

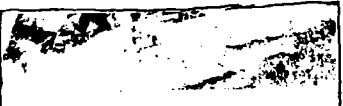
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People Soup

Volume III Issue 5

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I think that everyone is aware of IRY's for money at the continental office. Ask them that there are people who are unclear as to why they should be helping to ease the situation. My explanation is that everything the office does is directly or indirectly to continue and better the experience of IRY groups and federations. If you feel the effects of our existence, let me know if you have ever participated in programs like People Soup or our packets,

ive events. There is always a high-energy skipping through all whether it be a plenary session or the final night's celebration.

youth caucus at GA?

for youth to experience and learn about the Association and its Assembly, as representatives of their societies.

to allow youth to have input into decisions that affect them as well as the rest of the denomination

to make this decision-making body more representative of its denomination

Ageist attitudes are perpetuated by the media and affect us all--yet we persist to believe them. Why has this culture refused to recognize that we are all people with feelings, needs, and talents?

One agenda item at this year's assembly is an amendment to the UUA By-laws concerning discrimination against individuals because of their age.

Workshops/practical sessions will be held on ageism, open to all attending GA.

Literature and intergenerational programs will be available from the Youth Programs display--for people to take

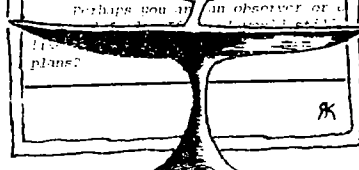
your society or federation or maybe helped it through a tense period in its existence. We are here and try our best to help you. Your support is needed in return for support that we have given you. We have some changes in our structure and plans so that we may be more efficient in the future. These plans will, of course, require more money. We also want feedback from you. If you would like to see this office do more things to make this office more helpful to you and we are striving to and implement them. We need your moral and financial support, give us constructive criticism. We are all working towards the same end. If we work together things will move much faster and smoother.

tion

to provide an example/model for all people to draw energy/ideas from to carry back to their local societies and districts.

By youth caucus meetings will allow individuals to be supportive of each other during a new and intensive experience. A time to share ideas and experiences as well as information. A day of orientation, the first, will provide an introduction to the society and a time to begin developing a long cooperative relationship between individuals of the caucus. This will be an all-day happening with meals provided. All are encouraged to take part, so we have built a center to work from when

Scholarships are available for the 575 delegates. If you are an accredited delegate and need financial aid WRITE TO: YOUTH SCHOLARSHIP FUND att. Jennifer 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108. We have money to be used specifically for this purpose, please let us be able to make use of your donations as we have not reached our goal. Perhaps you are an observer or a delegate?



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ions are free to use any of the
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permission of the publisher in
writing.

Cover - Bob Davis

Staff for this issue:

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Carlotta Woelcock

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 con-
sidered. None can be returned.
Drawings or other artwork must
be in black ink, and photos
must be black and white.

We cannot pay for contributions
the ol' budget jes couldn't
stand the pain.

Address all correspondence to:
People Soup
25 Beacon St.

Boston, MA 02108

Advertising Rates:

Personals that are not for
individual financial gain are
free.

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1/6.....	\$5	\$20
1/3.....	\$8	\$35
1/2.....	\$15	\$60
Full Page.....	\$35	\$100

Ntan Meyer, Midwest life is
great! I'm now closer to your
Indiana headquarters. Need your
address and a letter from you.
Bob Locke, 1237 Dartmouth Rd.
Flossmore, Ill 60422

Dear Everyone,
I am going to be thumbing around
this summer out west. If anyone
would like a visit from a LRY'er
who is really into people, life,
esp- to use a cliché, etc...OR
if anyone just wants to write
me a letter, I would appreciate
a letter. Cosmic, weather, you
write'em, I'll read'em& when
inspired I'll answer 'em. Places
to stay this summer, heavy
thoughts, particularly honest
letters, etc. coupled with some
writing energy on my part will
inspire me to write back. I love
you all. J-ME, BX 1839 N. Campus
Lowell Univ, Lowell, Ma 01853

Huggies and Kisses to the
Kangaroo in Phx: I love you.
O.B.

