

# Synapse

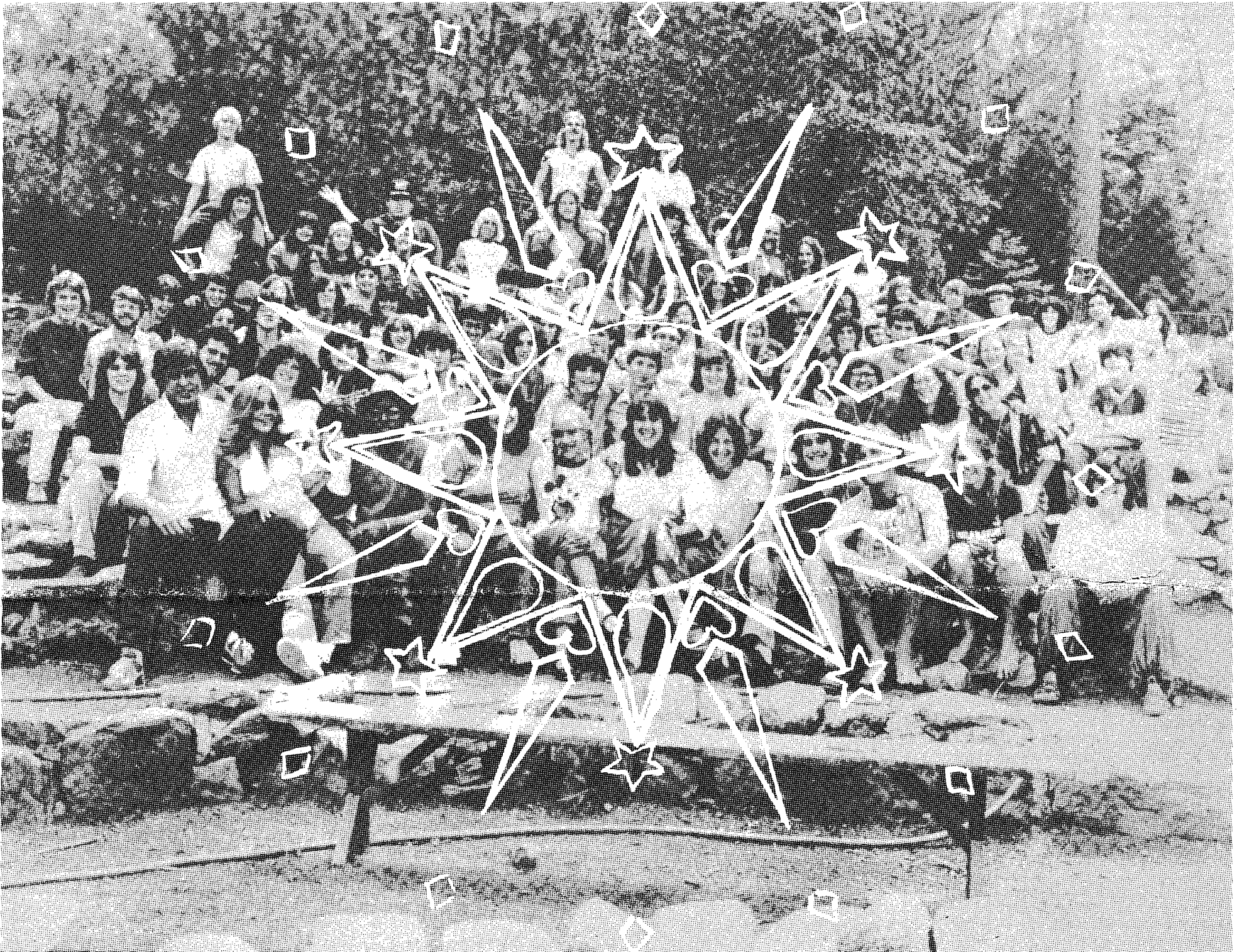
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*Synapse - a publication of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists*

Volume I Issue III

*Synapse - from the Greek sunapsis - a point of contact where energy and information is exchanged.*



## Spirit Rising

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

- PAGE 6/7 SUMMER CONFERENCES**
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# PERSONALS



Love you Margie! XO Kelly B.

I love Margie Dawn! Come home Bekah hee!  
Danny Chuck

Meg - Yo woman! Just wanted to say hi. HI! I love you, Mo I was going to put another one here, but I decided against it. (don't print that)

To the U.D.L.  
Who the hell are you? What are you about?  
And why the hell are you littering Synapse with negative statements?

Poof Root the Raccoon  
and flower in Denver

"Happy Birthday, Collin!"  
from Con-Con '83

Call, write or visit!!!! Seriously folks, I've got this really groovy single at Camp Wesleyan and I'd love company (free bagels). My mailing address is Claudia Center, Box 164, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT 06457. My visiting address is Foss 415, Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT. Disregard previous addresses - they are inaccurate. See y'all soon...

ERIC - some CCCIC to smear across your face? (oooo, baby what a trip!) LUU, CC.

Hey baby brother! Take care of the rabbit and write. Love from Boston,  
Your BIG sister

Mark and Jeff and David and Jim  
Where's Knoxville?  
Call me from a phone booth sometime  
Mara

You wouldn't believe our wildlife! Mara, Kevin and Colin still have a virgin mailbox. Write us: Scenic Overlook 21 Cortes #5, Boston, MA 02116. (Do it! Do it!)

ZEM, TIGGER et al ATY'ers. I love you all. Thanks for the incredible response to the ATY ad. ATY east is now moved to a larger headquarters. Write to ATY east Box 498-89 Mass Ave., Boston, MA 02115.  
PS - Decode this QRP MNS

Beth - "I love you, a bushel and a peck, a bushel and peck and a hug around the neck, hūg around the neck and a barrel and a heap, barrel and a heap and I'm talkin in my sleep about you..."!!! If you don't know you never will...

To Whom it May Concern:  
My address is now:  
Beth Olsott  
P.O. 1028  
Macalester College  
1600 Grand Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105  
Please write to me. I love mail, and I love all the super people from Con-Con.  
PSY

Laura - That means you! Love, Beth.  
Salami Forever  
Frank

I want to thank all my friends for making my 1st Con-Con a wonderful experience, for letting me be the star of a strip tease show and for supporting my candidacy for youth staff consultant.  
- Salami

ps Hi Iceberg!  
PSY and especially Unity folks - Thanks for some glorious, fantastic years. You are all beautiful friends and I had wonderful times. I will never forget you. Come visit me if you're ever down Florida way! Write me - it can get lonely down here.  
Keep our Star burning bright!  
Love, Ben

Everybody! Write me! I'm down here in Florida, sweltering away, and I haven't gotten mail from any of you (almost). Teddy Bailey and I would love some mail, so write me/him/us at: New College Box 151, 5700 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 33580. Or call at (813) 355-6690. Notice the address change from the Con-Con Yearbook. Love, Ben

Teddy - Thanks. Love, Ben  
(c'mon, you can put in a four-word extra personal, can't you?)

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Articles appearing in SYNAPSE are chosen for their social, spiritual, intellectual, practical or aesthetic value. They may express opinions and/or values that are not necessarily those of the editors or of some of our readers, and dissenting opinion will be given fair exposure in subsequent issues. We recognize the need to keep from offending the sensibilities of the wide variety of our readers and also a need to respect the integrity of our contributors. Where these values conflict we will err on the side of accurate representation.

Henceforth there shall be a limit of two personals per person per issue. All personals must be accompanied with a return address in case for any reason the editors find it impossible to run the personal.

Advertising rates are \$4.00/column inch for UUA related groups and \$8.00/column inch for others. For UUA related groups, rates for larger blocks are:

Quarter page \$60.00  
Half page \$110.00  
Full page \$200.00

For groups other than UU related organizations the rates are double those for UU groups.

SYNAPSE Volume I Issue III

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# First Impressions:

## The Subtle Ways I Tell You Who I Am



This programme originated during EAGLYTS '83—The Eastern Great Lakes Youthwork Training Seminar held at Unicamp, August 2-5, 1983. Our group, comprised of youth leaders and adult leaders of youth groups, decided to prepare a youth group programme which could either be used when a scheduled programme falls through, in a time of panic, or which could be used intentionally as part of the general programming of the youth group. To fill both of these situations, the programme was designed to draw from common experiences without the necessity of a specific resource person.

Depending on the size of the group involved, running time is estimated at between two and three hours. We have also included a list of optional additional topics and activities to lengthen the programme if necessary.

Theme: This programme focuses on first impressions—exploring our first impressions, whether they are valid, how they affect our reactions to people and whether there is any validity to first impressions. It is also designed to explore the impressions we each give, both intentionally and unintentionally.

Programme:

### 1. Opening

Reading of Six Blind Men and the Elephant story. This story points out how misconceptions can often be gained through fragmentary or partial information. The text of this story can be found in "From Long Ago in Many Lands," by Sophia Lyon Fahs, which most societies will have in the religious education department library. If not, check with neighbouring societies and/or the U.U.A.

Purpose: To introduce the topic.

Size: Unlimited

### 2. Pairing, Sharing, Comparing

Purpose: To explore first impressions gained and given through appearances.

Activity: Members of the group are paired up with each other. Each member is given a 3" x 5" card. Briefly each person writes on one side of the card what they feel their partner's physical appearance (looks, clothes, hair, expression) tells them. On the other side, each person writes what they themselves are trying to say with their own appearance (5 minutes).

The partners then spend the next 10 to 20 minutes sharing what they have written about themselves and each other. They discuss whether or not the impressions given are actually those which they intended.

The group then reconvenes and compares by general discussion whether or not the impressions were accurate, and any surprises discovered during the partners' sharing.

Size: Minimum of four, no maximum.

### 3. Group Activity

Purpose: In the full group to examine impressions and stereotypes of each other within the group. To determine whether or not our impressions of each other are valid.

Activities: (3 options provided—it is suggested that only one be used)

Music Match: Each member writes on a 3" x 5" card either their favorite performer/group, a performer they have been listening to within the last week, a performer who is important to them at the current time.

The cards are collected together and then each member randomly selects a card from the deck. Each member then tries to match the card with the person who wrote it by placing the card in front of the "author." The actual writer of the card remains silent, and there is no limit to the number of cards which can be placed in front of each participant.

After all the cards have been distributed and matched, the results are compared to determine how accurately the matching was done, and why the group/performer was chosen as a match to each particular person.

Food Fantasies: Basically the same procedure as "Music Match," but each member writes down a food which they feel suits themselves. This can be based on personality, appearance, etc. The game follows the same way as Music Match.

Simile Game: The facilitator chooses a member of the group to be "It." "It" is assigned an identity of another group member. The remaining members of the group try to figure out the secret identity by asking questions such as:

"If you were a car, you would be a \_\_\_\_\_"

"If you were a piece of clothing, you would be \_\_\_\_\_"

"If you were a colour, you would be \_\_\_\_\_"

"It" then fills in the blanks with an answer which suits the personality of their secret identity. The members of the group try to guess the secret identity as the game progresses. The cycle can be repeated as often as desired. The same type of discussion should follow this as that suggested for "Music Match."

Size: Unlimited—if the group is relatively large, it might be more convenient to break into "smircles" (small circles).

### 4. Statues

Purpose: To explore impressions gained by body language and facial expressions, to determine perceptiveness in observing other people.

Activity: States of being are written on slips of paper and are put in a hat. (May be done by group members or by facilitator prior to programme). Each member draws a slip and one by one each has their turn to portray their situation—portrayal is in statue form, no movement or words allowed. The group then tries to determine the state.

Possible states: awe, boredom, fascination, rapture, loneliness, anger, frustration, contentment, anxiety, daze, disgust, happy, joyful, lost, thoughtful, depressed, worried, elated, sleazy, masculine, feminine, infantile, old, young, authoritarian, seductive, etc.

Size: Unlimited, smircles may be

desired.

### 5. Send a Message

Purpose: To explore messages received in certain situations and various plausible alternatives to the actual situation portrayed.

Activity: Individual members of the group walk across the stage area, trying to portray a specific situation or stereotype. The group then brainstorms to try to determine what the performer is trying to convey and all plausible explanations. The specific answers and whether they are right or wrong do not necessarily matter. What is important are the various ways we have of viewing the situation, and the conclusions we jump to when faced with a particular situation.

Examples:

A) Member walks across the stage in an erect, military manner. Possible answers: military school student, injury (back brace), sunburn, model, exercising, stiff, etc.

B) Man with a shoulder bag. Possible answers: photographer, European, first aid person, student, sexual orientation, hiker, etc.

C) Reading while walking. Possible answers: studying, lost, salesperson, avoiding contact, involved in good book, and so forth.

Size: Unlimited, smircles may be warranted.

### 6. Closing Discussion

Purpose: To discuss what might have been learned/gained; to summarize programme.

Activity: Group discussions which could be focused on the following types of questions:

— Are first impressions always accurate? ever accurate? valuable? have any benefit?

— What are the dangers of stereotyping?

— How quick are we to act on our first impressions? How much do we see before we make decisions?

— After reflecting on first impressions, is my perception changed? Will I act any differently? Will I respond any differently?

Size: Unlimited, to be done in "bircle" (big circle).

Additional topic areas which could be added to the programme:

— Effect of environment/location of meeting people on the impressions gained. Activity: listing of stereotypes associated with various locations and activities.

