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CREATIVITY

By Kimberly Russo

I recently read an article in a popular magazine about an experiment done with children. Half of these children were given good food and exercise. The other half were given food, exercise, and toys, games, and puzzles to play with. Both groups went to school and soon it was noticed that the half that was given toys were brighter and more efficient at their work. It seemed that the toys were a creative outlet that made a difference in their abilities.

I also recently wrote a letter to a friend explaining that I had just taken up the mandolin, and was happy to have a new creative outlet--some new way to express myself. Why is creativity so important in our day-to-day living? Why was it that those children who had toys were brighter, and why was my mandolin such an important way for me to express myself?

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language defines creativity as "something resulting from originality of thought, expression, etc." We are surrounded every day by things that fit that definition: music, poetry, architecture, and dance. It seems to me that the whole nature of being human is to create. Within each of us is the ability, or even more so, the desire to create, to express.

If we really take a good look at ourselves, we see that we are truly alone in this world. We interact with people, share our thoughts, ideas, and values, but still no one can truly know us as we really are deep inside. This fact draws us very near to the feelings of alienation, loneliness, and loneliness. We feel insignificant within the realm of the cosmos. Many times this loneliness causes us to withdraw, become depressed, even kill ourselves to try and escape the fact that we are alone. Creativity comes from this loneliness--it is a way we

reach out and express ourselves. It is how we say, "Hey, world, here I am! I exist! I am significant!"

Creativity, then, is our way of breaking out of our shell. Inside us all is a person who wants to take his thoughts, ideas and feelings and make them into something that can be seen, shared, and enjoyed. It is something done to touch ourselves, our friends, or masses of people. It is something that comes from "self", the part of us miles behind our mind, intellect, and ego. It is our soul screaming that we are alive, that we do exist.

Picasso is a true example of this kind of creator. He, along with Georges Braque, was responsible for a new realm of art, a new type of expression. He created; he made something that "resulted from originality of thought and expression." He painted from his "self", from the inner part of him beyond his mind. This is the reason you may know a Picasso when you see it. As his best friend, Guillaume Apollinaire stated, he was one of those artists who "must draw everything from within themselves." (Guillaume Apollinaire, Cubist Painters, New York, 1944.)

The children of the experiment who received toys seemed to be brighter than the others. Why? What does creativity, coming from the "self" have to do with knowledge coming from the "intellect"? It is a known fact that through creativity we learn. Through seeing, touching, hearing and being with our surroundings we find the materials to express. During play, a child may build a tower so high that it falls. In school the teacher may teach the law of gravity, and in his/her mind the link between the self and intellect/ego the child will say, "Yes, I remember, the tower fell!"

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Personals

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PEOPLE SOUP, Volume VII, Issue III. Published five times a year by Liberal Religious Youth, Inc. LRY Publications are free to use any material contained herein. Other publications must have the permission of the Publisher in writing.

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Your contributions are welcomed. People Soup is made possible through your energies, both physical and spiritual. Any contributions of artwork, news items, poetry, short stories, or editorials, are welcomed, and will be considered. D Drawings or other artwork must be in black and white.

Personals that are not individual financial gains are free.

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Lawrence, KS: Boston is waiting for you! folo & yodi & kicd

Tom-hey, you, yeah, you, out there in cosmicland, one of these days try to find time to write me, or are you dead?!!

"Eh, you! Are you impolite, obnoxious, crude, disgusting, and a disgrace to society? Got V.D.? Hate Disco punks? Like to tell your mom off? Like to beat up your brother? Got a pair of wrap arrounds and an old-jean jacket? Got more than 40 wuets experience at playing the bas? Den you are just the person right person for us. LRY's official punk band, The Retardos, are looking for the right or wrong person. Send a picture, resume to: The Retardos 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA. 02108. PS If you turn out to be the wrong person ya dead beef, mon."

Stephen Paul Kellogg-if you don't write, I won't. Laurie

Dougie, my someday future roommate I love you madly, forever, etc. Thank you for the millions of happinesses you've given me, & given me the chance to give you all this & so much more.