Stephen A. Loeb,
Are you still out there
somewhere? Please write.
I miss you. Fran from OPIK

To all my children: JonPerg
Greg Davis Diane Ohman (and
grandchild to be) Greg Johnston
yourdad says he'll start sending
alimony checks but not to me; to
the baby of the family Greg J.
So maybe at madison we can have
a family reunion and he can
throw us a party. Love mom.

T. BEAR TOILETSTONE, KAREN C.K.,
CRAIGEN, WILLIAM F. THERESE,
MR. MARCUS SHELLUS, BETHIEL, &
the CME OMBUSPERSON: Power
freaking is the way to elitism;
elitism is the way to nirvana.
See you there. yo mama

Dear BH I'll try to eat better
in the future so I can stay
healthy for you. Love and Kiss-
ses Bill

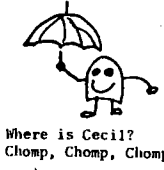
Lawrence, K.C. Lincoln etc.
I love you, write me. My
address is in the other person-
al. love, Penny

FLASH: I'm looking for some
male fellow LRY'er with whom I
can discuss Wordsworth, Coler-
idge, Tennyson, etc. and who
likes the Lord of the Rings
and/or The Chronicles of Narnia.
It would also be lovely if this
person appreciated folks like
Mark Twain, Charles Dickens,
Arthur C. Doyle, Bram Stoker,
Hugh Lofting, Richard Bach,
Kenneth Grahame, Hans Christian
Anderson and Baroness Orczy. I
am probably barking up the
wrong subculture, but I hope
you're out there somewhere.
Write me, or contact me by ESP
at: 3407 Claremont Ave., Indep-
endence, Mo 64052. I'm a member
of the K.C. Mo. LRY, so if you
want to find me, I'll be hangin'
around--I'm the girl with the
long blond hair and long green
trench coat. Nelvin.

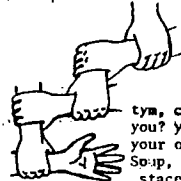
Brian Howard: Claudia was sent
your message. She is a busy-
womaa. Emily Nalven

The Tickler,
Your line of work is not so
favorable, thought of becoming
the lover, the kisser?

Lauren McBeth: I'm alive and
well(are you?) Heard you moved
and need your address. (always
remember that night CMT) Love,
Bob Locke



Where is Cecil?
Chomp, Chomp, Chomp



tym, cathy, phil+ and how are
you? yea, now you too can have
your own personal in People
Soup, in just three easy lessons
stacey

hey, denizens of the dark and
nemotodes of the night...do you
trip on paper clips? do you take
an occasional pot shot? Well,
if you do... we want to know
you!! where you're at, and wots
happenin'... if you want to
know about us: write to:
Aragorn M. thirander
146 E. Stadium 227 Schilling
W. Lafayette, In 47906

Jeff B. Where the fuck are you?
Emily

Cathy & Kyle- What a surprise!
well, everyone should have a
personal in their first People
Soup. (Clam Chowder, perhaps)
stay free and never forget the
Polar Bear Express or the
Rascals in Paradise-stacey

To all who were at Cont. Conf.
in North Carolina: I feel pretty
shitty right now because it has
taken me so long to take care
of this situation. I borrowed a
braided leather belt from a girl
in cabin 1 for a get-together
on the last night of the con-
ference, and I would like to
return it (finally). I was the
one with the green pickup truck.
Anyways, please forgive me and
don't be too mad (it's a fine
belt). So if you lost a braided
leather belt: please send me
your name and address to me.