— Cultural differences. How does culture affect impressions, i.e., being in a strange country?

— Roles I assume and play. How do the impressions I give change depending on the situation I am in?

Programme prepared by: Ken Aydelotte, Johanne Babb, Mark De Wolfe, Martin Keefe, Monica Kreiner, Lisa Presley-Jackson, Susanna Reid, Pat Webber



# Biofeedback

## YRUU versus LRY or YRUU and LRY

Dear YRUUers,

There are a lot of feelings of resentment about the transition that has occurred in our youth movement. The two letters that follow are an attempt to face up to some of the issues involved. At the 1983 Youth Council Meeting it was noted that our continental leadership has a tendency to ignore or postpone controversial issues. The issues discussed below have been postponed long enough, it is time we brought them out in the open.

My response to Tym's letter was not originally meant for publication. It was a personal letter expressing personal opinions. I feel uncomfortable about its extremism, but at the same time I feel it brings out points that are of interest to anyone involved with YRUU. I was asked by Wayne and Mara (the other two Editors) to print it because they felt the two letters balanced each other. I agree with them. The truth probably lies somewhere between the two positions taken in these letters, but that is for you to decide. I think YRUU is now strong enough to air our feelings about the transition openly. I only hope that our decision to print these two letters will show that YRUU is capable of honouring and including a vast spectrum of thought and emotion.

With love to you all,  
Colin

### Synapse staff and youth everywhere,

After your first issue I had hoped that there would be more creative stuff but there wasn't. The paper has the creativity (in itself) of boiled carrots but the few real things that weren't so watered down (I suspect to please the UUA more than the youth) were contributions from the radical wing of the LRY. Yes that's right, the LRY. We're talking major schism betwixt YRUU and LRY.

SO WHAT LRY is officially dead, tell that to the UDL. There isn't really the slightest hint of a political stance in Synapse. Oh there are of course the obligatory articles on Nukes and Reagan in order to establish the paper as "liberal."

Synapse reeks of that pseudo-liberal hip cow dung that make up a lot of UU congregations (well maybe they're not quite cow dung). The kind of people that write letters and sign lots of petitions and generally do anything so long as they don't really get off their bums and participate in any real action. (Heaven forbid people should mistake us for Quakers who actually stand up for what they believe in.)

But ok, I can see your point of view too. I mean what do you do to get a lot of basically good but unmotivated people going? And I suppose that many of you out there in general are saying "ya it's easy to bitch but what do you suggest wise ass?"

In a day and age where more than half the world is engaged in warfare on some level in a country where the government in power is hip to nothing else besides hard core conservatism and the complete elimination of any sort of check or balance that would keep us from going over the edge, a country (Canadian readers don't leave, I've got some for you too) where the government actively supports the poisoning of thousands of miles of wilderness, lakes etc. and is in essence waging biological warfare on its

Cont. on page 11, Col. 1

### Tym,

Got your letter today. I'm !\$?" angry, but more than that really hurt and upset. I want to tell you why I'm upset. Not because you thought the last issue of the paper was boiled carrots, I would have liked more creative stuff too. What angered me was how your letter reminded me of the ones we get from your friend and mine Jerry Falwell.

Falwell doesn't use the same style as you do—and I'm sure he has never been on the same side of the issue with you in his life. But Falwell and Tym Simpson both exhibit the same type of paranoia about people who are different from them. They are both certain they have the moral superiority to condemn not only the people who disagree with their points of view but also the people who approach issues in a different way. TIME TO COLLECT MY THOUGHTS—I WANT YOU TO SEE WHAT I'M SAYING.

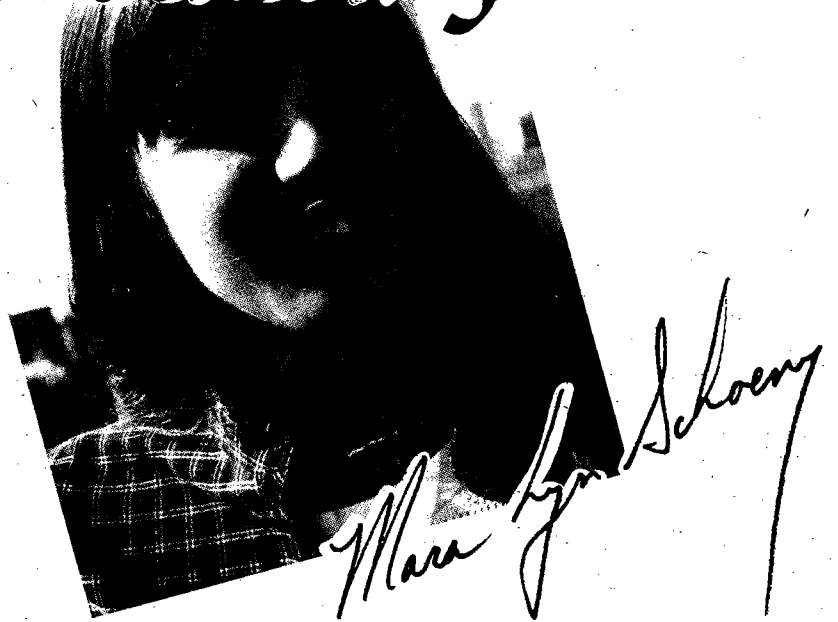
In your letter you ranted a lot about "pseudo-liberals." Who is the real pseudo-liberal Tym? Is it someone who wears an alligator on their shirt, but fights for tolerance of differing ideas, signs petitions for things they believe, demonstrate and write their government about the !\$\* it's doing? Or is the pseudo-liberal someone who is angry and rebellious, who refuses to join people whose convictions are similar but who does not appear as radical?

Who is being intolerant of whom? Referring to people as "pseudo-liberal hip cow dung" doesn't sound too tolerant to me. What were these people's crime? They may be a little less in touch with their emotions than you are, they may not be quite as aware of how conditioned they are by the establishment, but they are fighting for the same things you say you believe in. Give them a !\$\* chance Tym, before you condemn them out of hand.

It would be great if everyone was as groovy and radical as you. But don't give up on them over a difference in style. Please don't

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# Introducing...



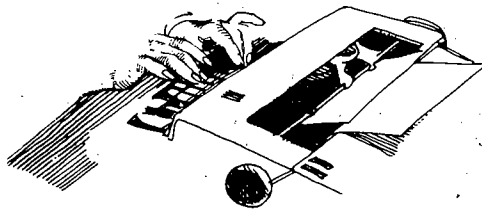
Hmmm. I am now a Boston resident. Also, for the first time in fifteen years I am working rather than going to school in the fall. Both concepts are rather startling so I'm still trying to remember that I'm neither a student nor a southerner any longer. At the same time there is really no place I'd rather be. This youth staff position with Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) is for me the fulfillment of centuries (I exaggerate only slightly) spent with Liberal Religious Youth (LRY), YRUU, and Unitarian Universalism. They have all given me so much in the past that now

it is my turn to give some of it back, with interest.

If any of you try to figure out where you have seen me, it could be at any of the following places: Charlottesville, VA, University of Virginia, Common Ground I, SUUSI, Common Ground II, SAM Fed/TJ District conferences, Rowe Camp, Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, Unitarian-Universalist, and YAC meetings. And please everyone, stay in touch or get in touch, I am still the new kid on the block.

Your Faithful servant,  
Mara Lyn Schoeny  
(shay-nee)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### Hello "Synapse,"

Very recently I was looking thru my old papers and came across a copy of "People Soup," dated '77, that a friend of mine had given me a long time ago. I'd never read it before, but when I did I felt very good inside. Here were all of these people around the country who had been thinking, feeling, and doing the same things as myself, free form and joyously through this group called "LRY"! It blew me away, so I wrote the address to see if the whole thing was still happening . . . and you very kindly sent me "Synapse #2."

"Synapse is good, and I'd like to share my opinions of it with you; as an outsider if you will. First the good stuff:

\* BIOFEEDBACK was good: Individuality is so crucial, especially to youth. There really is no alternative to the social structure outlined in the article in the minds of many kids. It is so oppressive. God bless the weirdos!

\* The article on the "squeal rule" by Lesley MacDonald was another good piece. Youth issues such as these don't get much discussion in the mainstream, so most young

people are left to rumours or worse when it comes down to getting the information they desperately need. Especially welcome was "youth culture" perspective of the author. Not bland at all. More of this please.

\* And the poetry was very good as well. I hope to see more artwork (as opposed to graphics that accompany a specific article, though these were good too) and poetry/writing from "Synapse." Perhaps you could even offer it a whole page (?)

Aside from this, the layout is fine and there are hardly any ads either. Well Done! However, there are a few things in this issue that upset me too. First and foremost was "Seeing is Believing," the short tale of one man's struggle against chemical dependency and God's revelation to him. About 3/4 of the story is devoted to the grim picture of hopelessly messed up person who uses pot and alcohol, struggling to free himself from the grip of these drugs. It is not uncommon in the mainstream these days to portray drug users in this way, I suppose to instill a fear of drugs in the minds of people so that they can ruin their lives with something more acceptable to the mass culture. Wouldn't it be better to make some small effort to educate people on how to use drugs?

Also my attention was caught by a letter to the editor mentioning that the personals sounded like a "closed club." I would just like to mention that this a time of transition in peoples lives, as well as oppression and uncertainty; experiences and perspectives are very different from older people as well as from the social systems of the mainstream. It is a "subculture" experience, rather like people in an alien land who can still speak the language. Through all this there is

Cont. on page 11, Col. 1

# New Blood

by Kevin Brooks Clark

Let's face it. Youth are treated like kids. This whole world is incredibly messed up and whose fault is it? Or better whose fault isn't it?

People change from year to year and generally consider the change to be an improvement. People gain the ability to be more systematic, to be more reliable and more logical as they age. It is true that these things are very important to the workings of society and I'm not trying to downplay the respect that we as youth should have for the learning, experience and development of our elders. We should. But there is something that many adults tend to forget about their development from an inexperienced youth to an adult. They tend to forget the freshness, naivete and innocence with which they once looked upon things. They forget the openness with which they accepted other people's ideas in the time that they were told that their own ideas were unfounded.

Youth have growing energy and this growing energy should be shared with organizations and not just individuals. Before one has developed into a "whole person," one goes through major changes every year. One goes through stages and throws away old ideas for new ideas daily. This same procedure is very much needed in the basic political and bureaucratic structure around us. Many adults are fixed into the idea that they have already evolved, that their ideas are perfect now and that these ideas should be shared through a "diplomatic" process with other adults to design institutions. These institutions therefore lack the basic gift of youth: change.

How do we, as youth, get involved now in a society which has a basic structure which resists change? One way is to find a group of adults who are willing to listen. Or to find a funnel that still has room to put things through it.

Well, the UUA is a wonderful funnel in that its basic premise is that it is not certain, that everything must be challenged. "To question is the answer" as a recent bumper sticker reads. We need to challenge this questioning power and ask "Do you realize the one group that still questions daily?". The UUA is

actually making a strong effort to get youth involved in continental workings. We should make sure that they are not disillusioned with us.

A church needs youth involvement if it is not to grow stagnant. It's nice to have a small community of people who can already be counted upon to agree. But who is going to continue to challenge ideals and principles? Let me try to give a little bit of description of my own battle.

Youth must over-prove themselves before they will get any recognition. I over-proved that I was willing to help and work and that I had the skills and energy by going to high school and running a computer programming business at the same time. In this manner, I found more adults willing to listen to my ideas. When the Youth Assembly Planning Committee was formed which implemented Common Ground I, I

found myself as one of its members. After computerizing the room assignment process and participating in the planning of the conference, I found myself on the Youth Adult Committee which went ahead to plan Common Ground II. I became the registrar. I provided many reports to the conference staff of Bowdoin College and word got back to the GA Planning Committee and others that we had some things a little more organized on this level than they. I also mentioned my interest in running for General Assembly Planning Committee in the following year.

For those of you not familiar with the election process of the UUA, there is a nominating committee which selects people who will run for election at General Assembly. They try to make sure that the people running are confident and that the election slate reasonably represents all groups of people

They honestly try to get youth to run for continental positions, but youth rarely apply. For General Assembly 1983, Ben Ford was nominated to run for the Nominating Committee and I was nominated to run for GA Planning Committee.

all over the continent. I had to teach each delegate who I am and what I can do. I learned the basic rules of UUA continental political procedure:

1) Believe in myself. I honestly feel that I have something valuable to give. I am willing to give it.

2) Prove myself to well respected people through my skills and willingness to take on responsibilities.

3) Make sure that my church allows me to join as a member. Try to convince them to allow youth membership even if this means a separate non-voting membership. Join my church.

4) Write to the UUA Nominating Committee for the proper form. Have people who know me and the work I do write letters of recommendation. Fill in the forms. Get nominated.

5) Make posters. Get a lot of people to pass out flyers for me. Make sure that everyone knows me and that I respect myself. Tell them why. Modesty will not help me get elected. I am the right person for the job am I not?

6) Be ready for a lot of disappointment. I can't fail if I don't try. Nor can I succeed. I may fail many times before any minor success.

7) Read my bylaws. Know parliamentary procedure.

