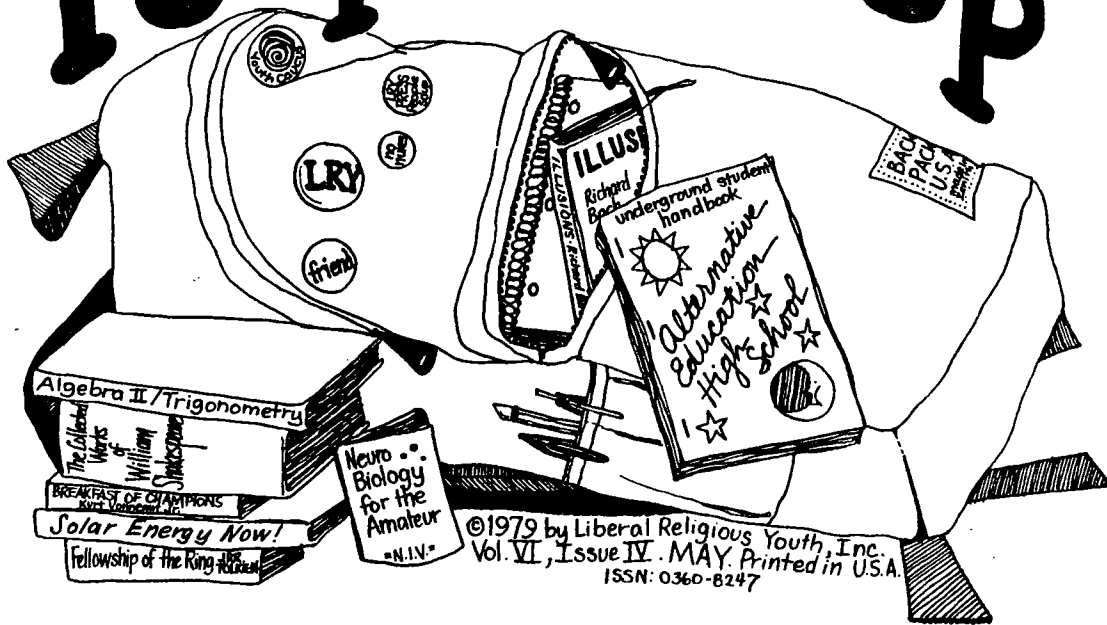


People Soup

◀ ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION ▶



HOW SCHOOLS FAIL US

by N. Cochrane

Author's Note: Throughout my own writing in this article, I will use the pronoun 'se' to mean he or she, and 'hir' to mean him or her. The pronouns within quotations remain the same since I cannot with a clear conscience change them. There are also laws... and I like People Soup too much to get it into trouble.

Editor's Note: The (sic) after certain words means that I cannot, as the editor of People Soup, change the word(s) preceding it, but I also can't, as a person who doesn't believe in the necessity of distinguishing between the sexes, leave the word(s) alone.

Introduction

"Is it not ironical that in a planned society of controlled workers given compulsory assignments, where religious expression is suppressed, the press controlled and all media of communication censored, where great attention is given to efficiency and character reports, and attendance at cultural assemblies is compulsory, where it is avowed that all will be administered to each according to his (sic) needs and performance required from each according to his (sic) abilities, and where those who flee are tracked down, returned, and punished for trying to escape--in short in the milieu of the typical large American secondary school--we attempt to teach 'the democratic system'?"

Royce Van Norman, Johns Hopkins University, "School Administration: Thoughts on Organization and Purpose" Phi Delta Kappan 47:315-16, February, 1966 (1)

The internal contradictions and problems of the 'schooling' system are numerous, and it's not overly surprising to find that they are multiplying at a phenomenal rate. Schools have not yet entered the present, and they are suffering from a dislocation in time. They teach for a different time that is now history. They teach in a time warp, for they have ignored the acceleration of the present. What all this philosophical mumbling means is that schools are not meeting the needs of students.

What I am attempting to do is inform you of the nature of school today, its problems, why schools are not meeting the needs of students, and, finally, where a student can find help to change the 'system'. This information may be of importance to you if you are in high school or thinking of going to college when you finish high school. The importance lies in whether you will learn or be 'schooled'.