Whew. now that that is taken
care of, I'd like to tell you
that I've been out of touch for
quite awhile and would like to
get back in touch. So, please
send me all kinds of cards,
letters, or what have you so
that I can get to know you again
(if I knew you before- even if
I didn't I'd like to

PERSONALS



Ben, Distance is a physical
thing- unavoidable right now.
Please close the gap by getting
in touch. Everyone misses you-
especially me. love, rachel

To all concerned: I am living in
a different home. My address is:
1140 Martine Ave. Plainfield,
N.J. 07060 I hope to hear from
someone. Emily

Colorado, Utah, New Mexico & the
Spot: Fulfillment is the state
of being bel(l)ied in the base-
ment during full moons. So to
you Love and lizards, Arizona

Weasel- this is just to let you
know I haven't forgotten you
exist. May your fingers always
have a guitar to fondle. Love
Horizon

Hey Therese 2 you foxy lady
wannna go swimming with me in
our own ice skates? (Just kid-
ding) Glad you were there, love
Cathy (future board member)

Hi Me!! How are ya?- Horizon

Dear Jeff from Del. Boy do I
feel like a klutz! When ten-
nifer & I picked you up at the
Dayton airport on your way to
Antioch a few weeks ago, we
thought you looked kind of fam-
iliar. But I feel real dumb say-
ing stuff like "Gee, don't I
know you from somewhere?" so
I didn't. S, how have you been
since we both met you at Conti-
nental two summers ago? Bill

Eeyore,
I hope he's not wearing them!
I'm both, want some candy?
with a little help from my
friends.

Happy Jack Taylor, Eben Holden,
photography service St.
Lawrence. Harald, ode, laurie,
pep. Garcia is god
If Garcia is god, Billy's is
heaven.

"I did not, forget to say,
I love you" Jerry Rubin
love Embee

Betsy (last name?)
Are you keeping
the faith? Well
don't: share it.
Give some to Karen
Eric



Linda Bendt, I lost touch with
you and miss you dearly. Please
write, or anybody knowing where
I can reach Linda please write.
Penny (Waters) Gilbert
1342 Milwaukee St. #6
Denver, CO 80206

KKK- i'm trying a new set of
wings and can't quite get them
adjusted exactly the way I want.
Wish you were here-it's your
feather missing. i love you-
rachel

Smiles Chestnut, Lets get to-
gether sometime soon and talk,
will you be at Easter D.B.C.?
I need you.

To Stephen Linhart. I have some-
thing to tell you so here it is:
Happy Birthday to you, Happy
Birthday to you, Happy Birthday
dear Stephen, Happy Birthday
to you! Please Call me, I have
alot to tell you. Love & Kisses
ME

Sigrid: Where are you? I love
you. Rick Knowlton

Lia McCoo, Milo M. & Johnny,
I remember it all so well.
Please write!! Bobbi Hall
6495 S. Clarkson St. Little-
ton, Co. 8012'



Hi Holly Smith of the Phoenix
AZ. Local! Cathy from Urbana

Chesh, well folks look what I
forgot,
Our local isn't really all that
bad, we proved that. You saved
me more than once, Much thanx
and hugs and kisses,
(tweet tweet)

Love,
Kevin Redding
300-Fairlane Apartment # 28
Dearborn, Mich. 48128

After June 1st
Box 5399-D Route # 3
Grayling, Mich. 49738



Many times an issue of *People Soup* will have a plea for articles, information, and graphics. The reason for these pleas is that LRY's newspaper needs input from its readership. The Executive Committee could be only a newspaper staff and spend all of its time on *People Soup* - but that isn't its purpose. *People Soup* isn't the Executive Committee's, it belongs to all LRYers. Because we wonder how many people truly feel that their input is valuable, because we wonder how many people just aren't sure what sort of input we want, because people ought to know the reasons why LRY has a newspaper -- we thought that we would let you know.

1) COMMUNICATION- A channel for relating experience with workshops, programs, problems and the solutions used that will be useful to others rather than just reading material.

2) ARTICLES BASED ON THE THEME OF THE PARTICULAR ISSUE- such as the next issue's theme of sexuality.

3) ARTICLES TO INFORM- such as social issues like Senate Bill 1. These are more objective, hopefully, than what is classified in the Biofeedback pages.

4) ENTERTAINMENT- poetry, personals, and the artwork.

5) BIOFEEDBACK- interchange of opinions on certain issues that pertain to the world at large or more specifically, LRYers.