8) Be prepared to make a lot of enemies. The only people that will come to speak to me will be those enthusiastically for me or enthusiastically against me. There will probably be many more of the latter.

9) Take a deep breath and jump in. Together we can add a little of the missing energy and self-evaluation into our churches. In today's technocracy the beliefs of Unitarian Universalism are more important than ever. And we youth are in the best position to help revitalize the church.

[Ed. Note: Kevin Clark was elected to a four-year term on the UUA Planning Committee. Ben Ford was defeated by nine votes.]

Kevin Clark and Ben Ford Discuss the Campaign.



by Ben Ford

"Goodbye! See you at Con-Con?" "I hope so. Goodbye—have a good summer."

Thus, with many reluctant goodbyes, ended General Assembly 1983. Like previous conferences, it would now become a collection of memories to treasure—all the beautiful people and times made for another marvelous week.

General Assembly is the annual business meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. It was held this year in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 11-17. We youth work together at GA in the Youth Caucus in order to have some political say in the Assembly. We meet nightly to discuss what stand, if any, we should take on issues before the Assembly the next day. We have people talk to us on issues about which we need more information, and we decide who should speak to each resolution on behalf of the Youth Caucus. Through this process we are able to learn about

the processes and the issues at GA, and to have some say in the resolution of those issues. At GA 1983, for example, many of the youth had a better understanding of parliamentary procedure than many of the adults, and people began to realize that youth are a force to be reckoned with. We are truly gaining a voice within the denomination; GA is the place where it is most obvious.

Youth Caucus has another purpose, too, at least as important as the political—that is, to give young people a place to belong, a sense of community, and, sometimes, just something to do in the chaos that is often GA. In many respects, we have our own little conference. This year, we had one floor of a dormitory almost completely to ourselves, and it was an ideal place for us to give each other support, to share our feelings about the week, and, mostly, to have a good time. We traded backrubs (oh, what backrubs!), listened to music, and talked—for hours upon hours—about anything and everything under the sun. We went sightseeing in Vancouver, swam at the beach, and had ourselves a party to rival any hospitality suite.

This caring community which Youth Caucus becomes was made very clear to me this year by one special event. I ran this year for a position on the UUA Nominating Committee, a somewhat ambitious undertaking for someone of my age and (almost nonexistent) stature within the denomination. Despite this, by the time the results of the election

Cont on page 11, col 3

## REPORT FROM THE YOUTH COUNCIL



The new YRUU Steering Committee from L. to R.: Barb Moore, Mitch Clute, Cappie Young, Colin Bird, Jennie Brooks, Dawn Johnson, Claudia Center, and Liz Harris. (Missing: Don King)

From August 8th to 13th the first annual meeting of the continental Youth Council was held in Whittier, CA. Representatives from twenty out of the twenty-three districts were present as well as age specific delegates, at large adult delegates, Interim Steering Committee members and the UUA Board representative. All told there were thirty-nine of the most active members of continental YRUU at the meeting.

The meeting reviewed the past year and set priorities and goals for the year before us. The past year has been a busy

one at the district and continental level of YRUU, as was evidenced by the reports submitted to Council. Activity on the district level seems to have increased. More districts are producing newsletters and having conference events than was the case three years ago. The process of sharing reports from the various districts was helpful in letting the delegates know that other districts shared some of their problems and still other districts had found solutions to their problems.

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# District News

## BALLOU CHANNING NO COUNCIL MEMBER

There is no activity in Ballou Channing on the District level. There are some fairly strong youth groups and cluster groupings, but District wide events are rare. "Spring Think," a New England regional conference was held in Ballou Channing last May but it did not attract many local people. A ninth and tenth grade conference was held in this District last Spring which attracted about twenty people. This District includes Rhode Island and parts of Massachusetts.

## CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Eric Draper**  
7 Bigelow Rd.  
Southboro, MA 01772  
tel #: 617-481-0788

"Communication was the theme of our Spring conference which pulled about forty people together for a week-end of fun and learning. Also a three day mountain climbing trip in New Hampshire has made our District activities numerous and diverse. We're swinging into gear this fall by planning our Fall conference on 'Relationships.' We are also planning a film and discussion for Sr. High youth which we hope will encourage more participation. Our YAC has two co-chairs Kevin Backman (youth) and June Payne (adult)."

## CENTRAL MIDWEST COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Liz Harris**  
1111 N. Institute  
Peoria, IL 61606  
tel #: 309-676-4180

This District serves about 700 youth in Wisconsin, Illinois, and Missouri. They held their first YRUU conference in Peoria last March and had about 120 conferees. Central Midwest conferences have home hospitality to decrease the wear and tear on the churches. They feel this makes it possible for smaller churches to host conferences. The District has three distinct area groupings. Each of them are different in terms of the age range they cover. The District YAC has a hard time serving all three of them. They would like to see each area cover a broader age span and an increase in the level of communications between the three groupings.

The Central Midwest Youth Adult Committee (YAC) consists of seven youth and two adults. It meets four times a year and communicates through letters and phone calls.

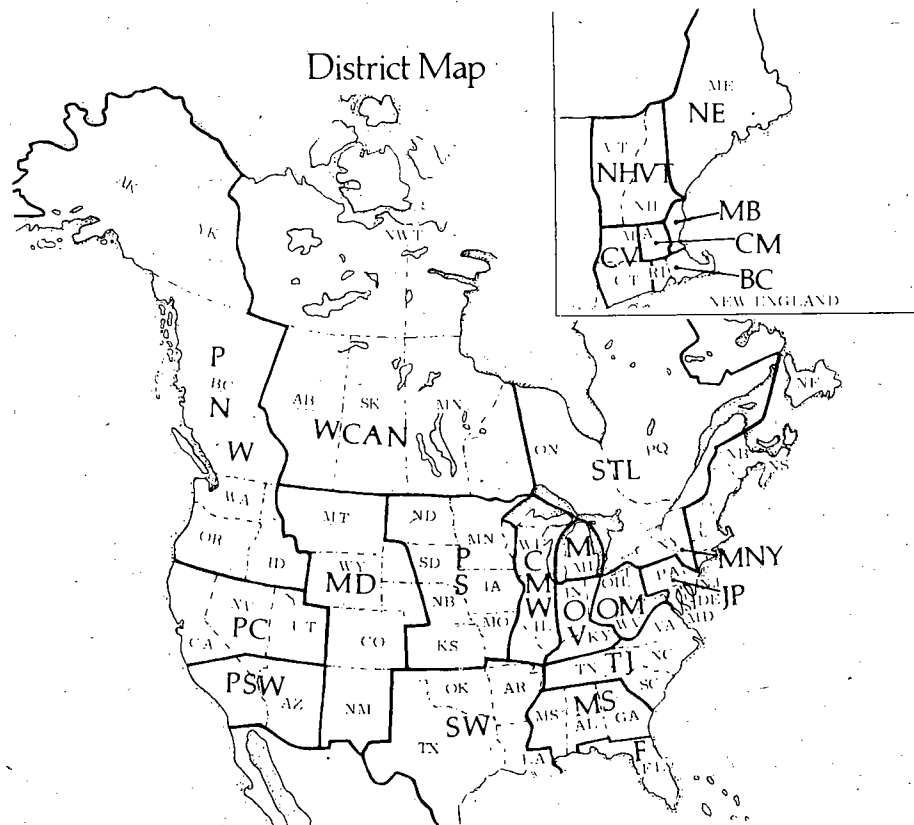
Central Midwest plans to computerize their mailing list and issue a newsletter in the near future. They received about \$800 in district funding in the last fiscal year.

Two members of the new Continental Steering Committee are from Central Midwest: Liz Harris and Barb Moore.

## CONNECTICUT VALLEY COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Julie Billings**  
166 Sacket Rd.  
Westfield, MA 01085  
tel #: 413-568-0758

"Our District has had a decrease in people but an increase in activity since our Springfield MA *Why Are You You?* Conference in February which five churches attended. A two page newsletter was mailed out in Mid-March with information about our *Stone Soup* Conference. This was held in Hartford CT. Only about twenty people attended from the Springfield MA, Pittsfield MA, and New London CT locals, but the conference was still a success for those who attended. On June 18th, a Youth Adult Committee meeting was held in Manchester CT. Representatives from the previously mentioned churches attended as well as three people from



Manchester. The next day the Pittsfield and Springfield groups enjoyed themselves at Riverside Amusement Park. The third week in July the first issue of *Connections* (our newly famed official YRUU newsletter) was mailed out. This contained information on our conference held in New London on August 26th to the 28th. The theme: El Agua. (Spanish for water.) Workshops and workshops were centered around water and Saturday was spent at the beach. Julie Billings was re-elected as our continental representative for the next two year term. Two other events have happened since; our District outing to the New England Fair September 24 and 25th and our recent conference in Pittsfield MA, October 21-23. The Pittsfield conference was centered around nature. We are tentatively planning a Jr. High conference to be held in December." (Submitted by Kim Ball)



## FLORIDA COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Kent Saleska**  
6203 NW 32 St.  
Gainesville, FL 32606  
tel #: 904-375-2752

Florida had a conference in Jacksonville over Labor Day weekend which attracted about 50 youth. They held a Leadership training workshop on the weekend of September 17th in Orlando which went very well. Their next two conferences are scheduled for Valentine's Weekend in Clearwater and Memorial Day weekend in Gainesville. They received \$600 from the District this year. There are about 120 active people between the ages of 14 to 19 and about 90 Jr. Highers. College age youth in Florida formed a group called Alternative Religious Fellowship (ARF) two years ago.

## JOSEPH PRIESTLEY COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Susan Hindorff**  
16 Laurel Lane  
Glenriddle, PA 19037  
tel #: 215-358-3212

Joseph Priestley will be holding a Leadership Development Conference in the second half of October at the All Souls Church in Washington DC. There will be a conference at the UU church of Delaware County on November 21st to the 23rd as well as the regular Winter and Spring Conferences. JPD is forming a new newsletter. This District consists of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware and parts of New Jersey and Connecticut.



## MASSACHUSETTS BAY COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Elisabeth Jas**  
43 Coolidge Ave.  
Lexington, MA 02173  
tel #: 617-862-3296

Mass. Bay will be holding their Autumn business meeting during their Fall Conference at the First Parish in Lexington MA October 21 to 23rd. The theme of the conference is "kaleidoscope." The last issue of their newsletter was mailed out at the end of September. Mass. Bay District is the smallest District in terms of area, but has the most churches of any District. Mass. Bay consists of Boston and vicinity.

## MICHIGAN COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Kris Amir**  
763 Fieldstone Dr.  
Rochester, MI 48063  
tel #: 313-651-0371



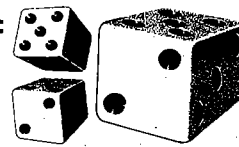
"The Michigan District is busy working on their next conference to be held October 28-30, at Waterloo Recreation Area. Members of other Districts are welcome to attend. For information about the conference call Kris or David Amir. We are also working on the second issue of Y.A.C.tion, the District newsletter."

## MID-SOUTH NO COUNCIL MEMBER

Mid-South was one of three Districts not represented at this year's Youth Council Meeting. Their District YAC have had no updates since the last issue of "Synapse."

## METRO-NEW YORK COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Paul Gibson**  
10 Powderhorn CT  
Holmdel, NJ 07733  
tel #: 201-671-5572



"Metro has 6 conferences, 5 Council meetings, and one coffee house planned for the coming year. Only two of the conferences are put on by the District. The rest are put on by local groups. On September 30-October 2, Brooklyn had its 'Autumn Equinox' conference. On October 7-9, Rufus planned to hold a Muttontown 'New Friends' conference.

On October 28-30, the infamous Summit Conference will happen: 'Childhood Fantasies by the Local That Time Forgot.'

"On December 3, the District Council will have its second meeting. In January, Lincroft, NJ will have its fourth annual coffee house, followed by two Council meetings in February and April, and by the Metro Spring Assembly where a new Council was elected April 13-15.

"On May 5-6 the new and old Councils will retreat and 'pass the torch.' To wrap

things up Lincroft will host Spring Conference May 25-28 Memorial Day.

"The chairs for Star Island YRUU week and Summer's End for 1984 are both from Metro. We had 7 people at Con Con and stay in close touch with Districts in New England and down south (TJ).

"To sum it up, we're a hot district, and we're going to have a damn good year, and we hope you'll come join us."

## MOUNTAIN DESERT COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Mitch Clute**  
1807 15th Ave.  
Greeley, CO 80631



This district had a spring meeting between members of the Mountain and Desert Area Council youth organizations, but coordination between the two halves of the district continues to be difficult. Boulder and Greeley locals have been responding to church concerns regarding their style of program and the relationship of the locals to the church. Boulder has gone to a "two-group" system with different interests and concerns in each one. MDD has two people on the new Steering Committee—Mitch Clute and Don King.

## N.H.-VT. COUNCIL MEMBER:

**Claudia Center**  
Box 164,  
Wesleyan Univ.  
Middletown, CT 06457



NH-VT district held a Leadership Development Conference June 15 & 16 to orient the new district leaders to Conference Planning and "Gorp" production. Gorp is the district newsletter of NH & VT. The new leaders of NH & VT fed are: Christina Yanis, 3 Vernon St., Hudson, NH 03051 - Andrea Yakovakis, 179 Salmon Street, Manchester, NH 03104 - Jeannie Sowers, Peg Shop Rd., Keene, NH 03431 - and Adrienne Antrim, 45 S. Lincoln St., Keene, NH 03431.

