. Upon arrival in Spokane, just in time for the commencement of GA '95, we are hoping for a big welcoming reception.

The tour will be led by Marlin Lavanhar, 26, a lifetime Unitarian Universalist from Deerfield, IL, who has been traveling by bicycle and visiting UUs around the world since May of 1992, and Dan Ross, 21, current YRUU Programs Specialist in the Youth Office. Marlin has been visiting religious places and studying various theologies and forms of meditation and worship through the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece, Israel, Japan, China, Tibet, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Thailand, Vietnam, Southern China, Hong

Kong, the Philippines, and more! Marlin explains his unique quest this way: "Meeting Unitarians and Universalists—actually people of all religions, races, ethnicities and cultures—has helped confirm and reaffirm my love for humanity and life in all its diversity." To share the story of his world-wide tour, Lavanhar plans to narrate a slide presentation of his journey at General Assembly.

Dan is currently planning a route and itinerary, after which time he will be contacting local churches and fellowships along the way to set up home hospitality, presentations, worship services, etc. If you or your church are interested in hosting the riders as they roll through your town, or would like to take an active part in this fantastic journey, or would just like more information, please contact Dan Ross in the Youth Office at (617) 742-2100 extension 352 or via e-mail: dross@world.std.com

Bon Voyage!

Bridging Ceremony

The Bridging Ceremony is a rite of passage which celebrates an individual's transition between youth and young adulthood in a positive and exciting way. It is a time for the congregation, friends, and family to greet the celebrant in a new way, as an adult. It is an opportunity to recognize and affirm a growing individual for his or her gifts, talents, and contributions. Bridging Ceremonies ease an often difficult transition for young people in Unitarian Universalist congregations.

At 4:30 on Monday, after a morning of Young Adult focused programming, there will be a Bridging Ceremony based on

a ceremony created by the Pacific Northwest District. The fine individuals planning the Young Adult focus day would like to extend an invitation to youth and young adults attending GA to participate in Monday's Bridging Ceremony.

For more information regarding the General Assembly Bridging Ceremony or if you would like to participate in the ceremony, contact Donna DiSciullo at (609) 252-1412, or e-mail: ddisciullo@aol.com. If you would like information on Bridging Ceremonies in general, please contact Sheba Greiner at (206) 527-7895, or e-mail: sgreiner@u.washington.edu.

UU Young Adults to Take GA by Storm!

The Office of Young Adult Ministries of the Unitarian Universalist Association recently formed a team of active young adults (18-35) from around the continent that will be putting on a special focus day at the 1995 General Assembly in Spokane. The focus day will consist of several special programs aimed at issues of concern to young adults, increasing young adult participation in the denomination, and creating awareness of young adult UU involvement. The day will include a performance of several speeches woven into a theatrical presentation, and meetings of individual districts to discuss and learn about district young adult religious activities and groups. There will be a display of UU young adult art work and many young adult-run workshops. This is an opportunity for UUs of all ages to learn about a very crucial but

often overlooked segment of our denomination—the generation of young adults. The theme of GA 95 is "Building our Future, Generation by Generation." The young adult focus day will be on Monday, June 19, 1995.

For more information contact Donna DiSciullo, Young Adult Ministries Coordinator at 609/252-1412 (w) or 609/924-4273 (h). Or contact Sarah Gibb, UUA Youth Office, at (617) 742-2100 x351. Both are on the committee that is planning these events.

A voluntary scholarship fund will be established to enable young adults who need financial assistance to attend GA '95. If you are a young adult planning on attending and would like more information on scholarships, call Donna DiSciullo at the above numbers or the GA office at (617)

General Assembly Resolution: Sexuality Education in the Public Schools

The following resolution was passed by the 1994 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association. The resolution was researched, written, and sponsored by the 1994 Youth Caucus at GA. Because it is a Resolution of Immediate Witness, it is a resolution of General Assembly of the UUA, not a resolution of the UUA itself.

Sexuality Education In Public Schools

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists affirm the value of loving relationships—heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender; and

WHEREAS youth are increasingly exposed to and victimized by rape and incest, unplanned pregnancy, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS the Texas Republican Party platform, adopted on June 11, 1994, states that "homosexuality should not be presented as an acceptable lifestyle in our public schools" and that "we also oppose the use of any tax dollars for any program ... which teaches and legitimizes sexual activity, birth control, abortion, and homosexuality"; and

WHEREAS there are high suicide rates among heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender high school students; and

WHEREAS each high school class graduating without appropriate sexuality education is more prone to prejudiced attitudes, pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 1994 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association condemns the platform expressed by the Texas Republican Party; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the 1994 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association urges member congregations to advocate the availability of comprehensive, objective, unbiased, up-to-date, age-appropriate sexuality education curricula in public schools, including information about:

- the reproductive system and its functions;
- the proper use of all forms of contraception, including the option of abstinence;
- sexually transmitted diseases, their prevention and treatments;
- sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual harassment, rape (including date rape), and incest as well as their prevention and treatment through counseling, information and resources;
- pregnancy counseling and options including information about organizations such as Planned Parenthood and BirthRight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sexuality education curricula be taught by teachers specifically trained to educate youth on the topic of sexuality education, and that the curricula encompass heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender orientations and include a focus on sexual responsibility and the emotional aspects of relationships and crises; and

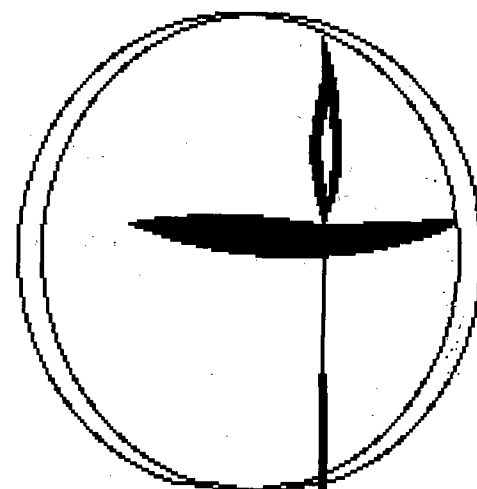
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that member congregations are urged to make available sexuality education programs such as *About Your Sexuality* to both Unitarian Universalist youth and youth in the community at large.

What About Canada, Eh?

I realize that the religious right is less powerful and influential in Canada than it is in the United States, and that sexuality education is not nearly as controversial in Canada. Canadians—consider yourselves lucky! What kind of social action concerns do Canadian youth have that American youth do not? What concerns do we share? Please let *Synapse* know.
--Sarah

"We shall nurture the freedom and integrity of the questioning mind, and embrace all persons of diverse backgrounds. We shall encourage the development of a spirit of independence and responsibility."

— *The Purposes of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists*



This is a sampling of organizations that are working to promote reality-based sexuality education curricula in the public schools. You can contact them for information about comprehensive sexuality education. These organizations would also be good resources for obtaining information about how to argue against the use of fear- and shame-based curricula in the schools.

