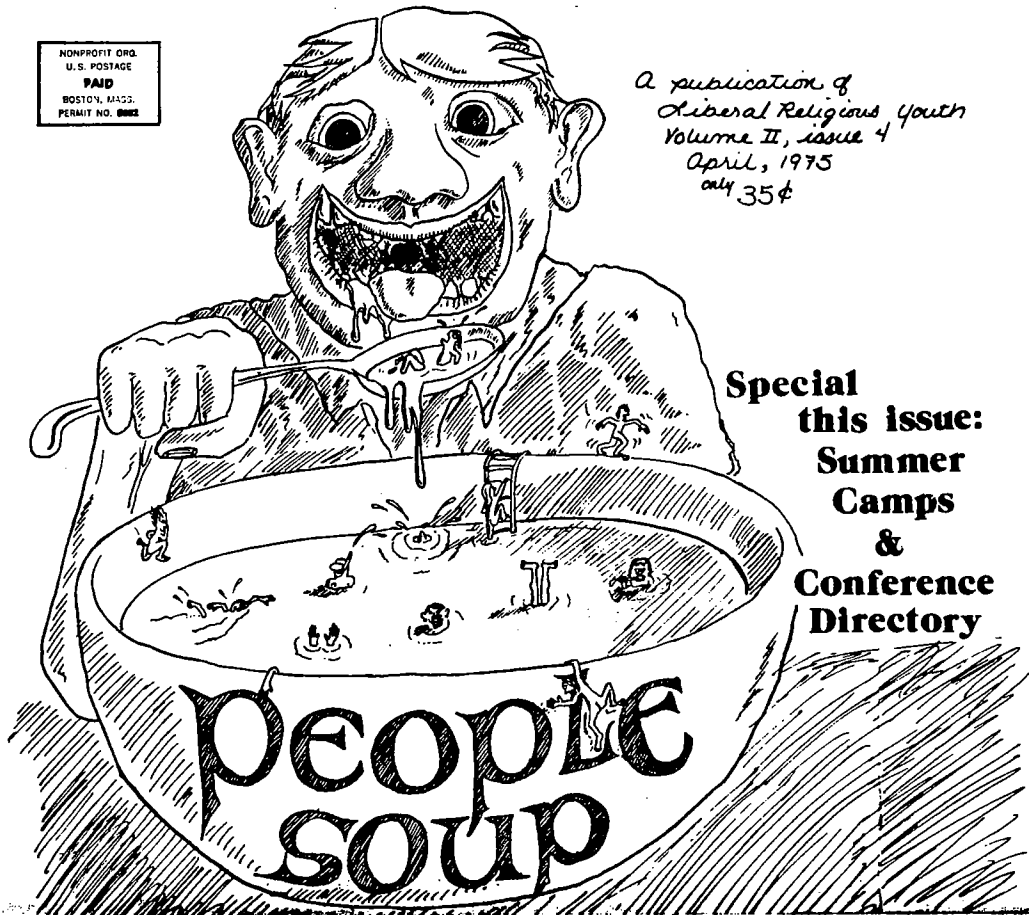


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Liberal Religious Youth
Volume II, issue 4
April, 1975
only 35¢



Special
this issue:
Summer
Camps
&
Conference
Directory

J.C., Disguised as A Rat, mumbles about FAMILIES

or,
"WE HAVE TO GET
A BIGGER BED"

On a crowded-knee-to-mouth Boston subway the other day, I caught sight of a kid with a simple, threatening logo stitched onto the back of his denim jacket: "The Family". This set me to thinking, because the night before I had seen a rerun of "The Omega Man" (who couldn't, of course, be anyone else than Charlton Heston; see: "Planet of the Assholes") In case you've never seen this 1971 remake of an old and half-decent Vincent Price movie, but one with a forgettable name (it had something to do with Shadow of the...., or Blood of...., orDust, and was from quite a good book called *I Am Legend* by Richard Matheson) I will fill you in on the pertinent detail. The O. Man is one of yer sci-fi strange-plague-sweeps-the-world-and-almost-everybody-dies specials. The twist is that instead of just killing them, this strange plague turns almost-everybody into vampires, which, of course, leaves the world with too many vampires and not enough victims. Most of the vampires die too, it seems, (come to think of it, I'm not even sure that in this remake they're supposed to be vampires, exactly, but that's beside the point; they're still not the sort of people (?) you'd want to cultivate a warm and meaningful relationship with) but the ones that are left--more than the world needs--band together for fun and profit into a cult of homicidal maniacs called, to get back to the point of this distillation, The Family.

