



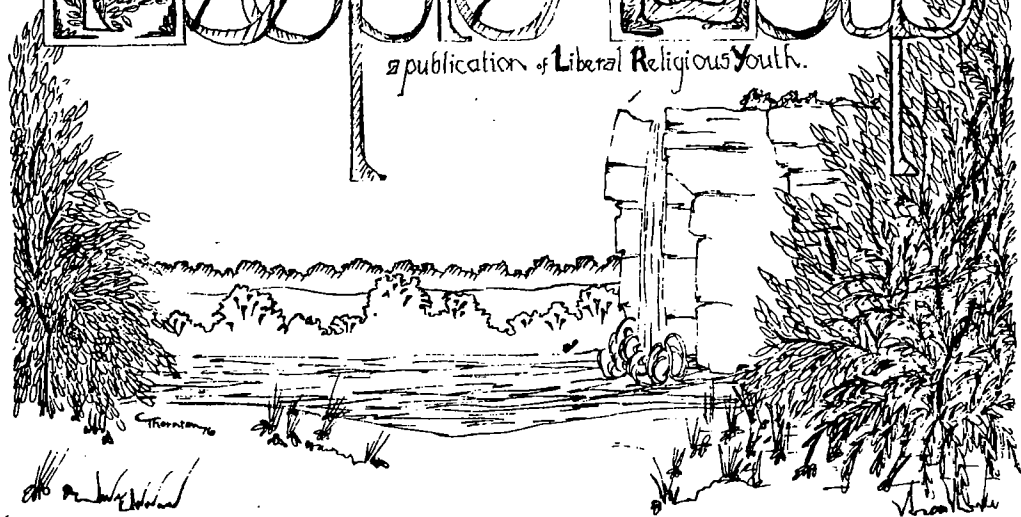
Volume IV Issue I



People's Voice

a publication of Liberal Religious Youth.

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JK



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Michigan and Mediocrity

by Mark H. Smith • Photo by W. Barsotti

The convention actually began a week before delegates met in Kansas City's Kemper Arena. The Republicans came to write a new platform but got hung up on two issues. First, the ever-present abortion issue, and then a surprise argument over the Equal Rights Amendment. The abortion issue got argued, and as usual was considered "highly emotional" but the Republicans came to their senses and struck any mention of abortion from their platform, calling it a "personal and moral issue."



While at the convention I noticed a young Reagan supporter who seemed to be about 14, wearing a "stop ERA" button. When asked about this he exclaimed that he would not want to be forced to use the same bathroom as women. The ERA issue was finally supported by the platform.

Yippies made threats of a minimum of 4,000 protesters. They were planning to occupy a park in K.C. and demanded toilets and water or they would dig latrines. The first day of Yippie occupation produced no more than 13 Yippies. I think it would be interesting to note that the Republican Party, also, has never been so small. It seems that as the Republicans are dying, so are the Yippies. Could it be that Yippies feed off Republicans?

I was quite surprised to find that the Yippies, even after their number had grown to 85, were nothing but aging potheads who shouted obscenities whenever possible. As I walked through the Yippies' camp a friend of mine, one David Molton, stated, "the revolution's over". The Yippies replied, "It's only just begun, and what are you man, some kind of pig?" Various forms of hor-calls came from this thirty-year old degenerate (never trust someone over thirty).

When David Molton (a very cynical person indeed) said, "this is a joke", one woman, who had come crawling out of a tent, said, "so's yer face" and to the man next to her "let's go back in the tent." When one Yippie woman, who appeared to be smoking a marijuana cigarette, was asked what was going on, replied, "the tree behind you is moving, the grass is breathing, wow!"

This kind of mentality was running rampant at Yippie headquarters.

While there were Yippies, there were also young Ford supporters who came to throw beach balls and yell at the top of their lungs. Also there was a militant group called

The Young Conservatives. The Young Conservatives generally supported Reagan and were known to yell and be violent. Leaders of The Young Conservatives were purportedly "vicious drunkards". At the convention, all of these "young Americans" were given prime seats to yell for the candidate of their choice. The Young Conservatives were the best organized, with yell leaders and double agents in the Ford camp. Lots of intrigue but no murders.

