



PETERS

"You mean you've never heard of the Cult
initiation for girls, Miss Genighani?"

T L CULT ROSTER FOR FR 204

203 204 Pub

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- | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--------|
| 1. Lee Jacobs, Box 38232, Los Angeles, Cal. 90038 | no | yes | Jan 22 |
| 2. Fred Lerner, 98-B The Boulevard, East Paterson, NJ 07407 | yes | no | Feb 12 |
| 3. George R. Heap, Box 1487, Rochester, NY 14603 | no | yes | Mar 4 |
| *4. Gordon Eklund, c/o Donaho, Box 1284, Berkeley, Cal. 94701
(Temporary new address) | yes | yes | Mar 25 |
| 5. Al Snider, 1021 Donna Beth, West Covina, Cal. 91790 | no | yes | Apr 15 |
| 6. Scotty Tapscott, 1222 Crandall Ave, Salt Lake City,
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| 7. Fred Patten, 1704-B So. Flower St., Santa Ana, Cal. 92707 | no | yes | May 27 |
| 8. Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, L.A., Cal. 90024 | pub | no | Jun 17 |
| 9. Dick Geis, 5 Westminster Ave., Venice, Cal. 90291 | yes | pub | Jul 8 |
| 10. Chuck Crayne, 1050 N. Ridgewood Pl., L.A., Cal. 90038 | yes | yes | OCT 30 |
| *11. James Wright, 405 Terry Hall, Univ. Of Wash., Seattle, Wash.
98105 | yes | yes | Nov 20 |
| 12. Don Fitch, 3908 Frijo Ave., Covina, Calif. 91722 | yes | no | Dec 11 |
| 13. George Scithers, OA, Box 0, Eatontown, N.J. 07724 | yes | yes | Jan 1 |

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| 3. Dian Pelz, 1231-J 12th St., Santa Monica, Cal. 90404 | yes | yes | |
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| 5. Lon Atkins, Box 1131, Canoga Park, Calif. 91304 | no | no | |

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NEXT PUBLISHER: CHUCK CRAYNE, 1050 N. Ridgewood Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. 90038

Publication deadline: Oct. 30; letter deadline: Oct. 28

MUST WRITE CRAYNE: Lerner, Pelz, Fitch, Harness, Nelson (?), Atkins, and a slew of the IWLers.

DROPPED: Bailes, Activity.

*NEW ADDRESSES: Eklund; Wright.

The petition to drop Scithers failed. For: Eklund, Wright, Snider, Tapscott.

Against: Jacobs, Patten, Lerher, Pelz, Crayne, Geis.

JAMES WRIGHT SPILLS THE BEANS REVEALS SOUL TO CULT

PERSONALITY AND THE CULT

A No Holds Barred Expose

By

James Wright

You know, it's such a gas being a Cult member. Really. This is probably true because when the Cult comes to life it is livelier than any other apa. In other apas there is always lots of discussion of ideas and things like that. But the Cult has more than that: true at times there is only dull talk about stuff like assassinations and drugs and sex and that sort of thing (when only such discussion is present the Cult is said to be in a "slump"). What really is behind the Cult, though, when things come to life, is a massive complex of Personality. With only 18 to 20 contributing members, Cultists get to be more familiar with each other than is normally the case in an amateur press association. Thus discussion and actual statements fade into the background -- what is really important is Personality. Cultists do not listen to statements or anything of the kind. When Cultists react to something printed in a Cultzine they are reacting to the Personality behind the statement. This is what makes the Cult such a gas, because no matter what one says, his enemies will cut it down, his friends will either support it or remain silent, and Don Fitch will write reams of crap on the ins and outs of all thoughts in any way relating to the original statements.

Now ordinarily this Personality Thing would make the Cult interesting enough, but in fine style, Cultists do not stop at such a simple basis. Cultists change their personalities, thus complicating the matter fantastically. There are basically two types of Personalities in the Cult. The first is the straightforward Personality. This is the guy who is projecting the same Personality into the Cult that he projects elsewhere---in other words his "real" personality. I believe that current Cultists Fred Patten and Don Fitch are pretty much in this category. (There are probably others, but not knowing them personally, I can only guess.) The other kind of Personality is the Put-On. This is the person who is trying to change his "real" personality and become a different person for Cultac or possibly even all fanac. (Or maybe even into mundanac, which usually means the person is a schizophrenic.) Now, further, there are two subdivisions of the Put-On. The first is the Image Put-On. This is the cat who is not really evil but wants to appear that way. This is by far the most popular of all the Personality types, and has become something of a tradition. Outstanding examples of the Image Put-On are Bruce Pelz and Scotty Tapscott. The second Put-On Personality is the Subversive Put-On. He is projecting a false image for specific divers purposes. This differs from the Image Put-On in that the person is not trying so much to conform to an image as he is to get some sort of result.

Our golden example here is Gordon Eklund, who puts people on so often as to become almost (gasp) legendary for doing such things.

With these three basic types of personality one can imagine the level of excitement created. Some people trying to be as evil as possible, others pushing buttons like mad, and then the poor bastards trying to ride through the whole mess with their sanity. So when these Personality Mixings (or shall we say clashes?) really get going, the Cult is more alive than most other papas, who just sit around talking about things and replying to statements.

My purpose in writing this is not just to make generalizations on the workings of the Cult. I also have something to say to our own little group right here. There are two specific Cultists whose analysis by the above standards could be very interesting. Firstly there is George Scithers, our beloved Official Arbiter. I am not sure which category George belongs to, and sometimes that bothers me (e.g., once in a blue moon). It seems to me that George is mostly projecting his "real" personality. But then I also think George is adding a dash of Image Put-On and tries to be the Evil Man. Now this is really a shame, because George doesn't really come through that well in the Cult. I can't hate George Scithers, Cultist, but I certainly can't like him either. There are no real specific reasons for this, but George just projects an overall distasteful image. He is power-mad, for example. Since becoming OA George has really flipped. He is also quick to panic. His tendencies to over-react to things is quite well known. For these two reasons George is a particularly bad Official Arbiter. Even if he does nothing else bad all cycle, his throwing out of Metcalf stands against him. Now, I would like George if I knew that his Cult (and fannish) personality is a Put-On and that he is really a more sedate chap on the interior. Maybe if I met him in person I would be more likely to accept his faults. But in the Cult it is well nigh impossible.

