

People's Soup

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LIBERAL RELIGIOUS YOUTH WAS AN ORGANIZATION DIFFERENT FROM ITS PREDECESSORS IN STRUCTURE AND STYLE. THE LRY OF TODAY IS ALSO DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT HAS BEEN BEFORE. CHANGES IN CULTURE CREATE CHANGES IN INSTITUTIONS, AND THE HISTORY OF THE YOUTH MOVEMENT MUST BE EXAMINED IN THIS LIGHT AS WELL.

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A Capsule History of the U-U Youth Movement Wayne Arnason

I am pleased to have the opportunity to write this brief history of LRY and the youth movements before it for *People's Soup*, but it is also an awkward chore for me. As some of you reading this may know, I have completed a detailed 140 page manuscript of the history of our youth movements. It is entitled *Follow the Glean*, and is currently seeking enough financial backing to be formally published. It is not easy to boil 140 pages down to one *Soup*-length article. In spite of that, I wanted to take this opportunity because I think history is terribly important, and most LRYers have no idea why the movement they are a part of is where it is at today, how it got there, and who was involved in its creation and growth. Very few people have any sense of the continuity of our youth movement.

There is continuity, however. Indeed, there are patterns that have remained fairly constant over the years. Most people are aware that many notable leaders within the Unitarian-Universalist movement began their denominational involvement through the youth groups. Gordon McKeeman, one of the candidates for the UUA Presidency this year, is one of them. In spite of this connection, there has always been a high degree of ambivalence and tension between the churches and their youth counterparts.

LRYers at the local and regional levels have in recent years been critical of the continental level of LRY for its alienation from the grass roots, its inefficiency, and its extravagant spending habits. This same complaint echoes all through the movement's history. Tensions and differences between the various structural levels of the movement have always existed. They reflect the same lack of commitment to centralized institutional framework that characterized the adult churches.

The Continental LRY leaders of today grapple with the problem of how to be helpful and relevant to the peo-

ple at the local level. Yet even when the youth organization was centered mainly in New England, the jump from regional to national or continental office has always represented a quantum leap in perspective and in problems for the people involved.

Finally, meeting the needs of college age people within the youth movement has always been a difficult and usually disappointing task.

I do not wish to point out merely the continuities over the eighty-eight years of the youth movement's history. The second goal of my narrative is to indicate the changes as well. How had the LRY of today, a unique, continent-wide youth organization incorporated, staffed and governed exclusively by people from the ages of fourteen to nineteen, evolved out of a young people's movement brought into being by a small group of New England ministers near the turn of the century?

A dominant theme within our youth movement over the years is summarized in the slogan "youth autonomy". At first glance it appears that "youth autonomy" has been a guiding principle in our approach to youth programming right from the beginning. In the 1924 "youth issue" of the *Universalist Leader*, Stanley Manning, Director of Young People's Work within the Universalist Convention for four and one half years, wrote: "The first joy to be found in such a position is the discovery that no one can be a director of young people's work. There is so much of initiative, of willingness to work, of desire to explore and discover on their part that no one can direct their activities. This does not mean that there is not entire willingness to discuss methods and ways of working, or that there is no desire for advice and assistance; the very genius of young people's work lies in its self-direction."

Cont. on Page 8

Ed Inman
1450 Meadowbrook
Jackson MS 39211
277

personals

To anyone who wants to know: my address is: Stacy Bamford, Abbotsholme, Rochester, Uttoxeter Staffs. ST145BS, United Kingdom. I answer all letters!

Glen & Bonnie & Brian & Jim & Peon and all those beautiful people who were at Deffenneville in '73, '74, '75 esp. in '7C write to us. Don't be strangers. After all, didn't you help bring us about? Patti and Allan Rodman 10142 McClemont Ave., Tujunga, Calif. 91042 (213)352-5273

Roger & Zacharian, I love you always, no matter what. Wendy Norman! Trot down that old cow path and come to Ottawa conf. at Easter. Ann P.S. Bring Craig

J.B.C.- Is great to be in contact but I'd like to see you at Easter in Ottawa if your social schedual permits. Bring your friends. I love you lots. Leslie