"Our sociological theories, our political philosophy, our practical maxims of business, our political economy, and our doctrines of education are derived from an unbroken tradition of great thinkers and of practical examples from the age of Plato...to the end of the last century. The whole of this tradition is warped by the vicious assumption that each generation will substantially live amid the conditions governing the lives of its fathers and will transmit those conditions to mould with equal force the lives of its children. We are living in the first period of human history for which this assumption is false." (2)

cont. on p.8

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Your contributions for this paper are welcomed. It is made possible through your energies, both spiritual and physical. Any contributions of newswires, short stories, poems, editorials, or artwork are welcome and will be considered. None can be returned. Drawings or other artwork must be black and white. We will pay \$10 to the author or artist of any cover article or graphic/photo. We cannot pay for other contributions; the ole budget just couldn't stand the pain.

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Kate van H - Nerni fnozk. love, ziggy Friendly Stranger- The name fits! I want a letter, because I love you! Leigh

To S. D. A. M. (alias Apple) Hi! Remember me? Probably not, we've never officially met, but I like you. So you say you're Hungarian, huh? Prove it. Love, Leigh

Nurmie: You're my big fat mom and I big fat love you lots. Hecker, Chut Ellen from Atlanta: You're my one & only valentine Love, Mark K.

LEIGH- are you shivering? Oh, is that all I thought it was something else. eye love you. Eddie

Laurie (laurel)- No nookie-nookie up there. Especially cause it's cold in Boston. Eddie.

Leigh- I'll nookie-nookie with you anytime

Alan & Lynne- A leigh is not a lee. There's a difference now. Wish I knew what it was!!! Love and Life forever, Leigh

anybody, I was elected at the last D.V.F. exec. council meeting to be the Inter-Generational conference director. I seriously don't know what I'm doing: I could really use a hand. If you have any info. on anything, please write! Leigh Bailey 15 Montgomery Ave. 1-A Balacynwyd, PA 19004

FED's ups & downs

BSF/Narry- WE WILL BE ONE, at the New Bedford "Steal Your Face" conference, April 6-8, both Feds voted to merge as of the Brockton, MA conference April 27-29. MVF- Ouhahaha conference was held March 23-25. Exec. Comm. elections will be held at the spring conference in Lawrence, KS. New Hampshire?!?!- We do exist or will soon anyway, the first NH conference in a lloonggg time will be in Manchester NH, May 11-13. NERO- Springthink shrunk but did occur April 20-22. CRVF- Y'all come up or down to the Hamden, CT conference, May 25-27. Barney- May is a two conference month- Princeton, May 4-6, and Morristown, May 25-27

Starr King- the theme of the Spring conference, held in April, was "Earth to LRY... Come in Please" (no one answered). At that conference we elected new officers and advisors. We are planning to have a conference in northern California soon after Continental Conference. Details to be announced. Godarful- is having a conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, May 25-28. The theme is Sexual Identity and Morality, and workshops will include Assertiveness training; men's and women's sex-role consciousness raising, sexual orientation; Sexual/Cultural norms around the world; and of course, a TRANSVESTITE BANQUET! GWAF- Triangle conference, April 6-8, was great, 78 people WOW. We will be a Fed. sooooo. PSLRY- Easter Camp, April 9-14 was terrific!



Markece, Sleasing in the sun again (huh)? Don't think you can slide away that easy. At least keep in touch! Kelspie

PERSONALS

To the George School--Stay Away From My Sheltered World.

A.B.R.

To anyone interested in housing (not feeding!) a woman (19, non-smoker) for a week in Washington D.C. for the purpose of seeing the Smithsonian Institute. I would be able to contribute a small sum for this incredible opportunity. Sometime this spring or early summer. Am flexible. Shelley London Box 224A Jericho, VT 05465 (802)879-0800

Dearest Friends: When I left Winter Tri-Fed in Florida I also left a favorite hat. It is grey, well worn in, has grease streaks, fold down flaps and had an anti-nuke button on it. Please if you found it, I really would like it back, it fit so well, I will gladly pay a small ransom or the postage! It's a baseball type cap. Well, Tom, I heard from Richard you were running for Governor of Virginia and then were going to lead the state in a mass suicide. I firmly believe it, so good luck! To everyone else Hello! John John Kersting 518 E. Clinton Huntsville, Ala. 35801

