



Busking on the Causeway!

The Official Place To Go For YRUU Info.

A Project for Every Month

Are you or your youth group looking for a project? Would you like to help a variety of different causes over the course of the year? Check out this list! Of course you don't have to do them on the assigned month, you can do them anytime!

Help Wanted!

You! And you! Sitting there reading this, yes YOU! I want you to help me! With what you ask? Why, with this wonderful amazing creation we all call Busking on the Causeway. You don't need to help on every issue, and you don't need to give



I WANT YOU

more time than you want to! Just do what you can and consider me forever indebted to you! Write an article, format a page, send in a picture. Anything! Everything! All of it is good and I could use the help. You know you wannna!
~Jessica!

All Year: Do the one-tonne challenge! Go through the one-tonne challenge websites (The One-Tonne Challenge for Youth: <http://www.co2zilla.ca/home.html>, or The government of Canada's website: <http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/onetonne/english/index.asp?pid=50>) to get some ideas, and brainstorm as a group which actions you can do to help combat climate change. Have each person make up a summary sheet of all the actions they commit too, and hold each other to your commitments! You can also make up posters for your church and/or school with ideas on them of how to cut down on green house gas emissions, or even hold a workshop for members of your congregation or for students and teachers at your school about climate change and how to cut down your GHG's.

March 2006: Call your local homeless shelter or drop-in center and ask how you can help. A clothing drive? Making and donating a bunch of nutritious sandwiches? Coming and helping to serve food to the clients? Running a poverty awareness workshop for the public? Creating art to make the shelter brighter and full of hope?

April 2006: In honour of Earth Day, do something for the environment! Raise money to protect the rainforest or wilderness areas near you. If there is a nature reserve in your area, make a donation to it. If you live in Calgary (<http://cfw.albertawilderness.ca/>) or Toronto (<http://www.wwf.ca/HowYouCanHelp/CNTowerClimb/CNTower.asp>), do the tower climb for wilderness, or pledge someone who is doing the climb. Alternatively, petition your school to stop using disposable cups, plates etc., and instead invest in an energy-efficient industrial dishwasher and some reusable dishes and cutlery and stop filling the landfills with Styrofoam, plastic and paper plates and cutlery!

May 2006: Volunteer with habitat for humanity and help build home for impoverished families in your community.
www.habitat.ca

~Chris Michell

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Social Justice Survey Information

Have you taken the Social Justice Survey yet? Did you know it's now completely online? Go to the Canadian Youth Social Justice website www.cuc.ca/youth/socialjustice to take the survey. It's also available in printable versions for you to take with you to youth group.

-Chris Michell

Interdependence and Worth

Recently I had the not-so-pleasant experience of an old friend acting like he was better than me – and speaking like it, too.

As a high-school student living alone, I had to go to Social Services and request financial aid. This was a very challenging, painful, and necessary decision for me to make. That I finally decided to ask for help is a neon sign to make me smile inwardly: it says that I have grown in a spiritually explosive way.

Many people I know would probably think I was wrong to ask for this help. My friend condescendingly referred to it as soliciting – and accepting – “charity”. My dad, along with a handful of other adults, would likely decide that I was taking government “handouts”. There is a broad range of people who look on the whole idea of getting much-needed help as a shameful thing. These people idolize independence, which is sadly over-glorified in our society.

It is an idea that I used to buy into completely. Who doesn't want to sit there, feeling smugly superior to the rest of our fellow human beings? Who doesn't want the pride of saying she did it all alone, with no help from anyone? Isn't it that very pride for which so many people endlessly toil and fade?

How is it that I can feel pride in myself for accepting external aid?

Maybe I should clarify. There are two kinds of pride, and they are often confused. One kind of pride is the superior, cruel, dividing type that tells its holder to look down on the average person. The second kind of pride, the one I am feeling, is different because I don't need to compare myself to anyone else to feel it. It's not about being better than another person, it's about recognizing a positive change in spiritual growth; it's about noticing that I am indeed better – not than another person, but rather than the person I was a day or more ago.