EXCITED ERIC- perverse things for perverse people!! Aunt Harriet loves you and so do I!! (What a turn on!!)(hee, hee) Love times a million, NATALIE

Kriss, Jimmy, K.C., Mickey, Lauren, and everyone else at Racine for V.D. conference, thanks for making it so great- I love all of you. Mary

Visky, Larry Kay, etc. from cont. write me. I got stuck in the mountains. Bob "Pickles" McCall c/o Staff, Banff Springs Hotel, Banff, Alberta, Canada T0L 0E0

Anyone: LRYer enrolled in (incarcerated at, take your pick) Prep School in smallest, dullest and, above all, unfriendliest town in PA. Any letters recieved will be replied to with love and gratitude. Jonathan, Box #9, Mercersburg Academy, M' burg, PA 17236

DANNY O. in Rockville, MD, where are you?..I'd still like to see you sometime..I love you. Karen

BETH--Miss you lots. That phone call really upset me. Please write. See you in April. ALEX

Dear Dear Deanna, here's one long letter W--double-you. Mr. K

Francine & mom, & David & Dad, I miss you all tons! Boston is big and lonely at times, other times I really enjoy myself here. I miss so. calif. sun, it's colder here. Love and roses. xxxoooo Rachell

I hope all my friends had a beautiful Easter camp. I thought about all of you while here on the East Coast. I'll see y'all sometime in the future. Be happy and well! shanti. love and peace, Rachell

M.H.M.- Be strong for yourself. love, Rachell

Does PSLRY still exist? I'm just curious. Thanks for your beautiful letter Wesley. I recieved it at a time when I really needed the support. I love you! R.C.

CSW people--June 5th draws nigh. yrs. passionately, Paul
Harin Smith--- The Soup wants your graphics!!! I told the exec. comm. of your endless drawing talents. Please reply in care of the Soup. love ya, r.c.

Susan Elizabeth: You're the only one I love the very most. Sometimes my love for you scares me a little. Even the great prairie sky cannot dwarf it. You're in my heart. AVII
Pat- Thanks for being there, you're great! Love, Wendy



By next September, two fantastic things will have happened to me. I) I will have turned sixteen (sweet) and II) I will have graduated from high school. As these things are a peak for me, I don't want to waste the year. If you are interested in hitchhiking through Europe, sailing the Caribbean, going to Africa or houseboating in Amsterdam--WRITE ME!! I'm open for suggestions and new friends. Nancy Scheinok, 2812 Hunterdon Dr., Cinnaminson, NJ 08077 (609) 829-0229

Dear Shannon of Racine: I miss you. From Joel too far away.

Steve Roembeld- I moved and lost your address (sorry) there is much doubt for the music- thanks anyways! love Cheryl

Hey Friends! my new mailing address is: Cheryl Markoff, 15127 Esther, Lakewood, Ohio, 44107, I don't live there though..I love you and miss you. Cheryl

Hey Andrew Neal of Chicago that was (is?) in C. Kid's Choir as the only blond bass w/ braces: Hi! I remember you from when you sang in Princeton, NJ. I'll explain in a letter, what's your address? Maura Roira, 320 Hamilton Ave., Princeton, NJ 08540

Eric: Is life so great you can't even think about writing to us little people--Mainly ME? Betsy

Tym: xmas was weird, started so good, ended strangely. Why weren't you there to say good-bye. I missed you. Don't forget me. I'm alive and feeling strong in jolly old England--Stacey

Anyone remembering Rita and the Royal blue cloak, please Write: Unicorn Cottage, 1960 Victoria, Dayton, OH 45406

Joni- I love you so come see me soon, my love. Bruce Jo

Burchie..Thanks everso muchly for being there when i needed you. It means a lot to me. Lots of love, Karen

DeDe Gill: where are you?? Love Gregory (Ellman, 314 E. 6th St #13, NYC, 10003)

Dear Sweet Toots (uh I mean Ariel)(now how many Ariels are there, huh?) (Weiss, you guessed it). Well, here it is. Now think hard, there must be some absurd in-joke I can put down. oh well. Listen, you want to know something? I really love you a whole lot, (....Uh-oh, Nora's not gonna cry is she?) and I miss you. And, and.... Love, Nora. P.S. Tell Christina I can get Brie for 2.05 a lb. here! How's my bedspread coming?

