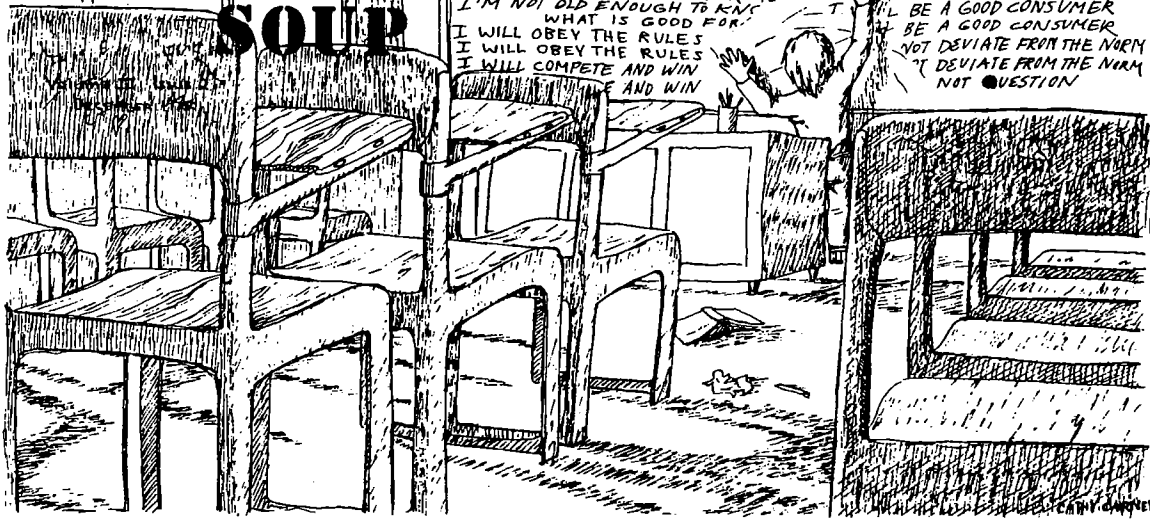


PEOPLE SOUP



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Address Correction Requested

LET THE FLAME SPREAD - liv

....from the small light of this candle, which is my life, I can see within myself. I see joy and excitement. I see good intention. I see balance and movement. I also see how I am cut off from what I could be. I see how my mind has been shaped by forces I do not fully understand, to be something I do not want it to be.

In school I have learned to disregard my feelings and obey the rules. The alternative was to be punished and if I persisted I would have been locked up. At home I have learned to hide away my sexuality. I have learned to not express anger. I have learned that I must wait until I'm older... always waiting... and yet I see when I am older things are just as bad.

Well, I have pain and I have anger. And I hereby declare my intention to unlearn every goddam trait that limits me: the feeling of powerlessness, the not taking myself and my feelings seriously, the competitiveness that shows itself when I interrupt someone or don't listen to someone but instead formulate what I'm going to say in a conversation.

....from the small light of this candle, which is my experience, I see the limits imposed on me from the outside. I see laws making it a crime to just walk away from school. I see that soon I will be forced into working for someone else's profit, in a situation where they make the decisions about if I can work, when I can work, what conditions I work under. They give me the choice between many different jobs - different versions of the same situation; and they call that freedom. I see that as an individual I have little power to make social changes.

....from the small light of this candle which is my understanding, I see the relationship between these external and internal limits. I see that it is useful to employers to have workers who are obedient and don't get angry, which I have learned at school and at home. I see that someone is making a huge profit at my expense, at all our expense. And I see that I am bribed with small privileges so that I don't step out of my place. Being middle class, I am able to get a better job than a person who hasn't been taught to speak as articulately as I. Being male I'm able to walk down the street without fear of being raped, and I can marry if I wish and come home to a clean house, or I can talk more than most women in a serious conversation, because I have been taught to dominate and be in the center, while women have been taught to take care of my ego. Being white and heterosexual I can be relatively without fear of the police. I can hitchhike. I can go just about anywhere.

And it is tempting to settle for these and other privileges because social change is so far away.