As the convention got under way the Republicans yelled and screamed at any given moment. On the second night came the first sign of a Reagan-Ford showdown. It was over rule 16c. 16c stated that all presidential candidates have to choose a running mate before the voting for the nomination takes place. This would have made Ford choose Dole beforehand and could have cost him the nomination. Numerous speeches were given, but the one that lost it for Reagan was the man who stated he wanted to see Ford have the chance to have Reagan as a running mate if Reagan lost. So the Reagan supporters, doubting their candidate, lost him the nomination. Had Ford come out and stated that he was choosing Dole for his VP choice, many uncommitted would have sided with Reagan. I think this can be backed up by the abstentions and votes for local politicians that occurred on Thursday night.

Outside the convention Yippies and Jesus freaks fought over who could yell the loudest. The Yippies had a rock band and easily won. But the Jesus freaks didn't take this lying down. They turned their loudspeakers toward the Gay Liberation demonstrators. And these are quotes: "You homosexuals want to accept Jesus, to be real men." "Wouldn't you ladies like to have a family?" "Jesus can cure your homosexuality the same way he cured lepers."

Well, all sorts of wierd things happened, Gerald won and didn't even offer the VP spot to good ol' Ronnie. Instead, he picked a man who matched him...BORING. I think the reason for Ford's victory is that he is mediocre, and he is from Michigan.

Ford takes no controversial stands on anything; he is about as middle of the road as you can get. What can I say? Middle class, middle road, midwestern state. **MEDIOCRITY...**

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A special thanks to Luci Hagen for typing. Your contributions to this paper 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 photos must be black and white. We cannot pay for contributions; the oil budget just couldn't stand the pain. Address all correspondence to: People Soup, 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108.

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Dear everyone who was at larc this year, thank you so much for all the love and happiness you gave to me. I was about to give up on LRY, but your love turned me in the other direction. Thank You and I love you all so much. Sunshine and Good Wishes, Susie

Holly Sides: I need you-- where are you? Please get in touch with me soon. I love you, Karen. P.S. The world hates me (or so it seems)

Well, folks, LRYers and other people, I've moved out of beautiful suburban N.J. and I return letters. My address is: Nora Stern 1221 Laforce Ave., Fort Collins, Col. 80521 tel. (303) 482-6351 Love, Nora.

To funny bunny (silly goose) I love ya', boodie! Con Con

Rodshell, pizza saves eight days a week. love David.

Michael K., I miss you, love and good energy always, David c.

Woody: Thanks for listening, even when I babbled. I'll call sometime soon(haha) Keep writing--Love (lots of it) Karen P.S. That goes for you, too, Annabel.

We would like to mention that the Square Root Mountain Boys Co. have established residence in Knoxville, TN. We live at: 1706 Highland Ave., 37916. The tel. # is: (615) 522-5557. Love&kisses 'n' all, David Innes, Leroy, Bruce Marshall Rich Taucner, Lisa Stevenson, and sometimes, Bruce Johnson. F.S. and Jerry Stone?!! hint hint

IN MEMORIAM: Elaine Christine Raffell was the most beautiful person I've ever known. She lived for other people. She didn't know the meaning of the word selfish. She died leaving me with the happiest memories and visions of her smiles. I will never forget her and will always love her, as will many.