McPherson- We miss ya! keep in touch. Maybe you can bring Sidney with ya. OK? Gloria and Adam Steve Kellogg!! Just because I told you you looked like a greek statue was no reason to forget me! Send me a kiss via Western Union. --Bec Katrina - good job! --ziggy Gai Leigh - I don't know you, but Jay does. love, ziggy

Any Roper & Eva Nozik - I am back picking carrots from the bottom of my mom's salad bowl. I forgot my address book at the farm so please write me cause I love you and I am lonely for you. Susan Kulkovitz

To my old friends: contrary to popular belief, I have not gone off the road with some notorious jazz band or my preferred still in Boston playing bass with a local notorious jazz band. with (undecipherable), Mark Pucci 341 Commonwealth Ave Apt. 640 Boston, MA 02115 (617) 267-4207

My new address: Wendy van Roojen TESC 01357 Olympia, Washington 98505

heya m'lady Huff-child wonder if you're still around... the big blue flower has circled on, and i'm on the West Coast. love to you- and love to all the rest of the long-gone OPhers. Songs and Sailin' nostalgia... -wendy

HAPPY BIRTHDAY RANDY AND KIMI!! I love you, Cheryl To all in Gruntsville, Ala.. All's steady on the Eastern Front. Thanks for the calls Deanna, Kristie. Love to all, King A-re-ha

Thanks for the Space Walk on Billy T. Moun. Shelley, and thanks to all the thanksgiving turkeys that attended the fall get together. Love you all, Mark Alias, King: A-Ra-Ha!

Becca- lots of love from the land of later! morgan and me

mark- i hope you read your brother's 'soup' cause i want you to read this & see how much I MISS YOU! love & unicorns, Laurie

stevie who i met in the kitchen at prince william forest park--write to me sometime- laurie, 35 ashton pl., glen rock, n.j. 07452 george- this goes for you too!

Chuckie: Knock those other crewers dead and tell 'em ol' Nudzi told you so. Write to me sometime--a note would suffice. Give all my charismatic luff to Lori, Goob, Shannon, Lealic, Lloyd, (Steve)? If he's still in town) and tons & globs of it to yourself from me. California, here we come--are you going to visit in July? Nudzi

Howdy! You may not know me but I love to write! I need something to occupy my mind. So, if you'd like to meet a person who is not playing with a full deck, write to me! Becca Kovar 6933 Sherman St. Philly, PA 19119

Congratulations to the new, improved Starr King Federation Executive Committee. Peace, love and no resignations all year! Licia

FORMER FT. BENNING LT. It's ancient history now so you wouldn't still be in LRY but maybe someone will tell you about seeing this. I didn't stand you up, it was a crazy mix-up and I couldn't locate you before you shipped out. "FORT LEE"

Hi folks-- For those of you who didn't know I left, I did. But it doesn't matter now, 'cause I'm back. If you'd like to know where I went, or if you do know and would like to know how it was, or if you'd just like to say "Hi", don't hesitate to write. Love, Valerie Mentall 8 Holly Rd. Naban, MA 02166 (617) 352-2416

love to you- and love to all the rest of the long-gone OPhers. Songs and Sailin' nostalgia... -wendy

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Olga, orange juice stains your teeth. I still wear the velvet cloak What ever happened to Alexis? I'm a social leper now, it's great! --Natasha

HELLO CLEVELAND!! I'm thinking of you all. I'll see you soon! yippie! WITH MUCHO LOVE. 6b

Thomas H. Smith, III; I had a Hot and Heavy dream about you last week. Want the details? Get in touch (please). I'll be here 'till May. Krispie Ruhman P.O. Box 885 University, Ala. 35486 348-5274 Goddam, I miss you! Keisp

Kim, I MISS YOU!!! Happy birthday I'll see you in August. hugs and love, Cheryl

From me to all veterans from Con-Con '78 in Texas'. To my intense dismay, I will not be able to be at Con-Con '79! (and Texas was my first time too) Owing to the distance between California and my wallet; the only joys I will get from it is to receive lovingly remembered memories from you! Please remember me! My fond memories are spanning our continent to greet you with a hug & kiss (for each and every one of you) Thank you for making my first LRY experience an excellent one! Luv, Inga

Hey, Rolla!! How come I been writin' all da personals, huh? Dis wadn' s'posts be a one sided convassation ya know. But, anyway, I love ya lots an' hope ya find what you wan' out wear dese in Chic, Lovin, da Bolls

doug---I love you, and talking was great!!!! can we do it again sometime? i miss you tons!!