The other Cult Personality of interest is myself. Now my Cult personality is almost as distasteful as Scithers' -- perhaps moreso. In fact, the general projection is pretty much along the lines of an adolescent trying very hard to be Evil and emulating Scotty Tapscott. Little Blue-Eyed Jimmy Wright (as he is affectionately known) is not a new phenomenon, but there aren't any others in the Cult right now, so he gets a lot of attention. By the above standards, LBEJW should be filed away among the Image Put-Ons. But the really choice thing, the fact that perhaps only Gordon Eklund knows (and I'm not sure if he knows it completely) is that LBEJW as the Image Put-On is a concoction of James Wright, the Subversive Put-On. I do this mainly because I get such a big kick out of seeing people react to this sort of thing. Alva Rogers reacts to this Put-On perhaps more brilliantly than any other Cultist. I'm glad he's back. George Scithers also has choice reactions. It's really such a gas to see such fantastic reactions when the proper course of action, assuming the sanity of everyone concerned, would be to ignore such things in the first place.

And, you know, in exploding this Put-On, and the George Scithers psyche, I am putting you on more than I ever have before. I can hardly wait to see the reaction. Next Week our Instant Analysis Couch travels to Berkely to analyze in depth the whys and wherefores of the Amazing Alva Rogers. And if there is space left over, we'll try to work in some comments on Bruce Pelz. Coming up soon: reams and reams of analysis of Don Fitch.

EDITORIAL BY GELS

This has been a hectic two weeks. I had to go up to Portland because of a serious illness in the family and got back five or six days later on the 3rd. I was faced with doing this FR. I was faced with a brand new IBM Selectric and a brand new Gestetner 300. I found I didn't like the IBM. Fortunately I was able to sell it to a pro typist at no loss. But then I had to go out and buy this oldef Royal elite with a 14" carriage. So now I face running this FR off on a mimeo I have forgotten how to use. But I'll learn... Just be Understanding.

--REG

THE CULT

TALKS AND TALKS

AND TALKS, AND TALKS AND TALKS AND TALKS

and talks and talks and talks and talks...

[[My Ghod...a letter from HER....]]

MARGARET GEMIGNANI:

Dear Dick;

Before I burn the paper with some of my purple phrases, I want to compliment you. You write a very interesting comments. I write like a dead fish because my mind works faster than my hand. [[Since when do dead fish have hands? REG]] So on to the business of writing a Cult letter.

In regard to Fred Patten's comments on Don Fitch's shock or flap. When anyone does in company of fellow smokers or alone is his business, but in company of non-users..., it tends to make one feel like very dull company. If one has to get high to enjoy your friends company, your friends have a rights to feel they bore you.

I could gave the LASFS benefit of doubt. I know many of them and smoke pot or not, they're real nice people.

Mr. Wright, you're a real sweet person. You will never get ther hand-written letter ~~from~~ [[sorry]] form me. Obviously you are poor code reader. In the future I will type all letters to you.

If you think I am strange, look at some ther members & they write to legible. But I like different people, even sour, satirical types like yourself and Scotty. I should have my head explain.

Mr. Snider, are you talking about my letter? Like next time I'd write it on tadstidl [[so help me!]] cheese. This cheese is like limburger only better. It ripem slowly so as to arrive just in time not to offend the Post Office; but on opening...it ready gives character to a letter.

No, Dian no innocent bystander would wear the costumes I wear. Have you tried using wax to preserve the balogna?

Scither, George -- good luck to anyone suing that holet. Do you remember the time the evalators broken then stopped running to the first floor and standed bars for 1 1/2 hr. An added touch was t were fire stairs, only one led out. Or the stairs without any handl on inside doors? The poor dud who got trapped in there and was resc by an elevator operator should have a good case.

I am surprised Harlan did not throw the salad at one of eleva ors. The LA group had signs up telling all thers fans [[All right, that's enough. Say goodnight, Margaret.]]

Best,
Peggy.



EARL EVERS

Dear Dick and Cult:

The CULT seems much more interesting than it was when I left. I intend to comment on every FR I get while I'm on the IWL and would much appreciate if publishers would send me their zines.

STEVENS: I have an ideathat I was living in the Haight at the time you visited it (I remember seeing a lot of sailors on the streets with "Coral Sea" arm patches.) but I didn't do any panhandling. Begging, at least in this country at this time, is simply too unprofitable a way to make a living. It may be possible to make a fair amount of money panhandling, but I never encountered anyone doing it and I was on the bum all over the country for a year and a half about four years ago.

There are a lot easier ways to make a living than begging---doing day labor a couple days a week, selling newspapers or apples on the streets, shining shoes, etcet. I suspect you saw hippies selling various underground newspapers on the streets---would this offend your sense of personal integrity? I sold the Oracle a few days and averaged about ten bucks for every six to eight hours work.

Of course most of the time in San Francisco I had nothing at all in the way of income. The chick I was living with was on relief, so she took care of the rent and food, and I collected unemployment, which was just enough for drugs and entertainment. Since I've been back in New York I've been doing a little business of various kinds and working by the day occasionally.

I went without holding a steady job from February to September and I didn't have to either panhandle or go hungry, though I now owe a total of three hundred and fifty panbucks to various people. Last week I got my first shave and haircut in four months and got a job as a teletype operator for a bank. I don't consider myself a hippie, simply because I don't think it's a good idea to class yourself as a member of any particular group unless you stand to gain something thereby.