Steve Roberts, FRANSWAR I

Betsy, Karen says hogging the faith, remember faith is like warm fuzzies, an unlimited supply, share the faith. Eric with love

To the Bitch of Rodent Park, CA. I miss you. Please write me a letter, give me a call, anything -or I'll burn down your beautiful sub-urban abode. Love- The Boston Bitch

To Howie, Eric & Hank: I think we made the right decision. Keep in touch. See you at Christmas. Love, Doug

Babs-- Seen any good chuckwagons lately? --Bogie

Dear anyone who found a light blue smock (handmade) with little tiny blue and red flowers on it at larc, would you please send it to me? I'll send you the postage. thanks. Sue Colpetzer, 958 W. Jackson St., Painesville, Ohio 44077

I lost my favorite turquoise "Las Palmas" T-shirt at the conference in Poughkeepsie last June. We've traveled many miles together. It's virtually irreplaceable, and probably too small for you any way. Please. Warm fuzzy reward. Rita Tomkins, 309 Tuxedo Pl., Hawthorne, New York 10532

He oh my, LRY, Why can't you find us? Eh? We really need a... We really need a... Really need a... (FurtFurt!) Please rush. Strokes and love to the UNISTAR '76 and Minneapolis LRYers. Cathy & Suzi, 22 Plaza Square, Belleville, Ont. Canada, K8N 4J3

Debbie F. of Ridgewood long time gone--Summer's almost over and I have yet to see you. Come see or write me--I live alone Rd #2, Greenwich, N.Y. 12834 Its east of Saratoga-- I have no phone. If you can't write, come & ask directions to Richard Rd. & North Rd.--mailbox says Banyai-- I miss you. Love, First Son Dave G. New name: Whitebird

Hey You People: We are three lonely women looking for a little excitement from our mailbox. Please keep us from attacking the mail man. All letters will be answered. Love to all, the three "Cs" (Con, Cath, Crazy) 762 Mentor Ave #6, Painesville, Ohio 44077

To anyone who may be concerned: My address at school is: Longwood College, Box 466, Farmville, VA 23901. If you are inclined to call, feel free to do so. (804) 392-5819 It's a hall phone. My room # is 314. Thank you, Jane Laura Doyle

Last summer at Boards in Ann Arbor, liv & I recieved \$50 worth of material (T-shirts & pamphlets) from Youth Liberation (FPS publishers) to sell at Boards & Cont. Conf. Rather than pay for mailing the remaining material back, liv gave the box (\$6 money) to a guy who lived in Ann Arbor. Youth Liberation wrote liv a letter asking about the whereabouts of the box (\$6 money) If you are that guy, could you please write to me & tell me what happened. If you are a concerned person, all donations for reparation will be accepted. (as liv & I are planning on paying the Youth Liberation people back) Thanks a whole lot--Celeste Hall, 3108 Stevenson, Pebble Beach, CA 93953

TO NEVRA CAT, Carlotta keeps shitting on the carpet--any suggestions? I love you. I'll trim your fir when you come to Lawrence at Christmas. One more UUA Board Meeting. How about Lobsta, Friday night with Rev T. ---poopie and prince charming

And a big hello to all those Old New England people. Am alive at Tufts University--Gordon

To Smythe from P.V., Everybody knew about the mole on your member. Now EVERYBODY knows about the mole on your member. love Casey.

ANARCHISTS!!!! Now that I have your attention, where the hell are you MARC ROCHE!!! Get in touch! Giving blows to the empire your deviaterssistre, Jaki PS You too, Bob Enwell(keep singing)

Dear Daddy, god damn! take ellens underwear off your head and put it on your hum! (shut up! it's good for you..) pixie and dixie

Dearest Jenny Lane, Miriam, Jevera, Danny & Betsy, I love & miss you. I hope to see you soon I should be at Clark in Sept. Huggy Kisslets, Carrie

If you get into music, people, art, or just writing letters to folks you don't know, I'd like to hear from you. Even if you don't like music, people or art, I'd still like to find out what you're into. Please write! Nancy Devine, 6706 Southpoint Dr., Dallas, TX 75248

Adam Jones, Billy Kates, Danny Deridder; Why don't you write me? Didn't you get my letters? I'm beginning to feel as empty as my mailbox. PLEASE someone.. write me a letter. I promise to answer. Love, Carol Hoffman, 19521 Sterling Dr., Miami, Fla. 33137

hey norma!...N-o-o-o-orma-a-aa-an...NORMAN!!!! "later"...but a'... like a'...you know

Hello Jeff-- I'd like to hear from you-- my address is: 3108 Charleston N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87110 Please write a hello-I enjoyed you ---A.