WOMEN AND RELIGION

The WJA's first continental conference on Women & Religion will be held May 26-28, 1979, at Crailville, Loveland, Ohio. Limited to 80, this conference is for women making a commitment to work on the implementation of the resolution passed by the 1977 General Assembly. The conference costs \$70.00 for registration, room, and board. For more information contact Billie H. Drew, 549 Harsett Road, Lexington, MA 02173 Ph. (617) 862-5062. She is also interested in people willing to work on a planning committee for W & R in the Mass Bay District and/or information on what is happening in your own societies, so that efforts can be coordinated. Call/Write!!

YOU'VE GOT IT WE WANT IT!

YOUR POETRY, ARTWORK, PHOTOS, PERSONALS, CREATIVE WRITING, AND ARTICLES ARE OUR BUSINESS.

Send yours to: People Soup 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108 The theme for the next issue is "I Ain't Gonna Pay For War No More", deadline: June 10. Then "Year of the Child", deadline: Sept. 1. Items submitted need not pertain to these themes.

FEDERATION OF FEDERATIONS

EDUCATION: WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE? ³

This is a Statement of Belief written up by the Committee for Open Education which was a group centered in Newark, Delaware that had several LRYers in it. The purpose of the Committee was to start an alternative education high school to complement a very successful elementary school in the area. Unfortunately, funds and students were missing, so the C.O.E. is now pretty much dormant. However these beliefs are still valid to us, and I hope that someday they will be able to be put to some constructive use.

Chris Granda, former Vice-Grand
Poo-Bah for the Committee for
Open Education

STATEMENT OF BELIEF: COMMITTEE FOR OPEN EDUCATION 1977

The following will serve to educate the public as to the purposes of the Committee for Open Education and to act as a guideline for the Open Education High School.

We believe that a school, as an institution, has the responsibility to the community it serves, especially in the area of human relationships. We believe that the way students interact with and perceive those in their community will have great influence on their view of the world. A school should try to break down barriers of prejudice by making its enrollment a racial and economic cross-section of the community. It should educate its students to the problems of the community and to ways in which constructive changes can be made.

We believe that connection with real life is necessary to achieve purpose in education. As in real life, students should have the responsibility for making important decisions about their education. Students should also be able to experience real-life situations through involvement programs, i.e. apprenticeships in the community, survival courses that teach how to balance a checkbook, how to file for a job application, etc.

We believe that it is as natural to learn as it is to live. There is no need to force students to absorb knowledge. If they think something is important, they will learn it. A school should attempt to open doors to learning experiences for students and help them apply to their lives what they have learned. In this way they can make the most of the knowledge they have gained.

We believe that teaching is as basic to learning as being a student and that students should learn how to convey their knowledge to others. This will also teach students how to find information that they desire in ways other than the classroom.

We believe that a school should be a place where students enjoy spending their time. A school should be designed to meet the needs and styles of the students it serves and should offer them logical, understandable, and intriguing invitations to learning.

We believe that learning is a personal experience and that the comparison of the learning of one student to that of another is not relevant. Students should be allowed to progress at their own pace and spend as much time on a subject as they desire.

We believe that the optimum learning situation occurs when students are allowed to be creative; when they can use their school as a tool to build their education. This type of environment fosters self-reliance, responsibility, and a better understanding of one's self.

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VALERIE MENTALL

Murray Road (MR), being the first public alternative high school in the country (began in 1966), should have gone out with more honor. It's death (1978) was brought upon by the Newton School System. As with most alternative schools, it was the victim of negative propaganda; it was labeled "freak school", "school for drop-outs", and "people who have no interest in graduating or going on to higher education". Having been a member of MR, however, I know this to be untrue. I am basically a school hater, beginning in the early elementary level. In the 11th grade, when I joined MR, I was living in Boston and needed to be up at 5:30 a.m. to catch a bus, trolley, and a good ride from my favorite hitching spot. I didn't mind because I enjoyed the thought of school.

Upon my arriving, I would get my classes and proceed to my various classes; my coffee consisted mostly of science courses, including a college level anatomy and physiology course, genetics, astronomy, and general biology. There were also several math courses taught by one of Newton's best including "Math For Math Haters". Along with these were your various formal and informal, typical and atypical courses such as: Zen Buddhism, Eastern Philosophy, Law & Politics, English, and Music. All courses were inspired, designed, and taught by the students and faculty.

