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CELEBRATE

BY KATHY PRICE

At first glance this may look like prose. I do not write in prose. Poetry is my key to interpretation. It is also a good way to rationalize not following the rules...

As a young child I was told not to follow...yet I was led by the hand. As an older child I was told not to follow...yet I found myself being pushed and pulled by my peers. Pushed to conform to the image of their liking, an image that was easy to contend with, and file away. Stereo-type. Carbon copy. Run-of-the-mill. Same. I tried to be accepted.. tried harder...to look alike...talk alike... --think alike--NO!!!

Alienated. Misfit. I wandered alone. I found my only friend in the form of blank paper. The warm pen--and the cold wind in my face to make me feel cynical...and bitter. Writing was my life...my friend to share my secrets. My outlet...in the moments of sunlight, of darkness, of confusion, of pain. Disenchanted...I never knew myself to stay in one place too long. I...celebrated? --searched for life's meaning in the bottom of a bottle, in the flame of a joint, in the splotch of blood from a razor-sliced wrist. Embarrassed...I woke...with a healed surface wound and a stained bedspread to remind me of my failed attempt. Suicide note crumpled and tossed...I cried.

Confused and scared. I drifted. Much instability...I became an actor. Changeling. Improvising and changing with the scenery, trying on and then discarding cliques like so many workout costumes. I celebrated my confusion...my lack of direction...the self-parody...

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PERSONALS

People Soup, Vol. VIII, Issue I.
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Cover: Julienne LePunque Farman/Amy LePunque Shapiro/Kathy LePunque Price/Tom Bier.

Thanks to Michelle, Ginger, Lissy and Ed.

MICON Committee: You might examine for yourselves the value of any sense of community which can't deal with outside influences. SOW

John: Katy says they break! Watch yourself! It's too expensive being a father unless she's wealthy. Give my love to Diana. Or Lori. Whoever. Love, Guru

To my pen friends, You are a wild and crazy group, Lynn, Nathan, Linda, Sally...! Love ya, Val

Laurel-Thanx for playing with the books with me. I'm quite indebted to you. I mean it from the bottom of my budget. We'll have to embezzle some brownies again, or throw ourselves out the office window. Love, Amy

Tammy De...I'm sorry you must leave us. I cry for you at night when I wish I could have said good-bye one more time. I'll miss you. Don't forget Myrna Loy when visiting my favorite Hicks... Love and tears, Guru.

Susan: You said you never got anything in the way of personals. Well here's one for you!! Leila N.M.

Julienne, well hello there you sneaky little dwarf person (in spirit). You think that I can't write you a personal just 'cause you type them. HA! Well, here I am - and you can't stop me. Do blondes really have more fun? Love, love, love always, Michelle.

Dickdickdickdicky Doodleoodle, What is this shit? You haven't been to Beantown in six months...Come back, perhaps we can check out a hot punk band at Harvard. But let's not take Gediman. He always makes a scene. Yours truly, Julienne.

If there is anyone out there, this crazy girl would like to hear from you! Anything will be accepted; letters (love, poison-penned, or just friendly), bombs, report cards, anything! I promise to write back. Leila Marie Mohajerin, 568 Sherwood Dr., Auburn, AL 36830.



Gordie--Where'd your "in a sense" go? One of your advisees

YOU PEOPLES who never showed up at Joe Taco's housewarming celebration all should know that it was your loss, we didn't miss you a bit, but we were extremely insulted by your absence. Therefore we will never again think fondly of you again unless you rush your formal apology to us before midnight tonight.

And for the dear sweet person who relieved us of our wallets in Knoxville, I, for one, would appreciate getting my ID back.

Snuggles and fuzzles for everyone who went to Rainbow or Con. Con. '80! I really had an excellent time. Share the warmth, pass on the rainbow, and spread the word of anarchy. Jennifer

Paranaught-"In the velvet darkness of the blackest night, burning bright, there's a shining star, no matter what or who you are, there's a light..." Can we still be friends?

Jaykins--I LOVE YOU!! In case you'd forgotten. Your lil sis, Lizzie baby

'Hay gang, here we go again, lane's back at Simon's Cosmos, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Warm Fuzzies, and genial correspondence gleefully accepted and usually answered.



Julie, It's been a long time, I use to see you every day. I think I'm going to dieeeeeeee. Love Bekah

Has anyone seen either my respectability or my M-16? I seem to have misplaced them somewhere during the War of the Warm Fuzzies. If you have any knowledge of their whereabouts, please contact me. Jennifer.