Hingham crowd, through the hassles of life, and the medieval fights, we still love you, all of you. Father and Rabbit

Hello. Due to various circumstances and many changes of addresses, I will now be receiving mail at: 85 Bartlett St., Somerville, MA 02145.

Love and roses, Jenny Lane PS Glauco, my sweets, I miss you wadly.

Write or call me for NERO Summer End lost and found info: Wendy O'Donnell, 12 Dearborn Rd., Medford, MA 02155 tel. (617) 623-9155.

Coyle & Dohen; Time and Sports Illustrated I don't need. I do need you. Give me your coordinates and I'll be there at night-fall. Presently residing at: 2004 "G" St., Washington, D.C. 20006. All my love, ---K.

To all those who went to NERO Summer's End: Has anyone found my black cowboy hat with the button of Chairman Mao on the front? I love and need it. If you have it or know what became of it please write me: Danny Gediman, 49 Frost St., Framingham, mass. 01701. P.S. Even if you don't have my hat, please write me, esp. you Barb!

Steve, Leaving me at the house without saying toodles was FINOOLEY!! Grrr.

fem, Hey babes, what's goin' down t'nite 'ween one 'n two? Did you get to visit loosie uncouthie nuthie in cal.? I miss you both so much. Hope to see you soon, I love you alot..rainbows & sunshine, your right hand man

RITA of Hawthorne NY--I lost your letter. Please write again and send your address. Smudge

Diane Foley of Tampa, Fla. - I love you & I have a long beautiful letter for you--but I don't have your address(I lost it--sorry!!) Please write & send me your address--I want to communicate so badly!! Di Kegeles, 114 N. Main St., W. Hartford, CT. 06107

Mark White of Springfield, II: Please let me know if you need any help on that CMF Magazine(if you're still working on it) Reed from St. Louis.

Dear David, I'm so glad that you went to Star & that we became better friends. Thanks for being there when I needed your comfort & friendship. I love you muchly, Ellen

Hi there, We're looking for a warm friendly person to share an apartment in Brookline, Mass. For more info, call (evenings) or write: Gail Solomon, 143 Babcock St. #2, Brookline, MA. 02146 tel. (617) 232-7904

Friends: I have a new address. Please come visit, write, or call me so I'll know where to write you! Jennifer Hodgson, room 409, Rogers A, U Conn., Storrs, CT., 06263, tel. (203) 429-2702

Dear J.E.R.(whoever you are, for the women in hiding) I loved and identified with your poem in the last P.S. Would you write to me? You seem like an interesting person. Carrie Faraone, 740 Dixie Ln., Plainfield, N.J. 07062

Michael Johnson, I love you madly, let my imagination run away with you (gladly!) love, Co.

Horizon: I've seen and liked many things you've said. At S.F. conf. I wanted to talk to you. Please write to: Caroline, 4245 Pasadena, Sacramento, CA 95821

To our M.I.s, S.E.M.I.s, P.P.s and O.M., The world shall remember 11:47-8:22. We couldn't have done it without you. Onward into the book. Thank you Love ya, T.P.I.s

To Iulsa, I miss you, please write! Andrea Eckard, 1815 N. Boomer Rd. F-6, Stillwater, OK, 74074

I need letters from folks in the mid-west and various people around the country who haven't written due to my lack of address Mark Pucci, c/o Berklee College of Music, 150 Mass. Ave, Box 128, Boston, MA. 02215

to christian neilson; as i once knew you, and perhaps will; i would like to hear from you. experience is not contingent on how many wooly bears without stripes a big dog can eat in respect to aesthetic morality. santa fe, NM St John's College, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Friends & family, I am now living at: 405 Emily Dickinson, U Mass, Amherst, MA, tel (413) 546-6614. yours, Beverly Treumann

soux & pam-bird: ihelpineed-afix!

