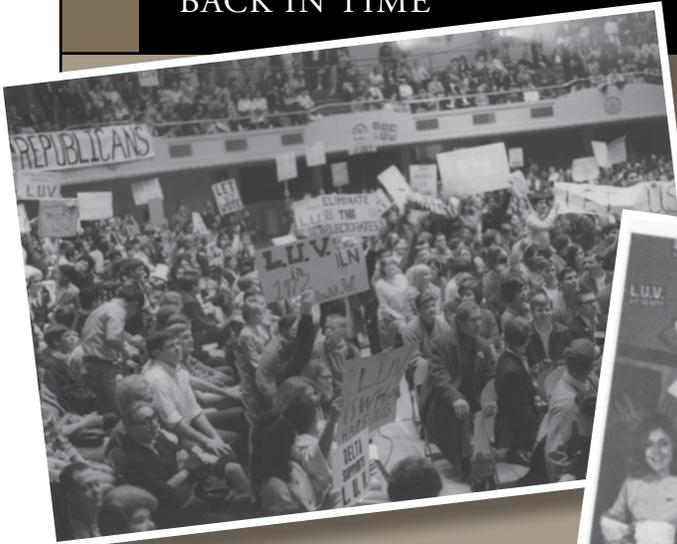
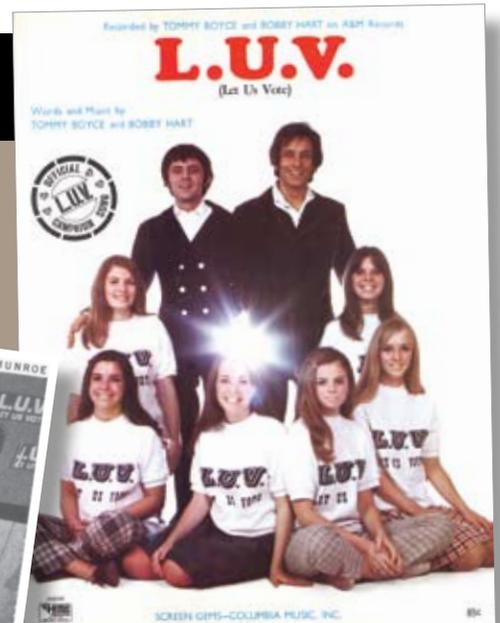


BACK IN TIME



(Above): A televised rally at the Stockton Civic Auditorium marked the official launch of the L.U.V. campaign.

(Right): Warren and student volunteers at L.U.V. National Headquarters



(Above): A campaign theme song was recorded by Boyce and Hart on the A&M label. The cover featured Pacific students.

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L.U.V. Story

Forty years ago, a group of Pacific students were having dinner with Indiana Senator Birch Bayh following his speech on the Stockton campus, when the issue of voting age was raised. With the Vietnam War raging and 18-year-olds being drafted to fight there, Dennis Warren '70, '73 argued that they should also be able to vote and have a say in the government policies that could determine their future. The idea of lowering the voting age from 21 to 18 had been around for decades. However, the unpopularity of the Vietnam War, combined with graphic news coverage of all the young men dying there, amplified the argument.

Bayh challenged Warren to start a grass-roots movement to lower the voting age. Warren took the challenge, and the "Let Us Vote" movement was born. Bayh arranged for Warren to appear on Joey Bishop's TV show, giving the movement national exposure. Bishop later televised his show from the Stockton Civic Auditorium at the launch of the campaign and eventually became L.U.V.'s National Honorary Chairman. In the first week of the campaign, letters of support were received from more than

90 universities and colleges in 31 states. In January 1969, Time magazine wrote about the campaign. By then the nationwide movement had 327 college chapters and 3,000 high school divisions.

A groundswell of support came to L.U.V. in bags of mail each week from all over the nation from people of every political persuasion. Thousands of volunteers contributed time and resources, and the group mobilized support from other organizations such as the Youth Franchise Coalition and the youth division of the NAACP. The movement became such a huge project that Warren incorporated L.U.V. in February of 1969, "with the express purpose to... bring about legislation to establish a minimum voting age of 18."

Since 1943, 153 congressional resolutions to amend the constitution to allow 18-year-olds to vote had been introduced in Congress and failed. After two and a half years of intensive effort on the part of Warren and the thousands of volunteers involved in the L.U.V. campaign, Congress adopted the 26th amendment on July 1, 1971.

Were you a L.U.V. volunteer? E-mail pacificreview@pacific.edu
Listen to an interview with Dennis Warren online at www.Pacific.edu/PacificReview.