

The URANTIA Book Club

"Kids today are too smart
to be bootlegged."

by Don Green

The URANTIA Book Club has been evolving over the last two and a half years. We've found some methods that work well, and others that simply don't work at all, experience has been our best teacher. I would like to share with you the short history of this process.

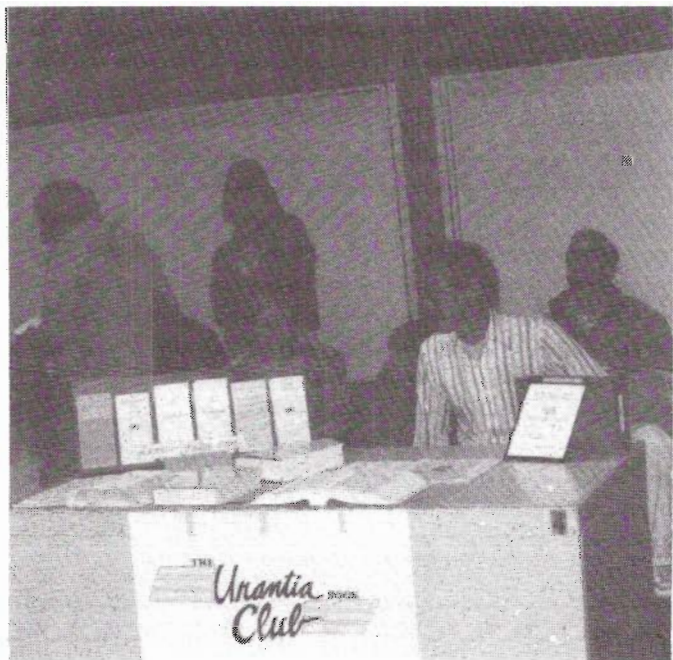
Nearly three years ago, four of us were sitting around intent on finding a way to interest the public at large in The URANTIA Book. Two of us were students of The Boulder School for Students of The URANTIA Book, and the other two were members of the Boulder Community. I guess I should mention our names; Steve Rohrbach and myself, Don Green were the students, while Chris LePine and Stan Hartman were the others. Being painfully aware of the attitude of the Brotherhood, regarding public outreach, we were all trying to restrict our efforts to conform to Chicago's mandates. As a result of our discussion it was decided to first pick a segregated target audience, someone suggested the university, which is located in Boulder, as the target area. It was agreed by all that the University of Colorado at Boulder would be a perfect arena. Now just how to go about doing this

was another issue all together. Several options were tossed around, finally a discussion format was agreed upon, perhaps a club to attempt to unite science, philosophy and religion. That sounded great, now for a name. Five or six names were put forth, eventually we all reached an agreement, it would be called "Synthesis".

We were off and running. For a number of reasons, we soon became aware we were running all right, but only with other URANTIA Book readers. The university students appeared uninterested. What was wrong? Our efforts with Synthesis continued for the next three semesters, until other interest prevailed. Success had been minimal.

The beginning of the summer of 1984, issued in an even more controversial project. Don Guimond, a member of the Boulder Community, was developing booths to spread The URANTIA Book. I believe that project is being examined further in this issue of the Prints. By summers end, I realized, through my experience with various booths, that a direct approach was perhaps the way Synthesis should go, so in late August of 1984, Synthesis became, The URANTIA Book Club, an official on-campus organization and duly sponsored project of Rocky Mountain URANTIA Society of Denver.

The mode in which we operate is really quite simple. Three days a week, we set up a booth in a designated area of the Student Union. We have a 5 X 3 ft. table which we cover with a blue cloth and on the cloth we have four URANTIA Books displayed, three are English versions and one French Translation. Two of the English versions are opened to key pages, the other books are closed and still have their dust jackets intact. In addition to the Books we also have an attractive plexiglass brochure dispenser, offering six different pamphlets. We also had a Concordex on display, plus a laminated copy of the evolution of life on Urantia, a chart that was developed by Saskia Raevouri from California. Since science is a prominent subject at a university we have a copy of the Time magazine article which describes the first pictures of the center of galaxy and the corresponding route from The URANTIA Book. Further information on this matter is available in the THINGS YOU CAN USE section of this publication.



We have been very fortunate here in Colorado, to have a Society, that is sufficiently far sighted, to back our efforts financially, enabling us to actually sell The URANTIA Book to student members for only \$10.00 a copy. In addition to selling the Book we also follow up with meetings every two weeks. The meetings vary from a study group format to introduction of the Book to new readers to lectures. We're planning to have an interface with the Religious Studies Department here on campus, and perhaps in the future we could do the same with the Science Department. Time will tell. To date we have sold 33 URANTIA Books, several Concordexes, talked to hundreds of people about the Book, given several hundred pamphlets and learned a great deal about talking to people and how to present The URANTIA Book to people who are unfamiliar with it.

After operating The URANTIA Book Club for a semester, it has become clear to me why Synthesis was not able to achieve what the club achieved. Synthesis was set up to harmonize science, philosophy and religion by means of a discussion format. We had hoped in this way to introduce the marvels of the Book. Fat Chance. Kids today are too smart to be back doored or boot legged. We have personally seen that the direct method of being upfront with this Revelation was the best way to go and when we are upfront with our Revelation people will be more receptive to us than if we try to bootleg them.

Outreach programs of this nature are multifaceted in their benefits. Not only is



the student body of C.U. benefiting by exposure to the name Urantia, which, I feel is the first step to giving The URANTIA Book authority, but the benefit to the individuals working the booth, is almost beyond words. To me it has been the most exciting, thrilling and rewarding experience of a life time. There is nothing like the one-on-one experience one can receive while working in the booth.

Some might say, "If you are upfront with the Book, you're just asking for the wrath of the fundamentalists. I have seen many times how having a "handle" on the bible can show that fundamentalist, who is initially hostile, how we have the same "gospel" and that there is really no threat to their beliefs. These people leave much friendlier and even curious enough to take a pamphlet on the Book.

The richest reward is seeing new friends who stop by the booth not knowing what the book is, many never having heard of the Book at all, and watching them grow into their own relationship with the book which will inevitably lead to a relationship with the Father.

We would like to offer to every reader of this article the invitation to participate in the booth if you should every be in or passing through Boulder. We would also like to extend our assistance and support to any individual or group that would like to get a club of their own started. Don't hesitate to contact either myself Don Green (303)-443-6254 or Don Guimond (303)-494-8493. •