There was a NH-VT Conference in Keene on October 7-9. Its theme was around Nature/Science.

## NORTHEAST NO COUNCIL MEMBER

This District was not represented at Youth Council '83. Members of the Fredericton, New Brunswick local attended the EAGLYTS Conference (Eastern Great Lakes Youthwork Training Seminar) in Ontario this August. The District RE Committee intends to make the revitalization of their Youth Adult Committee a priority for the coming year. This District consists of the State of Maine and the Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.



## OHIO MEADVILLE COUNCIL MEMBER:

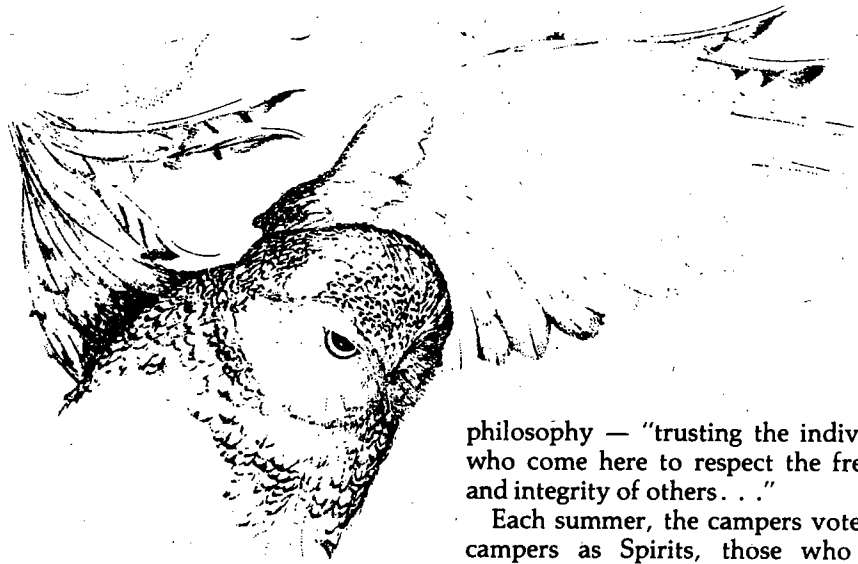
**Janine Penfield**  
18849 W Valley Drive  
Fairview Park, OH 44126  
tel #: 216-333-6163



Ohio Meadville runs two conferences yearly. The Fall conference will be held on the weekend of October 21 to 23 at Tippecanoe Lake, OH as usual. This District has a large population of Jr. Highers and almost no post high involvement. Their Spring Conference will be held at the West Shore Church in Cleveland on May 4th to 6th with home hospitality offered. Ohio Meadville District has a lot of vitality; their conferences attract about 150 conferees.

Cont. on page 12





Most of the UU camps and conference centers have regularly scheduled junior high and high school weeks built into their summer schedules. Unicamp and Unirondack in St. Lawrence District, Ferry Beach in Maine, The Mountain in the South, Unistar in Minnesota, Seabeck in the Pacific Northwest, and DeBenneville Pines in southern California all have different programmatic approaches that attract a loyal following among the people in their areas.

It would be impossible to include photographic and verbal "snapshots" from all those great camps, so we focus on only one and hope that it may symbolize the kinds of experiences that happened for many others in different parts of the continent.

Rowe Camp is celebrating its sixtieth year of service to young people in our denomination. Rowe's high school camp is unique in that it is three weeks long, allowing for a different kind of community to develop than is possible in a one week session.

It's always valuable to get some insight into how others see us. This year Rowe Senior High Camp was visited by a reporter from the Greenfield, MA Recorder, Irmarié Jones. Ms. Jones perspective on the camp is reprinted from the July 16, 1983 issue of *The Greenfield Recorder* with their permission:

**ROWE** — Vonnie Hicks of North Carolina changed his summer plans to become co-director of Rowe Camp ... Holly Dales has returned as a camper for seven years ... Duffy Plunkett enjoys the freedom to express his own philosophy of life at the camp.

It is easy to sense that everyone involved in Rowe camp reflects the printed

philosophy — "trusting the individuals who come here to respect the freedom and integrity of others. . ."

Each summer, the campers vote eight campers as Spirits, those who most embody the Rowe Camp spirit. They come back to camp at half price the next year and help the staff.

Plunkett, one of the Spirits, said attending the camp helped him eliminate a lot of fear in life ... fear of physical discomfort and fear of rejection, through trust.

"Fear of fear," said Rebecca Harris, another Spirit, who said she liked the sense of love, freedom and community surrounding her.

Holly Dales, also a Spirit, likes the feeling of being able to develop her individuality.

Each day ends with "chapel" at 10 p.m. The entire population of the camp walks from the cabins to the lovely, small Unitarian church in the center of Rowe, where there are no longer regular services.

"We walk silently. One reason is that we don't disturb the town. They walk hand in hand, or arm in arm. From the library steps you can look down in the valley, see the lights, hear the bullfrogs in the pond. It's a wonderful feeling, and a nice way to cool down the day, mentally and physically," Ms. Pru Berry said.

The Rev. Douglas Wilson, a Unitarian minister, is co-director of the camp, with Ms. Berry. Each session has its own directors. Ms. Berry and Hicks are co-directors for the high school weeks.

"When the young people try to explain what Rowe has meant to them, some say it changed their lives. Other say it is the only place they can be themselves. They learn to stand up and speak out. And others feel so close to people that they make best friends for life," said Ms. Berry. "They learn to think for themselves instead of blindly following."



Con-Con Staff: (from top left) Julie Ann Silberman, Jamie Bowers, Peter Sampson, Barb Pescan, Frank Robertson, Cappy Young, Eric Kaminetzky, Ann Tyndall, Colin Bird, Lisa Feldstein, Barb Moore, Bob Alpern, Jane Koestler, and Wayne Arnason.

Announcements

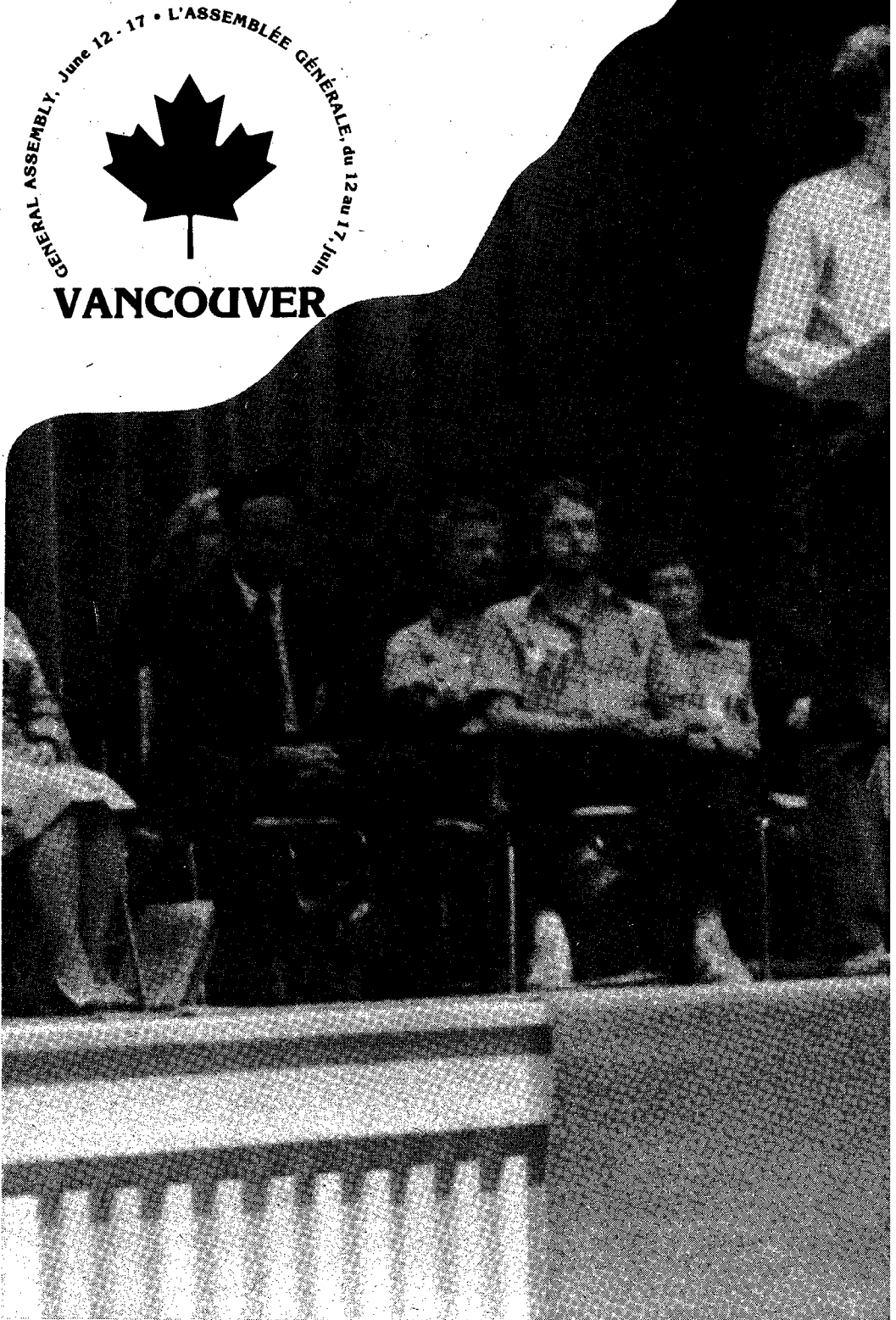
# WHAT WE DID ON OUR

What We Did On our Summer Vacations:

We went to conferences, that's what we did! From the beginning of June to Labor Day weekend, it's conference season for youth in Unitarian Universalist communities all over the continent. From the Youth Caucus at UUA General Assembly in Vancouver, to the "Ascenders" Program at The Mountain in Highlands, North Carolina; from the summer sunrises at YRUU week on Star Island, New Hampshire, to the misty dusk during YRUU Continental Conference at De Benneville Pines in California, thousands of us found communities of growth and friendship in week-long conferences and camps during 1983.

This collage of poetry, drawings, photographs, and prose captures some of the events and feelings of the summer just behind us:

Over forty youth began the summer of 1983 by journeying to Vancouver British Columbia as delegates and observers to the UUA General Assembly. The Youth Caucus held daily meetings in the far-



Ben Ford delivers his candidate's speech to t

The First Annual YRUU Continental Conference was the summer peak for many who travelled long distances to southern California, and for others who had only to go up the mountain from their homes in LA, DeBenneville Pines is a spiritual home for the Pacific Southwest LRY and it is a beautiful place to be, rain or shine. It rained. It rained a lot. The rain forced the conference indoors, in smaller groups or in large assemblies, and brought our diversity and our unity strongly before us.

Lindsay Scott Monser's poem from the Con-Con yearbook describes some of the tensions and the rewards we found as the conference came together:

*Like the Rain*

Is it me?  
Is it you?  
Is it them?

The rain  
Enclosing us within a room

For fear of melting  
Holds the truth too close.  
The people.  
Them.  
My friends?  
In spirit.

On a day,  
One day.  
I'll break into a million  
zillion

stars.

And melt,  
In the rain,  
And fall,  
sweetly,

to the earth.

And slide down, down, into a warm  
Place that will never let me go.

the banner says:

"Now and forever may  
the sun break through  
and all shadows flee away."

But, are not the shadows,

# SUMMER VACATIONS!

flung Totem Residence where the "youth floor" was situated. Youth Caucus members reviewed GA business, heard guest speakers on controversial resolutions, talked and partied, ending their week with a beautiful worship service commemorating the transition from LRY to YRUU. Youth Caucus member Jill Klindworth of St. Paul MN writes:

"During the General Assembly youth worship service, we all had a chance to give a short testimonial on something we remembered from the LRY spirit. Some remembered the massages, crying together, deciding finally to go to sleep, feeling lost, and then the hugs.

Although I did not think about it until after the service, there is something I remember and have come to expect.

I remember crying.

Alone after each conference, after intense feeling of ecstasy and empathy, I sometimes feel I will never have those feelings again. I can hardly feel at all. Then the tears start to fall. I am coming down from an incredible high.

Now after GA, I have already cried (three times). Getting back into the stream of things at home my friends tell me I've changed (what did they expect?), people say I talk funny (more beers, eh?), and best of all, one friend told me my smile got bigger. . .

My tears are happy ones. I keep the memories of all of you close to my heart. As the poem at the closing of our service said:

Is this love? I hope so!"

Usually, General Assembly week coincides with the first major high school conference week for east coasters - the annual Star Island conference. The rugged beauty of Star Island and its isolated surroundings twelve miles offshore always invoke thoughtful workshops and powerful worship experiences. The "Expressions" page of this issue of Synapse features some of the work done in the Star Island Writer's Workshop at YRUU Week.

Mary Stanhope, a workshop member, wrote this poem about Star Island's community which Donna Titus (mother of conference dean Kate Titus) later arranged into a responsive reading:

The island is one of rock like all others yet it isn't others, at least not to us, to us it is alive. . . .