I do not think that I am better or worse than any other person. I believe we are all worthy of love; of a shoulder to cry on; of a friend to lean on and of our essential needs being met. I do not like to run around saying that I am on social assistance. I do not gloat over the fact that I am learning, and finally beginning to become a humbled person.

These are things I struggle with, though not for the harsh, unforgiving eye of society. These are things I struggle with for the edification of my soul and for the simple purpose of meeting my needs.

I am still trying to learn that trick of not judging people. It is a difficult thing to learn, but I believe I should do the best I can. I hope one day I can avoid judging anyone, as Jesus instructs in Mathew 7:1. Though I am not specifically Christian, I do believe that Jesus was very wise in what he taught according to the Gospels.

In Unitarian Universalism there is a similar idea in the Seven Principles: “[we covenant to affirm and promote] the inherent worth and dignity of *every* person.” (emphasis mine). In Wicca, there is the Rede telling believers to “harm none”.

In casting judgment upon another being, we risk causing emotional and spiritual harm. When my friend decided I was accepting charity, and dismissed me as worthy of less respect than him, he hurt me. I had to struggle to come to the decision to ask for the help I need, and I had to struggle to be honest about my situation when queried. It hurt me to be slandered for doing what took courage, spiritual strength, spiritual insight and humility to do.

Something else, however, is helping me to transcend those judgments. In Unitarian Universalism the Seventh Principle is “[...to affirm and promote] respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which *we are a part*.” (emphasis mine). I have finally come to realize that I, too, am a part of that web.

Independence is merely an illusion, and a harmful one at that. Everyone depends on something that comes from another person, and through the similar six degrees of separation that connects us to every person in the world by knowing, so also are we connected by depending.

Interdependence and Worth Cont'd

The last hurricane to hit Florida ruined all of a candle-maker's un-liquidated possessions. This affected a local convenience store, which can no longer restock a specific style of candle previously produced by the candle-maker. In turn, it affected me because the candles I prefer to use in meditation are running out and costing more. Thus something that directly harmed a person I may never meet has indirectly caused me harm *through* the harm it caused the poor candle-maker.

If, instead of ruinous disaster, the candle-maker had experienced a sudden increase in productivity, I might've seen a drop in price and thus received good fortune *through* a stranger's good fortune.

What I have grown to realize is that I similarly affect other people. My life is intertwined in the lives of others. If I were to abruptly cease existing, various people would no longer have to support me. Yet, those same people, and others, would need to find another way to fill the voids I would leave empty, or do without the goodness that I bring into their lives.

Yes, I need financial support so that I can live. My faith tradition needs me to fill the leadership roles I do; my siblings need me to provide the love, guidance and role model I do; other writers enjoy the inspiration of my youth and writing which I bring; politicians need me to bring the energy, enthusiasm, interest and support for politics which I bring.

Yes, I have needs only other people can meet; I also fill needs that only I can fill. My life is changed by every person in some way; I change every person's life in some way. **We all need each other, and no one person is worth any more or any less than any other person.**

I no longer support the Seventh UU Principle simply because it sounds eloquent; I support it instead because I understand it, because I have grown to a place where I believe in it. Being able to ask for the help that I need is a clear signal to me that I am now fully living that principle.

It doesn't always have to be about other people. Sometimes it is just about realizing that I, too, am worthy of the same love and respect as everyone else. We all are, and when the world finally understands, we will do away with the scorn for people who accept help from others. Instead, we will have the desire to help where we can and the honesty to ask for help where we have need of it.

Every person will be valued for their contributions both great and small, both physical and spiritual, both emotional and intellectual.

Because I now understand this Principle in which I have so long professed belief, I can know that I have grown through it.

~Elena Feick

Proper Care and Feeding of Your Con

Congratulations! You are now the proud owner of a Con. Cons are wonderful companions and are sure to give you some of the most amazing experiences of your life. However, just like all living organisms, Cons need certain care to be healthy. This guide will explain everything you need to know about how your Con works and how to keep it happy and healthy.

First, Some Basic Guidelines

Cons are very sensitive about time. In fact they have their own supply! They guard it feverishly and resent anything that attempts to take away from their supply of time. Because of this, Cons like to know well in advance anything that is going to happen, so make sure to give it plenty of warning.