Kaity, Chrunchy, Peter, Colin, and Leasha: Miss ya lots. can't wait to see you again. Love, irfers in the big apple.

Where do you think the midwest is? Is Kansas in the Midwest? (yes) Is Ohio in the Midwest? (no) Please send your opinion to: Where is the Midwest/25 Beacon St./Boston, MA/02108.

To Everyone at the California LDC: it was one fantastic weekend and I love you all! All you in the purple moon room, how 'bout a family reunion? Love, Elizabeth

Dear Peter and Jacquif, The most sincerecongratulations on the birth of your first child. Since Kelly's parents have such incredibly bright auras I'm sure he will be a very beautiful person. Love, Papa Hobo

Keri- "Oh, Susannah, don't cha cry for meee, I'm gwine to californya with a fender on mah kneeee!" What's happeninq, meester? Brian

Ace. They can't keep us apart much longer. We're inseparable--you can't have one without the other. Life has not been the same without the other. You're my pal, Hutch. Gene

Dear L.A. Unicorn, New York loves you! Don't ever feel lost or fallen, we'll always be here to help find you or pull or push you up. You're really beautiful.

"oh, the vi-brations... oh, the Uni-tar-tans..." an over quote by Tom Wolfe. (The kind you put on when you are cold.)

Sue, Love, Mr. Rico! Zillions of it! Brian

Leslie and Kalla (the MICON '79 Vets from good 'ol Texas): See you at MICON '80! Have we planned a week of thrills and chills for you! Remember the duck. The MICON '80 Comm. Bryn, Damon, Peter, R.J. and all the other Berkeley people, I miss you terribly. You made my first conference the greatest time of my life. Please write soon, I hope I see you 'Easter at DeBenneville. (You have given me your riches, I love you so.) Michelle from San Diego P.S We love cows and rain sort of.

Hilary, I can prove I love you but you have to let me. love, bert

Hong Kong Pixie: You're a gr-B sis-I love you. XX Elizabeth

Leslie Loe--So how does life treat NT art majors? How are plans for the conference going? Write me here and tell me something earth-shattering and profound. Love ya, Nina

Beverly Mauger--I can relate. I don't know you, but write. I'll write back. Rt. 1, Box 432, Avondale, PA 19311. Love, Kall Amazon

To Tom Hairlip and all his relatives in Miami: I hope to see you all at the next conference. Does anybody know a good pizza place in Jax? I love y'all, Karen

Hel!!! Where are ya? Write--or at least let me know you're alive. Julienne

Lawrence Clan: "Hey, let's get bucked up!" Miss dat 3.2 bear. Kansas City: "A.E. all around my..." "Hey, wanna caucus?" Dicky

David (aka Whitebird): Dan'l-Please write! David-glad to have seen so much of you when you were here, & Dan'l I truly hope to see you soon. Laurie

To any LRYers, IRFers, UUAers, Unicorns or other warm fuzzy people who remember me: I've pulled up my roots from Dayton, Ohio, and am residing in San Francisco. I am going to school part time and working full-time as a legal clerk in a law firm. There is room in the mailbox and space on the couch for mail and visits from old friends. Love y'all, Roger Smart 1977 McAlister, San Fran, CA 94115. (415) 921-6854

Linda, You're too young to get married!!!! Love, Betty

Cheryl: Ohio aint in the Midwest, but I LOVE YOU ANYWAY!!!! Dicky

Animal: What's a Hostess Suzy-Q! Great big Suzy-Q! How big? Really big! That's right! Boom Boom! Chocolate cake, creamy filling, more chocolate cake. Eat it all, have a ball, great big Suzy-Q! Wow! Wow! WOW!!!!

Anyone!! Help! I'm new. Anyone, please write me at:

Valerie Harb
20948 Bowdena St.
Woodland Hills, CA
91364

or call! (213) 340-0719. Love to you all. Val

Lane, thanx for sharing it with me. It means so much, it really helps keep me happy. Love you, Nan



Susie and Tracy HOWDY!!!!grunt... umph... Life is such an effort... I think I'll get a sky hook helicopter... A Nasty Little Brown Pinto

Mom, Thanks for the check... My teeth are feeling fine...gretchen

David Williams, in conjunction with the publishers of People Soup, is pleased to announce that due to the fact that everyone he has ever written a personal to is either in town or will be visited soon, he no longer needs to waste valuable space in the personals section, and hopes that our readers make good use of the newly vacated space.