It breathes with our every breath  
and feels both our sorrow and joy  
To us it has a spirit  
a spirit that fills everyone of us. . .

It changes us  
It opens our minds to all  
To the ordinary and the extraordinary...

The island has seen it all,  
And every part makes up the love  
it gives to us.

Not a love like that between two people  
But one between our spirits.

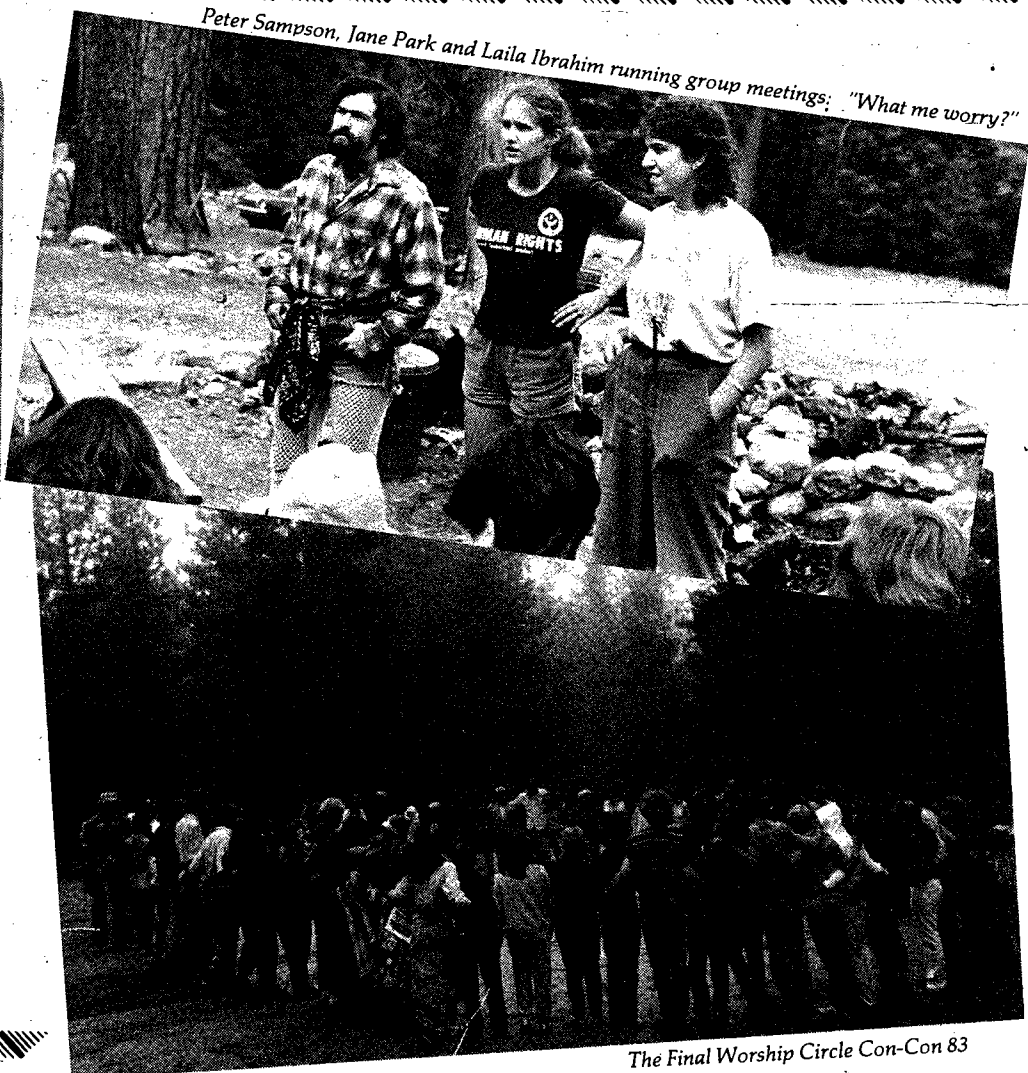
We are all individuals,  
Yet on this island  
our spirits become one

We are united on this Star. . .  
In the middle of a vast universe. . .



The "Beliefs" workshop group at Star, as photographed by their facilitator, Rev. Agnes Zuniga

Peter Sampson, Jane Park and Laila Ibrahim running group meetings: "What me worry?"



The Final Worship Circle Con-Con 83

too, sacred? The earth, the night, the moon—the animal nature in us. Dark is the womb from which we all emerged. Let dark and light, life and death, dance together, and let us celebrate them equally.

The workshops were well-attended and enthusiastically received. Barb Pescan and Ann Tyndall, ministers from the San Francisco Bay Area, led a group of twenty on a "Perilous Journey" through their own life stories and religious discoveries. Bob Alpern of the UUA Washington Office and Peter Sampson of Berkeley facilitated workshops on Politics and Social Action that led to a "demonstration" of concern at one of the meals, and to the production of the YRUU Banner which would be carried during the March on Washington (see P.9).

Rev. Frank Robertson of Santa Barbara offered a "World Religions" workshop in which he used many of the experiential and audio-visual sections that are included in a future junior high curriculum to be published by the UUA.

Lisa Feldstein, Colin Bird, and Wayne Arnason facilitated a weeklong "Youthwork Training Seminar," with twenty-five conferees in attendance. This seminar was the fourth in a series of seminars held in different locations around the continent this summer. The YRUU staff will be taking the feedback from the seminars and using them to compile a fully scripted fifteen hour training program for youth leaders and youth advisors. The Youthwork Seminar Module will be available for district and cluster use after Christmas.

Jane Koestler led a popular workshop of Human Sexuality in the afternoons, Barb Moore led a Woman's Rap, and

some impromptu dreamwork groups were gathered. Hikes, silkscreening, capture the flag, volleyball, mugbook production and swimming kept people busy in the afternoons.

Evenings were the responsibility of the Spirit Committee, elected each year to preserve some of our old Con-Con traditions in program and worship, as well as to inspire new ones. Spirit committee members Claudia Center and Jamie Bowers organized the annual Mr./Mrs. Ugly Contest and the Auction, which netted over \$200 for the mugbook expenses and for next year's conference.

One of the most popular conferees this year was Salami the Penguin, who made an amazing number of friends for somebody who is stuffed. Salami's seductive strip tease during the talent show is a thrill that will never be forgotten.

Elected to the Con-Con Spirit Committee for 1984 were Ron Kellaway of

Florida, Teresa Kent of Colorado, and Jonathan Weissglass of California. The Steering Committee of YRUU will meet in October to finalize plans for next year. The tentative site is Florida.

The Theme for Con-Con 83 was "Spirit Rising." As we formed, struggled with, and celebrated our community, we could feel the spirit of LRY and begin to discern the rising spirit of YRUU hand in hand together in the misty San Bernardino forest. We left DeBenville tired, renewed, together.

The soft mountain rain  
Forms precious jewels  
On the tips of leaves,  
Unowned by the pain  
Of human enterprise.  
The pure scented air,  
Softened by mist,  
Invigorates the body  
And fades away  
The separations of mind.

(Frank Robertson)



Imagine spending a week up a Swiss mountain with 75 people from all over the world. This summer, you could have been there. YRUU is a member group of IRF, the International Religious Fellowship, a worldwide liberal religious youth organization, which holds a conference in Europe or the USA every summer. This year's conference was held at Cumbels in Switzerland during the last week in July. About 75 young people from the US, Britain, Europe and Japan spent a week 4000 feet up a mountain, getting to know each other, enjoying Switzerland and looking at the theme of 'Peaceful Behaviour.'

There are always several aspects of an IRF Conference which stand out to make each conference different and special. This year was special because we celebrated IRF's diamond jubilee. On the Monday of the Conference we held an anniversary service in the village church. The church was Roman Catholic and heavily gilded with an adjacent 'bone room' which, although it is no longer used, still had several skulls on display. After the service we were treated to a surprise six course meal and a cabaret provided by our hosts. The cabaret included a magician who, much to my horror, cut the IRF flag in half before our very eyes before revealing a new one incorporating our new symbol.

The theme of the conference was "Peaceful Behaviour." I see the theme as an aid to getting to know the other participants and as a thread which runs through the week but some of the others see its study as an end in itself. This year's theme tried to heighten our awareness that peaceful behaviour is not avoiding confrontation at all costs. We looked at peace on a global scale and were issued portable bunkers which are

guaranteed to be "as safe as your fall-out shelter at home" and which look suspiciously like brown paper bags for our heads. We also looked at personal peaceful behaviour. The various theme sessions included a look at personal and national prejudices, the film "War Game," role playing and non-competitive/co-operative games. Whether we behave more peacefully now than before is for you to decide

when you see us.

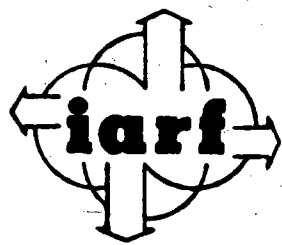
There was plenty of free time during the week and anyone who wished to organize an activity could do so. There were kite-making and sweatshirt painting workshops, walks in the hills, sing-songs in the bar, swimming and running, to mention but a few. There was also plenty of time for the quiet conversation with individual IRFers which express the real essence of IRF - how many Swiss or Japanese or Britons do you know really well?

Only four Americans attended this year's conference so their influence was limited. The week was quieter and people took a little longer to relax than at conferences where there is a larger American presence. Perhaps next year more of you will be able to attend the conference in Klingberg in Germany in the week from the 29th July to 4th August, 1984

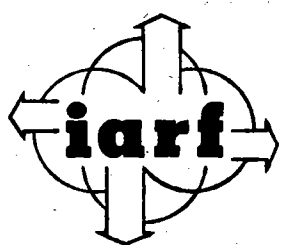
The conference drew to a quiet close about 5 a.m. on the Saturday morning as 25 of us left for the second week of IRF activity - a tour of Hungary.

If you would like to know more about IRF, there is information at Beacon St. or you can write to me or the American representative on the Executive Committee, Lenore Delu, 4618 Briarwood Dr., Sacramento, CA 95821.

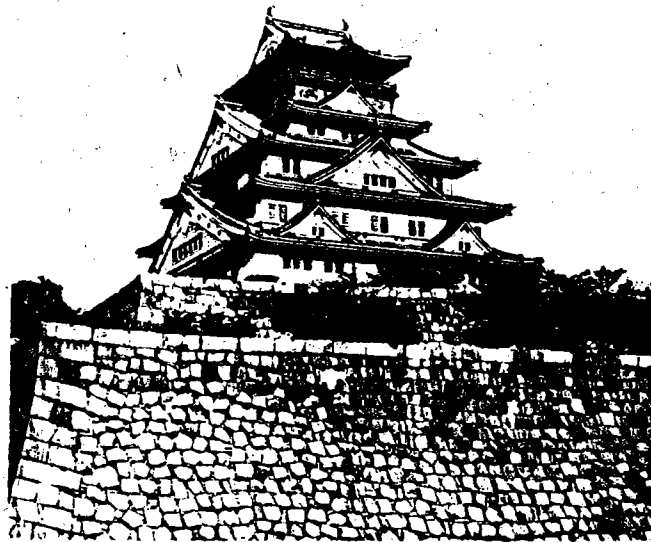
Dave Ogden



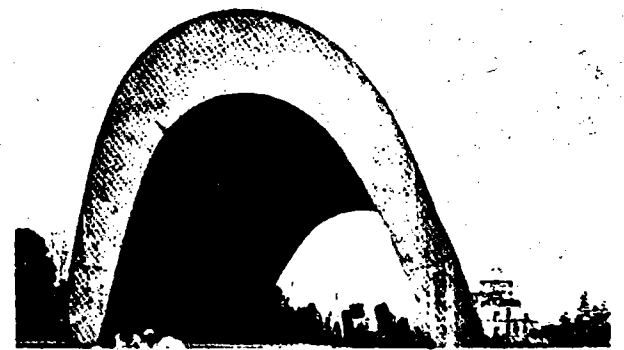
IARF 日本大会 東洋のイニシアチブ/西洋のリスポンス



## IARF CONGRESS JAPAN 1984 22 July-12 August, 1984



Osaka Castle built in the 16th century



Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima

Once again the International Association for Religious Freedom is preparing unique opportunities for travel and learning for Unitarian Universalist youth at their 25th triennial Congress in Japan.

Preliminary information on dates, costs, programs, and an advance registration form are printed below for the information of *Synapse* readers.

The IARF Secretariat is investigating the possibility of youth scholarships to the Congress. They will be announcing details of whether scholarships will be available later in the fall of 1983.

Already IARF has made arrangements for a three day Youth Program July 23-26 in advance of the Congress. Plans have just been announced for a post-Congress Youth Tour as well. A low youth registration fee and free sleeping accommodation also make the cost of being in Japan for the Congress relatively low for young people.

The registration forms below are only preliminary. If you are interested in attending the Congress, and think you can afford to carry at least one-half of the travel expense yourself, please return these forms to the IARF office at the address below to the attention of Lucie Meijer. Indicate that you would like to be informed about scholarship opportunities if they become available.

\*The projected costs below are approximations and subject to change pending on the final prices of airlines, tour operators and program co-sponsors, due to inflationary increases and fluctuation of exchange rates. Program costs include: travel, all meals, admissions, guides.