Now, I'm not saying that there's any connection between The two Families, except that in both cases, the very mention of the name is apparently meant to strike terror into your heart and mine. Well, hell's bells, what's so horrifying about families? Families are warm and cuddly and wholesome, right? Lookit the Partridges, Bradies and Waltons.

Wrong. Sure, look at the Partridges, Bradies and Waltons. What do you notice about them? They're family families, y'know? So tell me, if you can, when was the last time you heard a good word through the straight media for any sort of group calling itself a family that was not composed of people related through blood and/or marriage, and living in a typical "nuclear family" situation?

If that's too hard, try the other side of the coin. It's easy to find examples of non-nuclear-type families, in which the "family" aspect is played up, that are regarded with fear and loathing, to coin a phrase. Of the two that come most readily to mind, the first is the Charles Manson Family. Uh-huh: LSD-crazed hippies under the control of a bearded Machiavellian fiend, orgies, murders, nudity; uh-huh. The second is La Cosa Nostra, the patriarchal system of families that runs the Mafia (can I use that word in here?) . While the Cosa Nostra is a family linked by blood as well as custom (The Godfather, what else?), it certainly isn't a 3.9 member nuclear unit.

Another example, perhaps more revealing of the nature of this paranoia, can be found in the attitudes generated by religious colonies like the Hutterites and Mennonites. These people are regarded by many as strange and undesirable, because they refuse to conform to the values of North American society, and they're making a big economic success of it. Their traditionally collective, hard-working lifestyle lets them do more than merely eke out an existence. The Hutterites are living proof that collective farming is more efficient than the methods practiced by most North American farmers; they're making, so to speak, a killing in the market. That's pretty threatening.

Threatening. I think that word is the key to this whole phenomena. Any family with close ties, a lot of members and different interests than the mainstream of society's is a threat to that society. Any group of people that can say: "The hell with this--we don't want it, we will have nothing to do with it" is setting a mighty dangerous precedent, and an especially dangerous one if they succeed in what they do. And if people have the opportunity to choose who they want to have in their family, the number of threatening combinations possible takes a sudden jump. It's becoming increasingly obvious that the nuclear family, rather than a wonderful result of prosperity, is a tool of the forces of oppression for maintaining the status quo. Keep

the peasants busy providing in a needlessly duplicated way (how much energy, time and money could be saved if everybody on your block had a communal kitchen in which each person cooked supper once a month for the whole block?) for their ridiculously small families, and they won't even have time to think about what a strange deal they're living with.

An interesting sidelight, or more of the same: It seems that the word 'tribe' is always equated with 'primitive'...if that's not psychological conditioning, then my name isn't...

I think that in the fairly near future, one of the things that is going to change radically is society's general attitude towards groupings in which people live, because the present system is becoming steadily more impractical. Billy Graham et al insist that the family is not on the way out because people have always needed to live in close groups and probably always will. It's a mighty presumptuous and narrow-minded assertion to say, based on recent historical precedent only, that people are going to go on "fulfilling" that need in the same shitty way. It is said: "You can choose your friends but you can't choose your relatives." Horseshit! What is a "relative", anyway? Obviously, someone who is relative to you, relates to you, as it were, one way or another. When we talk about "brothers and sisters" isn't that just what we mean? I'm a hell of a lot more closely related to a whole slew of LRY brothers and sisters than I am to any of my cousins, and there are a few to whom I'm more closely related than I am to my immediate "family".

So where is this all leading to, anyway? Don't ask me, I only live here, same as you. But I know a few things that most of the North American world hasn't copped to, it seems: the family isn't dying, but neither is the commune movement dead. Ideas of community living have diversified to appeal to a wider range of people, and the extreme practical sensibility of the whole thing is going to start becoming a lot more apparent to a lot more people in these troubled times. (Maybe

Continued on page 9



personals

Sometimes referred to as "Letic Alpha Plus"



People Soup, Volume 2 Number 4
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lications are free to use any
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Staff for this issue:
Anne Goodwin
Lara Stahl
Paul Pignan
David Knight
Bev Treumann
Lynn Rubinstein
Bill Caseron
Liane McKayle

Your contributions for this
newspaper are welcomed. It is
made possible through your en-
ergies, both spiritual and
physical. Any contributions of
news items, short stories,
poems, editorials, or artwork
are welcome and will be consid-
ered. None can be returned.
Drawings or other artwork must
be in black ink, and it is con-
siderably easier for us to use
black and white photos than
color. No matter which you
choose, they will be printed in
B&W.