....from the small light of this candle, which is understanding of the whole, I see how race, sex, class, and age have been used to divide us, giving small privileges to one half so that the other half fights with the first half to get the privileges and the first half fights to defend them. That way no one is strong or united enough to challenge the people who control the wealth and institutions of this country: the banks, the corporations, and a handful of rich white men. I see how they exploit people all over the world for their own profit. People are starving and yet on their land instead of protein they are forced to grow coffee and sugar for the United States.

I see that settling for a less horrible job than your neighbor, or making democracy in the schools and at work in America while still exploiting people all over the world, that these are no solutions. And here it is: it is a leap from the consciousness of "I" to the consciousness of "we". Personal solutions have never worked, they have never gotten rid of pain; at best they dull it. And that's why we must plant the seeds of social change.

....from the small light of this candle, which is my struggle, I see that changes must come both within our heads and outside in our social structure. I see the handful of people making a profit off our pain; and I see how organized and powerful they are. I see we are divided. I also see that they will not voluntarily give up control: that is a lesson of history. And so we must learn to cooperate with each other towards the common goal of control of our lives. That is not a short or an easy process- yet it is essential. It doesn't mean smoothing over disagreements and differing needs or wants. I mean learning to deal with these differences constructively, in a way that keeps us committed and connected to each other. It means saying what we want and trusting that if we are seeing ourselves as a group we will individually as well as the group, get a high percentage of what we want. It means not copying to personal individual solutions that leave somebody on the bottom still. It means striving to make the process reflect the goal. It may mean at times working separately but connected, and at other times working within the same group. It means studying together the roots of our problems and figuring out together what the next step to do will be. And it means doing it and learning from our mistakes, through self criticism along the way.

Let, then, the struggle and resistance begin. Against exploitation, competition, school, the corporate giant; let us be gentle with each other in working towards changes in our own heads.

Let us be together and be strong. This flame is the burning of my soul. It is my pain and my struggle, it is my power. Alone it means little. Let it spread like a prairie fire.

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Cover- Cathy Carney

Staff for This Issue:

- Gary Decker
- Erin Freedman
- Retta Hendricks
- Wendy O'Donnell
- Sandy Rosenberg
- Lynn Rubinstein
- Jennifer Shaw
- Doug Webb
- Carlotta Woolcock

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

We cannot pay for contributions, the ol' budget jss wouldn't stand the pain.

Address all correspondence to: People Soup, 25 Beacon St., Boston, Mass 02108

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To our friends and constituents: Cathy Carney, Paul Boder, Mike Zwerin and Terry Herron are now residing in relative peace and harmony at: 6 Ashburton Pl Cambridge, Ma. 02139 Glen, Chris and Bob are at 21 Calvin St. #2 Somerville, Ma.

I am looking for someone to live in my room in Cambridge from Dec. 10 thru Jan.1. Expenses would be \$80. Must be agreeable with my roommates. Anyone driving back from winter boards to the Boston area? Get in touch with Cathy Carney.



HINRIGHS, you poop. How's comes youse don't never write? You're loved so don't worry. See ya in K.C. Love, Gretchen

Help...anybody (that means you) with any contributions, I am trying to get an LRY started... write even if you don't... Alison Chuck, etc.... Kate Patera S.R.A. Box 1327 Anchorage, Alaska 99502

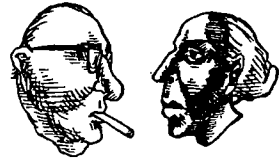
To Richard, Richie, Andy, and Marco I miss you all, so write to me, (I hope you get People Soup) love, Carolyn

In case anyone is interested my new permanent address is:

Jane Laura Doyle
M21 Cliffside Apts
Sunderland, Mass 01375

I guarantee to answer any letter received. If you are in the Amherst area and you need a place to stay for a day or two, give me a call and I'll see if I can put you up. Until then, Jane

Pearl, this seems like long distance writing, lets get more direct-Banana



Mark from Omaha, this summer, evanston, alex, janise, grace, guitars, corned beef and omelets? get the hint?

I used the shower in your bus station. flash? please send word to amy and helen: thankw. to david s.: hil kissee kissee

to Betsy O. in Winn., will be home at Christmas, GET IN TOUCH!!!!!! C.W., formerly of Cheve. Hts.