SIECUS (Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States)
130 West 42nd St.
New York, NY 10036
(212) 819-9770

National Coalition to Support Sexuality Education
c/o SIECUS
130 West 42nd St.
Suite 2500
New York, NY 10036
* the UUA is a member of the NCSSE

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
810 7th Ave.
New York, NY 10019
(212) 541-7800
or consult the yellow pages to find the Planned Parenthood nearest you

Center for Population Options
1025 Vermont Avenue, N.W.
Suite 210
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 347-5700



THE 19th ANNUAL UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
MARCH 31st - APRIL 4, 1995
WASHINGTON, DC

"A RELIGIOUS RESPONSE TO THE RADICAL RIGHT: A DAY OF LOBBYING, A YEAR OF ADVOCACY"

Are you interested in Social Action and Social Justice? Come to the UU National Conference for Social Justice. It is put on every year by the UUA Washington Office. Many UU organizations participate, including the UU Service Committee, UU United Nations Office, UU Women's Federation, UUA Department for Social Justice, UUA Office for Lesbian, Bisexual, and Gay Concerns, Interweave, the UUA Office for Racial and Cultural Diversity, and YRUU. YRUU! That's where you come in! The UUNCSJ is an excellent opportunity to both learn and act - it includes workshops and a day of lobbying on Capitol Hill. There is a Youth Caucus which meets throughout the weekend. Other youth-autonomous workshops are in the making, including a session on Human Rights (this year's YRUU social action theme). Some of the other workshops will address "Coalition Building to Challenge the Radical Right," the "Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay Civil Rights Employment Non-Discrimination Act," the "Environment Equity / Endangered Species Act," "How to Lobby Members of Congress," and "How to Work with the Media in Challenging the Radical Right."

Conference registration fees are as follows:

Lodging at the Howard University Hotel (the conference site) is available for \$40.00-\$75.00 per night. HOWEVER, home hospitality should be available at little or no cost. I am trying to co-ordinate and encourage youth participation in the conference; if you would like information or have anything to offer or suggest, please write me at the following address and I will see that you receive the registration packet and necessary information. Please indicate whether or not you are interested in home hospitality. Registration packets can also be obtained directly from the UUA Washington Office. See you in March!
-Rob Cavanaugh, YAFY (Joseph Priestley District YRUU).

UUA Washington Office
100 Maryland Ave., NE
Room 106
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 547-0254

Rob Cavanaugh
Lefts Hall 542 / American University
4400 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20016-8104

A Call to Action: An Argument for Comprehensive Sexuality Education

by Sarah Gibb

Activist members of radical right-wing Christian groups across the United States are working to change the way that Sexuality Education is presented in the public schools. The classroom has become the latest battleground in the religious right's ideological war with America. Youth are the prize they seek. Many powerful religious and political leaders, parents, activists, educators and school board members associated with the religious right are working to eliminate sexuality education curricula in the public schools and replace them with "abstinence-only" curricula that teach abstinence and heterosexuality as the only options for teenagers. Abstinence-only curricula are largely fear-based, and do not teach youth to cope with the realities of sexuality. They deny the fact that humans, including teenagers, have valid sexual feelings. They cast pre-marital sex, masturbation, single parenthood, abortion, and homosexuality in a negative light, lacing these subjects with fear, guilt, and hatred. Many of these curricula do not mention rape, sexual abuse, and sexual exploitation—it's as if these problems don't exist. The religious right is very organized. Their relentless strategic campaigning and fund-raising has resulted in the alteration of many school districts' sexuality education curricula to cater to the right's narrow interpretation of sexuality, and have succeeded in placing their abstinence-only curricula in a few thousand schools and churches nationwide. Fortunately, many

Americans support comprehensive sexuality education. They are by far greater in number than those supporting abstinence-only curricula, yet the religious right continues to have its way in school district after school district. We must stop being complacent while our values are trodden upon. We must educate ourselves, define our beliefs, and take action on what we believe in!

Comprehensive sexuality education teaches students the skills to make their own decisions about their sexuality. This kind of education is useful for all students, whether or not they are sexually active, whether or not they plan to marry, whether or not they are heterosexual, whether or not they are Christian. An abstinence-only curriculum is not going to help the teenager who doesn't know how to prevent transmission of HIV and is becoming involved in a sexual relationship. Abstinence-only is not going to help the child who blames himself for the sexual abuse he receives. Abstinence-only reinforces heterosexism, making the homosexual student feel her feelings of love and desire are somehow sick, wrong, and invalid. Abstinence-only does not deal with the realities and complexities of human psychology and sexuality. It does not prepare young people to grow into sexually healthy adults. And by avoiding discussion of contraception and disease prevention for the sexually active, it does not prepare students to survive.

The core values of the Young

Religious Unitarian Universalists and the Unitarian Universalist Association call us to take action to defend the right of youth to comprehensive, reality-based sexuality education. Because we believe in "the inherent worth and dignity of every person," we honor the value of loving relationships, regardless of the genders of the people involved. We are called to challenge actions by the religious right that use the public schools to devalue and degrade people who are "different"—people who do not share the same religion or values as the radical religious right. Because we respect "the right of conscience," we acknowledge that, given adequate information, youth can make positive, value-based decisions about their sexuality. We also acknowledge that students should not be pressured into ways of thinking that directly contradict their values. Because we believe in "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations," we seek to promote equality and harmony between the sexes. We promote curricula that address the emotional responsibility of relationships. We advocate sexuality education that provides a safe environment for youth to learn, question, and explore—an environment in which youth can affirm their own beliefs and act responsibly.

The Unitarian Universalist Association, in conjunction with the United Church of Christ, is currently developing a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum to be used in the churches of

both denominations, as well as in secular settings. The curriculum will include age-appropriate education from kindergarten to adulthood. This new curriculum won't be available for at least three more years. Currently, the UUA curriculum *About Your Sexuality* is taught to numerous junior high-aged UU youth by trained UU leaders. Though the audio-visuals are a bit outdated, with pictures of youth and adults with early-1970s hairdos and bell-bottoms, the curriculum is right-on in helping youth foster healthy sexual attitudes and practices.

We cannot let the radical religious right speak for all religious people. And we cannot let only adults speak for youth. As religious youth, we can make a difference. Youth are the most eloquent and powerful youth advocates. This summer, at the UUA's General Assembly in Fort Worth, Texas, the Youth Caucus wrote, sponsored, and presented their own resolution to the General Assembly, a body comprised of delegates from UU churches across the continent. When the resolution, "Sexuality Education in Public Schools," was presented, the adults were moved. Afterwards, thunderous applause and a standing ovation immediately broke out from the overwhelmingly adult audience. Many of the adults that I spoke to were in awe. The power of youth, standing together, speaking for youth, is immense and should never be underestimated. Get the facts. Define what you believe in. Speak out!



Comprehensive Sex-Ed Guidelines

The goal of a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum is to promote the development of sexual health. Comprehensive sexuality education incorporates the following concepts, outlined by the National Guidelines Task Force in 1991:

- Human Development:** reproductive anatomy, reproduction, puberty, body image, sexual identity and orientation.
- Relationships:** families, friendship, love, dating, marriage and lifetime commitments, and parenting.
- Personal Skills:** values, decision-making, communication, assertiveness, negotiation, and finding help.
- Sexual Behavior:** sexuality throughout life, masturbation, shared sexual behavior, abstinence, human sexual response, fantasy, and sexual dysfunction.
- Sexual Health:** contraception, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV infection, sexual abuse, and reproductive health.
- Society and Culture:** sexuality and society, gender roles, sexuality and the law, sexuality and religion, diversity, sexuality and the arts, sexuality and the media.