David Williams, you think you're so funny.

Stephen-I love, love, love. love love you. Always be my good witch Glinda. Laurie

Miss all of you from the California LDC. Hope to see you all at the Easter camp. Write me: 5714 Adelaide Ave., San Diego, CA 92115. Love ya-Darlene.

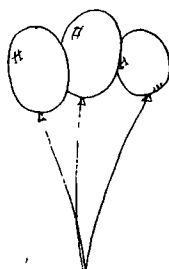
Hi Mom! Did ya send my bear yet? I'm about my posters? Please, do not wash the bear!! I like him that way. Your youngest

Hey Animal! This is your mother speaking. Where are you now? It's been seven months since I last saw or heard from you. It is not nice to not communicate with your mom. Like to hear from you someday. Love ya, Your Mom

Kevin: This is a long distance thank you for all the hugs and support--Boulder would never be the same without you. I need you! XXXXXX Lisa

To anyone who wants, needs, enjoys etc. HUGS--this is for you. I feel so much warmth and happiness for all of you just because you're you. Raven.

Plaid Giraffe--Celeste is better now. How is Edgar? Arther sends his love Please give mine to Hugo. I hear Uncle Morey is in the hospital...over exertion? Write me dear. Agnes



TO THE OUR GANG VARSITY SQUAD ROTH 1st & 2nd STRING... Congrats on recent victory over Powder Puff team... I LOVE YOU PLEASE WRITE... GOOD LUCK WITH THE PARSTES NEXT WEEK...VVICTORY FOR VAP VAR VARSITY YEA TEAM!!!! love, Gretchen

Helene, There's sunshine in your smile! I love you. Michelle

EDDIE!!!! DON'T DO IT!!!

Bruce Gauld-Bite my neck, Airhead! My skin will crawl back home to me... Love you! Kall

Gene, You're the best mom I've ever had. How do you keep getting younger? Love, your daughter, Karen

Dougee: No Nukes! Let's here it for non-violent political activism. I love you! I miss you! Dick

Danny (Luke)-May all your idle wilde squiggles never run dry of African frizzles. Love always, Bo

Kurt-Along with having lousy weather, New Jersey is lonely. Please write. I love you. Laurie

"Roy" Dean: When can we go home and sit on the front porch with Virgil and Rufus and the rest of those lowlife Midwestern rednecks and pick on guitars and drink Moosehead? I wanna go home with the armadillo...." Earl Congratulations Steve Dick and Jenneke Schol!

Frank-I love your smile, I love your personality, I love your hair and I love your car. Oops, did I forget you? Sharyn

Jay-I love you. Betty

Maj: It would be totally fantastic experience if we could relate again sometime in the predestines cosmic concept of the future and it's space. Never forget what it's like to be a rock and not roll... Love always, Veg.

Michelle--Excuse me for being spaced lately...too many things going on. I love ya anyway. Julienne

Bethi- Where are you? I'd like to write to you but don't know how to find you. Love and Unicorns, Laurie. 35 Ashton Pl., Glen Rock N.J. 07452

Chris & Conrad!! Thinkinn about you. Your Fid Sister...



STEVE THE KANSAS PROOFIE... BARBADOS? BERMUDA? BAHAMAS? ST. THOMAS ISLAND? LAKE PERPY? STILL HAVE A TENT? I LOVEYOU!

Becky--I would have stopped by, but my pogo stick is broken. Boston is a long way if you're going by tricycle. Love, Nina

Tim, Hey, whatever happened to my letter and/or phone call? Huh? C'mon I love you. Peace and Love, Sharyn

Iayni Martin--So you tend bar and do the books? Does that make you a bookie? Describe your apartment and I'll describe ours...

