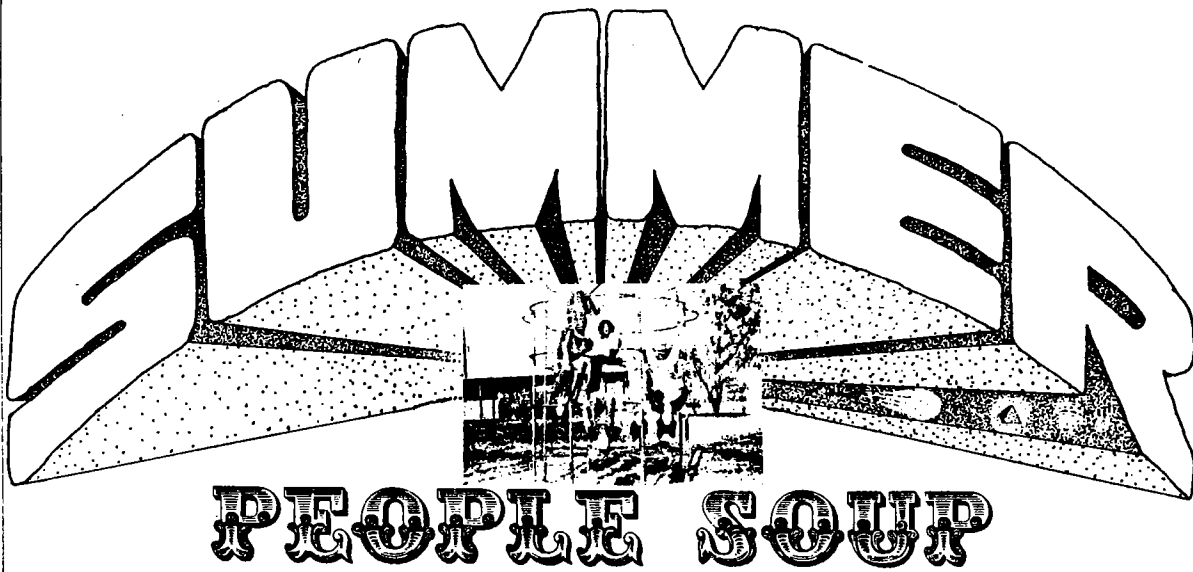


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Self-Determination

An overview of the youth programming issue by an individual LRYer.

by Shelley Cantril

At the April meeting of the UUA Board of Trustees the decision was made to continue funding of youth programs through the auspices of the Continental Youth Adult Committee. The Board's decision was contingent upon a greater emphasis on dialogue concerning youth programming and attempts by the Continental Youth Adult Committee to further the development of YACs across the continent. The Board was also responding to the indication of the LRY Executive Committee that evaluation was happening within the LRY organization, and to an attitude of cooperation among LRYers.

Further dialogue, more extensive funding, and formation of more YACs will be of no avail unless there is a more distinct sense of direction for dialogue and a willingness towards understanding within the denomination as a whole.

A denomination based on the free and questing mind often entails more transiency and less commitment. The liberal religious movement is a small one, and the existence of an autonomous youth group is even more rare. At a time when the future of the denomination is questionable, it is natural that the UUA would look to its' youth group and question whether it operates in the most effective way possible. Questioning is a very important process which must be continual to promote communication, certainty, and support.

It is time that every Unitarian Universalist and/or LRYer examine his/her personal faith, thereby expressing a faith that is a "flaming chalice" that cannot be squelched by societal shifts. All factions of the denomination must clarify their common purpose(s) based on individual beliefs and determine whether the present structures are in alliance with these beliefs and purposes. The denomination is not in a position where it can afford to be divided.

To be part of the liberal religious movement assumes that the members will be liberal, religious, and active. One's spiritual lib-

eration must be examined regularly to be a living personal faith. Some suggested stimulators of spiritual thought Emerson, Thoreau, Parker, Channing, Gandhi, Jesus, and Buddha. The following questions may also stimulate individual consideration. Challenge others with these questions and questions of your own.