Fear- and Shame-Based Curricula:

These curricula use scare tactics and misinformation. They are biased, distort facts, and discuss abstinence as the only option for the prevention of AIDS and unwanted pregnancy. Discussion of birth control is censored. Sex outside of marriage is presented in the context of guilt, disease, sin, shame, and fear. A few thousand schools and churches in the United States use this kind of curriculum.

- AANCHOR* (Brigham Young University)
- AIDS (HIV): You Can Live Without It* (Teen Aid)
- Facing Reality* (Project Respect)
- Families, Decision-Making and Human Development* (Concerned Women for America)
- Family Accountability: Communicating Teen Sexuality* (FACTS) (Northeast Family Services)
- Free Teens* (World Medical Health Foundation)
- Learning About Myself and Others* (LAMO) (Anne Nesbit)
- Me, My World, My Future* (Teen Aid)
- Reasonable Reasons to Wait* (Teen Choice)
- Responsible Sexual Values Program* (RSVP)
- Sexuality, Commitment, and Family* (Teen Aid)
- Sex Respect: The Option of Sexual Freedom* (Project Respect)



What's in a Name? A Group's Name Alone Rarely Indicates What It Stands For

- Family Research Council:** this organization has conducted research "proving" that authoritarian, abstinence-only education is the only effective approach to sexuality education.
- Teen-Aid, Inc.:** publishes three fear- and shame-based curricula for teens.
- Family Research Institute:** publishes "scientific" reports to discredit genuine scientific reports concerning homosexuality.
- Research Council on Ethnopsychology:** its director, Dr. William Coulson, is referred to as an expert on adolescent development. Advocates authoritarian, abstinence-only curricula.
- Focus on the Family:** publishes magazines and books, and produces radio shows to promote a family values agenda that encourages discrimination against homosexuals and bisexuals. Promotes a "no-sex" program of "sex education."
- Concerned Women for America:** opposed to homosexuality, abortion, pre-marital sex, and the Equal Rights Amendment. Publishers of "Families, Decision-Making and Human Development," an abstinence-only curriculum.
- Josh McDowell Ministries:** McDowell promotes paternalistic, authoritarian sexuality education through books and lectures.
- Educational Guidance Institute:** anti-comprehensive education.
- Eagle Forum:** attacks programs in schools that it labels as promoting "secular humanism," "values clarification," and "globalism." Leader Phyllis Schlafly claims that discussion of sexual acts in the schools is a violation of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Promotes the curriculum "Sex Respect."
- Stop Planned Parenthood:** opposes all sexuality education, AIDS education, and sexual abuse prevention programs in the schools. Their national director claims that Planned Parenthood is "anti-God."
- Citizens for Excellence in Education:** works to bring their view of faith into the public schools. Works to strategically elect CEE members to school boards across the country.
- Committee on the Status of Women/Project Respect:** promotes the curriculum "Sex Respect." Director Kathleen Sullivan has lobbied extensively to get the state of Illinois to fund this curriculum in its schools.
- Institute for Research and Evaluation:** director Dr. Stan Weed's name frequently appears in articles against comprehensive sexuality education, and in material promoting abstinence-only curricula.
- American Family Association:** its legal branch has offered to assist people in bringing lawsuits against those who teach about condom use and those who claim to have acquired a Sexually Transmitted Disease or an unwanted pregnancy as a result of condom use education. Produces *The Gay Agenda*, an extremely anti-homosexual video being sold to opposition groups nationwide.
- Christian Coalition:** a radical right-wing group founded by Pat Robertson, it works to mobilize Christians to take political action on a variety of issues.
- Institute for Media Education:** director Judith Reisman appears as an "expert" in an anti-homosexual book.
- Rutherford Institute:** Supports lawsuits against aspects of sexuality education, such as condom distribution.
- World Medical Health Foundation:** promotes the view that "safer-sex" is a failure. Developed *Free Teens*, a fear- and shame-based curriculum.

Sources for these articles: Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, SIECUS.

NEWS FLASH!

YRUU's Youth Council '94

And here they are . . . THE RESOLUTIONS!

The following is a list of resolutions passed by Youth Council 1994. As you can see, there are quite a few. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the resolutions, please call your YCR or the Youth Office.



photo by Jory Agate

Youth Council 1994

at Grand Valley State University

Back Row: (left to right) Julie Rising, Erv Miller, David McFarland, Phil Miller, Steve Buccieri, Ashley Sveen, Ben Wellemeyer, Andrea Field, Jessika Lander, Paul Wardlow, Phoebe Hanshaw, Josh Batschelet, Lucy Grinnel, Kyle Schlesinger, Elea Kember, Justice Waidner, Sarah Ladner, Derek McTaggart, Colin Bossin, and Lorne Tyndale.

Front Row: (left to right) Lexie Aliotti, Eva Owens, Jonah Eller-Isaacs, Emily Safford, Dan Ross, Maureen Turnbull, Alicia Lyman-Holt, Juniper Garver-Hume, Marc Loustau, Vanessa King, Laird Rickard, Sarah Hinds, Shell Haley, Heidi Jo Brandenburg, Edith Parker, Rebecca Pine, Mandy Cory, Jon Granat, and Sarah Gibb.

• **RESOLUTION RAISING THE MAXIMUM AGE OF A YRUU PROGRAMS SPECIALIST**
Changes the maximum age of applicants to the position of YRUU Programs Specialist from 20 to 22 years of age (pending approval of YC 1995).

• **RESOLUTION PROPOSING A 15-YEAR REVIEW OF YRUU PROGRAMS**

Requests of the UUA that a seven person committee be formed to determine the current progress of YRUU's programming, services, resources, and publications.

• **RESOLUTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BYLAW CHANGE, ARTICLE II, SECTION 3**

This second year resolution adds to the existing YRUU Bylaws a section stating that Youth Council will examine and re-evaluate YRUU's short-range and long-range goals to ensure that they are in accordance with the Purposes of YRUU. This Bylaw change will go into effect as of January 1, 1995

• **RESOLUTION ON PROPOSED CON CON STRUCTURE**

Requests that Steering Committee annually review the Con Con Staff Structure

• **RESOLUTION ON SPIRITUALITY**

Calls for YRUU to re-focus its attention towards spirituality and the meaning of Unitarian Universalism within YRUU. Requests that a great effort be made to incorporate the idea of spirituality and the tenets of UUism in all Youth Office publications and at all YRUU events. Charges the 1994-95 Steering Committee Position on Appraisal to study the organization of Spirituality Development Conferences and the training of adult and youth Spiritual Advisors.

• **RESOLUTION ON INTERWEAVE AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING**

Calls for the Youth Office, working with INTERWEAVE, to create a pamphlet and/or packet specifically tailored to fit the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth.