Cheryl--I miss you lots. Things just aint the same without ya. Come back soon--I have something of yours...(see pic page 12) Love, Xerox II

Rocky Mountain Fed (alias region 3) is alive!! (Several anonymous voices at many different conferences.)

Ronnie: Just because you're an ex-Redardo doesn't mean you can't write me letters? Write me you murd. Dick

Sammy pie, you left your satin sheets at the summer cottage, along with your oral B 60. Please retrieve them soon. The cat has been ripping them. Uncle Martha and Aunt Fred.

To Susan-M. and Rene-S., I think we can make summer Tri-Fed a success. Let's keep in touch. Karen

Liza Updike--are you alive? Signed, a wondering Mike Davis

Johnny D. Dareyou: You've got no class! Phil

To Don Rickert-I love You!! Prince

Fellow LRYers/IRFers, would you like to find out about how to become a Conscientious Objector? For more information write to the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors, at

C.C.C.O.
P.O. Box 15796
Philadelphia PA
19103

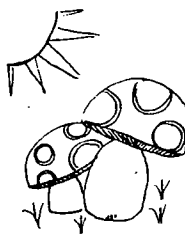
Concentiously, Eric Hiseman

Dear Kelly, We have a wish for you: May you, during the course of your life, experience much love and affection, so that you will then be able to give to others, as you have recieved. WE LOVE YOU!!! From All of Us

To everyone in St. Pete LRY old and new: I love you all, and am very proud of you. See you when I can. Love, Karen

Sunshine: I'm glad you're back from Italy. I missed you! America is cold without your warmth. Remember never make oatmeal cookies in a blender. Space Cadet (your daughter) Schol!

Mark H. Steve, Sam H. Keri, Julienne, all my husbands and wives, all Sisters, and Nan-I love you! Write, or call, or something. My address is on this page somewhere, and my phone number is (215) 268-8645. Brigadier General Kall Amazon.



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CRVF (Connecticut River Valley Federation): There is a conference in Hamden, Conn., on April 11, 12, and 13. The theme is "In Pursuit of Happiness." CRVF will be sponsoring a work weekend at Camp Aya-Po on May 2-4. There is no registration fee, but you must pre-register, and there are only a few spots available. For more information, contact Jerry Bidwell, 202 Terry Rd., Hartford, CT. 06015.

MVF/NSF (Missouri Valley Federation/North Star Federation): The last conference was cancelled, due to bad weather conditions. There is another one in the process of being planned, though there is no date set yet. For more information, contact Andy Bloomer, 4627 W. 62nd Terr., Fairway, Kansas 66208.

STARR-KING: The Spring Elections Conference will be held on April 7-12 at the Santa Fe Unitarian Fellowship. Starr King and PSLRY held a bi-fed Board Meeting at the Inter-district Leadership Development Conference.

FED'S UPS AND DOWNS

SUNCO: A conference was held in February, where about half of the newly written constitution was ratified. A major change in the constitution deals with the structure of the Executive Committee, and the SUNCO Board of Directors. There will be a conference in Miami, on April 4, 5, and 6. For more information, contact Susan Chestine, 6049 25th St., St. Petersburg, FL. 33712.

MBF (Massachusetts Bay Federation): There are several conferences coming up. "Enchantment" is the theme of a conference to be held in Wellesley on May 9-11. A conference focusing on physical fitness will be held in Waltham, tentatively scheduled for June 13-15. A newsletter was sent out (yay!) and the MBF folks are trying to compile a new mailing list. Someday, sometime, the Invasion of the Box People will be shown, but all is dependent on the arrival of the film's soundtrack. Elections will be held at the Spring conference. For further info, contact Lori Roth, 45 Thackeray Rd, Wellesley, MA.



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SYNERGY: A new Youth/Adult committee has been formed. Austin LRY held a conference. For more information, contact Karl Hoffman, 901 Wistoria Way, Richardson, Texas, 75080.