Carla, my love, it has been one year, three weeks and two days since I last saw or heard from you. I'm sorry I woke you up that morning--but I'd like to know if you are healthy. happy and into anything. Greyhaven never gave me your address so please write. I miss you. Love you always, Nell

To Nada Velimirovic and all the other Nadas: Did you know that in Slavic "Nada" means HOPE? It comes from the word "nadesz". That is what I always tell anyone who tells me my name means nothing. And I am always hopeful. Nada Bevic.

To Anyone, My dad said yes!!! I am going to school in New Hampshire, and am very happy about it. My new address is: Karen Gore, Baker River School, Wentworth, NH 03282. I am busy but have time to read and write letters. Please write. Love, Karen

Sam, I'm sorry I didn't send you anything for your birthday. I just could not think of anything quite vile enough. Hope it was happy anyway. Sort of. Julienne

Liisa: "But shit is a product of life!" Keep in touch. I love you, Michelle

Julie, I LOVE YOU! Good luck in whatever toil, trouble, and bubble that life may bring. Always, Michelle

Sharon Goodwin: Please contact me, I have your and Allens T-Shirts but have lost your address. Sorry. Love Karen

Christine: Pleez write and sorry I missed you at the bi-fed. Your purple sis, Elizabeth

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Sydney Sandoz lives!!!

J.M. is alive and well and living in France!

To whoever picked up my green down jacket at Con-Con '80: it devours the wearer on the full moon. To avoid, return to Jimmy Riley, 2918 Bellaire St., Denver, CO 80207. P.S. Hi Kate! How's the banjo?

Tommy J. - Grrr, Grrr! Your lil teddy bear, Michal Ann

Bekah, Can't wait till we tuna fish together again. Hot Dog! Michal Ann P.S. Let's peanut butter and jam.

Marc Pucci--What is your address/phone? I can't find you anywhere!! Lane

Janet, Party harty and may there be warm fuzzies in your heart forever. Love, Michelle

Human sexual response

CMF: You helped put me here. I miss you... Luv, Nan

Tow transplanted barnacles: Steve Woodbridge, 3005 E. Euclid, Boulder, CO 80303, and Shalimar Ward 1141 11th St., Boulder, 80302.

Gretchen!! Help! I have to do this page by my onesies!! OH NOOOOOOOO!! I miss miss miss miss miss you.



To everyone I have ever met: Howdy!! Hugs and kisses all around. If you've had some trouble keeping on top of my aimless trekings up and down the East Coast, my current address is: Jennifer Brett, Eckerd College, Box 72, St. Pete, FL 33733

It's the ... CMF!! (danannaana) I love and miss you! (Yes, I disappeared for awhile). I'm in Boston now: C/O LRY Love and Telekinetic Baking. Kathy

Michelle, Why do I feel as if I've been framed?

3 ...and more...

Amy--We miss ya! Come on and see us sometime. Good luck as an Exec. The S.M. local. P.S. What'll your buddies at the pizza joint do without ya?

Prince: Dreadfully long time since I've showered with you, though I anticipate it happening again. I have letters written for you but what's your address? I Love you, you trickster...Michal Ann, 641 No. Humphrey, Oak Park, IL 60302

Ruthie my-dear, I will do my best to get Nabasco on its feet, into the swing, along the groove, so it'll go real smooth. Love, Michelle

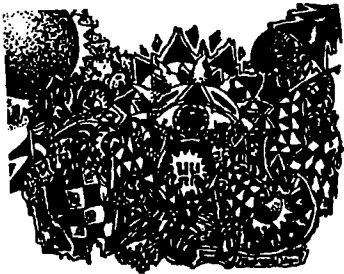
Dear Debbie: I'm so glad you were at Con-Con--now I know you better, I like you more. And thank you for your advice in the tourbus, it helped me alot. IRFly, love and friendship, Matthias.

Note: Ohio no longer exists in the continental United States, due to overplayed controversy. As of October 1, 1980, Ohio has been nuked and is now pleasantly glowing in the land of Oz. Therefore Be It Resolved: Ohio is no longer, nor was it ever, in the Midwest.