Hey! Funny Bunny, I love you! Paki- I miss you-- write to me! Love, Di

IF YOUR FEEL IS NOT AFFILIATED - YOU MAY STOP GIVING BS. see pg 8

Toddy Litman in Olympia...are you alive? Write me, won't you? I've been thinking about you. Andy (in Boston)

Val, I hope your life is as good as you've made mine. G.

Barbara Nahemon, Kathy Karam, et al: please write me, I miss you all terribly. much love, Karen L.

Hank Dahlink. Take your tv inspired journalism and shove it up your nose. love --the flying burrito sisters Joe, K.C. wouldn't be the same without you, A Fellow Janitor

Dusty. Finally- your own personal in People Soup (remember?) love, Karen

PERSONALS
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BOOK REVIEW

GROWING UP GAY
A Youth Liberation Pamphlet
from Youth Liberation Press - 37pp

Every time a new anthology of writing by gay persons comes out, I rush to the nearest copy and devour it. Every now and then I wind up with a nasty case of acid stomach, but such was not the case with *Growing Up Gay*. *Growing Up Gay* is a collection of sixteen intimately personal articles on various facets of the homosexual experience. It is not filled with dry philosophy or meaningless statistics. Rather, it is an eloquent account of the kind of pain and beauty that every young homosexual lives with from day to day. Although *Growing Up Gay* does not give much space to related political issues, it has a very good section on organizing gay groups and movements, and is very comprehensive in its coverage of feelings. There are sections about loneliness, the pain of oppression, being a homosexual in the public schools, and confrontation with parents, peers and others. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, the pamphlet differs from past publications of its kind in that it devotes equal space to male gays and lesbians. This decided benefit, plus a mini-catalog of materials available from Youth Liberation and other publishers, makes this booklet a fine addition to anyone's collection.



**WE ARE ALIVE AND WELL
AND GOING TO EVERY**

HIGH SCHOOL

ection of homophile literature, whether they are gay or not. Copies can be obtained from:

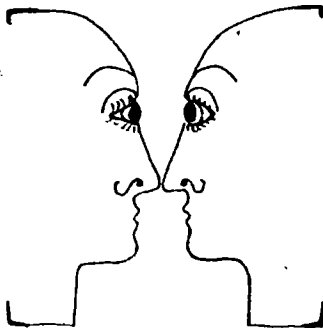
Youth Liberation Press, Inc.
2007 Washtenaw
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

The cost is \$.75 per copy, with \$.50 postage, and handling on the first copy, and \$.25 thereafter. Prices, they say, are subject to change.

STARE DOWN

On Wed., Aug. 25th at 11:47pm, at OPIK, Chris Tauson and Richard Terrass, in a fit of temporary insanity, began their attempt to set a world's record. They hoped to raise money for OPIK, which was deeply in debt at the time. There was, at the time, no world's record established for staredowns in the Guinness Book of World Records. It was felt by both "starees" that any less than eight hours was not worthy of being a world record and might be too easy for someone to break. The rules were simple. The two sat in metal folding chairs, placed four feet apart, and were not permitted to break eye contact for eight hours, with the exception of five minute breaks permitted after each full hour of staring. Including the breaks, the contest was to

cluded getting coffee, lighting cigarettes, and whatever else was needed. Kimi Sue Riegel was the Official Masseur (OM) and dispensed countless back and neck rubs throughout the attempt (as well as administering Visine to the TPIs during the breaks). The Music Man (MM) was Mick Levine and the Photographic People (PPs) were Vinny Nigro and Pam Vogel. During the latter half of the first hour and throughout the second hour, both Chris and Richard complained of visual hallucinations. These complaints became less frequent as the time wore on and a coughing fit by Richard in the third hour threatened to cause the breaking of eye contact. This was prevented by an LRYer who had the foresight to bring a bottle of Robitussin and one spoonful was quickly administered. The major obstacle to the successful completion of the attempt, after this point, was conquering drowsiness. Both Chris and Richard agreed this was worst during the fifth and seventh hours, but they were kept alert by applications of wet towels to their necks and constant talking by the SEMIs. Despite all this, they still had to be nearly carried back to their seats from the bathroom during their sixth and seventh breaks. At the beginning of the eighth hour the local radio station in Chillicothe was contacted and they requested to be informed at the completion of the staredown. At the 7 1/2-hour mark, the rest of the LRYers at the camp were awakened by banging on gongs and blowing whistles, so they could witness the completion of the staredown in the main lodge. Chris and Richard were being informed of each five minutes they completed during the last hour. It was decided to inform them of each minute for the last ten, ever fifteen seconds for the last two minutes, every five seconds for the last minute, and to countdown the last fifteen seconds. With fifteen minutes left the stereo was turned off. The alarm clocks and bells were in readiness for the finish. By the five-minute break most of the people in the camp had arrived at the main lodge and the cooks had started breakfast.