DVF (Delaware Valley Federation): Executrons of DVF are trying to get a conference together. According to a reliable source, DVF is comatose at this point. For more information, contact Sparkey Williamson, 18 Carnation Pl., Lawrenceville, N.J., 08648

NERO (North Eastern Regional Organization): The NERO Executives are planning a meeting, for the specific purpose of restructuring NERO. This meeting will be held on April 18-19, at the Unitarian Church in Winchester, MA. Attending will be two representatives from each member federation.

The Beautiful Sufi's Fish Dinner

A Modern Day Sufi Story by Gary Sawyer

Many, many years ago on the bank of a tranquil pond, there lived a wise and beautiful Sufi by the name of Shah Van Hoot-in Snortin. This mystical Sufi was very close to nature--so close that all the wild creatures in the area would joyfully do anything this loving Sufi might ask of them.

It so happened that in order for this Sufi to obtain a certain amount of needed vitamins and minerals, she would eat a single fish once a year. The many fish living in the pond realized this, and once a year, on a certain prearranged day, a great number of them would swim right close to the shore so that Shah could lovingly choose one of them to eat.

After many years of this practice, Charlie left the cave, for he now felt prepared for Shah's test, which was not far off. To the eyes of the other fish, Charlie was very wise and understanding and they were sure he would pass Shah's test. Charlie was aware of this, and he would secretly put the other fish down as being inferior. He thought that he had experienced much during his years of seclusion, and now he considered himself a great and important fish, worthy of any test. After a while, he began to turn his back fin to the other fish, for he was on a much higher level. (or so he thought) and he didn't want to have anything to do with them.

There was a certain fish in this pond, and there's a good chance there were more like him, named Charlie. Ever since Charlie had been a wee little fish, he had a great

longing and desire to "become one" with the humble and sweet saint--and he was more than willing to let Shah eat him so that his wish could be fulfilled.

"The problem," thought Charlie, "is how to be chosen for Shah's yearly fish dinner." Now it was generally agreed on, by the fish of this secluded pond, that Shah only chose the fish that best reflected her beautiful inner light and understanding. Charlie's solution to this was to go and live many years, alone, in an underground pond cave. There he spent all his time meditating fervently and doing all kinds of strange yoga postures. He was convinced that this activity would enable him to be a better and superior fish--better, of course, than all the other fish, and thus win Shah's favor and become the lucky fish for her fish dinner.

Finally, the great prearranged day arrived. Charlie swam along with a group of other fish toward the shore for Shah's careful inspection. With clear understanding eyes, she gazed into those of each fish. When she came to Charlie, she easily looked right past his outward appearance of a wise and understanding fish, and saw