Item	IARF GROUP TRAVEL	*US\$
1a	Los Angeles (20 July)-Tokyo/Tokyo (12 August)-Los Angeles	1,060
1b	New York - Los Angeles - New York (connecting flight)	430
1c	Boston - Los Angeles - Boston (connecting flight)	510
<b>IARF PRE-CONGRESS-PROGRAMS</b>		
7	Youth Program	(23-26 July) 40
<b>IARF CONGRESS (26 July - 2 August)</b>		
8a <sup>2</sup>	Congress Registration fee Youth/Student (age: up to 25 years)	50

### IARF CONGRESS PROGRAMS JAPAN 1984 ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM No. 2

Use separate form for each person.

Please print or type.

I am considering participating in the IARF Congress Program Japan 1984 and register therefor provisionally:

Name, usual title (Rev., etc.), first name

Address:

Telephone:

home

work

male/female:

date of birth:

Occupation:

I understand English/Japanese/Other languages:

I speak English/Japanese/Other languages:

Please underline the applicable language or fill in

Do you require facilities for handicapped persons (please specify)?

I am a vegetarian.

Please send me the final Congress Registration form.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM TO THE

IARF SECRETARIAT FRANKFURT. REGISTER NOW!

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM—IARF

Auf dem Muehlberg 6, D-6000 Frankfurt 70, FR Germany, Tel. 0611-617367



# Social Action

## LUCY BOOTH GOES TO WASHINGTON ★

by Ben Ford

A lot of marchers, and too many speakers. Many, many signs, slogans and songs, representing numerous causes, issues and organizations. And, a feeling that something was missing—some sense of unity of cooperation, and especially understanding.

These were the impressions I was left with following the "March on Washington" on Saturday, August 27. Held to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the 1963 March of the same name, organizers hoped that this march would revive many of the movements and causes that were represented. It remains to be seen whether their hopes will be realized.

The day started when our bus, which had left the Sarasota Trailways station twenty hours earlier, rolled into Washington, DC at dawn. We passed some familiar monuments, and soon arrived at All Souls Unitarian Church for breakfast. After breakfast, while most returned to the bus to head for the capitol mall, I stayed at the church to walk with the UUA/YRUU delegation.

At the church, after a short service, we began the two or three mile walk to the mall to meet the rest of the march. This walk between the church and the mall was for me the most important and meaningful part of the whole day—we walked through some of Washington's

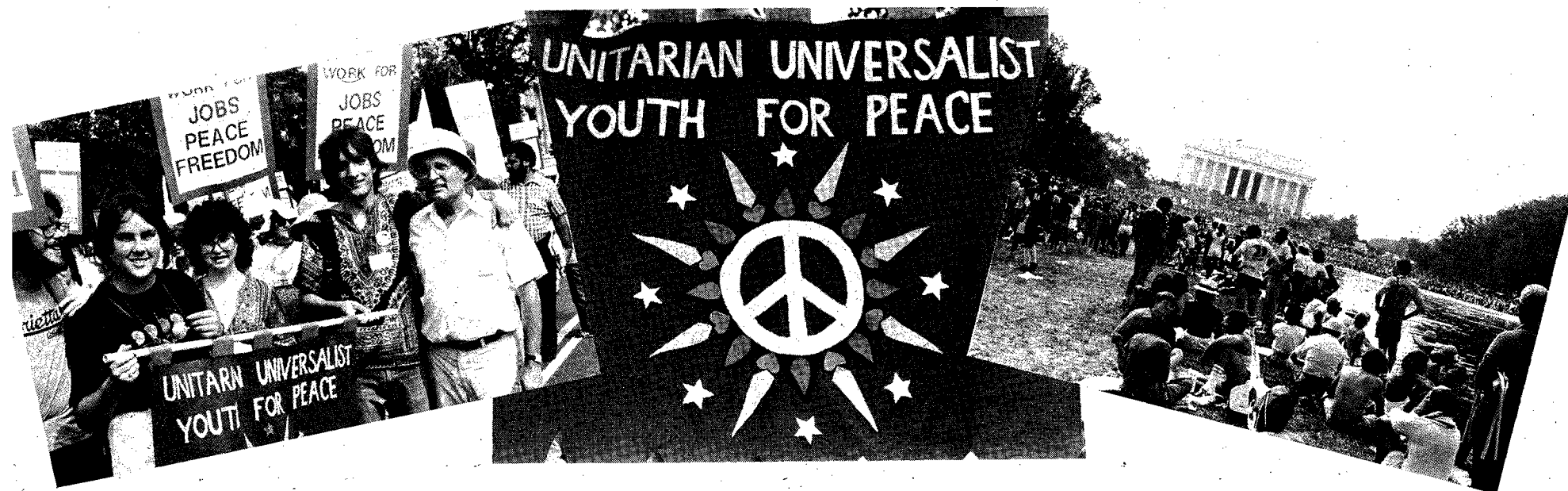
lower income neighborhoods, and the response from the residents was fantastic. Many were standing on the sidewalk clapping and cheering us on, and it felt great to have that kind of grassroots support.

Then we came over the last hill before the mall, and, oh, the people! We were approaching a sea of people which appeared to have no end, and there were more groups arriving all the time—it was very impressive, even if only in numbers. We all crammed onto the mall and tried to listen to speeches and songs (the PA systems at the mall and at the Lincoln Memorial were woefully inadequate) until early afternoon, when

Bill Cosby tried to orchestrate an orderly removal of about 250,000 people from the mall to the grounds surrounding the reflecting pool between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

When we finally arrived, we found shade, shed shirts, and waded in the reflecting pool to escape the heat, which reached 100+° in the midst of so many people. We sang along with Pete Seeger, Holly Near, and Peter, Paul and Mary; and occasionally caught a word or two of a speech. We waited for half an hour in a line at the drinking fountain, and pushed our way up to the steps of the Memorial to look back on the incredible

Cont on page 12



## Evolution, Revolution- Dissolution, Resolution

res • o • lu'tion, n. 1. a formal statement of opinion or determination adopted by an assembly or other group of persons.

Above is the Webster's Dictionary definition of a resolution. What it does not explain is the process which a group must go through in order to write, adopt, and implement one or more resolutions. At this year's Youth Council meeting in Whittier, California a process was designed so that social action could be incorporated into YRUU. The YRUU bylaws actually call for "developing an effective system for social action," so this process helps to fulfill part of YRUU's purposes (i.e. incorporating social action specifically relating to youth and the denomination into the continental network). Following is a brief synopsis of the design for a continental process which enables the organization as a whole to take a strong stand on issues and through which concrete ideas for local group actions may be suggested as well as distributed.

Most important is the role played by locals and individuals who need to be aware of issues of local, continental, and international concern, especially those of special interest to Unitarian-Universalists and youth. If there is an active local in the area, they should discuss the issues and write concrete resolutions and suggestions for actions. It is suggested that each district create a Social Concerns position on its governing body. This person should be in charge of receiving ideas that the local or individuals feel are issues which might interest or concern the larger YRUU

organization. They could also be issues which would benefit from continental attention. Locals and districts are entirely free to decide what process they want to use in order to best represent their interests. In any case, this person is in charge of making sure that no more than three resolutions are submitted.

Submitted to where? Now comes the continental level of this process. Prior to the annual Youth Council meeting Youth Council representatives or the Social Action officer from each district should submit their district's resolutions to the continental Social Actions Editor. This person acts as a clearinghouse and is in charge of presenting the resolution options (first eliminating duplicates and making corrections etc.) to a subcommittee of the Youth Council called the Social Concerns Commission. In turn they will make specific recommendations in a presentation to the Youth Council as a whole. Once the possible resolutions have been streamlined and thoroughly discussed in this process, issues most pertinent and pressing for YRUUers can be voted upon and adopted by the entire YC more quickly and effectively.

Implementation of adopted resolutions is as important as actually taking the original stand. A resolution is by definition a "determination," not just a statement. At this point in the process Social Concerns Commission members are in charge of funneling concrete proposals and suggestions from individuals, locals, and districts to the Social Action Editor. They should deal with how individuals and locals might implement the resolutions. These ideas for action will be published and distributed.

The following resolutions were passed by the 1983 YRUU Youth Council.

### Draft Resolution

Whereas current U.S. Government policy towards Central and South America closely parallels policy prior to the Vietnam War which resulted in conscription and

Whereas the U.S. Government program of registration constitutes a major step toward reinstating the draft and

Whereas participation in the armed services is fundamentally a religious and ethical decision to be made by the individual

Therefore be it resolved by the 1983 Youth Council of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists that this body strongly condemn all moves towards involuntary military service by the U.S. Government;

Be it further resolved that this organization shall attempt to assist and cooperate with individuals and groups resisting registration.

### Cruise Missile resolution

Whereas the U.S. Government has sought and obtained the permission of the Canadian Government to test Cruise Missiles within Canada, and

Whereas the Cruise Missile is a potentially destabilizing weapon which would increase the risk of nuclear war if deployed, and

Whereas a majority of Canadians are opposed to the testing of the Cruise Missile, and

Whereas deployment of the Cruise Missile would increase the insecurity of today's youth and possible future generations, and

Whereas peace, security of the person, and democratic action are three great principles of our religious lives;

Therefore be it resolved by the 1983 Youth Council of YRUU that this organization appeal to the U.S. Government not to test this weapon in a country whose population has indicated it does not wish to have it tested over their territory, and

Be it further resolved that YRUU appeal to the Canadian Government on behalf of its U.S. and Canadian member groups to rescind the permission they have granted for the testing of this weapon, and

Be it further resolved that YRUU opposes the testing and deployment of Cruise Missiles under any circumstances.

### Contraceptives, abortion, and sexual rights resolution

Whereas sexual awareness and drive develop well before the age of eighteen regardless of the availability of contraceptives and,

Whereas the right to medical control of one's body should be a private issue between an individual and his/her doctor, and

Whereas familial situations differ in their levels of acceptance of sexuality, and

Whereas cuts in U.S. Government funding have made access to contraceptives and safe abortions nearly impossible for persons in impoverished conditions and minors of no income;

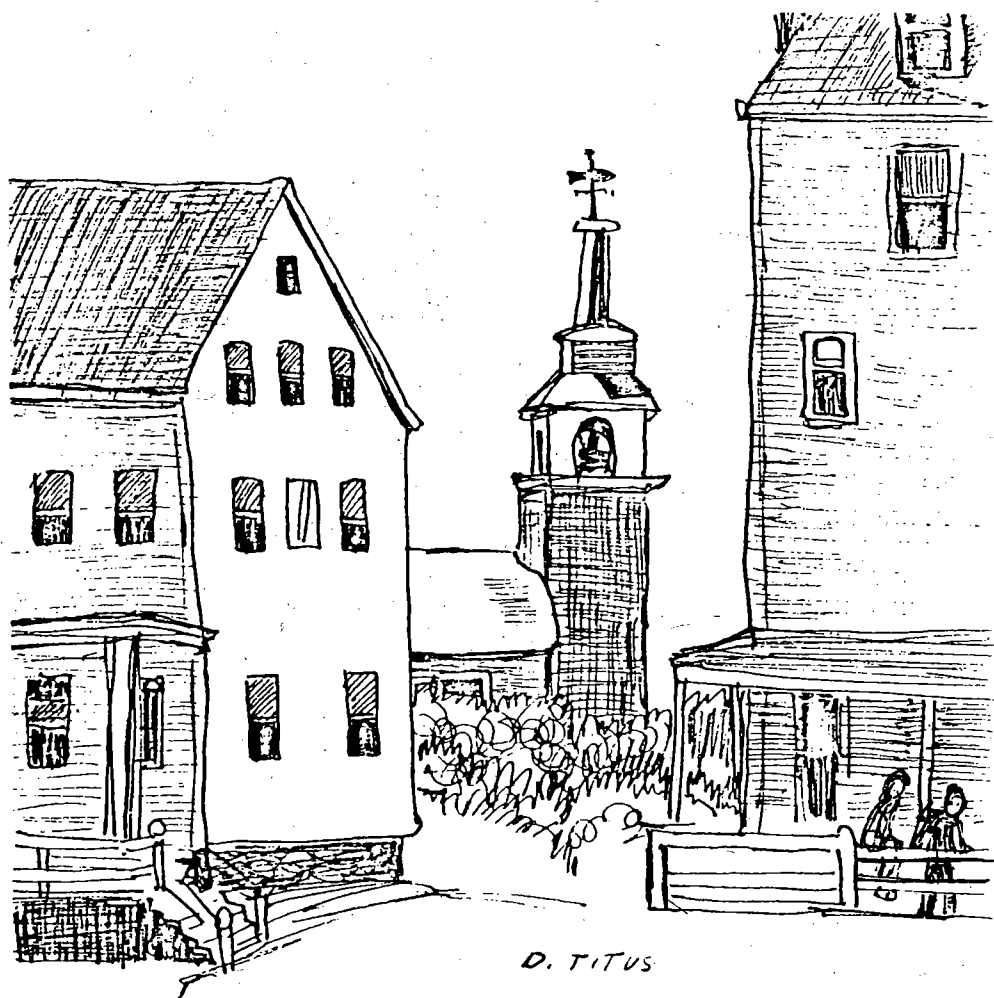
Therefore be it resolved by the 1983 Youth Council of YRUU that this organization opposes any legislation including "squeal" laws which would limit access of minors to contraceptive devices or abortion, and

Be it further resolved that federal funding for contraceptives and abortion be reinstated, and

Be it further resolved that YRUU seek endorsement for this position by the General Assembly of the UUA.