- 1) Do you believe you have a spirit?
- 2) Do you believe that everyone has a spirit?
- 3) What happens when you live or act in a way that is contradictory to your spirit?
- 4) Does your lifestyle align with your spirit?
- 5) What changes could you make in your lifestyle to respect your spiritual needs?
- 6) What environment would be most supportive and stimulating to your spiritual liberation?
- 7) How can you support and stimulate spiritual liberation in others?

To be a unified spiritual community we must share a common belief about people, the earth, and the universe. It is not coincidental that the Unitarian Universalist denomination has a self-managed youth group. It is important that we clarify why we have such an unusual structure within the denomination in order to support and include its unique needs. By determining why LRY is youth-run we may identify an individual and communal purpose for its existence. Regular examination of our beliefs and purposes will encourage us in approaching the problems inherent in such a uniquely structured group.

- 1) Do we believe in an intrinsic human right to self-determination?

- 2) Do we believe that all persons, given support and stimulation) have the power to be self-determining?
- 3) Is it our purpose to support and stimulate self-determination in all people?
- 4) Is there a need for and means of supporting and stimulating self-determination beyond our group?
- 5) Where and how can we as a group encourage a liberated and self-determined spirit?

A structure is much more likely to answer a groups' needs if it receives regular evaluation. Some questions which may be helpful in determining the most effective structure for a group (be it local, federation, or continental) are as follows:

- 1) What are the beliefs about people and purposes for the group that all of the members unanimously agree on?
- 2) What personal and financial resources are available to the group?
- 3) What kinds of things does the group want to do?
- 4) What structure would encompass our beliefs, purposes, and resources most effectively?

The society-at-large has always taught young people and rarely encouraged young persons to teach themselves or each other. Youth have not been trained or prepared to be leaders. Youth leadership not only requires self-confidence and self-determination but presently entails the risk of being criticized or ignored by the denomination. It is a very tall order to ask for commitment from youth without the support of persons who are experienced. The purpose of a youth-run organization is to insure respect for the youth as persons; this does not mean that support

«CONT. ON PAGE 4»

BIO-FEEDBACK MONITOR



Howdy!

I am so excited that LRY is getting involved with the disarmament movement. We have to get groups together and involved if we truly do expect a change.

I moved to Boulder, Colorado in January. Boulder is located just 8 miles from the nuclear crossroads of this country, Rocky Flats, the bomb facility that produces at least three nuclear triggers a day. This plant works directly with the Savannah River Plant, which is located less than an hour from Augusta, Georgia.

I have become very active in the attempt to close Rocky Flats as well as all nuclear plants in this country. The Boulder Mobilization and World Citizens for Survival plus many concerned citizens planned a large non-violent demonstration for disarmament at Rocky Flats April 29. This was the first of many demonstrations to occur at other plants throughout the country. Our demonstration was the largest one ever, but we hope there will be many more much larger in the near future--in fact there already have been. Since that demonstration there was one in Barnwell, S.C. at the Savannah River Plant, one in Bangor, Washington at the Trident nuclear submarine base, one in San Francisco & New York City on May 27 giving support to the disarmament conference which was then in progress at the United Nations, and most recently, one at Seabrook, New Hampshire June 24/25. There have been smaller demonstrations and rallies too.

After the demonstration at Boulder, 150 people, out of the 6000 that had attended, participated in civil disobedience. These people had been previously trained in non-violent procedure. They camped on the railroad tracks that lead into the plant to symbolically represent the blocking of the trains that go to and from the plant carrying highly radioactive material. They ran into difficult weather which reduced the number of protesters from 150 to 30 strong, but they would camp on the tracks until they actually did stop a train. Through the non-stop rain, hail, sleet, and finally three feet of snow, these people remained on the tracks until a train actually did come. Then they sat on the tracks and held hands and sang "We Shall Overcome" while they were peacefully taken off to jail one-by-one. Since then, five more groups of determined people have re-occupied the tracks. Each group is eventually taken off and arrested. At present, there is a group on the tracks--unless they have been arrested since I left Boulder. But we plan to keep the tracks occupied throughout the summer--perhaps longer.