• **RESOLUTION FOR FURTHER PLANNING OF GA 1996**

Charges 1994 and 1995 Youth Council Representatives to gather and disseminate information regarding funding, workshops, and special events at GA '96 to their districts and congregations.

• **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE "SEXUALITY EDUCATION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS" RESOLUTION OF IMMEDIATE WITNESS PASSED BY THE 1994 GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Urges Youth Council Representatives to lobby support for this resolution.

• **RESOLUTION ON THE 1996 WARE LECTURE**

Makes suggestions to GA planning committee regarding the Ware lecture, which is an annual lecture delivered at GA.

• **RESOLUTION ON CONFERENCE ADVISOR TRAINING PACKET**

Charges Steering Committee to research the production of a conference training packet.

• **RESOLUTION ON SPIRITUALITY IN SYNAPSE**

Requests that one issue of Synapse during the year of 1995 focus on spirituality.

• **RESOLUTION TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLANNING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDING YOUTH PLANNING AND INVOLVEMENT FOR GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1996 IN INDIANAPOLIS**

Urges the GA Planning Committee to include UU youth in their planning of workshops, lectures, performances, and worship services.

• **RESOLUTION TO SEND A LETTER TO C*UUYAN STEERING COMMITTEE**

Letter sent to C*UUYAN Steering Committee, inviting a representative to Youth Council 1995 as a guest.

• **RESOLUTION ON LOCAL YOUTH GROUP OUTREACH**

Charges that the 1994-1995 YRUU Steering Committee develop an outreach program/support packet for local youth groups.

• **RESOLUTION TO SEND A LETTER TO DISTRICT GOVERNING BODIES**
Letter sent to district governing bodies suggesting ways to ease the transition into YRUU for Jr. High aged youth.

• **RESOLUTION ON CONTINENTAL COMMUNICATION**

Supports the increase and betterment of communication within Canadian districts and between districts including both the US and Canada.

• **RESOLUTION ON GUIDELINES FOR DEVELOPING RULES PAMPHLET**
Asks Steering Committee to develop a pamphlet with general guidelines for creating and enforcing YRUU rules.

"I swear that I've seen the name Grand Valley State in movie credits somewhere. I just know it!" Jon Granat, of Gainesville, FL, wasn't the only member of YRUU's 1994 Youth Council who found the familiar late in July of 1994. For six days and five nights, Youth Council Representatives from all across the United States and Canada gathered at Grand Valley State University in Allendale, MI. They sat together during plenary sessions, during meals, during late night Euchre tournaments, during fantastic worship services. Over the span of one week, Youth Council worked together, sang together, and played together until their faces were as familiar to each other as those of their families.

It was an incredibly productive and worthwhile week. Julie Rising, past YRUU Programs Specialist and former Steering Committee member, confidently moderated as Youth Council passed seventeen resolutions. One resolution called for the formation of a 15-year review committee to examine and assess YRUU programming, and another gave preliminary approval to raise the maximum age for YRUU Programs Specialist applicants. Both resolutions were ratified by the UUA's Board of Trustees late in October. Youth Council '94 also focused on Jr.- and post-High transitional aged youth and their concerns, GA 1996's youth-focus day and the planning for its programming, and outreach and support to local youth groups. There was also a great concern that YRUU not lose sight of its spiritual side.

This year marked an especially significant occurrence. On the second day of plenary sessions, Youth Council was privileged to host UUA president, John Buehrens. Rev. Buehrens was planning to stay longer than the two days he did, but had to fly down to Pensacola, FL, after the tragic shootings of two UUs escorting a doctor out of an abortion clinic. John was quite impressed with the meeting of Youth Council's representatives, and made a point of spreading the good word for YRUU programs back in Boston! Way to go, Youth Council! We can't wait for next year!

How to Sponsor a Resolution

So, you've got big dreams and hopes for the future of YRUU, huh? Well then don't just stand there! Sponsor a resolution! Here are a few ways to get an issue written in the form of a resolution on the Youth Council Agenda (if passed, a resolution becomes YRUU policy):

- ◆ Submit the resolution to your district's youth governing body (YAC, Youth Council, etc.), who can then submit it for the agenda through the continental Steering Committee.
- ◆ Seek the endorsement of another district's youth governing body.
- ◆ Submit the item directly to the Steering Committee after getting the endorsement on a) ten UU youth, b) three UU adults, c) the district Youth Council representative and d) either the District President, the District Executive, or the District RE Chair.

Apply to be a Youth Council At-Large Representative!

Youth Council, YRUU's continental governing body, meets once a year to make policy decisions, pass resolutions, write letters, create programming, worship, eat, sleep and have fun. Each member representative of Youth Council brings a welcomed and respected voice to the plenary floor, where the future of the UU youth movement is examined, pondered, questioned, applauded, and refined! **There are three At-Large positions for youth (Social Action Coordinator; General Assembly Liaison/Youth Caucus Business Manager, and Transitional Age Range Representative; who must be 14-15 years of age at the time of application), and there are seven positions for adults (25+).** If you have any questions regarding the duties or responsibilities of the At-Large positions, call the Youth Office. The youth At-Large positions are one year commitments with an option to re-apply for a second term, and the adult At-Large term is two years. This year there are four adult At-Large positions open. YRUU Advisors, UU Ministers, and Religious Educators are particularly encouraged to apply. This year's Youth Council will take place from July 25-29 in Atlanta, Georgia. All travel and living expenses are paid for by the UUA.

Applications should be typewritten and should include:

Vital information: Name, address, phone number, date of birth, home church or fellowship, UUA district, and a list of the people from whom you are expecting letters of recommendation.

A letter of intent: Why you want to be on Youth Council, the position for which you are applying, what you feel you can offer the position and the group, any experience you will bring to the group, what YRUU issues concern you, and your dreams and visions for the future of YRUU.

Two letters of recommendation: These can be from Ministers, YRUU Youth, RE Directors, YRUU Advisors, Teachers, or others with whom you have worked (at least one letter from a youth and one from an adult.)

Address your applications to the YRUU Steering Committee, c/o the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108. All applications are due by March 1, 1995.

Con Con, Too!



The entire community of YRUU's 12th annual Continental Conference

The 12th Annual Continental Conference of YRUU took place from August 1-7, 1994 this year at Camp Emery near Montague, MI. With a make-up of 152 people from 30 US States and 2 Canadian Provinces, Con Con was a big hit.

The new workshop structure, with 5 weeklong morning workshops on Social Action, Worship, Leadership Development, Community Building, and the theme, "Our Generation, Our Selves," went very well. Participants also had a chance to try their luck at casino night, whether playing the blackjack tables or betting in the paddle boat races. After playing long into the dark cold night, everyone turned up a winner in the Capture the Flag game. And all had a chance to show their stuff in what was by far, the best coffee house in the history of Con Con. Not only did it last for just the right amount of time, but every single act was more than enjoyable to take in. Thank you to everyone who shrugged off that initial embarrassment and tried their feet at square dancing.

Although the food was probably the worst part of the week, there was an overall feeling that a group of UU youth had come together and created a special community, a safe place of learning and fun.