EKLUND: I agree with you about the street hippies not really being hip, not in the sense that they are "doing their thing" and saying fuck every-thing else. Most of the people who dress funny and sit on the sidewalk don't have any idea what they want to do, aren't working on any artistic projects and don't even have a real philosophy of life they're following. There are always a lot of people who are content to do absolutely nothing if they can and most of the current street hippies fall into this category. They don't even turn on very much because they can't afford to buy drugs. True, a few people go around handing out lids of grass and caps of acid, but there are also people who go around handing out caps of rat poison.

Underneath the hippie movement that makes the newspapers almost every day is the same bohemian underground that was there when the beat craze hit in the fifties. This country almost always has a bohemia made up of poor artists and writers and musicians and actors and so on who have dropped out of society with a definite goal in mind. This is the group I belong to, if you have to classify me.

As far as acid producing wide-spread changes in society, I'm sure it will. I'm sure it would have done so even if the hippies hadn't gotten all the publicity they've received and if Tim Leary hadn't become the prophet of LSD as the basis for a religion. But using drugs has nothing to do with living in a bohemian sub-culture, except that drugs have been an integral part of that sub-culture for a long time. A person who turns on regularly but who doesn't associate mostly with people in the bohemian

culture isn't a bohemian in my opinion.

Who is a true hippy? There are several ways of looking at it, the simplest one being, "Anyone I say is a hippy is a hippy." It might be possible to work out a definition, but I don't think it's worth the trouble. I judge people as individuals. For instance, I have nothing against people who don't turn on, but it's pretty difficult for me to be good friends with such a person unless he's completely tolerant about my being high around him and isn't afraid to be around me while I'm turning on. In addition to that, I hate to be around anyone who has never tripped when I'm on a trip myself - it tends to put them up tight, and that bothers me because acid makes me sensitive to such things. By the same token, anyone who uses psychedelic drugs is not automatically a friend of mine. Some of the worst shits I've ever met were members of Tim Leary's League for Spiritual Discovery- the sort of people who take a girl to their apartment and turn her on to acid without her consent in an effort to seduce her.

WRIGHT: I agree with you about alcohol being "a shit" in spite of Pelz's objections - compared to most drugs (pot, hash, DMT, mescaline, acid), alcohol produces a less pleasant experience. If you drink enough to get really "high" in the sense of feeling strong euphoria, time distension, hallucinations, etc, you have to approach quite lethal dosages. In fact I doubt if there are many people who have achieved hallucinations on alcohol alone - you tend to pass out before you get to that stage. It's possible to take a quantity of amphetamine while drinking and stay awake and active enough to have a fairly strong psychedelic experience, but this is extremely dangerous - you can drink enough to kill you because nature's safeguard of losing consciousness when you drink dangerous quantities of alcohol has been bypassed.

HULAN: I've never tried to get high from music alone. I'm high on other things enough of the time so I've never felt the need. But certain types of music can focus and intensify the psychedelic effects of a drug, or on a lower scale, simply make you more sensitive to the pleasure you normally feel enjoying music. The only music I've ever found to be really effective for the former is Indian music, but any music the listener enjoys will work for the latter. In fact, doing anything you enjoy while high on pot or hash will be more enjoyable than doing the same thing on the ground.

Music combined with a lightshow can be groovy if you're on the ground, or high on grass or speed, or the opiates, but I've always found it a little too much to take if I'm tripping. If a morning glory seed high didn't make the stomach queasy, I'd like to try going to a rock dance on one, but the extreme volume of sound and the hundreds of milling people always tend to freak me out when I'm tripping.

EARL

EKLUND:

Dear Dick,

Well once again it seems to be time to tell the Cult a thing or two, setting things straight and getting everyone pointed in the right direction. Bruce Pelz's latest FR is a very nice thing indeed. Things seem to be on the upswing once again.

STEVENS: Your thing about how "people should engage in some form of socially useful activity in exchange for the activity that is necessary to feed them" sounds as if it were taken from one of those lectures the

Chaplain was always giving back when I was in Uniform. But, perhaps I am wrong --- maybe you merely took it from Time, the Weekly News Magazine. But whatever --- it makes no sense, for who is to define socially useful activities. I don't think what you're doing, sailing around the world, is particularly useful --- not for me, not for anyone. But I'm not going to tell you to stop eating until you earn your bread. There are panhandlers in the Haight-Ashbury, yes. They hardly form a majority of the area's population, however. Most of them are summer dropouts who have now returned to Mother, Father and Peyton Place. Actually I agree with you in one respect. I don't think a person can be a permanent beggar without losing at the least a great deal of self-respect. But I may be wrong about this --- I have never tried begging as a way of life. But I can't understand why this should upset you so. I mean, you went to the Haight. Right. And apparently you didn't go out of any sense of admiration. You went to be entertained, and, I guess you were --- if a bit shocked and disgusted. All the panhandlers were doing is asking you --- and your fellow tourists --- to shell out a bit of money for their own socially useful activity---entertaining you. Sound fair to you?

PELZ: Well, Wright said "extreme alcohol experience is a shit" by which I guess he means being Very Drunk. I drink, occasionally, and even get drunk, at times. It is sometimes even fun, but I don't think it has ever been a very meaningful experience --- except maybe in finding out how Silly I can be when I am drunk. And, yes, I suppose one can get high from music --- maybe. But it all depends on how "high" high is. I'm sure I've had "peak experiences", delightfully euphoric changes in mood-and attitude as a result-of listening to music. But there's really no comparison between that sort of "high" and a psychedelic, conscious expanding sort of high that can be gotten from drugs. I'm sure that to produce anything resembling the latter, without chemicals, would take a tremendous amount of work, study, and reflection, a lot more than just good music. Anybody who thinks otherwise just hasn't been really high.