Phil and Bill say howdy to everybody we met at Continental and thanks for doing what you did because we had a great time. "howdy and thanks" also we want publicity for some conferences in CMF so please send us some. We even live in Illinois. If we get some we'll send you some MVF publicity. Bill Metcalf & Phil Collison 4000 38th St. 5018 70 Ave. Rock Island, Ill. Moline, Ill.

To Kim Miller, Cathy Carney is in Boston. Yes, you can come visit me. I am Rachell from San Diego. There are others here too. Love ya, Rachell

Wanted: Someone to write to me so that I can write back. Carolyn Osborn 4245 Pasadena Ave. Sac. Cal. 95821

J.D. and Gabriel: I met you at Nero Summer's end and if I had addresses I would have written. Where are you? I'd love to meet you again-(J.D. We'll have to make some brownies!) And Guy Shuman! What have you been doing for the past 2 1/2 years? Though I have enough letters from you to choke a moose, would you care to make a few additions to the collection? Love, Rachel 27 Beverly rd. West Hartford, Ct.

Richard A-Z Holtz: Kisses from Connecticut. mmmwh

Weasel is in Kansas. Hey friends you'd better write to me before I become a rock star. (Bruce Bedspring?) and get too busy to write back. I want letters from people especially Nancy from N.J. Horizon, Retta-Pie, Howie, make that both Howies, and all my pals from Cont. Conf. This offer ends at midnight tomorrow so HURRY. Weasel P.O. box 266 Lawrence, Ks. 66044

Pam Gilman: where are you? Nobody has your address a and everyone wants it. Come and see me in Boston. Cathy Carney

If anyone has any more pictures of the lightning bolt throwing workshop at CMF Fall Conference, it would greatly be appreciated if you would send them to me. I plan to write an article in Soup about the Workshop and would like to illustrate this article with evidence of how weird CMF'ers are. So as to not be blamed for conspiracy, you do not have to endorse your name. Jim Decoster, 17 Martha Ln/ Evanston, Ill 60201

Dear LRY'ers, Are you alive anymore? I've begun to wonder. Anyway, I've got a new address, it goes as such: Lou Dieh, 11554 E. 16th Ave #107, Aurora, Colo. 80010 303-366-9742 please write, I'm losing faith. Love, Lou Dieh

PERSONALS

Bill C. at Evergreen: Guess who is now the proud owner of George, also known as the infamous Joe Taco's travelling Bar and Grill? Guess who is going to teach me how to drive him at Christmas? Wrong. You are. How does it feel to be an Uncle? take care, Lynn

normie, amyjo, janisee, alex, tom, betsee, mathew, jimmy, kennu, etc. Hi from p.f.

Pour mon confrere derriere le lit: I was trying too hard to impress you, and was too impressed by you. I guess I won't see you Thanksgiving. I'm waiting for you to have a sudden flash of patriotism, and come east f for the bi-centennial. My love to the lady from Wonderland.

Karen C. Believing is seeing. What I believe I see. not when I see it I believe it but I believe it then I see. Lets talk some time soon. Rachell



Johnna, After a crazy day at the mimeo machine I befyou never expected to hear from me again. hope you still don't have c. by this time Love you, famous Ramous Anous

Rat, Ich Liebe Dich-Swill Cheese (Big'uns)

Gordon O'hara: Where are you? Elizabeth Ferry Bx. 248 Bennington College, Benn. Vt. 05021

to Jules and babes: A shooting star is not a star at all! A shooting star is a meteor that's heading for a fall! R. pie

Rob, Bob, Micheal, Jay and everybody either at Evergreen or on the way there :

This moment of silence was brought to you by Bong Jee Jee Center and T.C.T.R.H.A.P.F.a.t.w.a.r.p. P.S. I am applying and will be out this summer. until then don't let the concrete overrun you.

Tigger: are you there? have you moved? why don't you answer? know i layed a lot on you, now i need moral support. i'm here i'm o.k. and i love you more than ever!

David, Your poor ex-roomate is starving and in dire need of some cheese blintzes. Send \$\$ and letters (lots of them). Say hi to family and George. Tell him that I'll eventually learn to drive him. (Into a wall?) Much love, Lynn P.S. What's it like doing some real work for a change?