We cannot, unfortunately, pay
for contributions; the old bud-
get jos wouldn't stand the pain.

Subscriptions cost \$2.50 in the
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PEOPLE SOUP
25 BEACON STREET
BOSTON, MASS. 02108

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Private Classified Ads cost 50¢
per word for up to 30 words.

PAGE FRACTIONS: LRY	OTHER
1/6.....\$5	\$7.50
1/3.....\$8	\$13.00
1/2.....\$15	\$25.00
Full Page.....\$35	\$50.00

(a great way to advertise a conf)

Liane K. from Ottawa - oops -
Waterloo, I guess. Where's the
letter you promised me? Better
send it soon or you'll be in
BIG trouble. Next issue I won't
be so nice. Love you anyway.
Lynn



Audrey-so sorry about not
coming to Ottawa for my vaca-
tion, but the week in Boston
worked out really well, and I've
got most of the problems I told
you about under control. As a
matter of fact, I'm feeling ex-
tremely happy.

Perhaps I'm not giving a com-
pletely accurate picture of the
situation here.
READ ON:

MS. KNIGHT ! ! !
YOUR SON IS ALIVE AND WELL BUT
BEING HELD CAPTIVE UNDER A PILE
OF DISORGANIZED PAPER. SEND ONE
PAPER PUNCH, A PAIR OF ELMERS
SAFETY SCISSORS, AND A PINK ERAS-
ER FOR HIS SAFE RECOVERY. WE
WILL CONTACT YOU AS TO TIME AND
PLACE.

bill-
I am hoping to slip this
one past you before printing.
Write me a letter when you
get back to Waterloo and
tell me if I succeeded.
Love you, Lynn

PAUL & PAUL--WHERE ARE YOU?!!!!
Please contact me. Love
Glaucus



To T-Jay the ex-LRYer from Ont-
ario. Take a minute and write
me a letter describing your
present headspace. I'd write
you first but if I did an old
and valued tradition would be
broken. Much love and pleas-
ant memories- David the K.

Mack-if Baton Rouge isn't the
city of beer, what is? Also
beginning to think that The
Holy Cecil is not around. What
do you think? Please reply or
write me a letter at this ad-
dress: Linda Reilly, 3715 Val-
leybrook, Wilmington, DE., 19808
-LMR



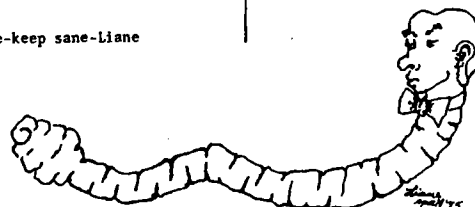
To Danny the Large Pent:
Would like to get to know
you better. Why don't you
give me a call, and we can
arrange a dinner date or
something.
- David the Taco Knight

To Ralph in Honeywood. How goes
the cheese scrounge? D.K.

I want everybody to understand
that the cover article isn't
really my big ego trip--my dis-
ciples put me up to it. BC
p.s. hi everybody

Sally from Montclair :
I haven't seen you for weeks
and weeks ! All you have to
do is walk the two blocks
from your house to my house
and there I'll be. how
about it? - Lynn

Anne-keep sane-Liane



To my friends down south where
ever you are? My address is
John Beebe-Center, Harvard, Ma.
01451. Phone:617)456-3688, but
it's temporarily disconnected.
Love, John.

I have found a blue & white
plaid jacket at triangle conf.
in Va. on Sun. Mar. 30. The
looser may contact me by writ-
ing to: Vic Solarte, 352Winne-
bago, Park Forest, Ill. 60466
Phone: (312) 747-3008. I will
be more than pleased to send
him or her the coat before next
winter. thanks, Vic

New Messiah(Steve): Where are
you? I want to write you but I
don't know your last name or ad-
dress.

Moury: Happy, happy Birthday.
I lost your address send it to
me

Reefea!: I love you!
Wayne A of Starr King: Did you
get my letter? If so, send me
a postcard or tell Rick.