WRIGHT: Yes, the best solution to the IWL thing would be to get rid of the waiver entirely. The point of the letter requirement, or so my impression has been, is to show that a prospective waiting lister is interested in the organization --- interested enough to take a few minutes and write a short letter. It isn't, as some people seem to think, to show that such person can write. So why should "well known fans" be excluded from this requirement of interest? To carry this reasoning out groups like FAPA would have to exclude any well known fans from paying their quarter each year. The idea is to keep the iwl from being clogged up with people who really aren't much interested in joining the Cult.

DIAN PELZ: Well, I have decided not to believe in Margaret Gemignani, either, not after the letter in this FR. Either people were doing a good job of covering up before or I just haven't been paying much attention to her letters. It is well known that all fans are very literate and have a more than effective use of the English language. Now that "Margaret" has moved to LA (hah) I am even more convinced of her hoax nature. I'm just wondering mostly who thought this whole thing up. I thought it was Heap at first. But he really doesn't seem the type. Obviously it must be someone from LA. Lee Jacobs or Bruce or even you have the ability, but I can't see any of you bothering. There is only one person left who could be doing the whole thing. Sly old Don Fitch. C'mon. Don, admit it. You are "Margaret Gemignani" aren't you? Why, now that I think about it, you are probably half of the inactive

waiting list as well.

Strange that you should bring up "My Secret Life". My roommate here has the original Grove Press hardbound edition, two volumes, boxed, for which he paid \$18.00 or so. I don't think even he has managed to read the whole thing. In fact, the only person I know who has is a guy I knew in the Air Force, a professional Catholic who wore a pair of holy brass knuckles and couldn't make up his mind whether to be a priest or a nun. He read the whole book, but, because of his well-known religious leanings, didn't want anyone to know it. So, he used to go to bed early -- around nine o'clock -- set his alarm for midnight or so -- after everyone else was asleep -- get up and read the book for a couple hours. Finally someone caught him and he admitted the whole thing. Taking a look at the book, it is as you say eleven volumes and runs a total of 2311 pages (wow) plus an index. The index itself is fascinating reading. If you're interested in, say "Cunts, washing one in a watercloset basin", well then, turn to page 2000. For "Rape, of field girl and others" turn to pages 283 or 1162. For "Scenes at bawdy houses" try page 1422 but also "see peepholes". If I was feeling criminal today I would seize the books and send them off to you, but it would be too much work -- they must weigh fifteen pounds. [[Seven and a half to eight pounds according to my bathroom scales. Yes, I have a set, too. --REG]] I have never read any of the volumes myself. The whole thing is just Too Much, lacking in all proper moderation. I have had to content myself with checking the index for those subjects which particularly interest me and then finding the proper place in the text. Is this really pornography, though? I mean, the whole thing is supposed to be true. (I did read Frank Harris' memoirs a few years ago -- what a waste that was, and they were only 1200 pages or so).

I suppose you're correct about pornography, what it is (Gee, now I'm writing like an index). I remember back in 1962 or so we were discussing this subject here, in the Cult, and everyone was saying gee, I've never seen any pornography. I said that, too, but since then I've seen a number of things.: a large selection of photos taken in Vietnam, a number of privately printed books, also coming from Vietnam though originating in France, and that old staple "The Green Door." As such, I am somewhat irked by this sudden outpouring of porno and near porno on all my favorite newsstands. It really isn't fair. Think of the serious porno collector who for years has been paying huge sums to build up a collection. And now everything he owns is quickly becoming available for \$1.00 or so in paperbound. Well, I guess first editions are still worth something. And I haven't seen any books yet "ilustrated from life", which means dirty photos of people ****ing and stuff. But the time will come. :: But did you study pornography in your American Lit classes? What did you use as a textbook? Did you make book reports? When you "talked about sex" did you turn on the male students in the class? Are there any works of science fictional pornography?

ROGERS: Your reaction to being required to write a letter convinces me it would be a good idea to overhaul that portion of the constitution. The point of writing the letter, as I said above, is to show that the applicant is sincerely interested in joining. But as it stands now each applicant must be protested before he has to write, and any such protest is wide open to misunderstanding. I don't know

what motives, if any, Wright may have had in protesting your waiting list status. But if I protest anyone, it isn't because of any personal antagonism, but just to keep the list full of people who are genuinely interested in membership.

Oh, I'm quite sure Warren and the rest didn't deliberately conspire to withhold the truth about the assassination from the public. All reports indicate, however, that they didn't try too hard to find anything that would upset the accepted theory --- that Oswald did it and that he was a Nut. One of the stated purposes for the commission was the reassurance of the public. What happened was that they accepted the Oswald hypothesis and then found every shred of evidence they could to back it up. What didn't fit was disregarded. Epstein's Inquest goes into this quite thoroughly, without trying to say that the Oswald theory was obviously wrong. Oswald may very well have done it alone. But the Warren Commission didn't do a very good job of proving it.

EVERS: I can't recall ever having any notable reactions to reading matter while on acid. But watching television, on the other hand, has cracked me up on several occasions. The acting seems so, well, one dimensional. Of course that may have something to do with the things I have watched --- Audie Murphy westerns, for example, and a horror movie called "The Hand."

BRATMON: You protest too much. For all I know you may be a BNF in some sector of fandom in which I am not involved, but, although I have heard your name here and there, I don't think I've ever read a thing by you in 7 1/2 years in fandom. The Cult is a correspondence club. When you get to be a member, then you can protest all you want.