continue for eight hours and thirty-five minutes. It would be constantly under the watchful eyes of at least three adult (18 or older) witnesses, as is required by Guinness. Thus, the contest was to end at 8:22am on Thursday, Aug. 26th.

They were assisted in their attempt by a group of officials. The first group was known as the Mandatory Idiots (MIs). They included Terry Markoff, Fred Littell, Sally Chappell, Jenny Skwiercz, Julie Matousek, and Matt Tomsho. The MIs were the official adult witnesses. The next group was the SEMIs (Somewhat Equal to a Mandatory Idiot): Cheryl Markoff, Mike McNabb, and Wendy Fast, who ran errands for the MIs and the TPIs (The Prime Idiots, Chris and Richard). Their errands in-

At the fifteen-second mark the lodge was silent, with the exception of the countdown. Everyone joined in on the countdown by the ten second mark, except for Chris and Richard who had clinched their fists and gritted their teeth since the thirty-second mark. When the count reached zero and the stereo blasted through the lodge, a big cheer went up, and Chris and Richard collided with each other as they jumped up from their chairs yelling "We did it". After the pledges were collected, the staredown had raised better than 45 dollars for OPIK and after the announcement of the staredown on the radio, Chris, Richard, and nearly all the officials collapsed in a big pile on the floor to sleep.

A TRAVEL GUIDE

In Minnesota presently there is a one person effort to get an LRY travel guide started.

The project is oriented towards interested LRYers and local groups who have little to do. It is also directed at people who want to hear about and do fun things with LRYers.

The structure for the framework of the project is as follows:

1) There will be 50 people working as state managers. These people will simply keep records on who goes where and when. A month before a person leaves that state, the state manager will notify the destination state manager.

If I don't get at least 1/3 of the people or another workable operational plan by Jan. 14, the project will have to be dumped!

2) There will be 12 people working as district managers. After the state manager has taken note of what the person needs, she/he will send it on to the district manager. The district manager will turn to a teletype and have a computer print out possible places for the person to stay on their trip. The district manager then sends it to the person who is going to be traveling.

3) One project manager. She/he just keeps things running smoothly.

Presently that is a rough sketch of what is involved. In all likelihood there will be changes in job descriptions. Also the following jobs have been filled: California state manager - Leigh Taylor 2nd district manager - Patti Cobb Project manager - Peter Kelley

I have pushed for this project for two years now (started on Jan 16, 75) and feel that support has been much talk, much writing and no firm backers. The two people who have preparations are ready and are waiting and people who have been recontacted have not reaffirmed their desire to help or not.

I would like for the publicity chairpersons from each Fed. to contact me. The American Youth Hostels are going to be included.

All other positions are open. As you can see much is left to be done and the only way it will work is by interested people like you. So if you are interested, contact:

Peter Kelley
295 Glenmoor Dr.
Long Lake, MN 55356

We all know that a travel guide has been wanted for some time now, the chance is here, the preparations are being made; let's see it work!

LOOK!

DEADLINES AND THEMES FOR PEOPLE SOUP

Vol. IV, No. 2-----November 5, 1976
Theme: Self-Sufficiency

Vol. IV, No. 3-----January 8, 1977
Theme: Sexuality

The issue on Sexuality is a Cream of People Soup.

bye folks!



BIOFEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM

In response to Andrew Velonis' letter on Virgins: Three Cherries and a Rah! I turned in my virginity at 20 and although I quickly learned what I had "been missing" I wasn't sorry for the wait because it was an excellent experience and I'll remember it fondly (fondle-ly?). Sex is for enjoyment, so do it when you're ready to enjoy it and not before.

Sharon Kass
Wheaton, MD.

Dear "Openminded"? LRYers:

I was glad to see that someone feels the same as I do (Andrew Velonis, *Virgins*, *The New Minority*). I have thought about my virginity quite a bit and wondered if anyone felt the same as I do. Now I realize I'm not all by myself (I never really thought I was). And instead of wondering what I'm missing out on, I wonder if they know what they (non-virgins) are missing out on. My attitude about people who force themselves on me has turned to resentment and has made me determined to remain a virgin, which I think has its bad and good points.

Do people who call virgins frigid, unadventurous and other such things, know how much it hurts us for at least some of us? I think such people want to put the blame on someone else after a certain person turned them down sexually. It isn't anyone's fault that they were rejected sexually.

I feel the same way about drugs. So many times I've been rejected because I did not want to fill my body with drugs. I know people who didn't really want to get into drugs but felt that they had to. They felt that the just couldn't cope with people rejecting them because they didn't want to get into drugs.

I hope the next time you decide to push someone into taking drugs or losing their virginity (and I know non-virgins who wish they were still virgins) that you'll think about how much you can hurt people.

Love you all (which doesn't mean I want to have sex with you but that doesn't mean I love you less),

Lesser horse

P.S. I'm not speaking to everyone, just some of you. Unfortunately I'm speaking to most of you.



Dear BHJ,

In criticizing my article about sexual repression (*People Soup*, article 6/76, criticism 7/76) you distort many of my ideas; partly this is my fault for writing so abstractly, but I also think distorting ideas is typical among defenders of capitalism. Thus I wanted to respond strongly, even though I'm afraid this may discourage some from writing in. I do want people to write in.

I never suggested, as you seem to believe, that the ruling class in this country has consciously conspired to repress sexuality, or that "Marxist socialism would eliminate America's sexual repression"; nor do I believe in or refer to the capitalist concept of "men's need to dominate others".

There are grains of truth in your interpretation of what I wrote. For example, I do believe some groups within the ruling class "conspire" to maintain their power, as in the Watergate coverup, or the FBI murders of Black Panther leaders across the country in the early seventies.

But the sexual repression I wrote of was usually neither created nor collectively planned by the ruling class; they merely picked up on the sexual repression that existed before capitalism, and used it for their own purposes. For example, when the Ford Foundation refuses to fund a gay organization, they are helping to perpetuate anti-gay sentiment among people, sentiment which the gay group would have tried to change. This anti-gay sentiment benefits those on the top, since it divides the workers and keeps people from working together to make changes. Whether the executives of the Ford Foundation consciously understand this or actually believe "gays are bad" (or both) is not at issue: they are still the biggest obstacle right now to gay people's liberation. Socialism doesn't mean

instant liberation, but just that the road for changes is open. Under socialism people can collectively decide, for example, which groups to fund, rather than that decision being made by a small group of rich people with a stake in the status quo. I think that makes socialism in my interest as well as in the interest of most people in the world.

You said China was "puritanical", though socialist, and Arab women are becoming "liberated", though capitalist. I am not going to defend repression of sexuality in China, except to say that it's been there for ages, the reds didn't create it; in fact, recently progressive changes are beginning in sex mores (young unmarried couples sleeping together). As far as "liberated" Arab women go, I don't know much about it and would like to hear how and why they're "liberated". Is Playboy your concept of liberation?