Jim-- Yo mama! from a friend...

to I could drink a case of you darlin' and still be on my feet. I love you

Bob Delob, where are you? If you know please tell me, Julie Hoffman 901 Wisteria Way, Richardson, Texas. 75080

To R. pie in B.M. Oh, insects have antennae (and special kinds of eyes) their bodies all have 3 parts regardless of their size. Love, Jules and Babs (yer sisses)

Robbie,baby, googy, luvver doll here's kisses and oodles of luv. Waldo Kasnedski

Ilene, Joan, and Dave: Merry Christmas. Happy Birthday Daddy. Love, Lynn

Kier, forgive me, the insane are a strange people. we'll make it yet. I try harder. Love, forever

Jack Lofton: now it's just dusty roads i'm afraid-but i'm still praying. Cheer me with some tears and a letter if possible. Love, Karen

Cathy Dickerson: I've just come down from my cloud and started wondering, there is no time anymore but it seems its put up bars between us. Really want to see you, try to make it to midwinter? Shelly Landon

To Shelly of K.C., Perhaps I make a small miztake mit der contents of ze last letter? Perhaps you do not write so often? Vas iss Loss? Maybe ve should get together for a conference in a bunker zone vere, hmmm? Zo's churches always vere zo cold und verdampt religeous. Uncle Adolph

Dear friends, I'm in my last year of high school and I am feeling isolated and somewhat dissoluted towards LRY, not to mention a little psychotic. Well, sort of. It would be really nice to get in touch or back in touch with all you people. take care. love, John Beebe Center Harvard, Mass.01451 617-456-3688

Randy, Greg, David G., Bert Bobsey and Scum alias: I will always love you all and that goes for the old C.Springs clan too! Write if you have hands: Sleez Alias and Nan Bobsey 4602 Co. Rd. 154, Glenwood Sorings, Colo 81601



This Issue...

The basic themes of this issue are social action, youth power and responsibility. The variety of letters and articles express points of view on specific subjects; responsibility of youth to make social change, and suggestions for change. One article, "Ralph Nader: Youth Activism and Power," by Cathy Carney, touches on the subject of why it is always so difficult for LRY to affect social change.

LRY provides a place where people can examine themselves more closely. They are freer from outside criticism. LRY is a retreat from society's pressures. That atmosphere, conducive to self-examination, doesn't allow the effect of oppressive forces to be felt. People are less affected, less aware, and less motivated to fight those forces.

As you read the contents of this issue, try to realize the importance of yourself in relation to what is said. A lot of energy has been expended for a purpose, not just token recognition.

Next Soup DEADLINES

3rd issue 24 pages: February 1

4th issue 12 pages: March 1

Decentralization of the People Soup workload is happening. Not only do we receive contributions from individuals across the continent, but we have two writers in the field. This year's writers are liv (Berkeley, California) and Rachel Burke (Houston, Texas). The purpose of writers in the field is to have guaranteed input from individuals not in the Boston area—particularly our office. This issue, you may have noticed some of liv's material and Rachel's will start appearing next issue.

We have an abundance of material to choose from for each Soup. Thanks so much. The wide variety of contributions you provide us with is great. Please don't feel neglected if your contribution wasn't included, it's so hard to choose and often it has to be between equally deserving pieces. Keep sending them in: articles, letters, poetry, personals, and what we are really lacking: PHOTOS and GRAPHICS.



cont. conf. mailing lists

As promised in issue one, we have established addresses for the remaining people on the continental conference mailing list. Those people who want the remainder of the list should send a request and include a self-addressed, stamped, legal sized envelope to the office.

If we could afford to, we would run off a complete list and mail it to all who attended. But we can't afford that money, (stencils, paper, ink, postage), supply costs amount quickly. So... if you want a continental conference journal, send 50¢, and if you want the rest of the mailing list, send a self addressed stamped envelope.

LRY is an affiliate organization of the Unitarian Universalist Association, SRL, A Free Religious Fellowship, and the International Religious Fellowship. We give and get support from other organizations, among them, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, and the Gay Caucus.

Something to Remember... Mailing time varies according to the area of the continent big cities, etc. Please be patient, bulk rate is considerably cheaper.