We are also planning some kind of larger demonstration for August 667: Hiroshima Day. Perhaps there would be an interested group that would want to go to Boulder before Continental Conference and represent LRY on the tracks. (It is on the way to Texas!) Or maybe there are individuals who are willing to occupy and willing to join this group: Rocky Flats Truth Force. The Rocky Flats Truth Force welcomes all interested groups and/or individuals.

I was happy to know that when I was sitting on the tracks I met three other people who were old LRYers. It was a neat feeling. We must remember that LRY is a strong group of individuals with the potential of helping convert the world to a peaceful, non-nuclear planet. We showed our concern for the world in our strong support of the anti-war demonstrations. If we can get LRY groups to pull together and ignore apathy, this is a perfect opportunity for LRY to help save the world; it's also an opportunity to help pull LRY into a tighter, stronger, unified group. We need LRY's support--we need everybody's support.

For more information about Rocky Flats and how you can help in Boulder write: Rocky Flats Truth Force 876 14th Avenue Boulder, Colorado 80420 (303) 443-0887

Or just write to say you're in support of their actions; they love to hear from people. I will have a house as of the first of August that anyone is welcome to stay at if they come to Boulder, anytime!

Again, I am so happy for your support. I love all you guys. Thanks for your support of a non-nuclear future.

All my love to my favorite group: LRY,

Deborah Reichard

P.S. Until August my address is in limbo, so please send any letters to:

1122 John's Road Augusta, Georgia 30904

The following message was sent to the LRY office with a reference to Volume IV, issue 5, page 14 of People Soup. The article referred to is one entitled "Mental Illness", written by Eric Ellerson who wrote of the inhumane treatment he had observed in working with patients of a mental hospital. To receive a free copy of the Social Actions issue containing this article contact the Continental LRY office.

- BIU ERIC TO US
- CON GROUP '78
- ASK OTHERS
- GET US LAW
- BUYER WRITE CONTRACT
- TO-USE-SHOW PERSON TO DO
- OR LAW CORP. ACTS
- GET US LAW-TITLE PERSON
- SELF NO LAW CORP.
- GIVE US CORP. QUARTER TO PERSON
- TO BIU CONTRACT
- OWN HUMAN BRAIN
- HUMAN SOUNDS
- HUMAN MUSCLE
- ACTS
- GET US LAW
- PERSON OWNS OWN BODY
- GET US LAW
- NO PRACTICE ON ONE'S BODY
- NO CAN GIVE
- LESS BODY USE
- DESTROY PARTS
- END LIFE

-Anonymous

SEXUAL POLITICS FROM A MALE PERSPECTIVE

BY ED INMAN

"Sexual norms in this society (as in most, if not all) are male-centered and phallus oriented." That's the lead sentence in "The Sexual Politics of Intercourse" by Susan Goodstein published earlier this year in People Soup. Susan later goes on to say "It is sobering to realize it took scientific study to begin to convince us of what women, at least, should have known centuries ago, if it weren't for society's denial and distortion of female sexuality--that intercourse, on a purely physical level, is the least satisfying form of sexual activity for women. To put it more scientifically, Masters and Johnson's research has shown that intercourse has the lowest intensity of orgasm in comparison to masturbation by self or partner." She later adds "Men have a vested interest in continuing to confuse female sexual and reproductive anatomy in their work as marriage counselors, doctors, psychiatrists and writers. The vagina is relevant to male sexuality."

My purpose in writing this is not to attack that particular article. It is, for the most part, well documented, well thought out, and I can honestly say it taught me alot. I do find it, however, to be only one side of the story and I would like to comment along these same lines from a different perspective. While it is undeniably true that sexual "norms" in this society are inexcusably repressive to women, it is my firm belief that these norms are equally repressive to men.