6) FED'S UPS AND DOWNS- announcements about federation or local activity, including conference information.

We hope that this helps to clarify a few minds and encourages some of you not so brave souls to try out your writing ability. (It is shocking to realize that from a readership numbering more than 5000 that so little trickles in to us to print. Interesting fact- we print almost everything we receive and yet there is never enough.) If you can do it for your classes then I'm sure you can do it for the Soup. Try us, we'll like it. If you have any questions or you'd like to try out some ideas on us before beginning-- just write to LRY 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108.

just us typewriters,
Jennifer, Gary, Carlotta, Richard



I think that everyone is aware of LRY's need for money at the continental office. And I think that there are people who are unclear as to why they should be helping to ease the situation. My explanation is that everything

this office does is directly or indirectly to continue and better the experience of local LRY groups and federations. If you feel none of the effects of our existence, let me ask if you have ever participated in programs that came from *People Soup* or our packets, if you have ever been at a conference which had input from us in the planning (personal letters, our packets, our fieldtripper, Richard Tauber), perhaps we have helped to start your local or federation or maybe have helped it through a tense period in its existence. We are here and try our best with any of your requests- when we get them. Your support is needed in return for the support that we have given you. We have ideas for some changes in our structure and programs so that we may be more efficient in the future. These plans will, of course, require more money. We also want feedback on what you would like to see this office do. There are ways to make this office more beneficial to you and we are striving to find and implement them. We need your moral and financial support, give us constructive advice not a lack of interest.

We are all working towards the same end, if we work together things will move much faster and smoother.

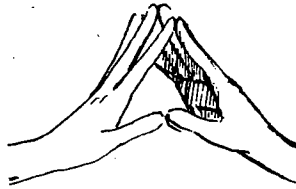
-- Jennifer

Remember the insert in your last Soup? If you didn't get this issue of *People Soup* and you want to be sure that you receive a copy of the next issue -- SEND YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, ZIP CODE, AND BIRTHYEAR TO LRY 25 BEACON ST. BOSTON, MA 02108

Also, if your household receives more copies than are of use -- let us know. If you have moved or are planning to do so -- send us your old and new address. The post office will not forward *People Soup*. We spend money on a Soup that is destroyed and you don't get it.

We want you, the people who are interested, to have *People Soup*, but that depends on you to let us know who you are and where.

The next issue of *People Soup* will have the theme of sexuality. We would like ideas and contributions from you folks. What is relevant to you? Do you know of some good resources- books, organizations, collectives that people would find useful? Have you been exposed to the UUA's About Your Sexuality curriculum kit? What are constructive ways of learning and accepting your sexuality? You know all the questions, let's work on some of the answers. (By the way, this will not be true confessions but rather a series of articles that deal constructively with the issues of sexuality.) Please send material for the next issue by the 21st of MAY.



YOUTH CAUCUS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

is a fast moving and exciting gathering. People from across the U.S. and Canada come together as representatives of their churches/fellowships to form the decision making body of the UUA. Elections, resolutions, by-law amendments are all part of the business considered. Carefully balanced into the week are workshops and seminars by various groups and individuals. Swimming, dancing and worships are amongst the more active events. There is always a high-energy skipping through all whether it be at a plenary session or the final night's celebration.

Why youth caucus at GA?

- for youth to experience and learn about the Association and its Assembly, as representatives of their societies.
- to allow youth to have input into decisions that affect them as well as the rest of the denomination
- to make this decision-making body more representative of its denomination
- to increase positive interaction between people of all ages at the annual gathering of the denomination
- to provide an example/model for all people to draw energy/ideas from to carry back to their local societies and districts.

Daily youth caucus meetings will allow individuals to be supportive of each other during a new and intensive experience. A time to share ideas and experiences as well as information. A day of orientation, the 21st, will provide an introduction to the Assembly and a time to begin developing a strong cooperative relationship between individuals of the caucus. This will be an all-day happening with meals provided. All who can are encouraged to take part, so we will have built a center to work from when the Assembly begins.