Continental Conference 1995

Mitakuye Oyasin (We Are All Related)

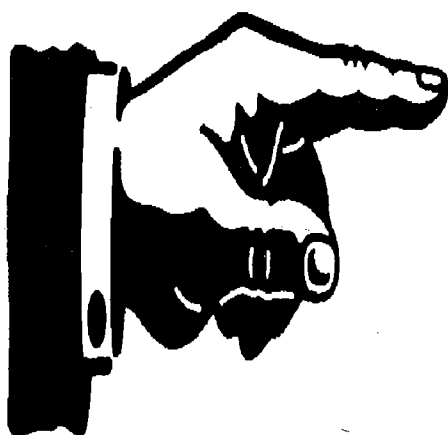
July 31 - August 6
at The Mountain in Highlands, NC



Get your registration in early!
Contact the Youth Office for more information!

Note: Con Con Staff Applicants!

Core staff, workshop leaders, and the nurse will have their travel and registration paid for. Other support staff have their registration paid for only. Core staff members will attend a pre-conference planning meeting at The Mountain, March 3-5, for which all expenses will be paid. All staff will arrive at Con Con one night early for detail planning.



The 1994-95 YRUU Steering Committee is now accepting applications for

Happy, Snappy, Con Con Staffers!

The 13th Annual Continental Conference of YRUU

Mitakuye Oyasin (We Are All Related)

July 31 to August 6, 1995 at The Mountain, Highlands, NC

TIONS:

Energy Coordinator

Facilitates meetings of the Spirit Committee, which is responsible for monitoring the conference community's collective "energy," and the Energy committee, which deals with rule infractions. S/he also coordinates wake-ups, energizes spirit circle each morning, and leads the rules discussion at orientation.

Touch Group Coordinator

Works directly with the leaders of the conference's touch groups. S/he facilitates daily meetings of all touch group leaders.

Worship Coordinator

Leads the Worship Workshop, which is responsible for planning and running nightly all-camp worship services.

Workshop Coordinator

Works with the workshop leaders, coordinating the week-long workshops' location and registration, and also coordinates and publicizes daily "one-shot" workshops led by members of the conference community.

Dean

The Dean is the coordinator of the conference and is the most visible staff member to the conference community. S/he remains in contact with all staff members, before, during, and after Con Con, giving staff support and assistance where needed and delegating non-staff responsibilities. The Dean also acts as a liaison between the Youth Office, the Con Con staff, and the site staff.

CORE STAFF ADULT POSTIONS:

Adult Coordinator

The Adult Coordinator looks out for the adults at Con Con, helping to keep them healthy, happy, and well-adjusted by facilitating daily adult meetings and representing adults' concerns at staff meetings. This person should have a clear understanding of youth-led programming and a knowledge of the role of adults as advisors.

Chaplain

The Chaplain is a spiritual resource for the conference community. This person does not need to be an ordained UU minister, but should have a clear understanding of youth's spiritual needs. S/he may give assistance to the Worship Coordinator in the planning of the nightly worships. The Chaplain should be welcoming and approachable, available to conference participants seeking a friendly ear.

Logistics Coordinator

The Logistics Coordinator should be somewhat familiar with the area surrounding the Con Con site (Northern Georgia or Western North Carolina.) This person is responsible for coordinating transportation between the airport and the site, arranging any home hospitality needed before Con Con, setting up a bank account in the local area, and handling Con Con's finances (with the help of the Youth Office.) This person will be responsible for recruiting and coordinating

Each week-long workshop is composed of four, two-hour meeting times and will have approximately 20-25 participants each. The YRUU Steering Committee is looking for youth and adults to self-design and lead workshops under the following broad topics. Leaders determine what aspect of the subject their workshop will focus on. For example, "Buddhist Meditation" would fall under Spirituality. However, if you have an idea for a week-long workshop that does not fit into the following categories, do not hesitate to apply. All topics will be considered.

- Spirituality
- Leadership Development
- Community Building
- 1994-1995 YRUU Social Action Theme: Human Rights
- Con Con Theme: "Mitakuye Oyasin" (We Are All Related)
- Unitarian Universalism

Mug Book Editor

The Mug Book Editor is responsible for photographing each conference participant, photographing conference events, and editing and laying out the Mug Book, which is essentially Con Con's "weekbook." The Mug Book is distributed to conferees on the final day of Con Con.

Lifeguard

The Lifeguard is responsible for coordinating swimming times for the conference community and being present and watchful during those times! This person must be certified in lifeguarding and CPR.

Gopher

The Gopher position is open to an adult or youth, 18 or older, from the local area. The Gopher makes daily runs to the nearest town for supplies, medical needs, and snacks to sell. This person should have a car or should be able to use a rental car (over the age of 25).

Nurse

This is an adult position. The Nurse is responsible for creating, monitoring, and enforcing health and safety standards during Con Con. S/he must be a registered nurse and must be available throughout the conference. Before Con Con, the nurse purchases and transports needed supplies for the infirmary, which s/he will staff during Con Con.

TO APPLY:

Send a LETTER OF INTENT postmarked by January 15, 1995, specifying which position you are interested in. Include in your letter your ideas, visions, skills and relevant experience and mail to:

**YRUU Steering Committee
c/o The Youth Office @ UUA
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108**

NOTE: If you cannot meet the Jan. 15 deadline, call Jenny, Sarah, or Dan in the Youth Office. We will work it out!

The Trunk of My Tree by Rebecca Pine

Once upon a summer sky, ripe with color, full of life, I found the Earth. She was never missing, mind you. She was always there: breathing the winds through her earth song; nurturing her many children. She was so beautiful, so immense. But I didn't always have the eyes to see her. We played together when I was a kid, but I seemed to misplace her somewhere around my teenage years. I found her beside the little white river. I was struck by her complexity, her simplicity, her immensity. Once my eyes were opened there was so much to see. Her ways wove intricate webs around mine until I could only faintly remember a day spent without her company.

I happened upon her almost by accident. I had heard of a need for volunteers at a cultural youth camp on the Rosebud "Sioux" reservation in South Dakota. I applied at the last minute on a whim, never anticipating the summer of growth and education that I was to share with the Lakota people.

Before I really begin, I ought to give little background information. Although the French had dubbed these people "Sioux," it is actually a derogatory term (as are most of the European-given tribal names when translated). The people they called Sioux are of several tribes: Titowan, Isanti, and Ihanktonwan. They are further divided into seven bands. There are three main dialects of these people: Lakota, Dakota, and Nakota—all of which mean friends or allies.

The program the camp volunteers were coordinated through is called UU'SERVE, and is run by director, Alice Winner. She created this program in the hopes that young UUs and other liberal youth could learn about other cultures through social action work. For me it was so much more than that.

We worked with the Lakota people to make the Sicangu (pronounced see-chan-goo) youth camp possible. This was the camp's third year, and UU'SERVE's second. The campsite was at the end of a long winding dirt road. The valleys and hills there were dotted with many species of trees and wild plants that we learned about from the Lakotas. The "little white river" where we kept cool on those hot Dakota days winds throughout.