A Con's favourite meals are raw data and ideas, with a side order of love, good vibes, and respect. It will tell you when it's hungry and what it needs. Because of its time sensitivity, meals should be prompt.

Anatomy

Cons vary in their anatomy; no two Cons are alike. Some have very few internal organs, some have many. The number and type of internal organs is directly related to the size of the con. These internal organs include (but are not limited to) the Funkium or Cofunkiums, the Registomach, the Logistine, the Hosters, the Worshypothalymus, the Workshopian Tubes, the Touch Glands, the Chaplainic Nerves, and the Adultonsils.

The Body

The body of the Con is made up of any number of smaller parts, each of which provide nutrition to the whole and are gathered from far and wide. Before becoming part of the whole, however, communication must take place between certain internal organs and these smaller parts. This communication is how your con eats. Once sufficient information is exchanged, the parts are absorbed into the whole. This is a symbiotic relationship, and very healthy for both entities.

The Funkium or Cofunkiums

The Funkium (or Cofunkiums) control the Con's operations, decide its direction and are the most visible single entity of the con. For best care of your Con's Funkium, be sure to listen to it and treat it gently and respectfully. When the Funkium speaks, it usually has something important to say.

The Worshypothalamus

The Worshypothalamus needs to be clean, clear and relaxed. It functions best when the integrated symbiotic parts of the whole are open to the new ideas being received through the Registomach and to contributing to the Worshypothalamus' work.

Chaplainic Nerves

Sensitive to the Con's mood, they are strong and supportive to the smaller parts of the whole Con. They work with every part of the Con to ensure that the Con's environment is loving and caring. If any part of the Con is having problems, it can turn to a Chaplainic Nerve for help.

The Registomach

The Registomach is the digestive system of your Con. The smaller parts give their raw data and ideas to the Registomach, which digests and processes this information and delivers it in workable form to the other internal organs. Once this information is delivered, the parts can join the Con and enter into the preferred symbiotic relationship with it. Raw data is directed through the Logistine to the Hosters, while ideas are directed to the Worshypothalamus and the Workshopian Tubes. However, if the Registomach is not fed a balanced and complete meal of information, indigestion occurs and leads to discomfort and tension among the internal organs. For example, if Nothing is fed to the Registomach, it must digest Nothing and pass Nothing on. Nothing is, in fact, a parasite that eats the Con's time stores, leading to further tension among the internal organs and causing a high amount of stress in the Con. Incomplete Information is the immature version of Nothing, causing less damage but is still highly frustrating to the Con's internal systems. Both provide little to no nutritional value to the Con. The most severe damage occurs to the Logistine and Hosters.

The Logistine and The Hosters

The Logistine and Hosters go hand in hand. The Logistine is smaller, but vital in the transference of information from the Registomach to the Hosters. They are the most prone to indigestion. The Logistine has the secondary function of being the source of motion for the Con. It can take a year for a Con to move across the country or region. Because of the stress on the Logistine and Hosters associated with moving, some Cons choose to remain stationary.

The Adultonsils

They are a part of the Con's immune system that help to make sure that it doesn't get ill. It is important to consider any advice they might give, and treat them gently and with respect. Otherwise, infection might occur, which would be uncomfortable for the entire Con.

The Workshopian Tubes

Information and ideas are also funneled into the Workshopian Tubes by the Registomach. The information is passed on to the smaller components of the whole con, to be processed there. Also, aspiring symbiotic parts bring ideas to the Workshopian tubes, which then facilitate the fertilization of the rest of the symbiotic parts with these ideas to enrich them.