Jim Boon: Hi! I miss you. Be
sure and come to Continental.
Anyone!: What are the dates for
IRF?

Rabbit: Don't worry. I'll get
that \$10 to ya.

Grasshopper: Wherever you are
I love and miss you to pieces.
Why didn't you go to triangle?
Hope to see you soon.

The last 8 personals were from:
Helen Kuester, 3111 Western Ave
Park Forest, Ill. 60466



Come on Bill, you can't really
blame it all on us.

Why not?--it's all your fault.
B.

Lost at Iowa City Inter-gen
Conference: tan colored, well-
worn belt with a brass buckle.
"Brian" is stamped on the tab
end. I left it near the church
sanctuary. Please send to: Ell
Ellen Bruce, 1315 Monroe, Evan-
ston, Ill., 60202. I will pay
you back for the postage.

doug from st.lou...yours was
the best b-day present i got...
see you at cmf spring!! loving
you madly-craig s.

victoria-sit on my face!!!
-guess who

tigger- see you tomorrow!
lovingly, craigen

wayne from maine...enjoyed the
commons, et al.

venus is now residing in port-
land-wireless teles only.

One of the best cures for
boredom while driving or hitch-
ing is to think of good words t
that the letters on various
car license plates stand for.
f'instance, what about a car
with the license plate 32SAF?
Support African Frogs, or Stuff
American Flags. (obviously,
ignore the numbers.) how about
9UXU? why, you xylophone you!
three of us were happily doing
this one day when when the
wonder of wonders appeared- a
car with a license plate LRY.
It was ayellow cadil-
lac!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

rides



Wanted: traveling companion, age
18or over(to avoid legal hassle)
Destination(s); O.R.L.K., Cont-
inental, boards & possibly New
Orleans/Boston/San Francisco.
Mode of transportation: unknown
at present. For info write to:
Flash, 427 Lakewood, Park Forest
Ill. 60466

Cathy Carney needs a ride or
travelling companion from
California to Boards and Contin-
ental, share expenses. Address:
2642 Magnolia, San Diego, CA.
91306

Do you need a ride to contin-
ental conference? Advertise
for one here!



Nell & Friends-Ralph just vis-
ited me and says you're doing
well. One day, I will write to
you. I love you. --Anne

Carrie-I hope to be seeing you
again soon. We should sit down
and talk sometime soon. -Paul



Liane-keep sane- Anne

JOIN US!

**Youth Caucus
G.A. Orientation**

Youth Caucus orientation will include tours of the city, workshops on convention procedure, clarifying the issues, a brief history of G.A. and a brainstorming session to define the goals and structure of the Youth Caucus, at G.A. and in the future.

The cost of the orientation will be three dollars. You must pre-register in order to receive directions and other specifics. We strongly encourage delegates to attend the orientation, but all other interested people are more than welcome to attend.

To register send your name, age and address to Youth Caucus, 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108. The three dollars will be due at the door.

Something New!

Sometime before General Assembly the LRY office is sending out a mailing to all LRYers that they have addresses for. That is to say about 6,000 of us. At this point we hope the mailing will include:

- some pages giving ideas on how LRY can get involved in the world hunger problem.
- some pages on how LRY can get organized with The People's Bicentennial Commission.
- a directory of federation executive committees and a map showing the locations of the different federations.
- a clearinghouse form.
- material on the New Community.
- a People Soup.
- an article on General Assembly.
- some material on local group programming and leadership.
- and anything else that seems appropriate at the time.

However, we need your help to produce a truly excellent product.

Here's what you can do to help:

- 1) Write an article espousing your views and ideas on the New Community; or on local group programming and leadership.
- 2) Write an article about anything you think every LRYer and Unitarian youth should know about.
- 3) Coerce your federation executive committee into sending us a list of every LRYer in your fed if they have not already done so.
- 4) Write an article explaining LRY to non-LRYers.
- 5) Send us photographs and graphics of LRYers doing things.

By the way...this is the first time a mailing of this sort has been attempted. We're really excited about the possibility of developing more continental programs through this media and hope you'll get excited about it too.