The purpose of the camp is to allow children a place free from the responsibilities of home, where they could learn about their cultural heritage. So we all slept in tipis like those of

old, only ours were made with canvas instead of buffalo hides. Setting up the camp took a really long time. We started at staff training a few weeks before the campers arrived and finished about a week before the camp was over. Things move at a different speed there. People often do things only when they feel moved to do them. They call this easy-going nature "Indian time."

Another purpose of the camp was to provide role models for the kids (campers). Often they watch TV and cannot relate to many of the issues being presented. They are living in a place that is very different from mainstream America. There are shows with characters from many ethnic groups, but there are very few native American actors and even fewer shows or movies that portray the modern Indian accurately. Many Lakotas told me that they enjoyed "Dances with Wolves," but pointed out that the hero and heroine of the movie are both non-native.

Most days we were up with the sun. We had a daily drug and alcohol prevention program with the kids. Between meals we swam, hiked, and played games. There was much time for learning—about ourselves, each other, and the ways of the earth. We planned out some special events, but often our best times were completely spontaneous. Once the firewood was collected in the evenings, we would start a fire in the fire pit of each tepee. Some nights the counselors would make a big fire and we would stay up long into the night. Most nights there was at least one inipi (sweat lodge ceremony) going. It was so touching seeing the pride in some of those kids when they were asked to help out at a cultural event. Some evenings the boys would sing and drum while the other children practiced traditional dance.

From my understanding, the Lakota way is based upon cangleska wakan, the sacred hoop of which all living things are a part. It is a beautiful and never-ending circle of time, space, matter, and spirit. Everything has its place, as it is truly a way of life, where all aspects are honored constantly. The medicine wheel represents the sacred hoop and the six powers of the universe. The wheel itself is red, black, white, and yellow, standing for the four directions and also for the four Lakota values of wisdom, bravery, fortitude, and generosity. The Lakota have always lived by these ways. The sacred pipe and the seven sacred rites of the Lakota people were brought to them by the white buffalo calf woman long ago. They say that very same

pipe is still kept by the people. When you pray with the pipe, you pray for and with everything. When holding the pipe, you must have only good and sacred thoughts. One of my friends said that this is because the pipe is like a hotline to the great spirit. The red pipestone bowl symbolizes the sacred hoop, the universe, the cycle of all things. Grains of tobacco are said to represent all creations, or all relations. The Lakota word for prayer means talking with relatives—conveying the powerful image that every living thing is in fact related. Prayers are often ended with the phrase mitakuye oyasin (me-tok-ee-yah-see,) meaning *for all my relations or we are all related*.

Today, many Native Americans strive to find a balance between the modern ways and the ways of old. This is not easy. Although Native American Indian ceremonies and tradition have survived even the toughest of times, up until the Roosevelt years, Indian religion was outlawed. Ceremonies were greatly modified and Indian boarding schools were run by missionaries. These schools were often grotesquely cruel, keeping the children apart from their families and punishing them for speaking in their native tongue. I have heard many terrible stories about these schools. Many of the people I have met had gone to them, or had parents who had. Although the Europeans came here for religious freedom, they ripped it away from the Native Americans. The struggle to regain this freedom still rages on. We are not very educated about the issues of Indians in modern America and our schoolbooks give very one-sided opinions about issues of the past. Although there are few Lakotas today who have been raised in the traditional way, many turn to it later in life.

The ways of old—not only the Indian ways but the old ways of all—reflect a strong, distinct connection to the earth. Our society today is very much removed from these ways, but I believe it is becoming increasingly more important to return to those ways. I, along with most of the other volunteers and counselors, had never had the opportunity to live outdoors for an extended amount of time. Now nature is such a part of my life. Watching the connection of all things big and small and being able to add my little harmony to the great song has been an unfolding process. It always seemed to me that collectively we humans are very wasteful and disrespectful toward our earth mother. So often we see trash on the ground and we don't pick it up because we didn't put it there. I always carry

a bag for trash with me when I go hiking because it is my problem. As human beings, I believe it is our responsibility to care for the earth. When I think of the sacred hoop, I think of all things giving and taking to create an endless balance. For the most part I see human beings take, take, take; in one way or another. This is something to really think about. For me there is no line between "environmentalism" (if you like to call it that) and spirituality. What can be more spiritual than giving back to the earth? We all come from the earth. We all go back to the earth. We spend the whole of our lives here. This is why I consider her a true priority.

One other beautifully simplistic part of the old I would like to touch upon is the spirit of thanksgiving. I'm not talking about a day once a year when we kill turkeys and sit around with our families watching football, or even about a day long ago when two groups of people ate a meal together, putting aside the fact that one of those groups stole land and lives from the other. I am talking about the spirit of giving thanks. I don't care who or what the thankfulness is directed toward, but the spirit behind it adds a certain humbling splendor to each little thing, making ordinary life magical. We are all related: what does that mean to you? Our perceptions are our realities!

I cannot really begin to summarize the inspiration and clarity I have gained over these past months, as words are often inadequate. I wanted to wish you a future filled with honey-sweet afternoons shared with her, my dearest friend and the trunk of my tree and also with her children, my evergreen branches. They make up the whole of me, and I a small voice in one of countless forests. My greatest wish is that we all work together to help these forests grow.

I would very strongly urge you to read up on some of these issues which are rarely touched upon in our public schools. I highly recommend the books, *Lakota Woman*, by Mary Crow Dog; *In the Spirit of Crazy Horse*, by Peter Matthiessen; *Mother Earth Spirituality*, by Ed McGaa; and any book by Tom Brown. If you are interested in supporting or participating in the UU'SERVE program, contact Alice Winner at:

UU'SERVE
Unitarian Church of Harrisburg
1280 Clover Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17713-109

or call in the evenings at: (717) 534-2368



Hi there. My name is Derek McTaggart. The 1994 Youth Council has decided that the 1994 focus for the Position on Appraisal is Spirituality. As the Position on Appraisal Representative, I would like to ask for your help.

We are Unitarian Universalists. We are also Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. What defines us spiritually? What are our common spiritual links? Is it our sense of community? Is it our ability to care or love? Does our spirituality encompass our socio-political views? How so? As Young Religious UUs, we obviously share some common spiritual ideals, from the smallest raindrop to the most grandeur visions of heaven. What is it that comprises and supports your personal spirituality? How is that personal spirituality a shared part of the larger UU community?

Please take these questions into consideration. Talk to your Youth Council Rep., and let him/her know how you feel. Write an article for Synapse or call the Youth Office with questions, ideas, concerns or whatever. Thank you for your time.


In Peace,
Derek McTaggart

"In The Spirit: a search for meaning in our lives"

Youth Council 1994 charged the Youth Office to have one issue of Synapse in 1995 focused on Spirituality. As a result, we will publish the next issue with the theme, "In The Spirit." To make it a reality, we need submissions from you, our valued readers! Send us your poetry, your art, your ideas, visions and dreams. Tell us what it is to be a young, religious youth in the world today! Here are a few starter questions to get you thinking:

- ❖ What meaning do the words *spirituality*, *religion*, and *sacred* hold for you?
- ❖ What are your fears?
- ❖ Where do you find joy and where do you find wonder?
- ❖ Do you believe in God? Reincarnation? The afterlife? Karma?
- ❖ As a Unitarian Universalist youth, where do you see yourself fitting into UUism?