WRITERS IN THE FIELD ARE NEEDED FOR NEXT YEAR -- INTERESTED?? The purpose of having writers is to guarantee input for the Soup from sources other than the Executive Committee. A contract is developed between the writer and the Executive Committee. It includes how much and what type of work shall be expected each month. In return for their contribution is a token salary of \$10 per month. An ideal experience for individuals wanting to explore their writing potential.

Note: These writers' work does not replace contributions from readers, it is a supplement.

Volume III Issue 4 announced that all contributions until June 7th will be eligible to win a half scholarship to Continental Conference in Olympia, WA (there are two of these prizes, each of \$27.50 credit towards pre-registration). The method of choosing the "winners" will be random and not on the basis of judging for quality. We encourage all to consider this exciting bribery that we are offering in exchange for some of your wonderful creative works. If you are wanting to write but are unsure about what, write us of a few of your ideas -- and we will give you our thoughts in return. Photographs should be black and white and any artwork should be black ink on white paper.

What have you got to lose, the worst that could happen is you would get published for all the world to admire.

Are We Ever the Right Age?

If all people are born equal, then why are some treated less equal according to their age? Why do people feel that someone of a particular age is worth more? Why do we allow people of one age to exercise their dominance over others? Why should anyone be denied their rights as a person? Am I less of a person if I am 3 years old, 15, 36 or 78?

Discrimination based on age is a very oppressive attitude towards all people. As a youth you are stifled and told to "wait until you are older." And suddenly you are too old to do anything, to be listened to, or to be allowed to live. The years in between are spent wishing you were once again of your youth or old enough to have time for this or that.

The ageist attitudes are perpetrated by all and affect us all--yet we persist to believe them. Why has this culture refused to recognize that we are all people with feelings, needs, and talents?

- 1) One agenda item at this year's assembly is an amendment to the UUA By-laws concerning discrimination against individuals because of their age.
- 2) Workshops/practica sessions will be held on ageism, open to all attending GA.
- 3) Literature and intergenerational programs will be available from the Youth Programs display--for people to take back to their Societies/Districts.

scholarships

Scholarships are available for the \$75 delegate fee--if you are an accredited delegate and need financial aid WRITE TO: YOUTH CAUCUS SCHOLARSHIP FUND att. Jennifer Shaw 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108. We have money to be used specifically for this purpose, so please let us be able to make use of it. Donations are welcome, we have not reached our goal yet.

Perhaps you are an observer or do not need funds. If so, I would still like to hear from you. What are your plans?

R

BIOFEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM

Dear Friends? --an open letter to the editors of People Soup

#1. I'm pissed off; I feel you put down me and everyone else who works hard for social change, hours that are often difficult and thankless. Let me quote your editorial in the last People Soup: "Obviously there is an inconsistency in some people's energy and motivation. There are people who will rant and rave about an issue, participate in consciousness raising, then say that they are too busy with surviving the world as it is." The editorial then mentions (I think condescendingly) what "these people" should do.

I have no objection to you criticizing people for saying one thing and doing another ("liberalism"), in fact, it's a good idea (though what was it doing in the middle of an editorial about the official non-political purpose of LRY?). I think those inconsistencies should be pointed out in a context that 1) directly communicates that there are people (like myself) who really are committed to social change, as well as these "summer soldiers", 2) deals with the reasons people have little energy for social action (such as sexism/racism in the left, or real needs to survive that energy drain)--rather than putting them down as mixed-up people who need to get their heads together, 3) encourages people to become more committed to social action rather than dismisses the energy they do have as "ranting and raving".

The problem of "liberalism" is a serious one, but is not constructively dealt with by publishing paragraphs such as the one in that editorial.



#2. I'm also pissed that you published without comment the letter that dismisses Senate Bill #1's chance of passing in the Legislature. The letter contains mis-information that could be damaging to attempts to organize LRYers against the Bill. First of all, SB-1 as is will certainly not pass. But the issue is whether or not it can be amended. Most liberals in Congress feel that if you take out a few sections that blatantly revoke the Bill of Rights, it's a workable and passable bill.