A Slide Show

Every year at General Assembly LRY does a presentation explaining LRY to the delegates. This year though, we want to express LRY through media we haven't used before. One way will be through an ongoing slide show. We're desperately looking for slides showing LRYers doing things, indoors and out, at local group meetings, social actions projects, conferences, worship services, and church. **REPEAT WE'RE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR SLIDES OF LRYERS.** Though we'll gladly accept slides as a gift, we will pay for them. If you have further ideas about youth participation at General Assembly write to: Youth Caucus
25 Beacon Street
Boston, Ma. 02108

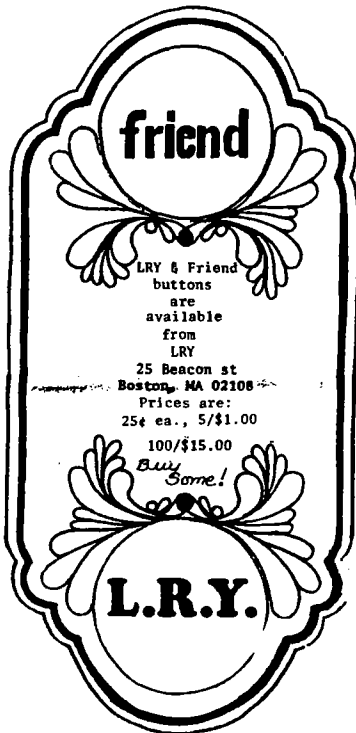
UU-UN Youth Seminar

Over 40 young UU's, mostly LRYers and SRL-FRFers, attended the 1975 UU-UN Youth Seminar in New York City in February. The theme was "Politics, Sharing the World's Resources".

There was a program of expert speakers on such topics as the world balance of power, education in China, the industrial boom in East Germany, and the UN's declaration of a new economic order based on international interdependence. Discussion and evaluation followed the talks.

There was a family-type feeling within the group after the first full seminar day. Good friends were made and, for the most part, everyone was happy and felt free to communicate with anyone in the group. To help with any sorts of problems during the seminar, a steering committee of four youths was designated to be available to talk, advise and organize free-time activities.

Fun and learning in a two-day seminar was a great idea, and it was planned well. The opportunity to discuss world affairs with really knowledgeable people proved a worthwhile and relevant experience.



An Organized LRY?

Well, we've gone and done it, haven't we?! All of us, all across the continent have created a great pile of regions, and I feel so good about it all!

We had a pretty good time creating ours, I know that. We're Betty Boop, and we comprise MVF/Friends, RMF, and SAM NeWT. Obviously we had fun...for those uninformed folks out there, Betty Boop is an old, old cartoon character-one of the best of the originals.

We dealt with a lot of different things-went over various fed problems, which are numerous, and worked out a good charter, one which I think will be workable, which is kind of amazing.

Right now I am working, as a Regional Commie*, for some good programming ideas for locals, which seems to be a fairly big problem with us. Actually, everything here stems from enormous distance complications...we're HUGE!! We are also trying to coordinate a project proposal plan similar to the one used by SRL.



Anyhow, we exist, and we're strong. It seems to me that we're going to help communication all across the continent, and our thanks go to Lara Stahl especially for her help. Our greetings go to all of you other regions out there in LRY land, and we wish you luck!

*a communications director

**The Begatting of the
Exec. Calm**

One day in the year 1969, in the land of New England there came to pass a dark shadow over that land and it was bad for its darkness did put out verily the light of the great shiny banana of NERC L.R.Y. (Ed. Note- N.E.R.C. stands for New England Regional Committee, an earlier name for North Eastern Regional Organization, N.E.R.O.) and amongst the people there was great turmoil for the banana had always shone brightly as a guiding light. And there was spathy and the police descended on the NERC LRYers, for these were troubled times.

The prophet Robinson saw what was happening and saw it was bad and he dropped a postcard off to the almighty Nutting and he Saw it was bad and they saw it was bad together.

And Nutting Pondered the situation and in the end he empowered seven of the most demigodlike LRYers to go down and set the land of N.E.R.C. to right. Among them there were those of much righteousness. With them went Bob of the red beard and he was righteous and Bob delob of the interesting brain and he was righteous and Richie of the broken guitar string was also there and he was also righteous. And the omnipotent Nutting saw that it was good and he called them the exec calm and he said unto them, "Yea, go ye unto the land of N.E.R.C. and set all to right, verily as Nero did unto Rome!"

And so they went down to the troubled land and took with them Nutting's advice and took it to heart.