Courses went from inspiration to actual course by the sometimes frustrating, mostly rewarding, process of "general planning meetings". In such meetings, ideas were brought to the floor, quickly discussed, and added to the list on the blackboard. After this step (which usually took all day) the next step was a show of hands for basic interest. After this, small "interest groups" would meet for 5 to 10 minutes to discuss what would be involved in such courses. The next step was preliminary sign-ups. The courses that didn't survive would then be eliminated and final sign-ups would be taken.

Murray Road helped me realize more about myself and my surroundings. I'm sure that this view is shared by others who participated in MR.

Today MR is struggling to survive within the walls of the prison-like Newton North High School. Perhaps in the future it can again have it's own building and bring once more a higher quality of education to those interested in knowledge for the sake of enjoyment instead of knowledge by rote.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES in Alternative Education

NADA VELIMIROVIC

Why would someone raised in public schools from kindergarten to seventh grade decide to switch over to a private alternative educational system? Have you ever attended the Charlottesville, Virginia public schools? (In all fairness, I should say after attending the public schools in Madison, Wisconsin.) After attending the seventh grade in a Charlottesville public school, I was determined to get out at whatever cost.

Since there was no public alternative, I turned to a small private, coeducational day school called Tandem. Housed in an old Southern mansion, Tandem had an enrollment of approximately 70 students with 12 (odd) faculty members. It was unique to Virginia private schools in that it was created solely for the purpose of alternative education rather than racial or religious segregation.

At Tandem education was a cooperative effort between students and teachers--the incredible benefit of such a small, individualistic school. Education transcended the classroom atmosphere to conversations on the back porch, volleyball games, and cooking experiments in the kitchen. There was free time in place of enforced study halls during which you learned to weigh your studying, playing, talking, reading, sleeping, and creating time.

There was always room for innovation & change should sentiment be strong enough to bring it about before the weekly School Meeting; school policy, work courses, and special events were all worked out through the School Meeting. Sometimes there would be a prerequisite faculty or Board of Trustees meeting, but ultimately everything was presented to School Meeting.

"If something is stupid--change it!" For example, when our English teacher called in saying his car had died so he would be late for class, and in the meantime... He proceeded to leave a "busy work" assignment. When the class met, we discarded the "busy work" and proceeded to carry out a class discussion on the subject with someone recording all the opinions expressed. When our teacher arrived and was presented

with the group's composite thinking on the subject he had requested that we individually ponder on, he was thrilled by our ingenuity.

When my mother moved to Arlington, VA, upon learning about a public alternative high school called Woodlawn, I moved with her for my last year of high school. Woodlawn was actually a program -- not an official school itself. It consisted of 10-12th graders from the three huge county high schools. The student body, composed by a lottery for the 240 places, was varied from highly self-motivated to disinterested, "obedience problem" students.

As is common in most alternative schools, Woodlawn's reputation in the mind of many was that of a "freak", "druggie", and/or "hippie" place. Thus, many guidance counselors used Woodlawn for a dumping ground of any "problem students". Through an exhaustive recruiting campaign involving a slide presentation (put together by the photography teacher and the photography students) and Woodlawn people going to the area junior and senior high schools to lead discussions, the old image is slowly being dissolved.

Woodlawn's philosophies suited the self-motivated students perfectly. The motto (Verban Sap Sat--"A word to the wise is sufficient") was carried out on all levels from the open campus to the weekly Town Meeting. And I understand that this year further improvements are being made. Three students took it upon themselves to publish an "Underground Student's Handbook" which explains and explores the options offered by Woodlawn's adaptable structure. This handbook has helped many students (new & old) clarify their educational goals/purposes and how to get them.

My experiences in alternative schools have allowed me to grow, explore, challenge, test, initiate, and work in a supportive, caring atmosphere that has shaped my philosophies and my life. These experiences will always be with me in everything I think and do.

BIO-FEEDBACK MONITOR SYSTEM

They laughed at me last summer when I came home from Continental in Texas in my no nukes shirt. "What's a nuke?" people asked out of curiosity. After my explanation they laughed and forgot. I got my hands on a florescent orange bumper sticker proclaiming "PECO Nuclear Power Causes Rate Hikes and Cancer". It showed up good on the back of my tank green 1964 Pontiac along with my college parking sticker. I watched people from my rear view mirror frown and silently curse teenagers.