The people against SB-1 are saying it's impossible to satisfactorily amend it, that it's too huge a document to amend. The National Lawyers' Guild estimates that it would take over 1,000 amendments to take out all the repressive features in the bill; that, the problem is partly the philosophy (written by John Mitchell among others) behind it that's found on every single page in the subtlest of forms, that even if it were amended, the amendments currently before the Senate (as of March 1976) are recognized by its supporters as cosmetic and do not include changing many important sections. For example, the section remains that prohibits protest near a government building, or obstruction of national defense--such as striking at a munitions factory; I could go on with examples for a very long letter.

And "even if the Bill managed to pass" (very possible) once the bill became law it would be impossible to reverse--it would have to be done piece by piece, case by case--since it would no longer exist as a separate entity, we would be dealing with the entire legal

code of the United States. That means that by the time even major implications were discovered by the public and courts, and by the time they were declared unconstitutional, many many people would have suffered, many social actions thwarted, repression would be in force that would make the McCarthy era look like a rightist's toy gun.

Clearly if you are going to publish as formed a letter as the one on SB-1, you have a responsibility to your readers to also provide a more accurate account of the situation. This is our civil liberties, our fight against repression, not some journalism game; there is no such thing as neutrality. Publishing that letter without comment only serves the interest of Nixon, Ford, and the reactionary forces in this country.

liv

Dear liv,
Upon my first reading of your letter, I became very defensive and decided that dealing with its subjects through the Soup was not appropriate. But I changed my mind:

1) I do not understand why you feel my statement "These people need to set their priorities and spend their time and energy accordingly," is condescending. To clarify: That statement was made in reference to the observation that those people who act contradictory to their talk must be unclear about their priorities.

2) I do agree with you that it would have been wise to directly recognize that there are people who do work hard at social change. I feel that to have also added a positive paragraph, that encouraged people, would have been more constructive.

3) I must state that I fail to see how you felt put down by my not having constructively dealt with the problem of "liberalism".

Secondly: The "biofeedback" pages are for dialog between LRYers. This office already writes a tremendous percentage of the Soup and does not feel that it is our responsibility to answer letters from and to LRYers. No matter what our reactions to the opinions expressed in that letter were, we felt that the response had to come from our readers. We have published articles in the Soup giving correct information about SB-1, including the extensive backpage coverage in the December issue (which is what provoked Geoff Gavett's letter in issue 3).

The Soup has informed its readers, and will continue to do so--but personal opinions such as Geoff Gavett's must be responded to by folks like you.

Jennifer



Dear Folks,

About 30 miles east of Key West, and just north of Big Pine Key, there is an island called No Name Key. It is almost entirely uninhabited. The reason it is uninhabited is that 10 years ago the government discovered Key deer on the island and declared it a wildlife refuge. This meant people couldn't build or develop the land. So, most people didn't really want to live there. They stopped paying taxes and gradually the land is reverting back to the government. These facts aren't too interesting until you find out they create a peculiar legal situation where-in it is quasi-legal to camp.

Between 8 and 12 people from the Northeast region are planning to move to No Name Key on June 1. We will stay 4 weeks and possibly longer. It will be camping out and living pretty near off the land and sea. One of the people going is trained in Wilderness and Island survival.

Anyhow, this is an invitation to join us. Keep in mind the living conditions and the quasi-legal state. Anyone interested write.

MDA Southbound
21 Calvin Street
Somerville, MA
617/628-3312

Dear People Soup,

Holly Near and Jeff Langley came to Boston for two shows last week. Their performance concentrated on material from her most recent albums. Her new material includes fewer "social consciousness" songs and more songs focusing on a slice-of-life. "Broken Promises" is one of only two protest songs on her new album. Her other songs speak more of her perceptions of various facets of interpersonal relations, often with a feminist view.

Holly had good rapport with her audience throughout the show. She and Jeff have been playing together for three years and communicate very well with each other and their audience, creating a joyous rapport of sheer enjoyment. Holly has good stage sense and uses her body, face, and vocal inflections as well as the words and music to send her message to the crowd.