FITCH: While there is a certain amount of escapism involved in the hippies, saying that "escaping through search for new sensations" is the Hippie Philosophy is a laugh. I mean, really, Don, that phrase more aptly fits the Playboy Philosophy and I really can't see much similarity between the two. There is a distinct and definite positive element to the hippies, something that was, yes, lacking with the beats. The hippies are presenting an alternative to the straight middle class way of life, an alternative in which creativity is more important than conformity. There's more to it than that --- I'll elucidate if anyone is really interested. The Diggers, for instance, probably the most interesting part of the hippie movement, are, as has been pointed out, an extremely radical group who are working to undermine normal American values -- through ignoring the money system. There's a lot of shit among the hippies --- 90% and all that. But the other 10% is very interesting indeed. What is your philosophy of life, Don? I mean, how do you escape I'm actually serious about this question --- although it is worded very unfairly. Perhaps you are Escaping Through Fandom, but you never seem to take it seriously enough for that. I escape by lying a lot and crawling under fences, myself.

Gee, have you really written a dirty book or are You Putting Me On as I suspect? I have heard a rumor --- which I may have started myself, in fact --- that this dirty book of yours is set in the LASFS. I have written a dirty story set in the LASFS, which includes a character very similar to yourself. So far, however, this story has had only a Limited Circulation and must be re-written for outside eyes.

GEIS: Your enthusiasm is really un-Cultish. And I vote in favor of the

impeach Scithers amendment, of course. Well, at least it won't pass, but I never would have thought of it had I had any expectation that it would.

Best,
Gordon

P.S.: I shall be moving on the first of the month. After then, temporarily I shall be: c/o Donoho, Box 1284, Berkeley, Calif. 94701.

SCITHERS:

Dear Dick;

I find it a bit difficult to comment on FR 203, mostly because the thing hasn't arrove yet. Do you all find that the Post Auful is getting worse and worse lately? I find about 5 to 8 per cent of my Chicago Post Office Box mail is misdelivered and opened by a Chicago bank before I get to see it; an important letter mailed from Washington DC right after the Labor Day weekend hasn't arrived here yet; a package sent by Brucifer air mail took ten days to get here from California; and finally FR 203 hasn't (as of 26 September) arrived here yet. And on top of all that, the Congress is putting an incredible 20 per cent tax on first class mail -- that's what the cent increase means when first class is currently paying its way -- for the benefit of the junk mail clowns. Bah!

In theory, sure; the Cult can run itself. However, with the singular exception of the exoaess, OA's seem to have to get involved no end in this and that to prevent Utter Chaos from breaking out at any minute. Of course, you gotta realize that I'm just not one to face the prospect of Chaos in the Cult, Utter or not -- I find I'm generally one who feels that Something Has To Be Done whenever things seem to be drifting out of hand --in other matters beside the Cult, too. Only, when I'm with someone with an even more extreme Something Has To Be Done complex, I find myself busily calming the activist down --which is either a reaction or else a sort of inverted way of Doing Something.

I have the feeling that Yandro is an achievement utterly without parallel in fandom: a fandom which neither fades out to gafia, nor expands its circulation to the point of drowning its publishers in work. Amra is trying the latter course, but I think I have found a satisfactory printer who makes it possible for me to get out from under the dog-work without bankrupting me.

There was no Seance at the NY3con -- just never got around to it. Looking at the recent roster, it wouldn't have done any good as far as increasing the degree with which Cultists have met each other; and before the latest crop of iwlrs got added, I think practically everyone on the roster has met everyone else. Notable exceptions: Geis, who hasn't been East in ages; Wright, who hasn't been anywhere except for basket-ball-watching; and Tapscott, who has been in hiding since the Season. I dunno, but sort of feel that I like to form my Cultish Images by mail and then check them out with reality later.

Washington Post, July 1, 1967

COURT ORDER CURBS CULT'S
HEALTH SETUP

U.S. District Court Judge John J. Sirica yesterday

ordered that a collection of electrical machines seized in 1963 from the Founding Church of Scientology, 1800 block of 19th Street nw, be destroyed.

The judge said in his order that since a jury decided last April that the machines, similar to lie detectors, had been misbranded, they should be condemned and destroyed.

The machines were used by the religious cult allegedly to cure a number of illnesses ranging from cancer to radiation burns from atomic bombs, according to testimony at the trial.

They were seized after an inspector of the Food and Drug Administration, posing as a student of the religion of Scientology, spent one month in the Scientology headquarters observing the uses to which the devices were put.

Also seized in the raid was a large quantity of literature giving directions as to how the machines should be used and making claims regarding their ability to cure.

It was on the basis of this literature that the Government made its charges of misbranding, contending that the various pamphlets constituted the labeling or instructions for use and failed to bear adequate directions.

At one point after the Government seized the machines, the cult sued unsuccessfully for their return on the grounds they were losing \$100,000 a year by not having them.

Since Hulan hasn't applied to me, OA, for readmittance to the iwl and Van Arman has (letter attached), VanA is further up the iwl than Hulan. And while we're on the subject of aborted applications, whatever happened to Bob Speed? The Cult is definitely in the market for iwlers from remote and uncivilized places, but application to the OA is a must.

Enclosed, too, is a letter from Jacobs, who, I assume, is in Yurrop, buying a car.

Question: do you think that I can get away with ruling Harlan Ellison to be an unfair weapon when used as a con site bid seconder? I think his forceful speaking is an unfair advantage for whoever is using him. Along the same line: any suggestions on how to curb the tendency of late for the costs of making a bid -- even an unsuccessful one -- to get wholly unreasonable? Costs are now in the high hundreds, which I think is ridiculous. I am particularly concerned lest the St. Louis // Columbus contest become a battle decided by whichever group buys the most booze.

The trouble with ditto for collectors seems to be the water content of paper -- as a result of which, the dratted purple keeps spreading -- and spreading -- and -- well, Brucifer, what does a 20 year old dittoed fanzine look like? The early end of my Cultfile looks pretty blurry already, and it only goes back to FR 70-something.