To answer a few of your questions:

- 1) Why doesn't men's power over their wives "translate into a general feeling of individual power...expressed in labor unrest?" First, there is labor unrest, for other reasons. Second, "individual power", when it means glorifying action alone, is no power at all in labor struggles. Ever staff a one-person picket line? Labor's power comes from collective power, people working together for change, which would be aided by cooperation with, not domination of, one's spouse.
- 2) "Why don't capitalists want workers totally demoralized?" Because then they'd be sure to revolt, with nothing to lose.
- 3) "Why don't women dominate men by withholding sex?" Because if a woman did, the man would probably find another woman.
- 4) "Why are women hired by private industry, in spite of the 'need' for them as housewives and submissive sex tools?" Because they are needed in the workforce too; married working women don't usually stop being housewives.

As far as your defense of capitalism goes, when you say it is "a system whereby people take risks with their money and sometimes receive a dividend for taking those risks", I ask (1) who suffers from a system based on profit instead of human needs? (2) Which people can invest money and collect dividends? (I barely pay my rent, let alone buying myself a factory), and (3) where does the money come from, that the rich are investing? And where does the money come from for those "dividends"? After all, money doesn't have power -- it's people that have power. Money is just the way the power distribution is kept straight. So why do the rich deserve this power? It's the people who work to make this society run who deserve the control of the society. Plumbers, dishwashers, mechanics, doctors, teachers: without these people's efforts, your dollar bill wouldn't be worth a cent, for all the dollar means is that somebody did some work, made life a little better, and wants to exchange the value of that for an equivalent value of somebody else's work. I repeat the question, where did that rich person's money come from, if they didn't work, if they "invested"?

The question of where rich people's money came from reminds me of the story of the poor person who came upon someone's land and sat down for a rest.

"Get off my land--or pay me \$5 per night!"
"No. Why should I? Why is it your land?"
"Because my father gave it to me."
"And where did he get it?"
"His father gave it to him."
"And where did his father get it?"
"His father got it from his father, who got it from his grandfather, who got it from his father, who fought for it."

"All right, then, I'll fight you for it!"



—liv



Dear People's Soup and LRYers All:

The disturbing things you have recently heard about the Harrisburg local are the opinions of one not involved in our local and they are false and misleading. The Harrisburg local is ALIVE and WELL, internally healthy and on very good terms with the UUA adults in our community.

The "Midsummer Madness", conference that wasn't, was not planned, supported by or even known of by the Harrisburg local. The first we heard of it was through the announcement in the last *People Soup*. We are sorry for those who were disappointed that it didn't happen, and we are even sorer that somehow the failure will be accredited to us.

The person responsible for both of these unfortunate conditions is "Fang", one Dennis Dougherty, who hangs out with the street people of downtown Harrisburg, and who says he wants our local to help them "solve the problems of where to go after 7:00 p.m., what to do, and finances to do this with." He goes on, to imply that other locals do this elsewhere and to throw out a few disparaging remarks about the existing Harrisburg local and to suggest that he will start a new one.

In the first place, Dennis Dougherty has never once approached our local to suggest this plan to us as a group. After his return to Harrisburg in the spring, he phoned some members and advisors, and talked to a few he met. Although he attended a meeting or two, he never once addressed us to say "I've got an idea...I see a need we could help meet", nor in any way did he enlist our support or invite us to meet with those people he feels we could help.

Dennis Dougherty wants to party. He wants to party after 7, and he wants to have a place to party: a farm, a house, a conference. And he wants the LRY to sponsor, organize, finance and take responsibility for his party.

The Harrisburg Local arose, phoenix-like, from the embers of a group that had dissolved because of in-fighting, power struggles, and mutual disrespect with the adult members of the UUA. We are presently beyond all those difficulties, though still in a neophyte stage. We met because a small core of the old group really liked each other, and continued to gather during the dark ages of dissension and dissolution. Advisors were recruited and we met; a small number with a large helping of hope and faith. We took our first tenuous steps toward recognition, and were received at first with some skepticism and encouragement, and we have been growing in numbers and in esteem ever since. We are becoming an increasingly active and responsible part of the larger UUA group.



N.J. LOFTIS