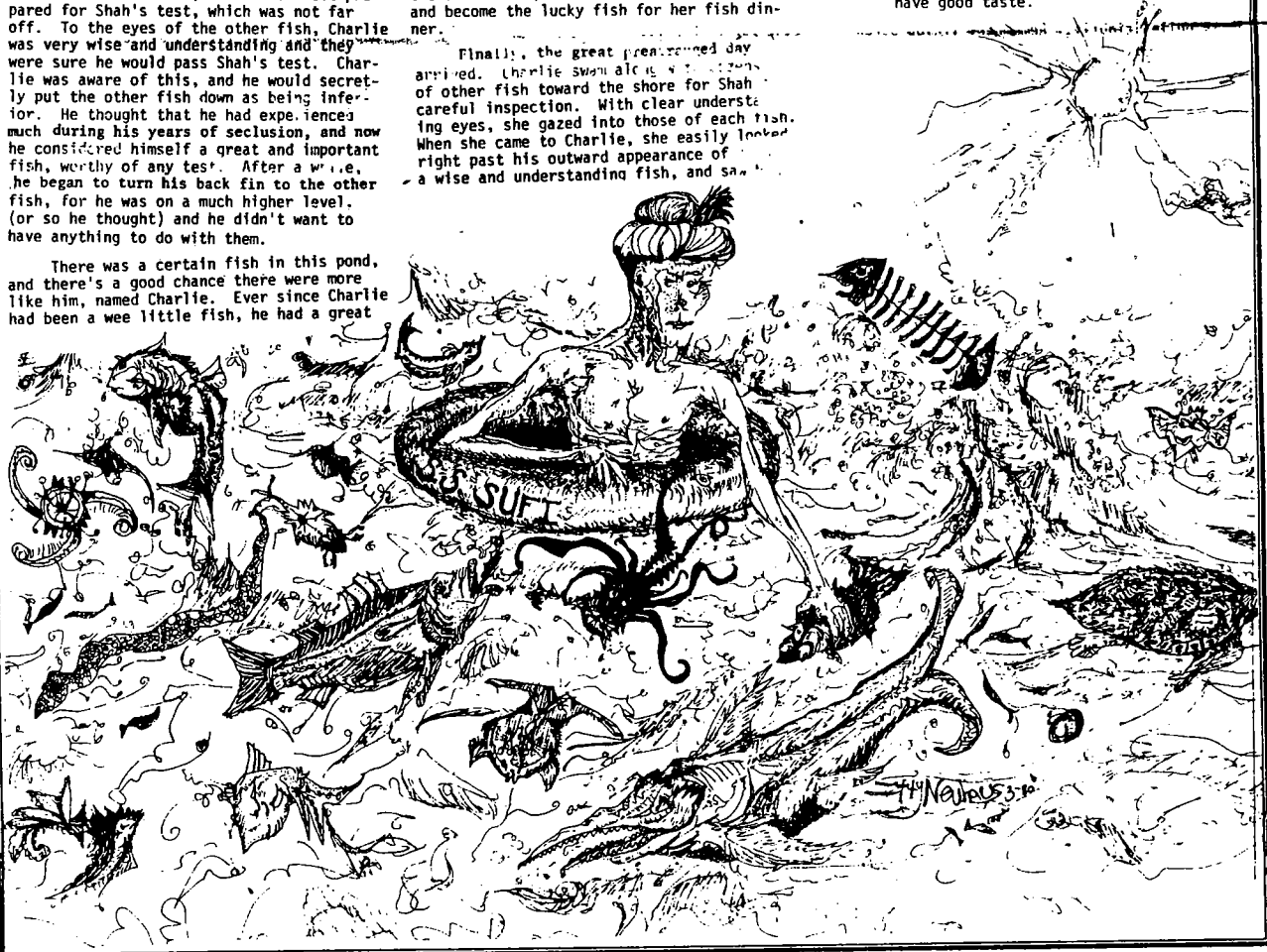
as he really was...a fish that value judged everything and everybody, and cared little about his fellow fish.

It came as a complete shock to Charlie when Shah finally picked the lucky fish. The fish she chose was a loving, happy, playful little feller named Stanley, who splashed with delight when he realized that he had been chosen.

Charlie was so infuriated! He slapped his fin on the face of the crystal water and demanded from Shah an explanation as to why he had not been chosen.

The loving Sufi gave Charlie a wise and gentle smile, and said...

"Sorry, Charlie, but I like fish that taste good, not fish that have good taste."



Silkscreen The Wrong Way... by gretchen jones

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Haven't you always wondered how people can be so entirely artsy-craftsy and talented, when you seem to be totally untalented? Well, I used to be a totally untalented flop. As a matter of fact, I didn't think I would ever amount to much. No, not without a hobby. I never took all those art classes at the YMCA and I never took a camp craft course. I learned everything the hard way. The easy way. This may seem confusing at first, but if you think about it, the hard way to your average Joe Schmo is sometimes the easiest way for your not so average Joe...YOU!

For an example I am going to use silk-screening. Now, mind you, you can't expect to produce superior quality artwork with inferior equipment, but you can have a lot of fun and learn what not to do by doing everything wrong. It may seem backwards to intentionally do everything wrong, but I think it is easier, less time-consuming, and can be a heck of a lot of fun for not much money.