Bill, I'll tie you to the roof rack and beat you with bungie cords. Can't you tell I love you?! Nan

Dick P.- I'm once again in exile in Yellow Springs. Please write, visit, or send word of your continued existence. Hope you're still tall and thin as I'm still short and soft. Love and dark hair. Nell P.S. Yes, kids: here's my address: N. Veeder, Antioch College, Yellow Springs, OH 45387 (513)-767-7331.

Will someone please tell me when Morris-town is having a conference? A Misplaced conferee.



Lisa, I miss ya so much. Beah

Did anyone go to the Stebbins conference at Asilomar? If so speak up! I love ya all. Thanx, write. Valerie Hard, 20948 Bandera St., Woodland Hills, CA 91364

High-I feel unable to deal with things the way they are, and I'm sorry for blowing off plans previously made with other people...but you have to do what you have to do. Until I get a permanent address, poison pen letters, porno mail, threats of violence, love letters and demands for payment may be sent to: Flight Comm. Keri, c/o Chris Schild, 4602 Lincoln Dr., Concord, CA 94521. (415)-686-3222. My head's being real crazy, but I love you all...talk to me sometime. Keri

FRIENDS OF LRY

LRY
25 Beacon St.
Boston, MA 02108

Dear Friends,

Liberal Religious Youth receives funding from various sources. In the upcoming year we will be requesting donations from your local LRY group and from LRYers as individual members of the organization. This is necessary because there never seems to be enough money in our extremely tight budget to have all of the programs which we feel are important to the youth of the denomination. The most supportive force in LRY should be the individual members and the local groups who care about the value of LRY and its place in the denomination. If as a friend of LRY you make a donation to our organization, then LRY has gained more than money, we have gained the love and concern of a friend.

Please give your support to a friend in need; LRY.

Thank You.

Amy Shapiro
Amy Shapiro, Director of
Finance and Assemblies

Anything you can contribute will be immensely appreciated. Please send your donation with the coupon below to the above address.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

thank you

interns, huh?

How would you like to be an intern? No, not the kind that works in a hospital--the LRY kind. Being an intern involves a month in which you would come to Boston, and live and work with the LRY Executive Committee. Work in the office involves typing, filing, correspondence, working on People Soup, and being silly. At Taco Villa, the LRY apartment you would have your own room and be expected to help out around the house. LRY will pay for your food, and provide you with a T-Pass, which will get you around the city. Being an intern is certainly a learning experience, and can be a lot of fun! If you would like more information on the Intern Program, write to Interns, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

international religious fellowship 4

This past summer, International Religious Fellowship (IRF) held its annual conference at Mt. Tremper, in New York, the first time in several years in the United States. The theme was "Communities", and some thirty-five attendees from member groups from the US, England, Holland, Switzerland and Germany participated in building a truly international community. Activities included a visit to the Sri Oro Bindo Monastery, and workshops on ethnic communities, the IRF Community, communities in space and many more. The conference community was strengthened through the use of care groups, and through the folk music that seemed to be happening all the time.

So now you know a little bit about the IRF Conference. But what exactly is IRF? And how can you get involved? IRF is an organization made out of various member groups around the world, such as LRY in North America, and the Fellowship of Youth in Great Britain. Its basic purpose is to bring together liberal religious young people (teenage to age 35) from all over the world during a one week conference each summer. During the rest of the year, IRF serves through its publication, *Forward Together*, as a communications service to let people

know what each of the other groups are up to. This may sound very technical and dull to you, but IRF is far from that. For myself, IRF helped me to develop international friendships, understand the world a bit better, and has made me feel a little bit less alone in the world by showing me that there are people with beliefs similar to mine all over the world.

North American Friends of IRF is a new organization, created to help people become aware of IRF--who we are and what we are doing. In addition to publishing a regular newsletter and *Forward Together*, to all interested persons in the US and Canada, NAIRF will also be sending out publicity for the next IRF Conference, to be held in Holland, and trying to secure scholarship funds for people with low finances who might wish to come. NAIRF is still in the developmental stages, so if you'd like to help us get it off the ground or would simply like to be on the mailing list, contact Dave Williams, 2420 Westchester Ct, South San Francisco, CA 94080. If you were already on LRY's IRF Mailing list, you have been automatically included in this list.

SUMMER BOARDS

The LRY Board of Directors met this summer for the 1980 Annual Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee. Many important issues were discussed, including the upcoming 1981 Youth Assembly, "Common Ground."