Send submissions to the YRUU Youth Office by April 15, 1995



Your Writing is Wanted!

Your written compositions are wanted for a meditation manual by and for UU senior high youth, which is currently being put together. Please send your stories, short essays, poems, miscellaneous writings, and credos (including those written as part of Coming of Age programs) for consideration. Black and white art work will also be considered. Include your name, age, address, phone number, and the name of your home UU church or fellowship. Send to: Robin E. Zucker, 1596 Main St., Concord, MA 01742. For more information, call 508/369-9513. Thanks!

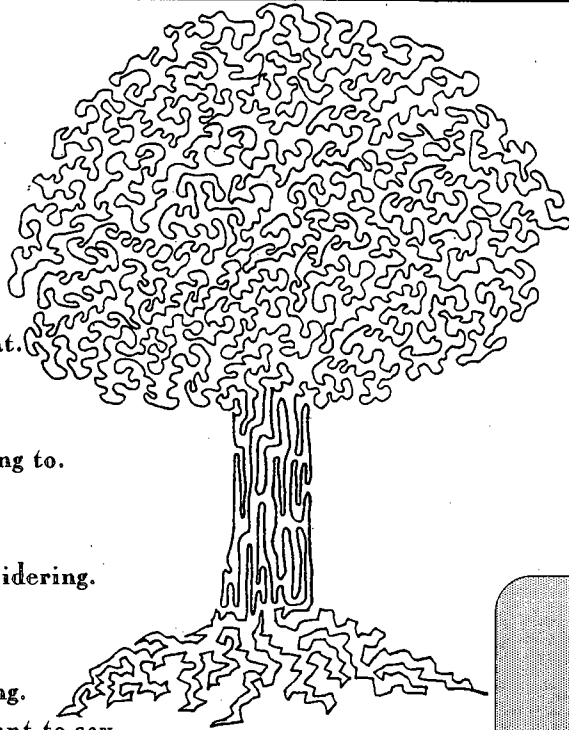


WHAT AM I?

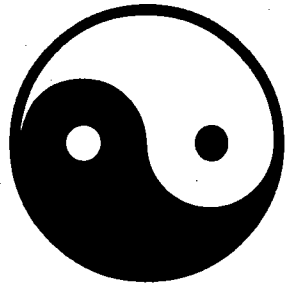
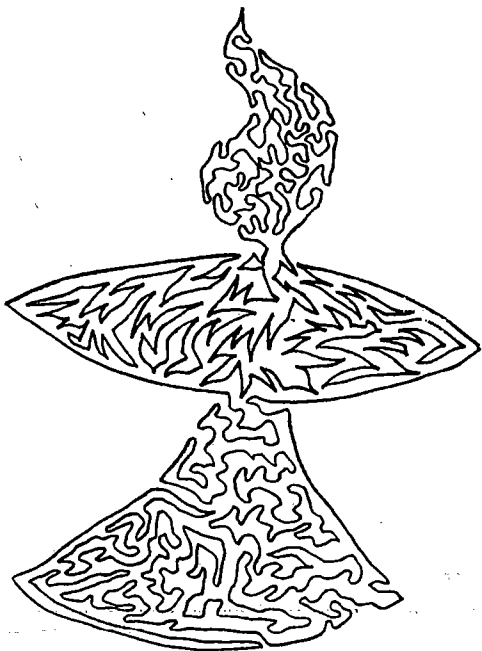
I am a face.
I am a name.
I am a body, a thing.
Just a thing.
No.
No, I am better than that.
I am not just a face,
But a mind
With ideas worth listening to.
Not just a body,
But a soul
With feelings worth considering.
Not just a name,
But a voice
With words worth hearing.
I have something important to say,
Something worth paying attention to.
I may not be famous,
I may not be rich,
But I am a person,
A human being,
And I have something to say.

-Dore Mendelsberg

To the most excellent and mysterious artists who contributed to this issue: please write or call the Youth Office to let us know who you are. We misplaced your names. We promise to honor you in the next issue of Synapse!



Gone, but still lingering
lonely sad
 still drips
 ker
 plunk
The storm is gone
and now the mold grows
 I
 ea
 p
 in
 g
 like a frog
from
 lily pad
 to
lily pad
 not quite satisfied
 yet
 the one satisfaction
 is
 gone, but still lingering
-Alicia Lyman-Holt (10/18/94)



*by Jim Nugent
Peoria UU Church*

shaving my legs

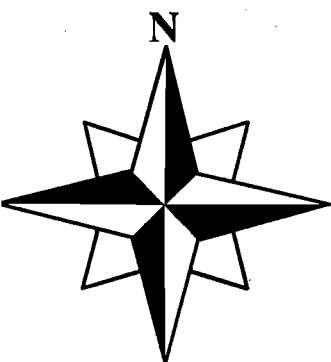
water makes it softer even though
metal is hard smooth
slice
hair is long and virgin thick
why do I choose to do this rubbing
hot double twin squeaking chaffe
been here for hours wet
uncomfortable clean and smooth
legs look skinny and pretty
awkward pretty weird
they hurt and rubbing I ask
why did do wonderful horror
look at legless hair floating
put it back

-orisha

IMAGES

The girl stands alone
Her eyes wide
And full of question
Wondering
Who she truly is
And what she really believes.
Her head full of big words
That have no meaning
In real life,
She begins to dream of a paradise
Where no one is superficial
And everyone
Takes time to look at the stars.
She releases a small sigh,
Bursting her bubble of dreaming,
And turns once again
To her own shimmering reflection.
My image returns to me,
And a small smile
Dances on my lips.

by Eden King of Albany, CA



Often I like to get away,
And leave this place behind.
I took that very trip today,
Though only in my mind.

-Rob Cavanaugh. 1/27/94.



They're Ready For You!

They're Continental Leadership Development Trainers!

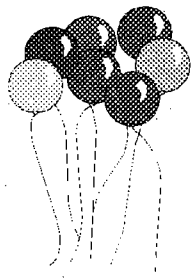
On the weekend of November 4-6, 11 youth and 9 adults from all over the US and Canada came to Boston for the Continental Leadership Development Conference Training. These folks are now trained to lead Leadership Development Conferences all over the continent. Each LDC will be led by one youth and one adult from the training. LDCs are a super way to keep youth leadership alive in a district. Activities are geared toward: sharpening organizational skills, facilitating meetings, using the consensus process, building positive relations between youth and adults, helping districts cope with crises, and energizing districts with little youth activity.

The LDC curriculum is flexible and the leaders can cater activities to meet the needs of the individual districts. There is a travel equalization fund, so the cost to host an LDC is the same for all districts. To host an LDC, call or write the Youth Office for a planning guide. We've got 20 eager leaders just waiting to be put to work!



Carl Cade, Julie Rising, and Leia Durland help rake up leaves over the CLDCT conference in Boston. Photo by Jory Agate.

PEANUT ON EARTH!