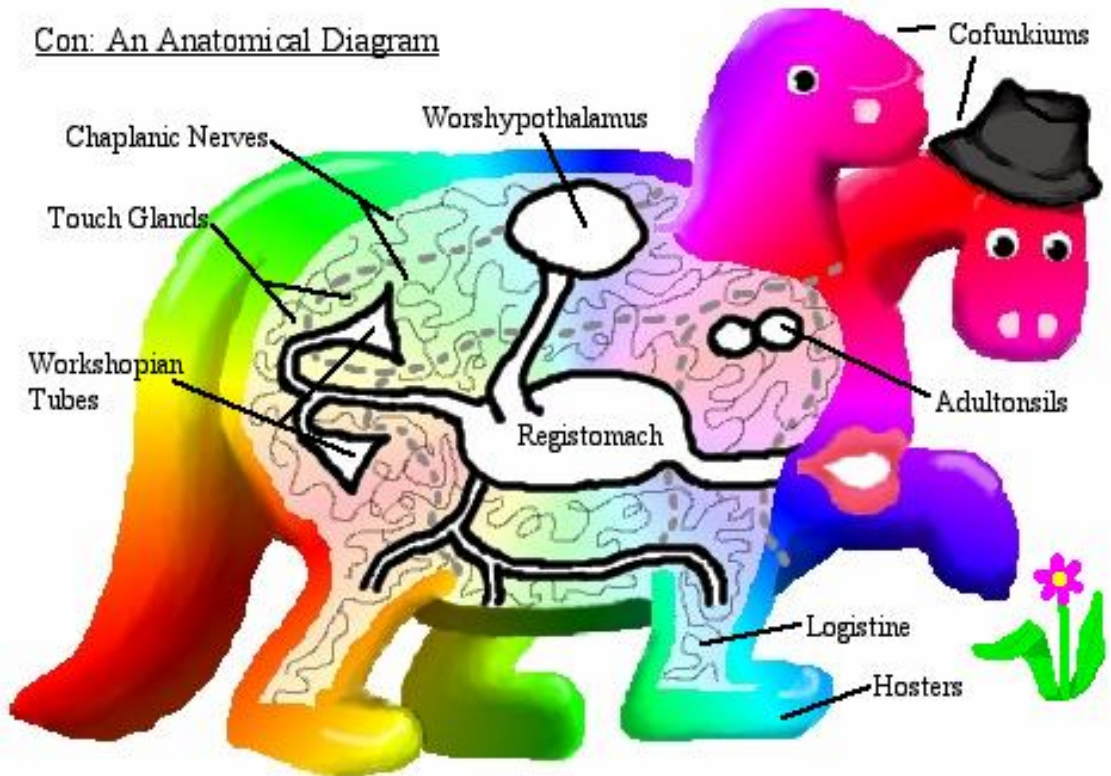
The Touch Glands

The Touch Glands regulate the comfort secretions in the Con and facilitate mingling among diverse parts of the whole. The Touch Glands consist of about 5 to 7 groups within the whole, with a Touch Gland Leader to help facilitate activities and discussions. All the various parts of the Con's anatomy are included in these glands.

Now that you understand the functions of the Con's many parts, you know how to properly care for your Con. Remember to keep it well fed with raw data and information, and to treat it gently. A well-fed Con is a happy Con!