Eight federations were represented at the meeting, including Massachusetts Bay Federation, represented by Laurie Roth, Greater Washington Area Federation, represented by Janet Rosado, Delaware Valley Federation, represented by Mike Davis, Connecticut River Valley Federation, represented by Jana Willett, Southern Appalachian Mountain Federation, represented by Chip Bultman, Barney, represented by Jay ten Hove, Sunco, represented by Steve Baughman (well, sort of), Starr-King, represented by Hillevi Wyman, Central Midwest Federation, represented by Nan Warsaw, Pacific Southwest LRY, represented by Tony James. Also present was the then LRY Executive Committee, Gretchen Jones, David Williams, Nina Martin, and Julienne Farman, and the LRY Judiciary Committee, Amy Shapiro, Rachael Stearns. The Continental Conference Committee also held meetings during the Board Meeting, and delivered a report to the Board. There were about fifteen observers present. The meeting was moderated by Gretchen Jones, with Tim Gates and Jennifer Robinson acting as Parliamentarian and Recording Secretary, respectively.

The agenda for this meeting included LRY's Budget, Fundraising, *People Soup*, and financial change. Perhaps the most productive day was spawned by a visit from the 1981 Youth Assembly Planning Committee, when the Committee and the Board discussed ideas about the assembly. Later that day, the LRY Board of Directors voted unanimously to accept the outcome of the Youth Assembly as the successor organization to LRY, and to receive all of LRY's assets.

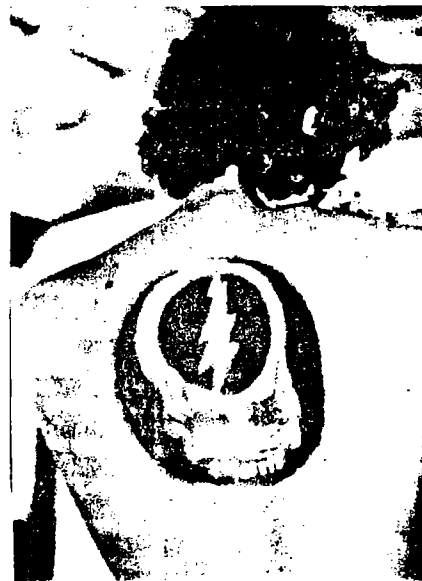
Elections were held for two positions on the LRY Executive Committee. Nan Warsaw was elected to fill the position of Director of Denominational Communications, and Amy Shapiro elected as the Director of Finance and Assemblies. Also held were elections for the 1980-81 Judiciary Committee. New members of that committee are: Hillevi Wyman, Jan Willett, Michal

Ann Sammons, Julie-Anne Silberman, and Jennifer Robinson.

Not all of the meeting was work, however. The entire Board was able to take a day off and escape the incredible heat at a nearby lake. Other activities included nightly sojourns to the Pickle-U-Pub, Baskin-Robbins, the Rocky Horror Picture Show (a Boards tradition), and to many of the nearby parks and museums.

Of course, the food was marvelous. By the end of the ten-day meeting, each board member was a connoisseur of oatmeal...

The Winter Board Meeting will be held this year in Princeton, New Jersey from December 26, 1980, to January 1, 1981. Observers are welcome to attend, but must participate in the meetings. If you would like information concerning Winter Boards, write to Boards, c/o LRY, 25 Beacon St, Boston, MA 02108, or call (617)-742-2105 extension 370.



5 CONTINENTAL CONFERENCE

Continental Conference 1980 was held this year in Highlands, North Carolina, at the Highlands Camp and Conference Center--"The Mountain". All tolled, there were about 125 people present, coming from as far as Germany or as near as Charlotte, North Carolina. The theme, "Community Consciousness" was well developed through many excellent workshops and activities.

The highlights of the week-long conference included the annual "Mr. Ugly" contest, where the highest honor was awarded to sensuous Bunny Bushwack a/k/a Rick Knowlton. A first-rate coffeehouse allowed conferees to show off thier talents, from a variety of musicians (both real and imagined) to skits, juggling, a slightly amusing monologue, and basic silliness. Uue to a dispute as to whether "The Retardos" should remain as LRY's official punk band, a "Battle of the Bands" was held. A seven-member band performing under the name of "Ratchil Harmonee and the Beat Me Silly Band" performed several vulgar original tunes, while "The Retardos" performed some of their disgusting old favorites. The contest ended in a proposed merger--"The Beat Me til I'm a Retardo Band."