↑↑↑↑

HUI? WHAT?
LOTS OF THE MAILING LIST ADDITIONS WE GET ARE LIKE THE ONE ABOVE - ILLEGIBLE. THIS MEANS RETURNED MAIL AND EMBARRASING MISTAKES. PLEASE PRINT NEATLY!!!

Constructive Openness

(this article was based on some ideas collected by John Wallen; it was written by the lives and experiences of people in struggle)

Relationships often sink under the weight of accumulated tensions. We hurt each other and don't know it, because we don't talk about it. Openness can keep a relationship healthy, but it is often used cruelly and destructively. Openness is most likely to be constructive if we do the following:

Realize that openness is something we choose to do because a relationship is important to us. We're not open with everyone for the sake of openness.

Be completely honest about your feelings.

Don't "protect" someone from your feelings. Pain can be a part of growth when you give the information about your feelings constructively. One of the points of being open is developing a trust so that each of you knows where the other is at—say it all. But be aware that direct expression of anger scares most of us middle class people.

Take risks. Be aware that different people have different risks. Some feelings are scarier to express for some people than others, or scarier to express for one person at different times. Be vulnerable, especially men—for men have been trained to keep their power by not showing feelings.

Ask for 100% of what you want. Trust that you can work things out to get a high percentage of what each of you want. Aggressiveness is taking what you want. Manipulation is indirectly taking. Passiveness is quietly waiting. Assert what you want by asking for it.

Check out assumptions. "I thought you were annoyed with me for not helping to clean the bathrooms; was I right?"

Talk about things close to when they happen. This is often scary. If you wait it will make it harder to remember all the feelings and details of the situation.

No dumping. Don't store things up, only to explode later (dumping); talk about things as they happen.

Listen and repeat by paraphrasing what you heard to be sure it's what your partner intended to say. "I hear you saying that you're sad about...." Sometimes people understand the same words to mean different things.

Trust your intuition. If you feel something is wrong, what you think the problem is may not be what the problem really is, but very likely there is a problem. "I feel you don't love me," "I still love you but I'm pissed at you." Take your feelings seriously. Any feeling you have has a reason for existing.

Accept your own and your partner's feelings as valid. There is no such thing as a feeling you shouldn't have. Feelings simply exist, they don't obey the ought to's and supposed to be's we may at times like them to. When you accept feelings as valid, constructive openness is much easier.

Validate feelings don't discount them.

Let your partner know you hear what she/he says and that it is valid. You needn't agree with the ideas but accept and support your partner's expression of feeling(s). "I know how it feels, I've felt that way before!" Watch out for "but's" they are discount words: they detract from what you just said. "And also" often works as a substitute for "but" without discounting. "I'm sorry you're sad but I still have to go away"—this implies very subtly that you are not sorry. Another example of discounting is the idea "hang up" It often discounts scared feelings. It makes it sound like there is something wrong with you for being scared. The sexist word "bitch" is often used to discount anger in women.

If you can't hear someone, if it doesn't feel honest to be validating someone, if you are feeling defensive and can't let the acceptance of the other person spread through your body, then say "I'm having trouble hearing you" perhaps you know why and can say why. Perhaps not.

If you can, validate paranoia. It is heightened awareness; it's intuition. Look for the grain of truth in the paranoid fear or worry your partner expresses. "I'm paranoid you don't like having sex with me" "Well, I don't like that we don't talk about what we want sexually and it frustrates me.. (notice the omission of "but" here) .. I do want to continue being sexual, because it also feels good. I'd like to work out some understandings about what we each want."

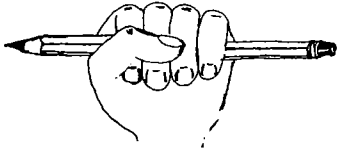
Be aware of the power distribution in your relationship. Is someone one-up? Is someone one-down? Things aren't usually equal. Being vulnerable is a way of giving up power over someone and increasing the cooperative power between you. Be aware of sexism: that if you are a man and a woman relating, the pattern is the woman taking care of the man's feelings not her own. Openness can be used in a way that is oppressive to the woman in this case. Be aware of how it works in your relationship. Make a point to counter it.