When you are silkscreening, you need a few basic things that will cost you some money—but not so much so that you will deplete your savings in an afternoon. You will need the following: 1) A frame. It can be any size, however you do not want it to be more than a few inches larger than your design all the way around. It must be flat, meaning that if you make it you must use boards, nailed or stapled end to end so that the ends are even. You will need a piece of nylon silk. This you can buy at a graphic art supply store. Get the cheapest kind, since you're doing it the wrong way. Next you will need staples. First, staple one end as straight as you can and be sure to leave plenty of room for the silk to reach all sides tightly. Next staple the opposite end of the frame, stretching the fabric tightly and evenly in order to keep the sides from wrinkling or gathering. Now, do the last two sides, being sure that the screen is pulled tightly. Remember, if you screw it up it will show in the final draft of your project. 3) You will need ink. This comes in many different forms. You can decide which kind from the following description:

Water soluble--Will wash out. Should only be used on paper or other materials that will not become wet at any time. If these get wet they will wash out or run.

Oil--Not water soluble--This ink is permanent. Although with age it may fade slightly or crack it will not wash out. If you decide to use this kind of ink be sure to wear a smock or something. It is really messy stuff. Something that you should be aware of when printing with this ink is that it takes paint thinner or remover to wash out the ink. A word to the wise. Paint thinner or remover can be quite harsh so if you decide to use oil ink it is better if you use rubber gloves, especially if you have sensitive skin. Paint thinner can burn the skin, so be careful. Oil paint can be a really terrific ink except that it takes a long time to dry. It flows nicely and is good for holding vivid color.

Acrylic--Not water soluble after it dries. This stuff is really neat. It can be washed off the screen with water but it will not wash out after it dries. It will however fade with age but is still the niftiest stuff for clean-up.

Photo-sensitive--Not water soluble after it dries. This ink is really nifty to work with. It cleans up easily while still wet yet when it dries it is permanent. The special quality of this ink is both a novelty and a drawback. It develops much the same as does a polaroid picture. This ink is sensitive to ultra-violet rays and develops when exposed to direct sunlight or to an ultra-violet lamp. The drawback is that when you screen it, it tends to screw up since you cannot see the finished result until it is exposed to the light. This means that if you screw up the printing then you cannot touch it up. If you try to touch it up then you will undoubtedly end up painting on more ink than you would if you had screened it on. What this means is that the correction will be darker than the rest of the design.

There are also vinyl inks, but I don't know much about them. I'll let you look for those yourself...

You will need a squeegee. This is a tool to scrape the ink along the screen to push the ink through the small holes in the screen and thus onto your project. It can be anything from a rubber professional squeegee to a piece of heavy cardboard. If you use cardboard be sure to remember that cardboard with use, will get soft and soggy, so keep a large supply on hand. If this doesn't work, use your imagination! Look at how the screening process works, and then find something in the house that will work. It could be one of your mother's rubber scrapers (some people call them spatulas). Your best bet is to have a squeegee roughly the same size as your screen, so that the ink will go on the paper fairly evenly. We don't want streaks now, do we?

You'll also need a stencil. There are many types of stencils available--everything from paper to photo sensitive gelatin. I will just go over the basic, cheap ones, and their application here.

Paper--the simplest. All that is needed is a piece of paper of some substance, preferably not too absorbant. I suppose waxed paper would work especially well if you could find some way to adhere it. I think something like vegetable oil or maybe Karo syrup would work--as long as it's water-soluble and not pigmented. All you really need is some kind of sticky substance that is not permanent. Generally paper is the easiest way to go. Take an exacto knife and cut away every area that you want to be colored, much like a negative, and then place the finished design onto your screen. The ink will adhere the design once you have run the pattern once. (The reason you need to adhere the waxed paper is that the waxed surface makes the paper very slippery and it will take some mighty quick thinking to keep the paper in place while getting ready to ink the screen.)

Hydro-Amber--This is a gelatin film much like those peel and eat smashed fruits that you can find in the Midwest. (If you live in Ohio, forget it.) The name "hydro-amber" is a brand name, not a generic name, so if it comes under a different name, or is not orange, do not fret. This stuff is extremely expensive--you'll have to lay out about \$4.00 per square foot. The simplicity of it, however, makes it quite worthwhile. It comes on a tough, clear plastic backing, and is applied with water. You work it much like paper, except that it is much easier to cut, and it doesn't ravel like paper. The only problem with hydro-amber is that it can be tricky to apply. You only need a small amount of water, and if you aren't careful you will end up with it running all over the place--quite a mess. The only thing that will prevent this from happening is practice--but this is expensive and a real drag. The theory behind any of these methods is to block the pores of the fabric so that the ink cannot flow through. So if the gelatin runs, it blocks the pores of the fabric, and the ink cannot flow through.