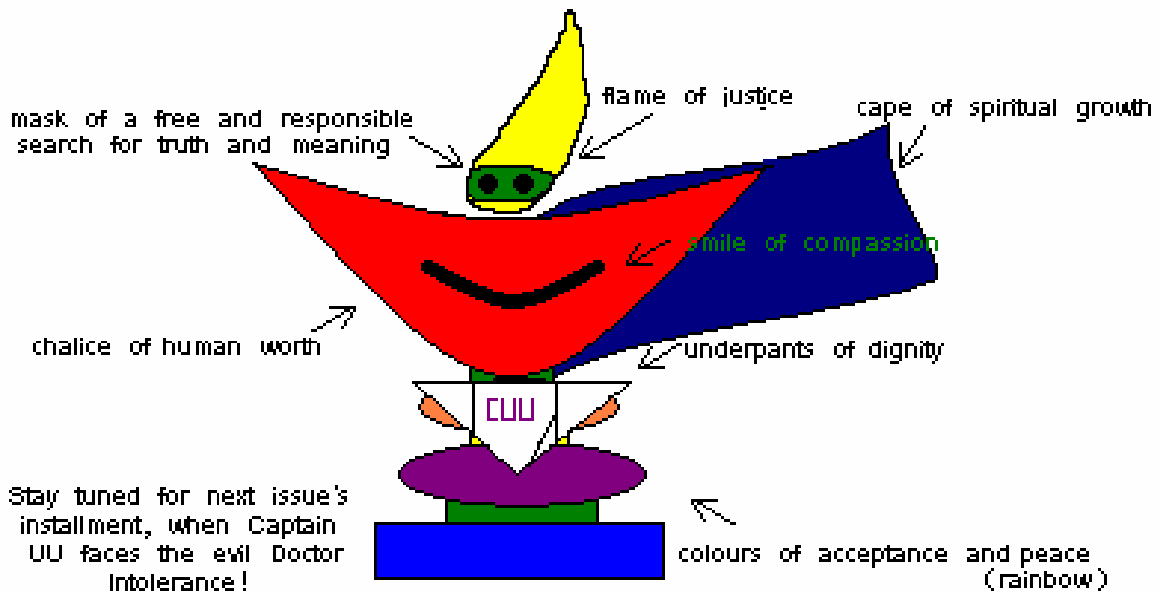
Diagram of a Con

Saille Bishop-Legowski and Shannon Duchesne



Amazing Captain UU!

The Amazing Captain 'UU'!! **THE YRUU SUPERHERO!**



CanUdle VI Registrations

CanUdle is coming, and you want to be there. Don't lie. We know you do. Which is why they have an easy peasy registration form! You can find it at www.cuc.ca/youth. This year CanUdle is in St. John, New Brunswick, May 19-22. Woo hoo! The registration fee is a well spent \$85. I would advise any and all youth who can get there to go. It's always unforgettable.

New YOB!

Due to personal reasons, Alex Dundas has stepped down as Youth Observer to the Board. The Board has decided to re-evaluate this position and has appointed Paul Hunt to act as YOB in the interim. The elections for the 2006-2007 position will be held following CanUdle. The Youth Observer to the board has a one year term and is the liaison between the CUC Board and the Youth Advisory Group, of which she or he is a member. It's a great opportunity to get involved in YRUU, like all leadership roles!

Websites:

- www.cuc.ca/youth
- www.uua.org/yruu
- www.uua.org/YRUU/youthoffice/
- www.unac.org/en/projects/diversity/index.asp

If you know of more websites that should be here Email me!

Editor's Note:

This has been a great issue. I think I learned a lot seeing how the first one turned out. Things have been added, moved, and removed. I think its better. Tell me what you think. Email me! I'm always up for more social interaction, and YRUU awareness.

*Peace, Love, and Joy to you all!
Jessica!!*

This week's random search of Google for all things Unitarian Universalist turned up: A Pretty Picture!!!



Listserves

~cuc-youth@yahoogroups.com For Canadian YRUUs. To subscribe, send a blank email to cuc-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

~cuc-youth-news@yahoogroups.com Receive monthly news via email about what's happening across Canada. To subscribe, send a blank email to cuc-youth-news-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

~cuc-sr-youth@yahoogroups.com For Canadian Unitarian and Universalist youth (age 13-20) to share news about their social responsibility initiatives and to exchange ideas on how Canadian Unitarian Council can support and empower youth social responsibility. To subscribe, send an email to cuc-sr-youth-subscribe@yahoogroups.com giving your name, age, congregation and a little about your interests in social responsibility.

~cuc-young-adults@yahoogroups.com - For young adults in Canada to share experiences and support each other in initiating young adult events and groups in congregations. Neal Anderson, UUA ROC (regional organizing consultant) is active on the list. To subscribe, send a blank email to cuc-young-adults-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

~Also, each region has a listserv available to their youth. Joining will keep you in touch with regional conferences and activities that national listserves may gloss over. To subscribe, send a blank email to:

cuc-bc-youth-ministry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com,

OR cuc-western-youth-ministry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com,

OR cuc-central-youth-ministry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com,

OR cuc-eastern-youth-ministry-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, Depending on your region.

If you have information about any listserves that you think should be on this list, email me with details (who's it for, how to join, etc.) Thank You!

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