It is a myth in this society that intercourse is the only "real" type of sexual encounter. This myth is still rampant among a large segment of our population, both men and women. Furthermore, it is perpetuated by the mass media. The article, however, makes it quite clear that sexual intercourse, in the traditional sense of that phrase, is a less than desirable method of clitoral stimulation for women. Well, maybe I can't speak for all men, but as for myself, insertion of the penis into the vagina is not exactly the ideal method of penile stimulation either. Certainly it is not the only way

for men to achieve a climax, nor is it the only "real" or the "best" way of achieving it. Far more men (and women) need to realize this.

Therefore, I feel safe in saying that the vagina is NOT necessarily relevant to male sexuality as Susan asserted in her article. Nor do men have any vested interest of any validity in continuing to confuse female sexual and reproductive anatomy.

Sexism, sex roles, and sexual myths repress men as well as women--outside of the bedroom also. These are some of the ways in which I have personally felt repressed as a man:

Society has denied my right to emotions, my ability to be vulnerable, my ability to cry. I've been told I must remain "strong" in all situations.

Society has denied my right to be passive. (When I am passive, I am considered "abnormal" or stupid.)

Society has denied my right to show affection physically to other men. Even kissing and hugging between men is considered "wrong".

Society has denied my right to dance with other men.

Society has denied my right to sexual encounters with other men.

Society has denied my right to relate to women and men in the same manner.

Society has denied my right to live with women who are not lovers, sexual partners, or marriage partners.

Society has, until recently, made me eligible to be forced to kill my brothers and sisters in the military.

Society has denied my right to sleep with someone without implying sexual contact.

Society has denied my right to touch someone without implying sexual interest.

Society has denied my right to have close relationships with more than one woman at one time.

Society has told me that my love for other men is somehow less "real" than my love for women.

Society has denied my right to express my sexual desires openly, without pressure, without having to play a game, without embarrassment and guilt.

Society has denied my right to be proud of my body and think of it as a beautiful thing. Rather it is obscene to the public eye.

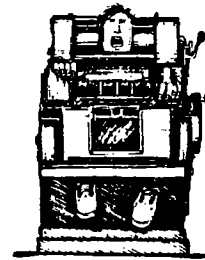
Society expects me to grow up and make one lifelong commitment (marriage) to one woman.

Society has placed me in stereotypes and written all sorts of generalizations about me because of my sex.

This is by no means a complete list of the hangups I have had to deal with. It's just a sampling. I guess all I'm really trying to say is that sexism can and does work both ways. Men do not have the free ride that Susan implied in her lead sentence. At least this is one man who hasn't.

I sincerely believe that if there's anything we don't need right now it's further polarization of the sexes. In order to defeat sexism, we must continue to come together on an equal level. We must throw down our prejudices and fears. Then, maybe, we can truly relate to one another, not males and females, but rather as human beings.

Comments anyone? Ed Inman, 1450 Meadowbrook Road, Jackson, Mississippi 39211.



LWS

This letter is in response to Jennifer Nicolet's article in the last issue of *People Soup*:

Jennifer,
You are right: the discipline of your school is contradictory to human nature and if all the students aren't aware of what is being put down on them, I think they must be pretty ignorant of their rights as humans. I think you should join your student congress (which sounds like a farce), and make your voice heard in your school. It sounds like you are imprisoned by the R.O.T.C. and you should complain to the school board, the principal or whoever will listen to you. I think that the R.O.T.C. patrolling the halls is not needed. It would save them money to put bars on the windows and doors.

Searching lockers is unconstitutional. That would come under the fourth amendment as an "unreasonable" search.

The five minute passing period should be lengthened a couple of minutes so that more people would make it to class on time. About wearing your coat at lunch only, I think that you should at least ask the reason for having the rule. Also talk to the people of the school and tell them that their opinion does count if they are the ones being "educated".