Friends or somebody who just wants to be in with the latest news "FANG" of HRG. has now moved to: Poseidia att: "Fang" 2334 Green St., Harrisburg, PA 17104. If you wish to write this nut a letter, use your pen to write his House of Wonders; M.D.A. Come visit me or ELSE just write me soon. "Fang"

By the way, I didn't happen to see what natural rebellion against authority I've had until I happened to attend a traffic court trial. All I could say was I'm glad it's not me. I would like to construct a workshop on this but I don't know beams about workshops. And if anybody discovers this something in themselves (natural rebellion against authorities) I would appreciate it very much if he/she would contact me and let me know what they feel about it O.K. Send data to J. Reed Bilgere 7446 Teasdale U, City, Mo. 63130 (314) 862-5624

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Your contributions for this paper are welcome. It is made possible through your energy, both spiritual and physical. Any contributions of news items, short stories, poems, editorials or artwork are welcome and will be returned. Drawings or other artwork must be black ink and photos must be black and white. We cannot pay for contributions due to the budget just 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. Page Fractions: LRY Other 1/6...\$5...\$20 1/3...\$10...\$35 1/2...\$15...\$60 full page...\$35...\$100

To M.W. and D.A. happy trails to you, the Third Musketeer

J. Feet Crustworthy is alive and living in the spirit of the kitchens of NERO. Arf Arf-Beep Beep-Wacka Wacka-Feet Feet!

High Eric! Love Hank and Doug(nudge)

Happy Birthday Doug Nebb! May 19th. Kiss a taco today.

Nombat- Where are you? Trayer Turner did not abduct the wombat, Columbus conferees -so where is it? IT badley needs love and repair!

To anyone who lost clothes (underwear, socks included) at Columbus conference, please contact Lisa Adams 1591 Statebrook Lane Columbus, Ohio 43229 (614)8463508 for information leading to their discovery! No collect calls PLEASE!!

Mick Levine in CMF: Where are you? I haven't seen in so long that I'm starting to forget what you look like! I miss you! Love, Lisa

James Trablisi, Cheryl Gilmar, Are you guys still in LRY? What're you up to these days? I will probably go to the next conference in the area as there haven't been any around lately. I'll also probably go to Continental this year. I want to see both of you there. And at Triangle (even though you don't know each other) (I don't think). Love, Baha.

People wanting to reach me may do so by writing:3536 Harrison, Oakland,CA 94611 (415) 654-1024 Emilie Blattman.

Attn. old Exec. Comm. members (of the Continental type).I am interested in having a conference/gathering in the not so distant future.If you have any ideas along this line,get in touch with me at the above address.Love,Emilie B.

zach and other next of kin All goes well in Beantown. Make someone buy the house. To-ray? Saright! Love, A-Moon
Eat an apple today. Thanks.

Clit- YOU mean so much to me. I love you more than I've loved anyone else. Thanks for being my friend. The stranger in the Effingham bus station.

Rachel, kiss Dave for me. Dave, kiss Rachel for me. Have a nice time... Andy

Claire- In still alive and havin' of ya. I've written, just haven't sent it yet. soory....apple (I'm 3) ndrewAndrewAndrewAndrew

Maggie and Sha! Don't kill me! I will write back! Loved both letters. (You guys hate me?) I love you both. (guilt, guilt) ndrewAndrewAndrewAndrew

Rev Hendricks- I need that suitcase back! Write me so we can arrange how to trade suitcases and to tell me how you've been and what you've been doing. Love, Lou Dishi, 64 Oak St., Weston, MA 02193

SOUPER'S PROFILE (PRONOUNCED SOO-PURZ PRO-FYUL)