Announcing the birth of Micaela Diane Agate-Mays

Yes, that's right, folks! On Tuesday, December 13th at 8:14 in the morning, Youth Programs Director Jory Agate gave birth to a beautiful 8 lb., 12oz., bouncing, baby girl! Micaela (pronounced MI-KY-ELLA) was lovingly referred to by many YRUUers as "Peanut," or "The Peanut" during her time in utero. As Synapse went to the printer on the day after Micaela's birth, pictures of the newborn hadn't even been developed yet, so we were unable to include a picture. Jory will be on maternity leave through the month of February, during which time current YRUU Programs Specialist Dan Ross will fill in for her. We're a regular tag-team, eh?

Thanks to all of you who contributed to the *Found A Peanut* contest. We are now giddily glad to give you the name of our winner! (sort of) Although none of the submitted names were actually chosen, the free pint of Ben and Jerry's, hand delivered by one of our many couriers, goes to (drum roll) LAURA PETERSON! Currently studying in Beijing, China, Laura gave Jeb and Jory excellent advice on *how* to choose the baby's name. Thanks, Laura. We miss you! The B & J's is on the way. And a big smile and thank you to all the people who submitted names. An extra-big smile goes to Katelin Vesely of Bloomington, IN for sending in the most names and keeping them so neat!

ATTENTION INTERNET USERS!

E-MAIL IT!

As you may know, the Youth Office at the UUA is now accessible via Internet, an international network of computer network systems. For those of you with e-mail and Internet access, this means that you now have a very efficient and easy way to contact the Youth Office with your questions, concerns, and most importantly, your *Synapse* submissions! So, get a pen or pencil and write this down:

yruu@world.std.com

YRUU MAILING LIST!

We are proud to announce the formation of a new electronic mailing list for the discussion of spiritual, organizational, and other issues connected with YRUU. This medium of communication will enhance some of the dialogues carried on through *Synapse* and other youth office publications by allowing for a more rapid exchange of ideas. It will also provide a timely forum for announcements of upcoming social action events, conferences, and other youth-related activities. Here's how it works:

- Any e-mail message sent to **yruu@owl.warren-wilson.edu** will be automatically sent to a list of subscribers.
- Anyone wishing to subscribe to the mailing list should send mail to **sub@owl.warren-wilson.edu**. The subject line of the message should read:
subscribe me=<yourname@yourhost.edu>,
where <yourname@yourhost.edu> is your full e-mail address enclosed in angle brackets followed by a period.
- Anyone wishing to get off the list should send mail to **unsub@owl.warren-wilson.edu**. The subject line of the message should read:
unsubscribe me=<yourname@yourhost.edu>,
where <yourname@yourhost.edu> is your full e-mail address enclosed in angle brackets followed by a period.

Please note that the opinions presented over this service are those of their authors and do not reflect any consensus of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists or of the Unitarian Universalist Association. If you have any questions or would like further information, contact the list's manager, Dan Kappus at **dkappus@owl.warren-wilson.edu**, or e-mail or call the Youth Office.

YOUNG ADULT MAILING LIST

For all of you Net techies entering young-adulthood, check out UUYAN-L, the electronic UU young adult mailing list. It's a great forum for information about events around the country, a discussion list and a place for young adults to touch base. If you want to join the UUYAN-L discussion list, send the following in the body of a message to **listserv@terraluna.org**:

subscribe uuyan-l

You'll then be sent information telling you how to use the list. If you have trouble, contact the list manager, Steve Traugott: **stevegt@terraluna.org**. Happy Net-surfing!

Become a Bostonian For a Year!

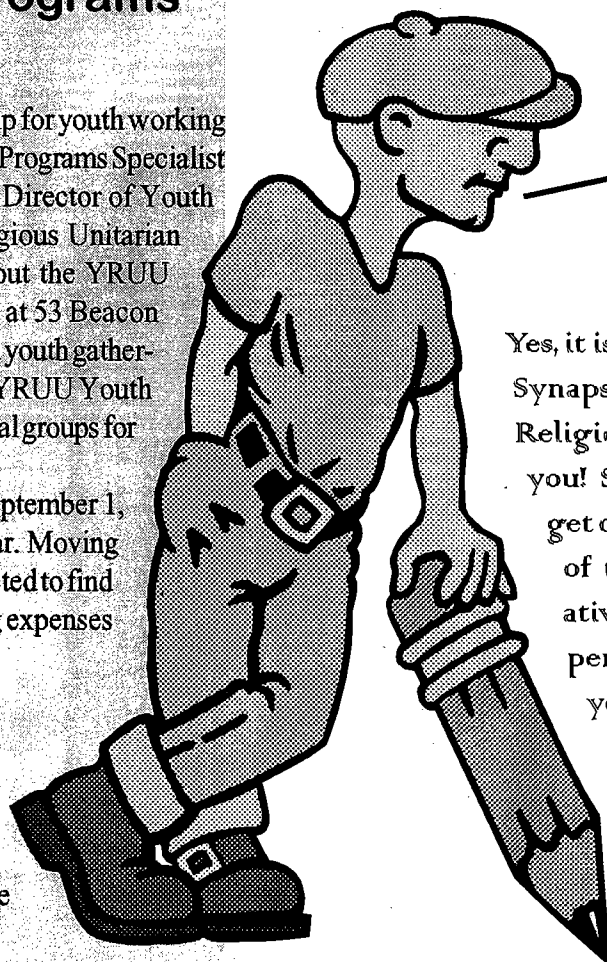
Searching For A New YRUU Programs Specialist

The YRUU Programs Specialist position is a one-year internship for youth working at the UUA headquarters in Boston, Massachusetts. The YRUU Programs Specialist will work with the other YRUU Programs Specialist and the Director of Youth Programs to manage the day to day business of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. Responsibilities include: editing and laying out the YRUU newspaper, *Synapse*; managing the continental YRUU office at 53 Beacon Street, Boston, MA; planning and administering conferences and youth gatherings; participating in meetings, implementing decisions of the YRUU Youth Council and Steering Committee, and traveling to district and local groups for Leadership Development Training and outreach.

This position is a one-year commitment, beginning September 1, 1995 and ending August 31, 1996. The stipend is \$20,100 per year. Moving expenses to and from Boston are paid, but the new intern is expected to find his or her own living accommodations as well as pay for all living expenses while in Boston.

How To Apply

To apply, please write, call, or e-mail the Youth Office at: 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108, (617) 742-2100, or **yruu@world.std.com** for an application kit. **Applications must be postmarked by February 28, 1995 to be considered.** Call the Youth Office if this deadline is an impossibility for you.



HEY! HOW DO I GET PUBLISHED IN SYNAPSE??!!

Yes, it is possible for your words to appear here, too! *Synapse* is the continental newspaper of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. YRUU! That's you! So now that you're nearly done and ready to get on with your life... don't! Take a moment out of that busy schedule and do something creative. After all, this newspaper is your newspaper and we want you to contribute. Send us your art work, poetry, reflective articles, social action stories, short stories, photos, and anything else you'd like to see published. Make your voice heard! Keep in mind that the theme of the next *Synapse* is "In the Spirit." Submissions are due April 15, 1995.