And so it came to pass that the land of N.E.R.C. came to be known as N.E.R.O. and there was a religious purging of the land. And then it grew quiet and all the old LRYers came out from underground to see what had happened and they saw the exec calm resplendent in their glory and they were sore afraid. But Delob, the righteous said "Fear not! Let's sit down and talk about it!" and the morning and the evening was the first conference.

John Beebe-Center

HOW ABOUT IT!

The Continental Office of L.R.Y. is compiling a mailing list of L.R.Y.ERS, throughout the United States and Canada.

What we need from you is your NAME, address and BIRTHDATE.

How About it?
send to:
LRY
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108

BIOFEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM



Dear Soup,
 In your last issue I read a letter from a person/parent who is upset by LRY and UUA's handling of us. I realize that everyone is entitled to their own opinions, but still, the letter disturbed me very much.

As LRYers, JQM's letter is directed to all of us, so I feel compelled to respond. First of all, I have never been satisfied with everything LRY has done and I don't expect that any other LRYer has been either. Nothing that any group does, will satisfy everybody; LRY is no different. Still, I am an LRYer, and proud of LRY and the fact that I am a part of it because LRY provides a place where I can be myself. I can express my feelings without fear of being condemned as a "God knows what" on the basis of trivialities such as hair, clothes or personal grooming. I am often criticised for my attitudes by other LRYers and I often criticize them as well. But that is life and I don't see a reason to change it.

As far as dope goes, LRY neither condemns or condones its use. LRY simply requests that it not be taken to conferences because it infringes on the rights of everyone when we all must take responsibility for any laws we might break.

And in regards to People Soup, the Soup is LRY's paper, a place where LRYers can and do express themselves and therefore it is only LRY's responsibility. To the best of my knowledge the UUA has expressed no official opinion of People Soup. I think that they feel it is not their place to censor our paper, and that even youths are entitled to First Amendment rights.

Whether the UUA locks up the purse or not remains to be seen, but if they do, I feel that it will be one of the blackest days in the UUA's history. LRY belongs to the LRYers and is serving a purpose, whether or not everybody likes what we are is not cause to abandon us. LRY is democratic; it can and does change.

Crisp matzoh and warm fuzzies on your sneakers.

Mitzvahs,
 Richard S. Terrass STGSN
 USS Davis (DD-937)
 FPO NY, NY 09501

Dear LRYers,
 In case any of you have noticed the absence of a certain individual named Seth L. Deitch; the time has come for the truth to be known. The aforementioned Seth Deitch was last seen in the company of a seductive she-cat, hopping a freight train. It appears that the poor fellow has made a startling metamorphosis. He believes that he's a cat, and none of our efforts have succeeded in convincing him otherwise. The most irritating facet of his newly acquired identity is his constant yowling to be fed. Well, at least he gets his point across. Unfortunately, we can no longer feed him: he ran away. So, if any of you concerned LRYers happen to see a slightly mangy human being scampering about on all fours, do us a favor, take him in and feed him. Cat food is not all that expensive and a nice, warm house is more inviting than a straight jacket. Then write to us and tell us where he is.

Dolly and Olivia Holmes
 c/o People Soup

Dear J.Q.M.,
 Are you serious? If so, what in Christ's name are you talking about?

I guess you are, as you say, "qualified to speak your piece." So please do--I'm still waiting to find out what your garbled condemnation was a response to, and just what was so offensive about it.

If we don't hear from you again, I'll be forced to assume that you are, as I thought when I first read your letter, an S.R.Wilcox (Or one of that ilk)prank(no offense, Steve) One final note: as a native Canuck, I ask you: What in hell were "the Canadian Capers" Intensely puzzledly yours,

Bill Cameron
 Waterloo, Ont.

Written in the Los Angeles Free Press:
 "Carl Franzioni is not a member of the Mothers of Invention. Nor does he claim to be...but, for the most part we, as a group agree with him in his plea for a sane drug policy. We, as a group, do not recommend, verily, we repudiate any animal/mineral/vegetable synthetic substance, vehicle, and/or procedure which might tend to reduce the body, mind or spirit of an individual (any true individual) to a state of subawareness or insensitivity...that is to say: we are here to turn you loose, not to turn you on. Turn yourself on. The sort of high you really want is a spiritual high and you are bullshitting yourself if you trust any chemical and/or agricultural shortcut to do it for you. You can't be busted yet for awareness maintain your aristocratic coolness.