JOHN G. BEEBE-CENTER III



AGE: Nineteen
 HOME: Cherry Hill, New Jersey
 PROFESSION: Laborer and part-time masseur
 HOBBIES: Basket weaving, fingerpainting, humming
 MOST MEMORABLE BOOK: "The Pokey Little Puppy"
 LAST ACCOMPLISHMENT: Wrote an excellent cover article for People Soup, "the magazine for discerning youth", on working at Boston City Hall (see People Soup, Volume III, Issue six, "A Massachusetts Hippie in King Kevin's Court")
 QUOTE: "I think that contributing to People Soup (you know, the magazine for discerning youth) was the single most valuable thing I have ever done. Once I got started, it was really easy to write, and seeing my name in big letters was really a THRILL, let me tell you! I also gained great confidence in my writing abilities. It's really not as hard as it looks, and knowing that you have made a tangible effort to support the organization that does so much for you (and it does, it really does. Those workers at the Boston Office are absolutely tireless in their energy and dedication) really lets you take pride in yourself. And the fan mail (mine was about 50% money and 50% marriage proposals) is fun, too. Any schmuck can write for this publication, and you should be honored to have the opportunity. I know I was! I would take it as a personal favor if you would sit down right this second, or sometime, and send in some articles, photographs, or even little pictures that you have drawn (they call these "graphics". Cute, huh?), because I'm sick and tired of reading articles about and written by the LRY Executives, and none of them can draw for beans. So send that stuff in today!"
 PROFILE: Blond, blue eyes, LRYer, nineteen, writes for People Soup, "the magazine for discerning youth"
 SCOTCH: J&B (eat your heart out, Dewars!)

CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE 1977



metamorphosis:



The Social Integration of Self

AT: Camp Kingsmont, West Stockbridge, Massachusetts

August 21-28

Cost: \$65



This year's Continental Conference will be held in the heart of the Berkshires in western Massachusetts. Camp Kingsmont spans several acres of beautiful mountains, fields and woodlands. Cabins are clustered in a central location that provides easy access to the dining hall, two rec halls, lake, swimming pool and sauna. In addition to our own program staff and advisors, the camp will provide a professional cooking staff and a nurse who will be on 24-hour duty at the camp infirmary.

The program, centered around the theme of Metamorphosis: The Social Integration of Self, will examine the effects of our consciousness upon society at large. We will look at the evolution of personal consciousness and social change, not as separate, but intergral parts of the same process.

This conference holds great promise, but it is dependant on what you put into it. So start saving your bucks and please fill out the questionnaire on page 11. Because of our large debts and a tight budget, we must insist upon full payment from every conferee. Registration forms will be sent out with a separate publicity in May. Remember: no illegal drugs, alcohol, firearms, or fireworks.



Transportation Co-ordinator
 Ben Alexander
 375 South Union St.
 Burlington, VT 05401

Ben Alexander is the transportation co-ordinator. If you can offer a ride, or need a ride, write to him. Or if you are taking a bus, write him. (maybe he can latch you in with other LRYers on their way.)

Worship Co-ordinator
 Hank Hennessy
 5608 Kellogg Place
 Edina, MN 55424

Hank Hennessy is the worship co-ordinator. If you have ideas about worship or would like to offer your services to help with a worship or two, drop him a line



CRED-

BIOFEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM

I guess most of you won't read this, but, for those of you that do, this is from my heart to you. I have only two reasons for writing this. I guess the first one is that I just finished reading my latest issue of People Soup and it certainly needs more material because it took me about five minutes to read. My other reason is that I can see my road, or perhaps, my path of life becoming harder, at least changing so much that I can't see daylight for a long way ahead. So much for my introduction.

The first diversion from my life's path came, I suppose, when I realized that I was in a lot of trouble. I lost my hair then, and many like me got our first baths after a sweaty and harried week. Too many things happened there to write about now, perhaps later I will have the time. Suffice it to say I found myself drunk in a cathouse for the first time with all my worldly possessions being \$1,000 in cash, a bus ticket home, a new suit, a suitcase and an honorable discharge from the Marine Corps.

The second major change came not long ago. I discovered that I was smoking too much and that I was very worried as I was getting married on Jan. 8th. Now. Hoo boy.

Well, I guess that's all I have to say and I do feel better. I love my lady and am praying to whom or what is in charge of receiving prayers that we will be happy. I hope that some of you will see fit to write to me.