If you want to get rid of the attendance rule, write letters to your state legislators against it. I also agree that school does not meet the needs of adolescents; in fact it probably destroys the needs of them. As to what the school should change to: 7-10 minute passing periods, a little leniency of the teachers if a student is tardy, the student should bring a note from her or his previous teacher (keeping a student after school doesn't teach her or him to be on time if s/he can't avoid it), students should be able to wear their coats whenever they want, the R.O.T.C. should be thrown out of the halls, etc. As for the Star Spangled Banner trip- it should be totally forgotten (after all, I think you know it).

The school committee should be run by ordinary people who know what goes on in the school not by a bunch of politicians who want to save money. CHIN UP!

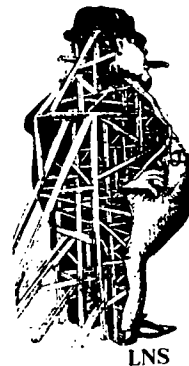
Bill Stryk, South Minneapolis, Local NSF

cont. from pg 1

from persons outside of LRY would be unappreciated in such a difficult task.

Self-management of youth groups is relatively untried and difficult. The responsibilities it entails would be more appealing to youth within a supportive community. This means LRY must be a supportive community. This also means that a cutback in funding for LRY should not even be thought of without consideration of the total picture: our individual beliefs, denominational purposes, and unique situation within society.

A year lies ahead to strengthen LRY. LRY, working more closely within the denomination with an attitude of mutual understanding and respect, will enliven the denomination as a whole. It is essential that a dynamic and living Unitarian Universalist denomination and/or LRY examine individual beliefs, group purpose(s), and the structure being used, on a regular basis, to bear the passage of time as an active faith.



LNS

Glamour! Excitement! Romance!

Now that we have your attention- the LRY is offering several INTERNSHIP positions for next year. These are primarily for those people interested in running for the executive committee. Internships last one month, and while room and board are provided, money should be brought for transportation and luxuries.

If you are interested, contact LRY for further information.

Internship Program
c/o LRY
25 Beacon St.
Boston, Mass. 02108

fed ups & downs

DVF is surviving, having pulled off successful(?) conferences this year in Princeton and Germantown. Another Germantown conference is in the works as is a Newark-Deleware exchange of some sort. DVF's numbers seem to be dwindling but those of us who are left remain undaunted. Elections are scheduled for the next Germantown Conference.

GWAF is being revived by a group elected at the Fairfax Conference, May 12-14. Contact Jenny Ebenfield, 11332 Vale Rd., Oakton, VA 22124.

MVP had a May 12-14 conference in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on "Dealing with Authority". We came up with some interesting alternatives. We had a worship service on "Wonder" by Brock Dale, federation advisor. We also had elections, a party, and (believe it or not) a dance!

PSLRY held a leadership conference Easter week and elected a new executive committee.

Starr King had a "Self Expressions" conference at the Mount Diablo Unitarian Church.

Seafoam had a June conference with TOAKtm in Mexia June 11-15. We elected a new executive committee. A Seafoam/Synergy conference is coming...

TOAKtm has changed its name to SYNERGY. We just had a June conference with Seafoam. Another Synergy/Seafoam conference is coming up August 6-10. Anyone interested should contact: Leslie Loe, 1844 Kipling, Houston, TX 77098 (713)524-2682

MBF had a "Love" conference in Andover, MA June 12-14. Elections will be held at the first fall conference in September. A MBP District Youth Adult committee is forming.



friend

LRY & Friend buttons are available from LRY
25 Beacon st
Boston, MA 02108
Prices are:
25¢ ea., 5/\$1.00
100/\$15.00

Buy Some!

L.R.Y.



RESULTS OF SCOYP QUESTIONNAIRE 5

REPORT OF THE YOUTH ADULT COMMITTEE TO THE UUA BOARD OF TRUSTEES AT THEIR APRIL, 1978 MEETING REGARDING RESPONSES TO THE S.C.O.Y.P. RELATED MATERIALS

Idiosyncratic and personal and others reflected the views of group discussions- small and large. VERY FEW of the responses offered concrete suggestions with budget proposals. Those that did are summarized in the appendix.