Sincerely,
 Frank Zappa for the Mothers of Invention"

Dear People,
 My fiancée and I are working on starting a publishing business. We'd be interested in seeing manuscripts (poetry, plays, short stories or anything of interest to the young at heart). We have only one stipulation to make - no pornography or politics. Unfortunately, at this point we can't use US manuscripts because it would cost too much to send copies of the book over the border to you. But, hopefully that will be changed in the near future. So, only your Canadian readers can use this offer. If an American poet would be willing to pay the postage though, I'm sure that we could give him/her some help in getting his/her stuff published. We're always open for discussion.

Electromagnetically yours,
 Arlee

Arlee Barr, Gypsymbellanic Productions
 444 Woodman Avenue
 London, Ontario N5M 3Z9 CANADA

Dear People Soup,
 How much does the FBI know about LRY? I've just finished an article in a local underground newspaper which featured an interview with an ex-FBI agent. It talked mainly about Hoovers lies to congress, but it included an account of the writer's personal FBI file, with photocopies of every petition he had signed, notes on each "radical" meeting that he had attended, and quotes of statements he had made at these meetings.

Now I know that I've been to a couple of anti-war meetings, demonstrations, and I've leafletted plenty of times. I've also been to LRY conferences where we picketed, and NERO just passed a resolution giving 10% of our conference profits to such radical organizations as the Indochina Peace Campaign, United Farm Workers, and the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws.

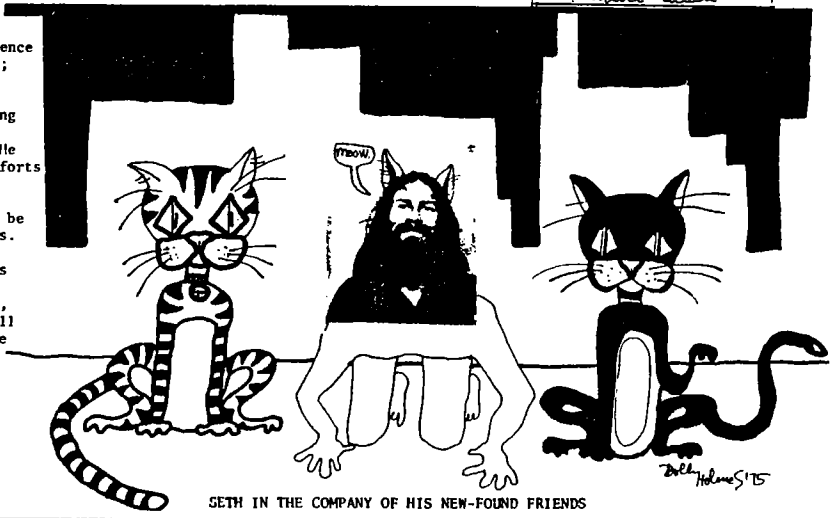
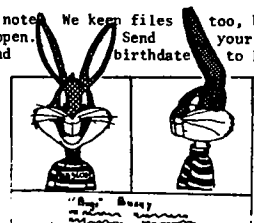
Another thing that the article stated was that there were FBI agents attending Antioch College during the writer's stay there. The FBI knows that LRY used to be a very radical organization, and we seem to be starting up again. So isn't it possible, even likely, that FBI agents are poring over this newspaper? or attending conferences? Maybe even local meetings? What do you know of your federation president? Is there a shy, short haired male that always lurks in the background taking notes at your conferences? And David Knight says he's Canadian, but couldn't that just be a convenient cover?

I suppose the next question is: "What are we to do? Must I distrust the person sleeping next to me? Should we not allow cleancut people in LRY?"

OF COURSE WE SHOULD! This solutions would be contrary to most LRY goals! LRY is based on trust, openness, and acceptance! Maybe this person has different political beliefs than yours and mine, but that's no reason to treat them like outcasts. It wouldn't have been too unlikely if Julie Nixon Eisenhower had been an Lryer. And just remember that the FBI is only working for honesty. The only difference between us is that they keep files. In hopes of continual, mutual organizational respect,

Grasshopper, Norfolk-Suffolk Fed

Editor's note: We keep files too, but ours are open. Send your name, address and birthdate to LRY now



SETH IN THE COMPANY OF HIS NEW-FOUND FRIENDS