No Trashing. When you talk, state feelings, not judgements, not accusations. "I feel angry and hurt at that remark" instead of "You're sadistic and fucked up" ... "I don't like it when you use that tone of voice I feel put down by it" instead of "That's really a nasty way to talk" ... "I feel like you don't care about me" instead of "You don't care about me". Speak of your experience instead of your judgement "I perceive instead of "You are..." "You seem depressed" instead of "you are depressed"

Express appreciations. It's important to give positive feedback as well as negative. "We're open because we care about the relationship." Express that you appreciate honesty, even though honesty may be painful at times. Express that you appreciate the risks your partner has taken. And let yourself feel good about your honesty and the risks you've taken.

Sometimes relationships need outside help to break through communication barriers, someone to mediate. Find someone you both trust, to help. Agree between the three of you what you want the mediator to do, specifically.

BIOFEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM



Friends:

In a letter that became the front page article of "People Soup, Volume 1 issue 6" called the "Power of Youth to Change Society" I told of my experience coaching a PSLRY conference at DeBenneville Pines, Calif. and of the dream I have had of teen-aged people taking over their classrooms and pressing for a more active role in their own lives. I even included a step by step outline of one possible way to do it.

I was surprised and disappointed when no one responded, except one member of a youth group in another denomination and one inmate of a Pennsylvania prison (People Soup gets around). No LRY'er wrote to say they had tried the experiment or that they discussed it in their meetings or anything.

Anyway I'd like to try it again. Right now I am re-beginning to take definite steps towards my radical magazine for youth, and I need the help of any LRY people who'd like to be part of the experiment with me.

I'll send more details to anyone who asks. Basically, I'd like to see brave and daring young people non-threateningly take over the classrooms, securing time for students who have dedicatedly prepared a report, a discussion outline, etc. to become teacher of any subject for an hour or so. To build up to this, most teachers would probably be more likely to accept less controversial subjects for initial experiments.

Basically, most teachers would be shocked and delighted if a group of students prepared lesson plans showing careful thought and research.

If a teacher refuses to let you have your hour, or if you feel it best to offer your original request with other students present, you might give a statement of your intent. Then if your teacher is to turn you down, he/she will have to in front of all your peers.

The thing is to gain sort of control over the main force that affects your life: the educational system. It would take alot of work. My experience as a teacher tends to make me feel that individual students normally would have trouble putting it together, but if it were discussed and planned out by an LRY local, I think it could be done quite effectively.

Prepared for the radical magazine for youth is an article called "How to take over your classroom", but rather than a how-to-think-it-could-be-done kind of article, it is better to have the how-it-was-done-in-three-actual-occasions type of article.

I'd appreciate any response from an LRY individual or group, or anyone else that has any feelings about this.

Carol Frances
19803 Leapwood
Carson, Calif

FIRST THEY WANTED THEIR 1ST
AMENDMENT RIGHTS. THEN THEY
WANTED THEIR 4TH AMENDMENT
RIGHTS. NOW THEY
WANT ALL THEIR
RIGHTS...

I THINK I'M
GOING TO VOTE!



I must agree that smoking dope is a sociable behavior, if you smoke dope. Otherwise, you are left out in the cold, not only the time spent smoking, but afterwards, too. A division occurs between those who do and those who don't. That is not sociable, unless creating separate groups of friends is a sociable activity.

I always felt that in this rat-race society, we were still able to loosen ourselves without drugs. I felt that to be a common bond among LRYers. It is saddening to myself to see a forged "common bond".

Personally, I like a bunch of stoned "Freaks" just about as much as a bunch of drunks. That is to say, I don't like being with either. I prefer being with a person, not being with what a person becomes with the use of drugs-be it alcohol, marijuana, or anything else.

The times I have enjoyed in LRY involved a group. You cannot have a group if one portion is creating a common bond in the exclusion of others. It seems there are two choices: don't allow any drugs, or don't limit anyone's behavior.

My choice is the first. If we, in LRY, must use a drug to loosen ourselves- we are no better off than the remainder of society.

That shatters some of my reasons for putting energy into LRY. It hurts me to see us becoming more like the society we have been trying to change.

Richard Tauerber

In response to Eve Holberg's letter on Dope smoking.