29 out of 52 churches and fellowships (70%) indicated that youth had participated in the discussions. 43 out of 127 responses (34%) reflect youth participation.

INTRODUCTION

Following the decision of the UUA Board of Trustees to circulate the SCOYP Report and related documents throughout the denomination for further discussion and response, the Administration asked the Youth Adult Committee to receive the responses and to compile a report for the use of the Board for its April meeting.

The SCOYP Report, the Administration proposal, the condensed LRY response and the Minority report were distributed to all member societies, to active ministers and D.R.E.'s, Board and staff members, LRY Federations and District Presidents along with a cover letter from the Moderator and a RESPONSE form to be returned to YAC by March 30. The Youth Adult Committee held a special meeting on March 31 and April 1 to read the responses and to compile a report for the Board.

The following report is a survey of the responses received and because of the time limitations should not be considered a full analysis. The Youth Adult Committee commends the Board for delaying action on the Administration proposal and for seeking the responses which form the basis of this report.

CHARACTER OF THE RESPONSES

Despite something less than six weeks for analysis and discussion of the materials, 127 responses were received from individuals, churches, fellowships, district boards, LRY groups, and miscellaneous groups of interested persons.

The Response Form sought reactions to each of the four documents (SCOYP Report, Administration proposal, LRY response, Minority Report) sent in the mailing. In addition, it asked for any further suggestions of a concrete nature. The name of the person filling out the form and the number of youth and adults participating were also asked for.

The responses varied in character and quality- some showing considerable thought and energy and others failing to show a grasp of the issues at stake. Some responses were highly

The Responses reflect a broad range of opinion and intense interest in the topic of youth programming and the UUA's responsibility. The respondents included:
37 churches-29%
5 Directors of Religious Education-4%
5 District Boards-4%
5 Fellowships-4%
22 Individuals other than ministers and DRE's -17%

13 LRY Groups-10%
33 Ministers-26%
7 Miscellaneous groups-6% (Starr King community; 1 UUMA Chapter; 1 Youth Conclave; 3 District R.E. Committees; Ex-LRY Executive Committee members-a group of 15).
127 Total

(NOTE: It was not always clear if individuals filling out forms spoke for their society or only for themselves.)

Detailed statistical analysis was not possible in the short time allowed. However, the Committee did review the responses to gauge the overall reactions to documents. This survey shows:

	SCOYP REPORT	ADMINISTRATION PROPOSAL	LRY RESPONSE	MINORITY REPORT
STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF (+)	70 55%	33 26%	44 35%	23 18%
STRONGLY OPPOSED TO (-)	26 20%	42 33%	29 23%	15 12%
TOTALS:	96 75%	75 59%	73 58%	38 30%

(NOTE: There was a tendency for those opposed to the LRY response to favor the Administration proposal and vice versa, but this does not correlate as directly as the numbers a above might suggest.)

The Youth Adult Committee did not have time to analyze the kinds of responses (+ or -) made by each group to each document. Nor, did the committee try to "weigh" the responses according to the number of persons being represented by each response.

The Committee felt that the character of responses of each group would be of interest, but decided our time would best be spent determining the kinds of suggestions being offered.

INITIAL CONCLUSION

The initial conclusion of the Youth Adult Committee after surveying the responses is that additional time is desirable for further conversations and in depth discussions about the future of youth programs in the denomination. Over 30% (39 of 127) of the responses indicated that important decisions about the future of youth programs were going to be made too hastily. This is a significant percentage, and it is doubtful that substantial support for a major change in the direction of denominational programs for youth can be successfully implemented with this many persons seeking further conversations.

It is true that nearly 26% of the responses indicate strong support of the Administration proposal. On the other hand, that leaves 74% who either are opposed (33%) or have reservations about the Administration proposal (41%).