At school my friends at the college paper laughed at my concern. My no nukes article never got printed. It just wasn't something to be concerned about.

Then on a Wednesday in March an accident occurred at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. People suddenly started asking me questions which I answered as best I could. "What does radiation do to you?" my boss asked me. No one asks what a nuke is when I wear my T-shirt, now they ask where I got it. My bumper sticker doesn't make people frown and curse, but now brings concerned and worried expressions. The editor at my college paper came up to me the other day. He asked me to write an article for the paper being objective about nuclear power. I asked him to give me one good point about it and I recieved no reply.

No one is laughing anymore. The cold fear they have growing inside is too great for them to laugh anymore. If it took this to make them stop laughing, then I wonder how soon they will cry.

L. Van
Philly, PA



NASAL RAPE

The battle rages on--between those who believe people have a right to smoke in public and those who believe they do not. Smoking has traditionally been accepted as a cultural norm, as normal, acceptable behavior for anyone (or at least any male) who chooses to engage in it. But as medical evidence piles up to indict smoking as a major, significant health hazard for non-smokers as well as smokers, some people have become angered about how the public air space is being used, or abused.

What it really boils down to is a disagreement about to what degree a person should have control over her or his own environment: Does one have the right to manipulate one's own environment when it involves manipulation of someone else's environment too? One faction insists that they should be able to smoke, and accept any consequences that smoking may have on their personal health. Much of this faction also believes that it is acceptable to smoke in any situation, no matter what people are involved. Another faction has chosen not to smoke, and believes that they should not have to deal with the consequences of the smoke produced by the smoking faction.

There is overwhelming medical evidence to show that tobacco smoking lowers disease resistance, dulls the senses, and is a leading cause of lung and bladder cancer. Smoking can therefore be considered a form of violence to the human body. When a person chooses to inflict this violence on his or her own body, the person is exercising a basic right which Americans generally subscribe to: the right to self-destiny. However, when a person inflicts this violence on someone who chooses not to smoke, this issue turns from one of self-destiny to one of control over others.

Recent medical research has shown that tobacco smoking is at least as harmful to non-smokers exposed to the tobacco as it is to smokers. Eighty-five percent of cigarette smoke is emitted from the burning end, and this smoke contains twice as much nicotine and tar (a cancer-causing agent) as does the smoke breathed through the filter by the smoker. This sidestream smoke also contains three times as much 3-4 benzpyrene (another suspected cancer-causer), five times as much carbon monoxide (which robs the blood of oxygen), and 50 times as much ammonia as does the filtered smoke. When a person smokes in public, s/he is clearly saying: "I have the right to control my own body, even if in the process I also control yours."

An analogy could be made between smoking around others and hitting people in the face. Granted, hitting someone is a more direct and immediate form of violence, but suppose a person got pleasure from it, and insisted upon doing it at will. Would that person be justified in exercising her/his right to pursue happiness by hitting people? The effects of smoking on non-smokers may not be as immediately apparent or painful as hitting people in the face, but in the long run they can be far more deadly.

Unfortunately, smokers do not generally think about what they are doing when they smoke in public. Smoking is generally considered acceptable behavior, after all--people have always smoked in public, and people continue to do it by habit. It is only a nuisance when someone asks you not to smoke. After all, they're your lungs, right? Well...

It angers and frustrates me that I cannot go to a restaurant, movie, post office, lounge, library, store, coffeehouse, or laundromat without at least one person exercising her or his "right" to smoke around me. I have chosen not to smoke because I don't want to deal with the potentially deadly effects of exposure to smoke, and I think that public air space should be for the public--and not just for smokers. I do not question a person's right to smoke--but it is time that smokers realize that the rest of us have rights, too.

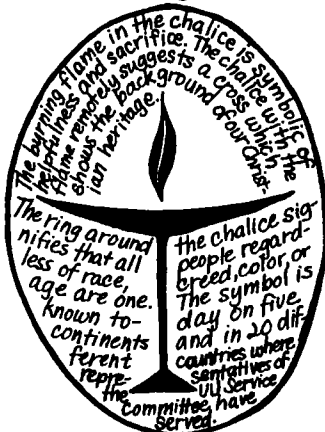
Another thing to consider: It is estimated that 54 million Americans smoke, and there are over 200 million of us in all. Why should a mere 27% of the population control the air for everyone? Whatever happened to that foundation of our government, majority rule?