Love,

Timothy Brooks

Apt. 3, 2915 E. 5th St.
Knoxville, TN. 37920

or

c/o Mr. & Mrs. C.R. Brooks
Rt. 9 Gov. John Seiver Hwy.
Knoxville, TN. 37920

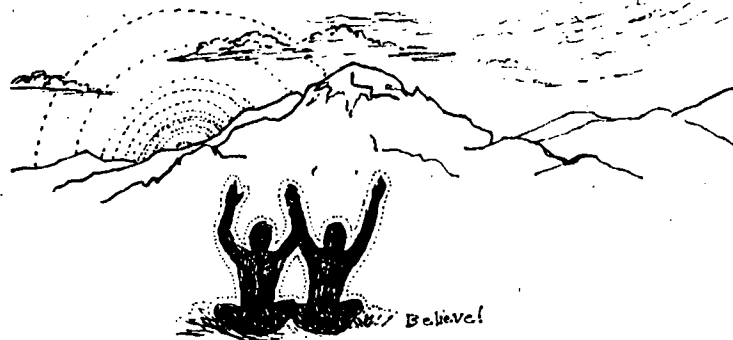
Dear young persons,

Your paper has been delivered to our home to a young man who hasn't lived here for the past three years, but I've read each "People Soup" from front to back each time a publication arrived. I sure don't care for some of the language used, Satan seems to have his toe in the editors pocket, may I suggest you turn your youthfull energies to spreading the saving word of Jesus Christ to the young persons in your organization and elsewhere. We indeed live in a very mixed up world and it is hard not to become bitter and discouraged. It is my hope and prayer our nation will turn from greed to God!

I'm sure young persons feel very free when they leave home for one reason or another, especially while attending your camp-out meetings in the woods, but have you ever had a bible reading or prayer offering for the betterment of our nation at one of your camp-outs? Have your members redeemed a soul? It is more uplifting than trying to improve the nations conditions. Our life on earth compared to the here after is as a blink of the eye-so brief; but think of eternity-will you spend it in darkness, pain and sorrow wishing you had made a better choice or in the bright heavenly light of God, you do have a choice. God doesn't force us to become his servants, he gave us a mind so we can choose which way we want to go. There is a God in heaven, you can be sure of that above all else. You only need to look at all the humans on this earth, no two are alike; we are all individuals, just as all the snowflakes that fall no two are alike.

It's a known fact that several of our astronauts have taken to witnessing to the fact that they believe there is a God, they saw the planet as God

The father of our rocket and space program, God fearing Werner Von Braun states, "Evidences of a Creator are so overwhelming, I can't envision this universe coming into being without something like a divine will; I can not envision the creation without the concept of a creator."



Cathy Carney

Dear People Soup,

Have you heard of the Moonies? I am beginning to dread the word. Many people are frightened by what they hear or read in the newspapers about them. The press makes Rev. Sun Myung Moon's Movement of the Unification Church and divisions thereof out to be the workings of the devil, a true indoctrinating hell hole.

Almost all views publicized are from the outside looking in. The San Francisco Examiner and Chronicle claims that the New Ideal City Ranch is another money making organization for Rev. Moon. They quoted a concerned father of a resident of the ranch as saying: "They (the residents) have no normal emotions, they look blissfully happy" and "Moon brainwashes people".

My sister, Beverly Hoffman, a former member of LRY, SRL and the SRL executive committee, has now joined the Creative Community Project on the New Ideal City Ranch in Boonville, California; which is said to be part of the Moonie cult.

The newspaper reports seem to imply that there is nothing in the Moonie cult but evil. That the people are there only because they don't know better or that they are in need of "deprogramming" i.e. brainwashing.

Beverly, who is in the Moonie cult now, says that it is the views loving and spiritual community that will bring peace and love to the world. At one point she denied that the Creative Community Project had any real ties to Rev. Moon, financially or otherwise. Newspapers had it differently, now she does too.

Many times she has invited us (my family) to come out to California (I live in Florida) to check it out, visit to see if we would like to work with them for a more ideal society. Many times I've been tempted, but now I've read all sorts of articles about

parents who were distraught to find their children in the Moonie Cult in Berkeley or San Francisco. These parents went to great lengths to get their children out of the movement. There is a story in which a girl's parents flew to California after reading numerous bad things about the movement (such as how they are brainwashed and put to work collecting money for Rev. Moon) to get their daughter and bring her to her senses. They were left outside the gate of the New Ideal City Ranch waiting for three hours for their daughter while three other "Moon disciples" made excuses. I exclaim, An "Ideal" community behind barbed wire fences?