The 1983 Youth Council also passed resolutions calling for YRUU communication and cooperation with two existing UU social action offices: the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee and the Unitarian-Universalist United Nations office. Information can be obtained at the following addresses. The UUSC especially has information on regional actions involving youth through its SEEK program

# Expressions



D. TITUS

One of the highlights of Star Island YRUU week this summer for many people was the Writer's Workshop. The selections on this issue's Expressions page are all drawn from the work done in that workshop.

The Star Island yearbook described what happened in the writer's workshop like this:

The workshop got off to a shaky start, partly because writers go silent when they're thinking and it's impossible to tell whether they're being creative or goofing off, and partly because the workshop leader has trouble articulating purposes and methods she hasn't previously practiced and written down. It was soon apparent, however, that much talent had congregated and we set about composing a Wednesday night workshop—"Celebration of Our Island Home."

The object was not to teach writing

skills. It was assumed that those congregating in the workshop were writers already, and this was proven in the outcome. Imagistic poetry, rhyming legend, autobiography, reasoned discourse, and precis came easily to the group, but also members composed missing service elements. The leader provided a general theme and the traditional structure of a worship service. Fortunately, the enormous diversity of voices in the group provided material of many different points of view to produce a complex but unified worship. Since a large part of creating is communicating, we were pleased to have the opportunity to share our work and delighted with the feedback after the worship service. The next day we analyzed what we had done, praised our successes and articulated where there was room for improvement.



## Introspection.

by Nome

The rain has sputtered our joy  
but I will ride it high  
and try to carry all of you  
in the love that is spilling  
from my soul  
look at my eyes  
they have cried  
but now they gleam with care  
and compassion

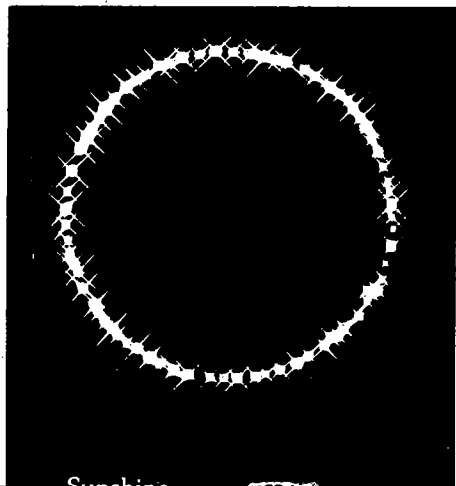
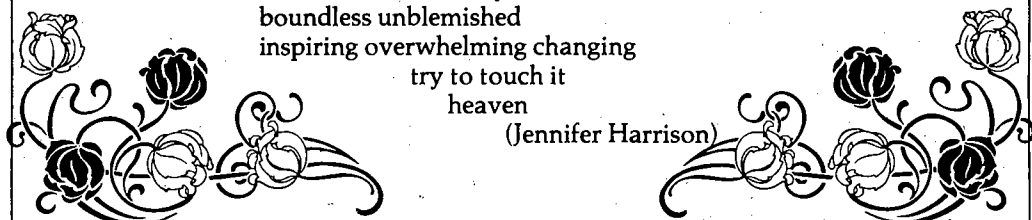
Rise over the rain full  
the gloom and the grey  
I am full now  
and I want to take  
your energy up  
to a trusting and open level  
(Dedicated to the members of the  
workshop)



sky

boundless unblemished  
inspiring overwhelming changing  
try to touch it  
heaven

(Jennifer Harrison)



Sunshine

warm beautiful  
glowing penetrating fulfilling  
love in radiant form  
Energy

(Jennifer Harrison)



## A Rhyme

Little girl,  
don't go insane, although  
the song is in your brain.

The time is near. The day  
will come when that song  
is just a hum.

Then that hum will fade  
away, our love renewed  
another day.

(Diane Cohen)



Laughing, smiling, touching, sparkling  
circle

We're quite a friendly collection.  
As we lounge and play on the slopy  
grassy lawn,  
You don't have any choice—  
happiness is the only selection.  
Yet even so I still hear  
a gentle voice—  
Telling me that I need to be alone.  
So I climb up sunny rocks and then hop  
down  
over wild daisies to another stone.  
The evening sun streaming over the  
summit  
is the island's crown.  
A monarch of time on her granity

throne  
Away from the crowd I am glad to be  
here  
In my own relaxing sphere.  
A gust of sea wind throws back my hair,  
forcing my attention far below  
straight down the cliffs—  
To cold rocks that boldly hold out our  
barnacled fort in the fight against  
the unrelenting forward charges of the  
black ocean waves.  
These weathered and weary stones.  
Round and smooth like delicate pearls  
make me stop,  
again, to wonder  
How long will this feeling last?  
No conclusions, I travel back homeward

And on the way is a girl sitting there  
Searching the same waves for a Tarot  
card  
That will answer our question right from  
the air.  
And for a long time we remain alone,  
silently  
searching the shoreline as the waves inch  
closer.  
Two of us basking now—How long will  
the spirit of Star stand?  
Apart, we do not know.  
But together, we, no longer blind,  
Search each other with our eyes  
and through a merging of the mind  
the final answer do we find—  
It is forever that Star's spirit flies.  
(Seth Nowak)



The bright band of harmony  
has been woven skillfully  
by our eager yet hesitant fingers,  
it anchors us  
as the serpent-like seaweed  
is held to the rocks,  
Tousled by wavelets  
the plants stream and undulate  
in a rhythm with the sparkling sea  
rocking you, rocking me  
in its slimy fronds;  
bruised forward,  
flowing back;  
reaching out;  
drawing in;  
and I love you.  
throughout the cycle,  
within the harmony,  
I love you.

(Nome)



Cont. from page 3, Col 1

closest neighbor even going as far as to deny it in the face of proven facts. A place where rich people are right now being given tax breaks to send their kids to private schools while the public school systems are hacked apart at the budget like a corpse in Psycho II? That's the tip of the iceberg if you're American and even if you're Canadian that doesn't mean you can sit on your tush unless you care to see your country used as a testing range for cruise missiles and poisoned by the abovementioned acid rain. (Yes i was talking about acid rain for all you pseudo-liberals that didn't catch it the first time.)

All that, now i defy anyone to not be able to find something to gripe about, or resist, or fight for, or at least to change unless you'd rather watch MTV all day in your rich Long Island (or any other similar location, basically suburban) home in which case you can bloody well rot and i really don't know why you get this paper.

All you old LRYers, why don't you show these bums on Beacon Street a little old fashioned complete radicalism, collect all the freaky stuff that goes down in your group or your life and send it in, as long as the Synapse staff sticks to its promise of editorial fair play and really wants this to be a youth newsletter if not a forum for all youth who are interested regardless of who the hell they are. Send in poetry and art and rad thoughts and sane ones.

Whoops i forgot i was supposed to be talking to the editors. Why don't you guys make Synapse look like something besides what could pass for any parochial rag sheet in its format, i think you're afraid to try anything radical in fear that the UUA will "disapprove." The spirit of this organization cannot be buried under slickness and mellowness without a fight. The spirit of what used to be LRY and other UU related youth groups is dying if not strangled, don't sit on your bums dammit, FIGHT!

Apathy is a deadly thing and if it weren't for radicals that freak out over it, it would (quite possibly will) strangle us like vines on an old temple in the jungle and we will be nought but dust in the morning if we don't start screaming now.

Tym Simpson  
Rochester NY

Cont from page 3, Col 2

refer to me as one of "these bums on Beacon Street," I might be more of a sport shirt liberal than you are, but it doesn't mean I don't feel the same anger that you do about injustice. It's not always so Us & Them.

If we are talking about a major schism between YRUU and LRY then we are talking about the death of tolerance one for the other. THAT'S WRONG!! You're making a major mistake (I feel at least) by promoting division rather than accepting the diversity of YRUU. I think it was a really good thing that people who previously felt excluded from LRY are able to be a part of YRUU. Some whole districts which were scared of joining the youth movement have now joined YRUU. I'm scared by people who feel really betrayed by the change and want to just give up on YRUU. They are injuring themselves and a youth movement that badly needs them.

I think the anger you showed in your letter was misplaced Tym. Instead of condemning an increase in diversity that allows less radical youth to feel comfortable within the Youth Movement. You should be complaining that the issue did not reflect the diversity of YRUU. Specifically it went too far in trying to make more conservative youth feel at home, at the risk of alienating everyone else. (IF YOU THINK THIS SOUNDS TOO PREACHY-I THINK YOU ASKED FOR IT.)

I was disappointed with the last issue too, it was missing the spark that made "People Soup" so important to me. But—I repeat—as an LRYer within YRUU it really upsets me to see people I basically agree with put down other people who are different but who at the same time I can respect.

One of the reasons your letter hurt me was because I think of you as a friend and I respect you. Your letter felt like a personal attack. Your suggestion, that I might censor you also hurt. (ed. note: written on envelope). If you still want me to print your letter I will, but I would much prefer to see a less paranoid letter above your signature. As I write this my anger is cooling. I hope we can continue this dialogue. I want you to understand where I'm coming from. I really do care about you.

Much love, I really mean that  
Colin

Cont. from page 4, Col. 2

were announced, I had convinced myself that I was going to win—after all, five of the six people running would, and I had been assured by many people that I was a "shoe-in," and that my nomination was "tantamount to election." But it was not to be. When the results were announced, and I discovered that I had lost, I was amazed, confused, angry, sad, and lots of other things. I had put so much work into it, and I would have done a good job—so why? Why didn't people vote for me? Because I was a "youth"? Because I wasn't visible enough? Because I made a politically stupid move on election day? I wandered around the campus on my own for a while, trying to figure it out. I slowly made my way back to the Youth Caucus dorm, and when I got there, it happened. People hugged me, asked me if I was okay; they cared about me. As I received one of the most incredible back-rubs I have ever been a party to (I had to plead with them to stop), I slowly realized that what mattered to me was not an election, but these people for whom I really cared, and who really cared about me. When I realized this, the election results still hurt, but not nearly as much as they had. My priorities had been set a little straighter. (For more information on the whole s/election process, read the article below.)

The many facets of GA and Youth Caucus can lead to a rather sleepless week—adrenaline flows fast. It is well worth it, however, for the many wonderful people and experiences. Next year's GA will be in Columbus, Ohio—I urge anyone who is even remotely interested to make an effort to get there. Start working now on the possibility of going as a delegate from your society and on sources for finances. Hope to see you there.

Cont from page 4, Col 4

The bulk of the Council's work was done in six commissions. They were: The Budget Commission, the Networking/Communications Commission, The Age Specifics Commission, the Denominational Concerns Commission, the Social Concerns Commission, and the Outreach/Extension Commission. Each of these groups worked long and hard to come up with concrete recommendations, suggestions and goals for the coming year.

The Budget Commission struggled valiantly to balance an overextended budget for the two upcoming fiscal years. Income shortfalls and constant demands for greater expenditures made the work of this Commission very difficult.

The Networking and Communications Commission covered a vast array of issues. These ranged from editorial policy for "Synapse" to strengthening our ties with IRF, the worldwide equiva-

lent of YRUU. The commission made a variety of proposals dealing with "Synapse" which were intended to give youth a greater sense of ownership of the paper. These ranged from increasing the number of original graphics to diversifying the number of contributors. The full effect of these proposals will be seen in this and upcoming issues of the paper.

The Age Specifics Commission made suggestions on how to attract more Jr. High and Post High people into YRUU. They also addressed the question of programming for the three age groups and how to ensure Jr. High representation at the continental level of YRUU. Among their suggestions was a proposal that Continental produce a slide show that would explain YRUU to newcomers and that the continental office fund three post-high regional conferences during the Christmas break. This commission also proposed several by-law amendments that would make the criteria for age specific representation on next year's Council clearer.

The Denominational Concerns Commission studied the by-law changes that had been submitted to the Council by the Steering Committee and the UUA Board. The Commission made recommendations to the entire Council on how it should respond to these proposals for amendment. This commission also made recommendations that the minimum age requirement for membership in UU societies be lowered to age twelve. In states and provinces where voting membership is illegal for those under the age of eighteen the commission recommended the establishment of non-voting membership for youth. The Council ratified their proposal. It was also proposed that YRUU seek associate membership with the Unitarian Universalist Association so that youth might have voting positions at future General Assemblies.