Another drawback with hydro-amber is that it is water soluble. When using water-soluble inks, you need to be aware that if you want to use your design the next day, you can't rinse off the screen with water--that would destroy the stencil. It is possible to just wipe off the screen without destroying the stencil. It is generally pretty sturdy stuff, but be careful! It can be quite tricky.

Block-out--This is really fun stuff if you are coordinated at using a small paint brush or just enjoy using a spattered effect on your screen. This is used much like paint. You paint the block-out on all areas that you don't want the ink to come through. It is fairly cheap, I think, and will last you a good long while. It's generally handy to have around especially if you are using one of the other methods and part of your stencil comes off, or you decide that you don't want something that is already inked to come through.

There are several other types of stencils, such as photo sensitive that require lots of equipment and preparation. I won't go into that, for the sake of keeping this simple and avoiding processes that I could not get to work...if you want to try any process that I haven't mentioned, well, go ahead...but don't say I didn't warn you.

Basically this is all you need to do a slipshod job and have a lot of fun silk-screening. Some other things that will come in handy are: a spoon, an apron, various pieces of unmarred cardboard to prevent bleeding (not you--the print!), a workbench or old table that mom and dad won't kill you for if you just happen to mess it up.

Don't let any of these stress stop you from being creative. I once cleaned off a screen by spraying it off with a backyard hose.

Now that you have the basics...I feel like letting you go with that and hope that you could fend for yourself, but don't worry! I wouldn't wish that on myself, so I won't do it to you...

So now you are sitting at a workbench with all your equipment sitting out in front of you, all ready to begin, and you don't know quite what to do first. Well! Let's see what we can do about that. First of all make sure you have plenty of paper towels--you'll probably use up thousands of them before you've gotten off the ground. It may be helpful to get the really cheap ones you get at school, or a gas station--if you have the connections. But, then again, I'm one of those people who doesn't like to use a Kleenex twice.

You need to make sure your screen is tight. It doesn't need to be so tight that you use up three blocks and tacks to get it that way--just tight enough so that the screen gives only a little when pressed. It should feel firm.

O.K. You've got your screen and your paper towels and ink and all that sort of stuff. Fine and dandy, but you do need to have a design...no, I refuse to help you with that. Once you have settled on a design, you have to cut it out and apply it to the screen. This can be done over a period of time and if you use Hydro--Amber or block-out you will have to wait several hours for it to dry. Don't rush it or you will end up ruining it.

Let the stencil dry. If it feels sticky give it more time. Peel off any plastic backing and get ready for a cheap thrill...YOUR FIRST SILK SCREENING PROJECT!!! The first run of your project is really exciting and you never know just what will happen to your pattern. Suspense! After working with a negative for a while, you get used to it, and when the finished project appears you find that it is more than you expected.

OK, now you're ready to screen. Take a good-sized spoonful of ink from the can or bottle, and make a line of the goop across the screen. Do it sort of near the top of the screen, but enough behind the screen to be able to get your squeegee behind it. This should be well off your design, to make sure that all of your project gets inked. Next, spread the ink across the screen in a scraping motion, so that it is pushed through the pattern and the fabric. Use pressure, but not much--you don't want to scrape off the stencil, now do you? Go back and forth the long way a couple of times until you get the feel of the ink, and you think you have it down pat. However, if you look under the screen by picking it up you will have to be extremely careful so that you don't move the screen. If you do, you will inevitably end up with a double exposure. Word to the naive... Do not start screening on cloth or a T-Shirt until you have run the pattern off on a piece of paper several times. If you print prematurely, you will screw up a lot of T-Shirts.

cont.on p.10