California... there is no better time to kick yourself in the ass fellow LRY'ers, than now. Think back to when a friend first told you about an LRY conference... "It's really a bunch of people who get together and have a good time." I thought to myself, "What could be more fun than sex, drugs and alcohol without pressure? Who cares about the rules?" As it turns out, we all care about the rules. A few conferences later I was starting to grasp the LRY idea. I wanted the philosophy to work. My idea of a good time had started to change. I was learning how to create for myself a "good time". My notions about drugs and sex had been brushed away. It is only now that I recall and regret my early misconceptions about LRY. This same mistake has been the downfall of at least two and probably more locals. I can't change what has happened, but I can try to direct new LRY'ers in the "right" directions. My problem now is organizing a local in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles County. The previous attempts were abortions of a drug cult era. Now I am trying to make an honest attempt for the LRY way and have run into obstacles that I had not previously anticipated. Will LRY grow old and die? Not if I can help it. LRY is only what we make of it. Right now, I'm looking for a little moral support from the extraneous LRY community. Question time: Does anyone out there... 1. Live in the valley or near? 2. Know anyone who does? 3. Have any ideas for working around this false notion? 4. Need a place to stay in L.A.? 5. Has anyone ever dealt with this problem before? If you answered yes to any of the questions please drop me a line as soon as possible.

Anne Gillespie
3467 Ardsley Pl.
Encino, Ca. 91436
213-787-1000

More Bad Fruit

The last issue of the Soup printed a letter which I feel requires some response. The letter, from Christopher Bacon, deals with the issues of land use and hunger in the world and makes some claims that when examined closely reveal a very different picture.

Near the beginning of the letter he tells us that most U.S. cattle are raised on land that is would be hard to farm at present. This is true. However, this is not all the land that is tied up in cattle raising and does not include the huge areas devoted to the corn and other grains that are used as feed for the animals. And while the corn is "almost always (of) a breed which is so tough that humans couldn't eat it", it still remains to be explained why good corn growing land should be wasted on corn that people can't eat.

In the United States farmers are paid not to grow food. In 1972, 47 million acres of wheat were harvested while the government paid farmers not to grow on another 62 million acres. The agriculture dept. claimed that food prices were so high because workers wages were too large.

Yet it's true that the farmers are not getting richer. Most small farmers in this country are contracted to large companies and in the meat industry only three companies make one third to one quarter of all profits at every step of the way.

In the food business, as in every business, the companies serve those who can pay. The only way for poorer people with less buying power to have an effect is to act together. The week-long boycott of meat last year was to protest the quickly rising price of meat. Most of the difference in the rising prices remained as profits with the companies; they certainly didn't pass it on to the small farmers who carried the loss. While the agriculture dept. tries to put farmers against consumers and consumers against farmers and other workers, these companies continue to benefit from the crisis. A corporation does not lower its prices to consumers (or raise them to farmers) out of kindness but only when it has no choice.

In Chris's letter he recommends a direct farmer controlled chain of stores to bypass the large companies and make farming more responsive to our needs. While not a new idea this is one that is very hard to put into practice. In Arkansas, during the early sixties, after a farmer's co-op had set its prices, Cargill, one of the nation's largest grain companies, offered farmers in the area a higher price. The farmers drifted away from the co-op to sell to the company and when the co-op folded, Cargill set new, lower prices. Most farmers don't have the resources to fight this kind of price fixing.

Chris complained that "farmers have to take a loss on almost every other head of cattle they raise." This is not true of the large scale operations; in the U.S. already 7% of the cattle ranches own 80% of the cattle. Small scale farmers like Chris Bacon's uncle are an endangered species.

Hunger is not something that "sometime there will be." Mass starvation is a current reality. Christopher has one suggestion to help alleviate this, a massive airlift, which he then retracts as too impractical; there would be no way to get the food to airports to send it where it's needed. When the government made deals with the Soviet Union (for ten million tons of grain) and with Japan (for 12 million tons) the corporations didn't bat an eye.

One would think from reading that letter that the reason people in other countries are hungry is that the United States is the only country where the soil is suitable for growing food. Or perhaps that third world people just don't know how to farm. This is not the case, let's find out why.

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