Suggestions to new Members from your OA: to stay in this Little Club, best you form the habit of (1) replying at once (2) to each and every FR that you get, and (3) if you don't get an FR, write at once to the nextpubber anyway. Sure the Cultstitution says "every other FR", but if you do that, sooner or later, you might miss.....

be rugged on Rhadamanthosdays, G S.-- OA13

VAN ARNAM:

Dear George:

~~WELCOME to FANDOM~~ To be sitting here typing a letter of re-application to the Cult after having put on a worldcon seems somehow unbelievable even to me. But Lin Carter was talking to me on the Phone yesterday ("I need another column for IF. What's been going on in fandom lately, Dave?" is about how it started), and he astonished me by informing me that tongues of flame had started dancing about his head; drawing the obvious conclusion, he was joining the Cult. "What is the Cult?" asked Lin Carter, shortly thereafter.

I laughed sepulchrally.

Identification Game, part 1: "My dear sir, I may be a light-hearted girl, but I don't chaff bogies." (quasiquote as I am in the office, but I think it's almost right; where does it come from?)

Which reminds me -- I don't know who's in the Cult these days, which is why I'm writing a full letter rather than trying to bop back in on you folks as an Obviously Wellknown Fan. I figure Scotty is bound to still be in, and wd be sure to protest, and I'd just have to write a letter anyway.

But nothing in the rules says one has to write a good letter -- just a literate one. [[Hear that, Peggy?]] I don't know how literate this one is, but then I'm still Wasted from the Nycon and have been functioning on about 25% of efficiency for the last month or so.

Besides, Eney is getting back from Vietnam any day now and will, I imagine, be reapplying shortly thereafter. Being ahead of Eney on a waiting list seems somehow fitting or proper or at least desireable. Seniority or something. Say, I am tired...

Why am I reapplying for the Cult?

Drat. I shd have done this on-stencil so as to be sure of its being printed. Or Maybe Not.

Perhaps lots of inside Poop on the Nycon will be forthcoming from me -- as soon as I get a zine with a roster, I'll maybe send out my 4 page FIRST DRAFT to everyone, tho already some of the Facts in it have turned out to be a little Off. But that can always be explained After The Fact; this is the Cult after all. Why is Lin Carter applying for the Cult?

Anyone who has extra issues of their cultzines for the period I was out, I sure wd like any copies that can be spared. In shadowy return, I myself have numerous extra copies of most of the Cultzines I published, including 2 FRs which included everything sent to me for them, and (tho I said this before and did nothing) I will send them to people for the asking (or trade) as long as I have extras to spare. Read lots of BOONDOGGLE arguments! Read lots of dirty words written by Lil Blue Eyed Jimmy Wright! Read old stale OAfficial Decisions! Wow! The Kind Men Like! Oh, horse balls.

Seriously, I'd really like any back issues anyone can spare; for some reason I seem to like the Cult, and it seems somehow typically Cultish to embarrass all you people by telling you so.

What? Me embarrassed?

Listen, I just put on a worldcon. Nothing can embarrass me anymore...

As George Scithrs has implied, putting on a worldcon is like a psychedelic experience -- you can't know what it's like until you've done it yourself. The Nycon, I believe, exhausted every physical resource and mental resource I had, during what amounted to six days of convention from my point of view (Thursday evening to Tuesday morning). I still laugh hysterically from time to time, alarming Cindy no end -- oh, that's

right, I guess I got married after I dropped the Cult (read: thought the deadline was a week later than it turned out to be...). And now that she's about three weeks away from Giving Birth, here I am joining the Cult and going from bed to worse...

By the time this sees print, if it does, my first book may be out (actually my third, but Pyramid does not seem disposed ever to publish WHEN IN ROME from 2½ years ago, and my Belmont double is in the lap of the gods) -- LOST IN SPACE, from Pyramid. By Dave Van Arnam and Ron Archer." The double byline is because Don Bensen wanted Ted White's name on the contract so as to convince CBS that a competent writer was going to do the job; the open understanding was that I was to do all the writing -- which I did. Hence it's not really a collaboration, not in the usual sense, tho Ted and I worked on the outline of the story together. Originally I was going to use a pseudonym too, but -- and this is why I'm mentioning this at all, since I want to spread the word a little -- the second of the three stories in the book turned out good enough that I decided I wanted to acknowledge having written the book just so I could take credit for that section. (It must be a pain in the ass to have to explain a pseudonym, under the best of circumstances; and when it's because you want to take the credit, it's probably going to sound Fishy.)

Everybody should all go out and buy Lee Hoffman's Belmont -- you know, the latest release, with Harlan Ellison on top of Lee Hoffman. Somebody at Belmont is a fan. It is a fine book and Lee is a fine writer. Everybody has been reading her westerns, I hope? At least THE VALDEZ HORSES.

I am getting close to the bottom of the second page, perilous when one wants one's letter to appear in print. I leave you with one last question: Why did you all join the Cult?

Dave X

DONAHO:

Dear Dick and George and Cult,

I hereby apply for re-admittance into your August Ranks. I'm getting withdrawal symptoms. And people keep telling me I'm getting entirely too nice. Besides now that Gordon is staying with me I'm reading Cultzines again, so I might as well get on the owl so I can get my 5¢ worth in...

And anyhow James Wright has called in the job I owe him and I'm publishing for him on November 20th, so I might as well have some official sort of connection with the organization to do so.

Well, enough of chitchat, on to ANGMAR 22

MILT: Many of your points are well taken, but I think you are weaseling out in answering James Wright re "What I am doing or have done that is so godawful Significant." You seem to have a different meaning for the word "significant" when you first brought the issue up. And even in your own terms a forthright "I take responsibility for myself and for my actions" would seem better than falling back on your more-or-less accidental and uneventful involvement with the war.

It is difficult to be raised in this culture and to become a beggar without losing one's self-respect -- but not necessarily "any semblance of personal integrity" -- but this culture's values are hardly that universal--or that desirable.