Comments from other ren who went into space are as follows: a trip to the moon "has to make a man truly appreciate the creation of the infinite precision with which God controls the universe" (note here they do not say inhabitants). Another saw "evidence that God lives". Albert Einstein wrote "The most beautiful and profound emotion we can experience is the sensation of the mystical, it is a true source of all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer wonder and stand rapt in awe is as good as dead. To know that what is impenetrable to us really exists manifesting itself in the highest wisdom and the most radiant beauty which out dulls the faculties can comprehend, only in their most primitive forms, this is the center of true religiousness."

No doubt you and yours have seen the weak, confused Jesus of Godspell or Jesus Christ Superstar, that was the sinful world's view of Him. I hope you and yours really know that Christ's death on the cross, (should you choose Him) means that you are a brother and sister of Jesus Christ. That is an inheritance that even your earthly parents don't have the power to give you.

You may wonder why the God of love can look upon earth and let awful things happen that we experience in this world. Here again He lets people choose between good and evil, but know this: He is still in full control and He alone will destroy this old groaning world in due time. He is giving us all fair warning, as conditions worsen we know that time is running out. You and the young persons of your organization will be truly blessed should you decide to work winning souls away from Satan for Christ. It is a most satisfying vocation. God bless you!

Linda

I really don't know what to think. They seem to think that their way is the only way to achieve the ultimate goal, just like any other indoctrinating, unfree religion. But this is my intelligent, 20 year old sister.

I have a sneaking suspicion that there is a lot of good behind the Moonie Cult that the press refuses to publicize. I'd like to see both sides of the story covered.

Carol Hoffman

Life after LRY OR
How to survive in an English Boarding School

Alive is a word I've been using a lot lately. Sometimes I think I'm just trying to convince myself that I'm alive. This is the first time in three years that I've been on my own (without LRY) and aside from being a mind expanding experience, it's been very hard.

Where to begin? In the middle, of course, which is right where I am sitting alone on my bed in a big room with cracked yellow walls, papers/books/clean clothes/dirty clothes/and photographs covering every available horizontal surface. Then there's the window, an important part of my daily life. My room has one window, a big one, through which I watch the affairs of all these strange people. I can also count how many cars come up the school drive, it's surprising how many people from the outside world come here in one day.

Some of these people leave, which is what my roommate did 9 days ago. Having decided that insanity is no good for your mind unless it is used constructively, for a system which still uses fines and hard labor as punishments for swearing, smoking cigarettes and missing supper or chapel breeds insanity. She packed her bags and walked away during Sunday chapel, creating momentary panic in the staff room. This was dispelled when she called the headmaster Sunday evening from London to tell him that she was staying with the parents of a friend, and that her father was coming to see her from his home in Madrid. The school is still unsatisfied with the situation, but there's nothing they can do. Pauline is free and happy in London, studying for her 'A-level' exams in Spanish, English Lit. and Art History.

That brings us back to the reason that I'm here in this remote little school in the rolling farmlands of rainy Staffordshire - A-levels. When I first heard about Abbotsholme, this was my impression: only three courses, a 'progressive' English school, out in the country, far from the restraints of parents, a year of high school and college credit. Simple, right? "A dream come true!" you cry. Wrong. I forgot to consider three things:

- 1) A-level courses last two years, so that's double the work if I want to finish in one year.
- 2) Abbotsholme has more control over you than your parents, because you are there all the time. There's no reason to go anywhere else, and there's no where else to go.
- 3) 'Progressive' means different things in England and in America.



In England it means that, instead of whipping you, they fine or gate you (the equivalent of your parents grounding you). To be fair to Abbotsholme, it also means that there aren't any grades, just written evaluations of your progress and interests.