The conference site itself was beautiful--nestled high in the Smokey Mountains. Each cabin housed ten people, each with an incredible view of the surrounding mountains. At any given time during the week, you could hear upon walking around the camp, strange music emanating from the Rec Hall, or the odd grumblings of the Dungeons and Dragons crowd reverberating from the Dining Hall.

A Dream Workshop was held two consecutive nights, led by Wayne Arnason. The workshop consisted of six groups of seven to ten people, each group sleeping together. Before going to sleep, each group participated in a meditation. In the morning, we discussed our dreams and helped one another understand and interpret our dreams.

Two week-long workshops were held, one on Self-Image, and the other on Women's Self-Defense. Other workshops included Rafting, Sliding and Other Fun Things to do in the River, Horseback Riding, New Games, Silk Screening, Women's Anatomy, Silliness, Music, Photography (this group built their own darkroom!) and, of course, Dungeons and Dragons.

This year's Con-Con committee, Julie Ann Silberman, from New Jersey, Lane Betz, from Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and

UU-UN HOLDS SEMINAR

"There is a greater than 50% chance that the world will blow up in your lifetime." This was one of the many facts we discussed at the UU United Nations Youth Seminar on Disarmament. Attending were 21 UU Youth from across the country. We listened to many interesting speakers, watched a few films, went on a tour of the United Nations, and sat in on a special session on Disarmament of the first committee of the UN. The facts scared us, but we also found out what we could do to cause a change. We also learned many other alarming facts: The U.S. is #1 in military power, #8 in doctor/patient ratio, #15 in literacy and infant mortality, and #26 in life expectancy. By the end of the four day seminar we had become thoroughly motivated--looking forward to working on disarmament issues within our churches and communities. If you would like information on future UU-UN Seminars, or the theme of disarmament, contact Nan Warshaw, Director of Denominational Communications, c/o 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.



Jennifer Brett, also from New Jersey, did a superb job on all aspects of the conference--certainly not an easy job! Next year's Continental Conference Committee was elected. The members of that committee are: James Bohem, from Wayne, PA, Phil Rodgers, from Texas, Chris Chichester, from Denver, Chris Paine, from San Francisco, Hillevi Wyman, from San Francisco, and Amy Shapiro, the LRY Liaison. They are looking for a site in the Northern Midwest.

If you would like information on next year's Continental Conference, please write to Con-Con, c/o LRY, 25 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108.

(Incidentally, Ratchil Harmonee and the Beat Me Silly Band was much better than the Retardos...)

BUNNY BUSHWACK

FOCUS:



This issue, we are pleased to present to you the winner of the 1980 LRY Mr. Ugly Contest, B.B.B. Bushwack.

Bunny Bartholomew Barfus Bushwack was born in a small strip mining community outside Richmond, VA. As a small child, Bunny recalls "playing in the dirt" and "the funny trucks..." "We had a silly little dog, 'Fugi'...one day I hid a big chunk of coal in his Kal-Kan. He chipped his big doggie teeth and ran around like a crazy horse until one of those big yellow tractors rooled over him...It was funny."

Tragically, on Bunny's eighth birthday, both her parents were killed in a "funny" mining accident. Bunny hitch-hiked to Denver Colorado where she became a religious fanatic. Fortunately, the D.D.D. (Determined Deprogrammer of Denver) caught up with her and caused her to undergo painful shock therapy. "That's all I remember," Bunny declares. "All the rest is just a bunch of lies I made up for the National Enquirer. I hate those people." Bunny refuses to comment on the declining value of the American dollar.

1981 Youth Assembly

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Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota has been announced as the site for the 1981 UUA Youth Assembly, "Common Ground." The assembly will be held August 10-15, 1981. Announcement of the site and theme for the assembly was made by the planning committee as they completed their second three day meeting held within one month.

UUA President Eugene Pickett and the continental leadership of LRY jointly proposed the idea of a delegate assembly of all UU Youth to be held in the summer of 1981. The UUA Board approved funding for the proposed assembly in April, and the LRY Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the assembly in August. Denominational and youth leaders see the assembly as a way past the polarized politics that have stalled the effectiveness of the UUA's services to youth in recent years. LRY has agreed to be bound by the democratically reached decisions made by the assembly.

At the 1980 General Assembly in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the UUA Board appointed a planning committee of youth and adults to take responsibility for the structure and arrangements of the youth assembly. Committee members include: The Rev. Anne Heller, Charles Wyatt, Oren Peterson, Gretchen Jones, Justin Alcorn, Kevin Clark, and Wayne Arnason.