The beats I knew usually managed by having a profound contempt for squares which enabled them to feel superior and to exploit them without feeling guilty or loss of self-respect. (I'll admit I had my reactions about personal integrity, too.) The hippies I know, or at least the full-time hippies, are childlike irresponsible. (Actually like unto Indian mystics or even early Christians, not to mention Christ himself.) Actually they are quite charming and delightful and I think it might be argued that they give value for money--if one insists on thinking in those terms.

GORDON: You must be some kind of a nut.

JAMES: Well, I've gotten high listening to music, similar in kind though not necessarily in degree to peyote and LSD. And just as high as I've ever gotten from pot. You know, James, you're almost as easy to bait as Scithers. Of course you have sense enough to ignore some gambits, but when you do bite...

DIAN: Whatever happened to your series on Fellow Cultists? Don't think you did any more after the one on Fred Patten. Must have been a real traumatic one...

CHUCK: Not only the Pacificon, but also the '53 and '58 Worldcons have been combined with the Westercon. In fact since the Westercons began every time the Worldcon has been held in California it has been combined with the Westercon. But I think that everyone would agree that Two Cons Instead of One is a Good Thing and that if anyone wants to put on a separate Westercon, by all means let 'em.

For that matter when it developed that we had no opposition to the westercon Alva approached Bruce Pelz and others, asking them if they wanted the westercon if we got the worldcon. (We would have put in the bid so that if we got the worldcon the westercon automatically reverted to the other committee.) Bruce wasn't interested.

Now Bruce and you are very interested. And hell if there were any legal way of giving you the con you could have it for all of me. And Alva too. You've managed to get his back Way Up, but that's not important. What is important is legality.

We were awarded the westercon by the membership in business meeting assembled. But it isn't our toy or plaything. We have real and expressed obligations to put the damned thing on. We can't just hand it over to someone else--even for what we consider good and sufficient reasons--just because we happen to feel like it.

And all of the ideas you've brought up so far for passing the westercon on to you seem to me to be illegal and to raise a host of problems. The former committee has no jurisdiction. Even a poll of the membership wouldn't be legal. Hell, a plurality of those voting just shouldn't decide this sort of thing, months after the fact.

On the face of it if you get the signatures of a majority of the members of record of Westercon XX as of the close of business on July 4th, that would be better. But it would have no legal standing. And we'd be inclined to ignore it. (1) Someone would be sure to challenge the validity of the procedure and/or the individual ballots or signatures. Some nut would do it for a joke if nothing else. And this would raise numerous problems. (2) But even more important, it's a damn bad precedent. It raises the possibility of harassing any future Westercon Committee with threats of recall, etc.

For that matter I don't see why the name "Westercon" is so important to you. You'd get as many people from up here for a well-advertised Non-Con as you would for the Westercon. The only reason fans wouldn't attend would be finances, with the incentive not being as strong since a Worldcon will be here in September. But the same would hold true of the Westercon.

You wouldn't get as many neofans of course. But that would just make the con more informal and more intimate. And from the way you've been talking a great dearth of neofans wouldn't exactly break our heart either.

DON: I won't make the comments that your letter gave rise to. But you know what they were.

Dick: If pornography pays so lousy, why not write science fiction? Or did I say a dirty word? ((I just dig writing sex novels. They say one should write about what one knows best... REG))

Best and all,

Bill

LEE JACOBS:

Dear FR 204 Cult,

"Do you have a Cult letter for me?" asked Fred Patten as I entered LASFS on 24 August.

"Why yes," I said, handing him the letter for FR 202. He saw the format and shuddered visibly. "Any other silly questions?" I needed a letter in FR 202 to preserve my membership, and I wanted to stay in the Cult.

A logical question might be: "Why would I want to stay in the Cult?" And perhaps an even more logical question might be: "Why should the Cult allow me to stay in?"

Let's examine the second logical question first. My Cult activity has been...uh...minimal. In fact it's been so minimal that I was dropped from the Cult because one Fred had misplaced one letter. Altho I was reinstated with profuse apologies, I did miss JAMES WRIGHT'S *dirty* FR last Cycle. With few (extremely few) exceptions, I've been minacting along from my inception on the iwl, even tho The Cult (in the form of last Cycle's OA SCOTTY TAPSCOTT) did a rather unCultish thing some fifteen months ago by placing me permanently as No. 1 ANLer when I was outside of the United States for a while. Sheer favoritism, I thankfully admit.

To summarize: The Cult has been much, much better to me than I have been to the Cult. Why, I don't know. On any "most valuable" list I should rank^{2nd} (or at least near) the bottom. This is, of course, because I am The Cult's most outstanding minactor.

Nobody loves a minactor, especially in The Cult. The Cult was formed primarily as a correspondence exchange, and as such, there should be correspondence to exchange. A minimum of correspondence results in a static organization. This is not necessarily a Bad Thing, for a non-static organization might require the membership to have ideas, propose original concepts, to think. I find this rather difficult. ((OBVIOUSLY!))

You might not realize it, but there's a certain amount of skill and concentration in being a confirmed minactor. The skill concerns writing enough to meet the membership requirements, but just enough to preserve your membership status. The Cultstation differentiates between letters and postcards but does not exactly specify the configuration of a "letter". A postcard-sized paragraph per letter format might be interpreted as a "letter", but lest I be flung out by strict interpretation of word quantity, I generally apply the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 single spaced standard APA page-credit format to "letter". The concentration concerns primarily Deadline Watching. A minactor must be aware of Deadlines -- IWLer Len Bailes is also a self-proclaimed minactor, but not a successful one because he did not watch his deadlines, and was therefore dropped.

Why would I want to stay in The Cult? Well, I'm a Cultish veteran now -- more than half the FR 202 Membership were admitted after me. And, altho about 70% of The Cult Members/ANL/IWL are "local" California fans, it's nice to have a medium where one can w&b instead of being so serious and constructive...