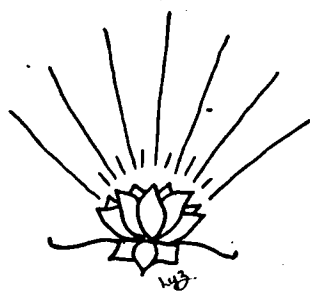
Until I had been at Abbotsholme a month or so, I didn't realize how different the English and Americans are. This difference is not only cultural, but mental as well. The social taboos present in America are much more widespread and deeply ingrained upon the minds of the English people of all ages. One of the hardest things to deal with is the taboo of physical contact. Even people my own age are very withdrawn. If an unattached woman expresses herself physically, she is labeled either as a slut or as a lesbian. Young people are reluctant to speak out, probably because of peer pressure which is very strong. They are content to sit in the common room, drinking coffee and making small talk. These barriers of prejudice and self-enforced non-communication are very difficult to break through in an enclosed community like Abbotsholme.

The school allows the 6th form (junior/senior class) to have a bar once every 2 weeks, at which wine, beer and cider are served. Originally intended as a social occasion, the plan has somewhat backfired, and most of the students have lost sight of this goal.

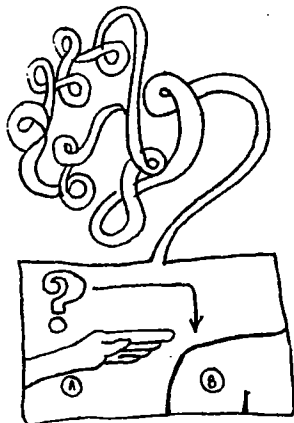
They go to the bar with only one purpose in mind; to drink as much as they can in as short a time as possible, an attitude which tends to mess up both body and mind. It was after one of these bars that I managed to break the barrier temporarily, but it has happened only once and probably won't happen again for a while. The night was clear, cold, and blessed with a full moon, and the narrow confines of the common room were too limiting to contain me. Gathering up two of the more liberal female members of the form, I set out on a walk up the Big Dingle, a long trail through the woods behind the school. Ali and Monica were feeling no pain, and with light hearts free of inhibitions we walked arm in arm up the Dingle. Stopping to sit huddled together for warmth by a rail fence for a cigarette, we talked for hours about life and love and the stars and how this place screws up people's minds. Occasionally we lapsed into long happy silences broken by reflections on the beauty of the leafless trees on a January night when, for once, it wasn't raining. I thought I had achieved something, gotten through to someone, but the next morning I found to my sorrow that it was only the influence of the booze which made Monica and Ali talk. Such is life, and I haven't given up yet. Where there's a will there's a way.

I think that what's made this year so different for me, and helped me see that I'm slowly but surely growing away from LRY, I've been thrust into a society where I stick out, where I'm a relatively unique person. For me, LRY has been a supportive experience. My ideals and thoughts have been questioned at times, but they've ultimately been accepted by the LRYers around me. I've been encouraged to develop my individuality and potential within the structure of a group which believes in most of the things that I do. Now, at Abbotsholme, I'm being challenged. I have to prove to myself and to others that I really believe in the things I say and do, I'm strong enough to stand alone, and supple enough not to break under pressure.

Stacey



Dear People,
I've been in LRY for a long time, it's five or six years by now. I still consider myself an LRYer although since I have been at college I have been averaging one conference a year.
When I was in high school I was very active in LRY, most of my friends were LRYers. I'm sure that a lot of you can relate to that. I was given a lot of support and open acceptance from LRY and LRY rs. I felt that I would find people like that where ever I went.



Touching

I received a rude awakening when I first went away to small school that was located in rural Pennsylvania. I felt very cut off from the world and without any support. I decided to transfer to a larger school in the Boston area because I felt that in a larger school I could find the type of people that I was use to. People that I could be open with, people that I could be silly with and basically be accepted for being me.

It took me a long time to find people like that although I have found a few. I guess the point that I am trying to make is that LRY is not the usual community in that it is very supportive. Probably all of you will at one time or another have to fight it out in the normal non-caring society and will feel that no body cares. I want to tell you that you will find together people almost everywhere if you look hard enough and they will also be looking for you.

You are all special people,
take care of yourselves,
Much love,
Kendy Vogl