Meeting in Boston this September, the planning committee announced plans for the purpose and shape of the youth assembly. The theme suggests the purpose. The task is the seeking of common ground for L.R.Y. and non-LRY youth, for youth and adults, common ground upon which an approach to youth programming supported by the whole denomination can be built. The task for the delegate body of both youth and adults at the assembly will be to reach a consensus on the direction and structure for the UUA's youth programs for the next generation.

The planning committee expressed a strong desire for district involvement and ownership of the process leading up to the assembly. With this in mind, each district will be asked to take responsibility for setting up a delegate selection process suitable to its own needs. The planning committee has encouraged each district to sponsor a well-planned inclusive district youth assembly as part of their preparations for delegate selection and education.

The delegates to the assembly will number 275. Twenty-five will be at-large delegates appointed by the planning committee to represent important UUA constituencies that are not included within the usual UUA district structures. District delegates will number 250. Each district has been allotted a number of delegates based on their population. The median number of delegates per district is eleven.

The planning committee for the assembly is committed to seeking a sizeable scholarship fund to assist delegates in travelling to the youth assembly. LRY has announced plans for Continental Conference and Summer Board Meeting to be held in the northern Midwest, easing some of the financial burden for LRY-involved delegates.

In 1975 the UUA Board appointed a Special Committee on Youth Programs to evaluate the status of denominational youth programming and to make recommendations for its improvement. The S.C.O.Y.P. was set up in response to a request from Liberal Religious Youth, and because of widespread concern in the denomination that the LRY program was not adequately meeting the needs of the majority of UU youth.

After two years of studies and meetings, the committee submitted its report in the fall of 1977. In summary the report identified

two major reasons for a decline in the size and quality of UU youth programs:

- *the inadequacy of the present LRY structure and organization to do the necessary tasks

- *a massive abdication of responsibility on the part of adult UU's, lay and professional, for youth programs, arising out of feelings of fear, frustration and apathy

S.C.O.Y.P was divided as to its programmatic recommendations to remedy this situation. The report was written in sections by different members of the committee, and the variety of solutions they suggested involved a budgetary commitment far beyond the willingness of the UUA Board to fulfill.

One of the major recommendations was that the full-time youth staff of LRY be replaced by a full-time adult consultant on youth programs. This was the recommendation that UUA President Paul Carnes and the UUA Board decided to act on, setting aside other suggestions in the report for future consideration.

One year of debate about the S.C.O.Y.P. report ensued, on all levels of the UUA. In the spring of 1979, a majority of voting members (most of them youth) sitting on the UUA Youth Adult Committee passed a resolution suggesting that the full-time hired LRY staff and funding be retained and a half-time staff person be hired to supplement their work. A strong minority report supporting the original S.C.O.Y.P. recommendation was issued by UUA YAC chair Bruce Southworth. The UUA Board supported the S.C.O.Y.P.-Southworth position and voted to replace funding for the LRY Executive Committee with a full-time adult staff position.

Politicizing and a floor fight at the 1979 General Assembly resulted in a mandate for UUA President Gene Pickett to negotiate a compromise solution with LRY. A package proposal involving UUA funding, LRY fundraising, and a full-time youth consultant on programming was submitted to the UUA Board and approved.

The Rev. Wayne Arnason was hired to fill the consultant's position, and began work in January of 1980. The UUA Board voted at that time to continue funding for LRY through the 1980-81 fiscal year, to allow the consultant and the LRY leadership to work out a relationship between them, and to offer suggestions for a resolution to the stalemate that had plagued UU youth programming since the submission of the S.C.O.Y.P. report.

In February of 1980, the LRY Executive Committee and the Youth Consultant began informal discussions about the possibility of a representative democratic youth assembly in the summer of 1982, which would be charged with considering alternatives for and ratifying arrangements to create a new approach to UUA youth programming. With no guarantee as to how the process would work out, the leadership of LRY agreed to recommend to the LRY Board that LRY agree to be succeeded by whatever form of UU youth program was approved by this proposed youth assembly.

The UUA administration endorsed the idea, and it was brought before the UUA Board's Finance Committee to discuss possible funding. Some new money had recently been made available to the UUA through settlement of some lawsuits having to do with a private trust fund, the Holdeen trust. A small foundation, the Liberal Religious Charitable Society (LRCS) was the recipient

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