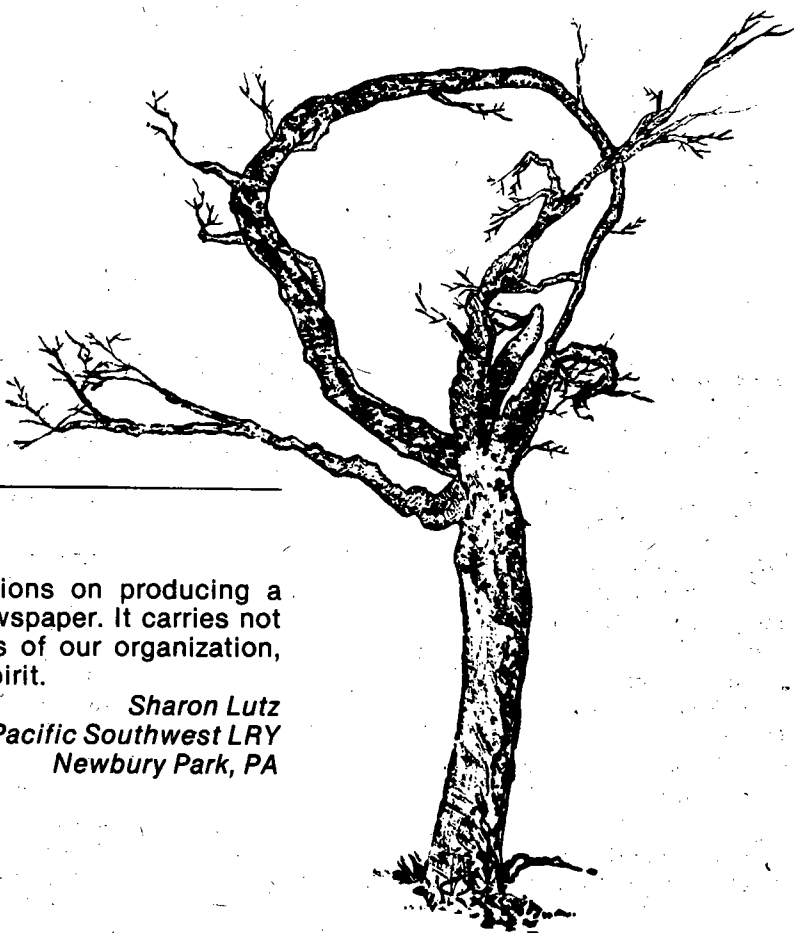
The Social Concerns Commission developed a process for deciding on issues that YRUU should become involved with. They also submitted proposals for greater cooperation with the UU-UN Office and the UUSC. For greater detail on the work of this commission see the article on page 9.

The Outreach and Extension Commission made a series of proposals on how the continental staff might best reach out to local groups and districts. This commission mandated the staff to produce three handbooks by the end of the year. They are an Advisors Handbook, a District Structures and Conference Planning Handbook, and a Local Youth Group Programmes Handbook. They also made some concrete suggestions as to how the Youth Council members might work effectively back in their districts.

The Youth Council passed a variety of general resolutions that did not come under any specific commission. Millie Vickers, a retired UUA staff member who began her work at UUA with American Unitarian Youth was given an honorary life membership, and the Council accepted IRF's invitation to host the 1985 IRF Conference in North America. The 1983-84 Steering Committee was elected (see photo).

More important than any business that was passed at the meeting is the network that was established at Whittier. Almost every district now has a person who knows in detail what is going on at the continental level of YRUU. The continental staff now has someone in every district whom they know and who can let them know how they can best serve their district. Only through an effective communications system like the one formed at Youth Council '83 can a continental organization like ours work effectively. We now have that system.

If you would like further information on the council meeting contact your district representative or write to the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02108 for information. Minutes of the Youth Council meeting are available upon request.



Cont. from page 3, Col. 4

little effective support from our culture, so is it so bad when young people look at themselves as a "subculture minority" (i.e., "closed club") and try to sort out the world amongst themselves?

Ah well, I have written too much I think to print this year, but I hope that you'll share my thoughts with other people and maybe take some of them to heart. In the future maybe you could do an article on draft registration, or have portraits of individual YRUUers. Good luck, and thanks for motivating me to write you, whoever "you" are.

Peace and Harmony for all Beings,  
Todd Dugdale  
Minneapolis, MN

Dear Synapse,

Hi! our church is one of the few left, I think that still has Sunday School Programming for teens. It's an awesome task to plan curriculum for them, but this year we are doing UU Identity - some history - some current events.

Your publication hit me—I would like to request extra copies for use in the class.

Betty Hastings  
George, MA 01833

Dear Synapse,

Congratulations on producing a wonderful newspaper. It carries not only the news of our organization, but also the spirit.

Sharon Lutz  
Pacific Southwest LRY  
Newbury Park, PA

Cont. from page 9

multitude, which stretched most of the way to the Washington Monument. Three or four hours after they had begun, the speeches were done, the musicians were finished, and we all packed up our signs and went home.

And that was it. "It's over?" I thought. "But it doesn't feel like it's even started yet." The March did make some impact; the media and people around the country notice, if only because of our size. All of the announced, and one unannounced, Democratic candidates for president were there, and many important people spoke. But I still felt that something was missing.

This year's slogan was "Jobs, Peace and Freedom," as compared with 1963's "Jobs and Freedom," and although they may seem very close, they had entirely different meanings for most people: 1963 was almost completely a civil rights march; it came at the height of the movement, and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream . . ." speech that day served to highlight the accomplishments of the early '60's and the tasks that had yet to be accomplished. This year, most people understood the slogan to mean "every liberal cause under the sun come out and march," and there was

never any real feeling of unity. There were groups for civil rights, for women's rights, for gay rights, for nuclear disarmament and/or the freeze, for U.S. out of Central America concerns, and at least a few others. Most people carried a sign for only one of these issues; even "Jobs, Peace and Freedom" signs were somewhat scarce.

My point is not that these many issues should not be addressed together, but rather that they must. We must recognize them not as separate issues, but as part of one much larger problem which is going to take a long time to solve. Understanding this, we can begin to work together, instead of dividing our efforts, and perhaps we can make some progress. At the march, they were addressed as separate issues; only a few speakers mentioned the relations between them. The only thing uniting the groups was anti-Reaganism—the most popular cheer was "Ronald Reagan, he's no good! Send him back to Hollywood!" Well, that would be a start, but just a start. We've got a long way to go.

\*According to Article XI of the YRUU Bylaws, Ms. Lucy Booth is the Prototype YRUUer.

**Application for the Youth Staff position commencing August 31, 1984 and ending August 30, 1985.**

**Qualifications:**

Must be between the ages of 12 and 22 at the time work begins. Must have administrative office skills, freedom to live in the Boston area and to travel, and demonstrated leadership and communications skills.

**Responsibilities:**

Work with the UUA Consultant on Youth programs, in conjunction with the other youth staff person, to carry out the administration of Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. Duties will include but not be limited to; preparing a youth newspaper, travelling to district and local youth organizations as outreach; planning and administering conferences and other youth gatherings; participating in meetings of and implementing the recommendations of

the YRUU Steering Committee and Youth Council, and managing the Continental YRUU office

**Stipend:**

8000.00 dollars per year, room and board to be paid therefrom. Assistance will be provided in finding living quarters.

Applicants for the Youth Staff Internship position are invited to submit their applications printed or typed on 8½" by 11" pages. Applications should be sent to the Youth Programs Office of the Unitarian Universalist Association, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108, by March 15, 1983.

If "Synapse" is going to be a youth newspaper we need your contributions. PLEASE send us your original graphics, poetry, creative writing etc. This is OUR paper and it needs YOUR input. The deadline for the next issue will be December 15, 1983. Send all submissions to the Youth Office, 25 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02108.



**Y.R.U.U.**

**T-SHIRTS STILL AVAILABLE!**

TWO-THIRDS OF THIS LIMITED RUN OF YRUU T-SHIRTS WERE SOLD OUT AT THE 1983 CON-CON. ALL COLORS ARE STILL AVAILABLE BUT SIZE SELECTION IS LIMITED TO SMALL, LARGE AND EXTRA-LARGE (NO MEDIUMS!) COLORS ARE: WHITE, CREAM, LIGHT BLUE, AND BLACK. PRICE IS \$6.50

ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO UUA. ORDER FROM YRUU, 25 BEACON ST., BOSTON, MA 02108.

EXTRA: WE HAVE 15 SMALL AND MEDIUM WHITE AND FIVE MEDIUM BLUE LRY T-SHIRTS LEFT. \$6.50 ALSO. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE.

Cont. from page 4

**OHIO VALLEY COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Claire Hays**  
2425 Mt. Gilead Rd.  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
tel #: 812-336-4262



Ohio Valley District usually holds two conferences a year: one in April and one in November. Their April conference was very successful, attracting a lot of Jr. Highers. The District youth programmes are run by interim District Youth Adult Committee which has open membership. They are planning to hold their November conference in Louisville, Ky and their April '84 conference in Cincinnati, OH. The November '84 conference will be held in Lexington, Ky and the April '85 conference is tentatively planned for either Ft. Wayne or Bloomington. They are also planning a Fall Jr. High conference and plans are being made for a post high conference over Christmas vacations in 1985. Presently, Ohio Valley has age specific workshops at their conferences.

**PACIFIC CENTRAL DISTRICT \* L.I.F.E. COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Lenore De Lu**  
4618 Briarwood Dr.  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
tel #: 916-489-9009



Pacific Central District is a strong District with a lot of good leadership. Their District Council meetings are the size of some Districts' conferences! They are holding their Autumn conference at Berkeley First Church October 21-23. They are ending the year with a Christmas Party bash on December 16th and 17th. Their elections conference will be held on February 17th to the 20th, most probably in Oakland. They are planning a Leadership Development Conference for the Memorial Day Weekend. The Pacific Central Youth Council meets four to six times a year with task force groups working in between meetings. They produce a classy newsletter called "Grust," published quarterly, and hold about five conferences a year. Pacific Central Youth have a vote on their District Board. They call themselves LIFE (Liberal Individuals Finding Enlightenment) and their power center is the Bay area. They received \$900 in funding last year and have 300 to 500 active members. If anyone is stuck for conference themes you might want to steal the name of one of their last year's conferences: "The Subliminal Bunny Mystery Conference."

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Debby Raible**  
1704 36th Ave.  
Seattle, WA 93101  
tel #: 206-323-7787



The Pacific Northwest Youth Adult Committee held a Fall retreat at the beginning of October to plan upcoming conferences, age specific planning and leadership development. They held a District conference in Washington State, October 14-16 entitled "Wishes, Fantasies and Dreams." Their District conferences attract anywhere from 100 to 150 youth. Their Spring conference is planned for Oregon. Pacific Northwest Youth have a representative on their District Board.

**PACIFIC SOUTHWEST LRY COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Kelly Frechette**  
334 W. Valerio  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
tel #: 805-963-5656

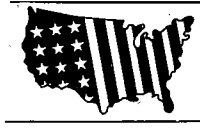


The PSWD YAC has some new blood this fall, as several old members have graduated and left the area for college. Plans for the annual Christmas and Easter camps continue as usual. YAC co-chair Margot Gross tells us that a leadership development conference is planned for late January.

**PRAIRIE STAR COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Beth Olson**  
Box 1028, Macalester Coll.  
1600 Grand Ave.  
St. Paul, MN 55105



"Beth Olson attended the Youth Council meeting in August. P.S.D. has a Conference/Steering Committee meeting planned for the end of October in Rochester, MN. Jill Klindworth's first two newsletters were a smashing success. The PSY is very sorry to announce that we have lost Ben Ford to the Florida District."

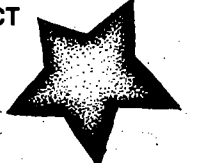


**SAINT LAWRENCE COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Amy Rue**  
92 des Violettes  
Chateauguay, QC J6J 3V1  
tel #: 514-691-8441



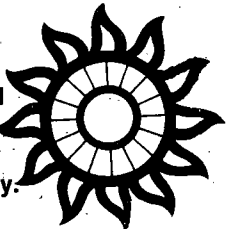
Saint Lawrence has planned a conference for the end of November beginning December in Albany, NY. Two other conferences are being considered; one in Binghamton, NY and one in Ontario. Saint Lawrence youth receive about \$1000 in District funding. This District hosted the EAGLYTS conference August 3 through 5 at Unicamp in Ontario. Saint Lawrence covers most of Ontario and Quebec as well as upstate New York.

**SOUTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Leesa Cockrell**  
671 Redway  
Houston, TX 77062  
tel #: 713-488-2767



Southwest District will be holding their Hallowe'en rally in Little Rock, Arkansas. Their annual meeting is scheduled for the first weekend in November and the Valentine's rally will be held in Dallas, TX. Over the last year they have drafted new bylaws and behavioural rules and have been publishing their YAC newsletter; the Yackitty YAC. Southwest rallies attract about 200 people. The District youth programs receive \$1000 in District funding plus additional money for special projects.

**THOMAS JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Jenny Brooks**  
RTE 9, John Sevier Hwy.  
Knoxville, TN 37920



The Wincen-On Salem LRY group will hold a "Themeless" conference Nov. 4-6. There have been five or six conferences in the District over the past year. A Richmond, Va conference was planned for the fall, and may have happened as you read this. The District newsletter was issued three times over the past year. This District has decided to retain the name Liberal Religious Youth.

**WESTERN CANADA COUNCIL MEMBER:**  
**Augene Nanning**  
10452 158 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5P 2Y6  
tel #: 403-489-4180



Western Canada will be hosting the Third Annual Canadian Youth Conference in Banff, Alberta on the Victoria Day long weekend (last weekend in May). The conference will be in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Unitarian Council (CUC).