The clash between smokers and non-smokers is quite unpleasant, and is not likely to be easily resolved. Legislation has popped up in cities and states all over the country which attempts to deal with the issue by dividing public places into "smoking" and "non-smoking" sections. Since the air space in such sections is often the same, I would like to see this idea carried one step further: There could simply be some public buildings and facilities where smoking was allowed, and others where it was not. Because more and more people are becoming willing to exercise their rights as non-smokers, their desires must be recognized and respected. Public places simply cannot go on being a smoker's paradise.

To summarize, I would like to quote a friend of mine--a smoker--when he tied up the issue by saying: "Smoking is for smokers."

Boyd J. Matters

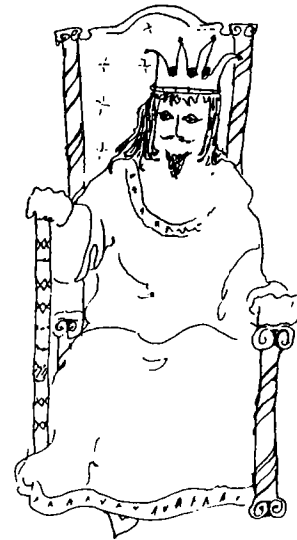
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These reasons are worth the time, effort, and concern that has been put into LRY over the past 25 years. It is worth the cost. I hope that you've read about "\$25 For 25" in the last People Soup and in your Local Group mailing. I especially hope that your Local Group has decided to invest \$25 in the next 25 years of LRY.

Three contributions have been received at this time. When matched, the current total is \$150. This can provide for the mailing of one issue of People Soup, or the production of 500 program packets. This is a start. When each Local makes their contribution we will have a total of \$12,500 which can provide for more than 1/3 of next year's total budget for a continental LRY Office and staff. It will take the financial support of all Locals to continue the youth representation, program materials, People Soup, communications, and fieldwork that continental LRY provides.

*Taken from the purposes of LRY as defined in the permanent By-laws of Liberal Religious Youth inc.

Fill out the form below, send it along with your local group's check of \$25 for 25 more years of LRY. We'll send your group a \$25 For 25 Silver Anniversary Certificate.

\$25 FOR 25		Local Group Name or City
_____	_____	Number of members
_____	_____	Send to: LRY-\$25 for 25 25 Beacon St. Boston, MA. 02108
Name & address of UU society affiliated with	Name & address of Local Group Contact	Make checks payable to: Liberal Religious Youth-\$25 for 25
Source of contribution. (treasury, donation, fundraiser)		

THE \$25 For 25 Campaign to be Matched

All funds received will be matched by a generous past LRYer who is actively promoting the future of LRY.

Hello Friends of LRY,

FRIENDS OF LRY are really all of us who've been involved in LRY in our youth- and still can be an important part of it. The years we were in LRY were important to us, we grew in many ways and now look back fondly on those days remembering what we gained and how much it has meant to us. My LRY experiences have strengthened my ties with the UU denomination, and increased my respect for the individual's capabilities. The loving community that LRY forms will always stay with me and I know I speak for all past LRYers in saying that we'll always be a part of it.

As we've shared of ourselves with LRY in the past, so can we do again with LRY local groups all across the continent in a special financial drive for support for LRY during their Silver Anniversary year. It's called "\$25 for 25". The article entitled "Why Bother?" explains why LRYers themselves are giving to this important effort.

The Continental LRY Office is awarding "\$25 for 25" Silver Anniversary Certificates to individuals and local groups who invest \$25 to begin 25 more years of LRY. The list of those contributing and the final tally will be published in the July issue of People Soup.

I want there to be an LRY for 25 more years. Think of what LRY has meant to you in your youth. How think of what it would have been like without LRY. No comparison? That's what we think. That's why we're FRIENDS, so that in a direct, positive way, we can help perpetuate the future of our favorite organization.

Make checks payable to: Liberal Religious Youth, "\$25 for 25"

Send to: LRY, "\$25 for 25"
25 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02108

Thinking for the future.

Jeff Workman
Jeff Workman, LRY Advisor

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