I enjoyed her live versions of songs from her new album more than the orchestrated studio versions--perhaps due to the familiarity and added intensity of her live sound. Holly encouraged audience participation, even going so far as to create a three part round during "Nikolai". Her second number, "Water Come Down", which she obviously enjoyed alot, set the tone of the concert. Two and a half hours later as Holly's encore "It could Have Been Me" began, the whole audience rose to its feet to sing and clap along. The house lights went up to reveal a sea of shining, singing smiling faces. The concert generated a lot of positive energy.

for her albums
write to:

Holly Near information,
c/o Redwood Records
505 Doolin Canyon
Ukiah, Calif. 95482

Gen Cooper

...I've been... thoughts which have been... in my head... and are now sufficiently well... thoughts and experiences and do not typify LRY as a whole (as if anything does).

Sexuality in LRY doesn't seem to get much attention in this paper, but I think it's a pretty important subject (everyone I know is interested in it). Obviously, 'sexuality' is something most teenage people are trying to deal with, and personally, I would have had an infinitely harder and more painful time with it if I hadn't been involved with LRY.



I started sorting out my feelings about sex in a course through my church using a UUA Human Sexuality kit. Most of us weren't into LRY yet. We developed into an open trusting group which turned into a local. We got into subjects that I was sure could never be discussed without the greatest embarrassment. During one discussion of masturbation, I was amazed to find I could be sitting there with a group of people I didn't even know, calmly talking about "it". At different points we saw slides on homosexuality and a really beautiful film of a couple making love in a field, all of which utterly fascinated me, being completely innocent in this realm. I noticed that it satiated my desire to sneak into porno films to see what all the excitement was all about. Every time I discovered that previously sensitive subjects actually could be discussed openly in a group, something clicked in my head. I began to experience sexuality as a common human phenomenon instead of some mysterious force to be ignored whenever possible.

I feel that the general attitude I've seen in LRY is indisputably healthier than the average of our society. I take it so much for granted now that I forget how different it is. At my first conference, I noticed people subtly (or not so subtly) pairing off, some of it sexual and some of it just to sleep together. Some people slept alone, some curled up in a huge lump of sleeping bags and bodies. Everything seemed to be accepted and I was impressed by the way no one pushed me into anything. Suddenly, the public high school morality of women as conquests/"whores"/ego reinforcements and men as conquerors/"wolves"/status symbols was inapplicable. The attitudes toward contraceptives was good. Everyone seemed to be aware and not doing anything stupid.

With no one whispering behind my back and no parental eyes/trips on me, there was a lot of frightening freedom and decisions. Nothing covert was pros-uring re. I saw suddenly that this was my body, these are my actions, my responsibilities. My response was to reevaluate my programmed attitudes, and to learn to handle the freedom.

I see now that I would have had to assume this power over my life at some time, and I'm really glad that I was able to start then. Problems only multiply when someone is forced to deny their feelings, follow the dictates of society and wait till the arbitrary age of 18 to explore themselves as sexual/sensual beings.

New subject.

I really like LRY customs of touching, despite the fact that they can be games. It was great to discover that I could touch my friends, hug them, tickle them, pile on them with 20 others and dance around in circular amoebas.

What a change from appologizing every time I brushed someone! It was easier to comfort people, to reach out. The atmosphere made me feel generally better about my body and its functions.

-I spent a long time feeling that LRYers were intrinsically superior to the general population. Aren't we more intelligent, sensitive, free, loving, creative and accepting? LRYers didn't play games, didn't push for conformity to social norms. I got disturbed when the organization started going down hill and angry that it wasn't involved in social actions. But I've been steadily losing my "holier than thou" attitude (a process called cynicism). Amazingly enough, we aren't all that liberated. There is lots of veiled sexism, roles and games. But I feel we are generally open to new ideas and breaking down old patterns. I see more and more LRY men caring and being supportive of each other for an example.