THEREFORE, THE YOUTH ADULT COMMITTEE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES POSTPONE MAKING MAJOR CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION OF YOUTH PROGRAMS AT THIS TIME. Admittedly, the problem remains for the Board of Trustees to devise ways to continue the discussions and dialogue process which the SCOYP Report has begun. The Youth Adult Committee offers to assist the Board in whatever way the Board may wish.

The process of intergenerational dialogue and careful thought about youth programs which the SCOYP report recommends are more beneficial than immediately hiring a new staff person, drastically reducing funding for LRY and abolishing the Youth Adult Committee.

LRy's IDEAS ON YOUTH PROGRAMMING

Liberal Religious Youth's Ideas on Youth Programming as Reported to the U.U.A. at their April 1978 Meeting

Because we ordinarily do our budget at this time of year, and because we must make plans for the coming year, we thought it would be helpful to the Board of Trustees to have a clear idea of our program plans and budget for 1978-79. We want to express our willingness to contribute to and participate in programming for Unitarian Universalist youth. We are planning to offer the following proposals to the L.R.Y. Board of Directors and the U.U. Youth/Adult Committee, assuming that they will be funded in 1978-79. Our proposals are centered around these concerns:

- 1) to facilitate a dialogue between youth and adults about youth programming
- 2) to put more emphasis in action at the district and society level
- 3) to increase participation in and development of programs for U.U. youth.
- 4) to increase intergenerational interaction
Fundraising and Endowment

We have moved our endowment to a higher-interest term account. We are in consultation with the Office of Corporate Responsibility and Bob Lemire of the U.U.A. Finance staff, concerning investments.

We are developing a fundraising plan to present to our Board this summer, to strive towards better financial self-sufficiency, in consultation with Bill Chapin.

Recommendations to the U.U. Youth/Adult Committee:

LRy proposes that: the U.U. YAC compile a questionnaire annually, to be sent to all church/fellowship and district YACs. The proposed questionnaire should be designed to assist local and district YACs to assess and evaluate youth programming in their respective areas. These questionnaires should be returned to the U.U. YAC. Their data, compiled and summarized, and the resulting information should be included in YAC's annual presentation to the U.U.A. Board of Trustees. This information should also be relayed to the L.R.Y. Board of Directors and People Soup.

L.R.Y. proposes that: the U.U. YAC assess and evaluate the performance of the Continental L.R.Y. Executive Committee, and if possible, the L.R.Y. Board of Directors, in order to assist them in fulfilling their roles.

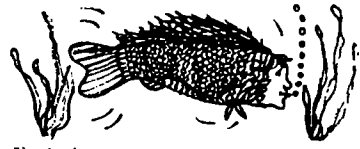
L.R.Y. proposes that: the U.U. YAC act in an advisory and resource capacity to local and district YAC's, in particular, through use of the data provided from the proposed questionnaires.

This would be one communications network that could be set up between local, district, and continental levels.

What the U.U.A. Can Do

The Continental level of the U.U.A. can:
1) Educate youth and adults about youth programs through articles and advertisements in the U.U. World (see SCOYP recommendation VII-G).

2) Provide the L.R.Y. Executive Committee staff liaison with sufficient time to commit to fulfilling a more adequate liaison and advisor function.



3) Active promotion from U.U.A. Board of Trustees and I.D.R.s of of District and local ideas listed below:

- The Districts can-
- form District Youth Adult Committees, with the final approval of the youth
 - include I.D.R.s in district Youth Adult Committee meetings
 - include youth representatives on district boards-may or may not be voting member
- Local Societies can-
- form local Youth Adult Committees
 - include Religious Education and youth representation on local society YACs
 - encourage the formation of youth groups, utilizing L.R.Y. program materials
 - choose youth advisors through local YACs, with final approval from youth
 - ministerial expression of U.U. philosophy to youth, possibly through R.E.
 - include youth representatives on local society boards-may or may not be voting member.

It is our hope that People Soup, a newspaper free of charge to U.U. youth and adults can expand its readership at the district and local level. We want increased youth input into the paper, and welcome any constructive criticisms.