I feel that personal growth/awareness/exploration is the central factor in LRY that makes it valuable and ties together the great variety of experiences. Nothing that is designed to make the LRY organization function better or more efficiently is as important as the growth of the individuals. If you leave a position of leadership, you're just leaving it open for someone else to learn from it. This applies to all levels and is the reason that we don't eject our leaders for 5 year terms. Also for this reason, I'm no longer concerned about the lack of social activism in LRY as a group, because it is only relevant to the experiences of individuals (aside from the obvious benefit to society). We have such a high turnover rate it would be hard to get anything accomplished as an organization anyway.

I find a beneficial way of looking at LRY is as a tool, a safe environment in which you can grow and nurture yourself. It's some thing to help you and then let go of for someone else. You work for it and it works for you. You use it, it uses you, but you are always more important.

Much, much love,
Cathy C.



Dear Y'all,

In reading letters in People Soup I discover many people with communications problems; some despair, others are hopeful some do not acknowledge that the problems exist. I sympathize with you all, I have the same problem; many conversations appear superficial, silly, or extraneous. Even my own words are dull and permit only a cursory view of real feelings. I often attempt to write poetry, the interesting thing is that some things will not be squeezed from my shangri-la into the boxes of reality. I have never been able to write about the sea although whenever I am at the beach my mind joins my body and I would run, brushing the sand with my palms and heart, but I cannot, alas, thwarted-unrequited creativity.

Endavoring to communicate with LRYers I felt abandoned, I heard sentences learned by rote, actions simulating the world's view of LRY. Later I was "kic'ed-out" (virtually literally - I had no options although I could have stayed) by several "bigs" of the church for causing trouble. This letter is not suppose to be a vengeful letter at all, I guess I don't have a real reason to write it except to let y'all know there's another one of us non-communicators out here.

Trying hard,
Valerie Merkel



Dear NSFers, Dear Hpl.local, Dear Steve Stryk - whom I had my heaviest encounter with; When I first came into LRY I was amazed at the fact that everyone was not afraid to (love) communicate with each other through touc... I was blown away thinking that touch even as evolved as sex was free in LRY. In other words if you wanted to express your love towards a person there were no barriers. I thought what a beautiful concept, how free. These people were strong enough to not be afraid to express their love and friendship through all means, even sex.

Sadly I found a different story, maybe it was because I, myself, wasn't able to express my love and friendship so ultimately. I found that when I expressed my love through sex that love vanished-only sex was left - a physical action that wouldn't make any difference if a person did it with a cow. My idea that you can do it with anyone and get off scott free wasn't true. I lost alot of potential friendships that way, but now that I think about it, these friendships are always difficult to develop. Free sex is here but expressing love through sex freely will be a mind blower for the future.

Love
Mary Broderson
2509 Silver Lane
St. Anthony, Mn. 55421

Dear friends,

Many people who are disillusioned about LRY think of conferences as "pick-up scenes"... Part of the magic I find in LRY is the attention people give each other and the ways it is given. When I get to a conference I look to see a few people I'd really like to meet or get to know better. I'll go up to a person and sort of "present" myself -- maybe say who I am, often starting out with a small riff like, "I was in LRY last year but got a job and left, etc etc." How I act is more important than what I say. A little electric energy blended with an innocent respect can go a long way: little things like a reserved smile, walking quietly across a room to sit next to a new-found friend, softly touching an arm or hand instead of holding on. Gentle ways of saying I really care, on a one to one level. Using a sort of smooth deliberateness in the way I offer my time and attention. Everyone has their own little ways of showing themselves and how they care about others: it's different for each individual. Dancing is using your body and its energy in a smooth, natural way. You could call the "magic" a way of dancing into life: everyone has their own unique dance, and you learn a new step for everyone you know. Sometimes you can tell someone's dance when you see it at a conference, and it's pretty easy to notice when someone is paying a lot of attention to you. There's a kind of "magic" in seeing one person really care about you, watching them "dance" over to you. This isn't about the cigarette-match-backrub-sleeping bag syndrome (which I have yet to see), but sometimes the difference between a "dance" and a "pickup scene" is in the eyes of the beholder.

Bob Davis