Faunch Firmly on Fridays

Lee

CRAYNE:

Dear Cult,

To clean or not to clean, that is the question. Whether it is nobler in the don to endure the slings and arrows of outrageous wife, or taking arms against a sea of fanzines, sort them. Finally facing the problem, I bought a filing cabinet and started filling it. You would be suprized at the things which I found. Including my copy of TLC. The odds are reasonably good therefore that I will be able to publish in a manner sufficient to save my membership. Until then, the sparsest of mailing comments.

EKLUND: It does seem a bit comical to picture hippies stopping at 7pm every day to recite the hippie creed. However, to the extent that we can discuss a group under the term "hippies", it is valid to consider that which the members of such a group hold in common. Dismissing the faddists who are caught up in the trappings for the reasons you name (among others), I believe that the characteristic which marks the individual as a member of the group is a certain 'world view'. Nor do I think that I am 'picking this philosophy of life out of the middle of the air'. I offer my generalization based upon my observations. You are, of course, welcome to do likewise.

WRIGHT: By your use of the term 'hippies' you condemn yourself. You state

that this is a meaningless label, then you proceed to use it. If there is 'no common philosophy, or basic philosophy, no movement', and if there are 'respectable' hippies, and hippies who do not take drugs, then how the hell can you tell if a guy is a hippie? Either stick by your guns and maintain that nobody should ever use the meaningless label 'hippie' (and quit using it yourself), or admit that there must be some common characteristic among hippies. See my remarks above.

DIAN: Next time I will try to find the time to go over in detail some of the positions which I consider a bit beyond reason. In the meantime though, figure out how to do that bit with the oil lamp. You could sell tickets to that show.

ALVA: I am not a fanatic on the two year bidding scheme, and I can see both pros and cons for it. But if you think that it is unworkable, you do not understand the proposal. You probably think that I mean to move the entire timing of convention bidding back a year. I do not. As it is now a committee comes to bid with a hotel chosen, a guest of honor picked, and probably membership cards printed. I suggest that bids be made a year earlier, but without the necessity for picking a hotel, GoH, etc. Rather that the selection be made on geographical location, the reputation of the bidding committee, etc. The winning committee then has a full year to come up with the hotel and so forth. The attainment of some minimum progress would be verified by the next convention. In most cases, the results would be the same as with the present system, but the proposal would catch the do-nothing committee who won the bid and then never did anything else. As to the additional time factor, name me any successful Worldcon or Westcon which was put on by a committee which had not started planning two years before the con.

Chuck C.

AL SNIDER:

Dear Newly Expanded Cult,

I, of course, vote yes on the petition (indeed, I would vote thus twice, just for the halibut) and I join Bruce Pelz in objecting to Jim Schumacher having a cover accepted for an admission letter.

Pelz did a pretty good FR, even when you consider he didn't really care much about it, or how it looked. Sometimes I think Pelz really does hang around in the Cult just to keep up his fanzine collection.

AN GMAR 22--FR 203

MILT STEVENS: The dividing line between liberty and the protection of society as a whole is a rather thin one. Take, for example, recent Supreme Court decisions. In the Mallory case some nut was let loose on a technicality (the police waited 13 hours before bringing him before a judge) after having confessed to raping an eight-year-old girl. He wandered around a while longer, and then committed two more rapes. It bugs me that guys like this are ~~let~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~Cult~~ let loose on the nation. Perhaps this represents a little too much in the way of protecting individual rights, and it ends up whereas society suffers. If you can see that faint red line, if it is bright crimson to you, then boy, you have solved one of the great mysteries of the ages. I am also in agreement with your thoughts about the hippies. They are okay, but nothing to look up to. ((or down on?))

GORDON EKLUND: I agree with your point on Patten & Jacobs voting too early. I hereby protest their votes with all due loudness, since it was just a mite out of order. Too enthusiastic, I guess. I only hope that Geis is of our point of view, and anyway I call for an OA ruling. ((CHEEZZE!))

JAMES WRIGHT: Someday I hope Patten runs those extra copies he has of a Gemignani Apa 1 reject through the Cult so that you can get a taste of what she is really like. I am in favor of doing to the iw1 whatever you want, since I am no longer on it, and don't intend to be until I drop this mess completely. Membership in the Cult should be reserved for ~~the master race~~ those people who can act clever enough to escape the situation where a FReditor tries to throw the screws to them. I admit that I probably

wouldn't have made it as early as I did if this would have prevailed, since I didn't know a darn thing about the Cult, but I would have kept on trying, and I would have tied my copy of TLC around my neck and memorized it. Besides, I like to be mean. It helps me relieve inner tensions.

DIAN PELZ: Liking the usual and wholesome seems like a rather strange condition for the wife of Bruce Pelz, but then I guess that is not an area for me to deal with. But, speaking about balogna, you mean Bruce hasn't tried to encase it in plastic or laminate it, or anything else? Gee, next I will wait until you go off on a several week trip, and then I'll cut your electrical current, or else your gas lines, so that your refrigerator won't work and my f/r will rot. ((Somebody cut your wires and tubes years ago, Al; your brain is obviously rotten to the core.))

FRED LERNER: I have been planning on something even better in the way of f/r s. How about ice? No, really. A person could set up type, and then set it in a pan of water. Put the water in a flash freezer (like -30 degrees) and leave it. When it comes out wrap it up in some kind of super insulation that Union Carbide puts out now. With this stuff (which goes down something like one degree every ten years or so) I could mail an f/r out, and by the time you got done reading it--it would melt and flow away. For a title I could use 'Meltable Cultdom'. Keep watching your mailboxes. ((I just realized--rotten brains causes Fuggheadedness.))

ALEX BRATTON: The commies did it? Gee, I didn't think they would have enough guts. If everybody knows, how come nobody thinks so? Speaking of mustard, I recently (about a year ago) had some of what was hailed as "The Best Mustard In the World". It was in Durham, England, where I was attending school at the time, and they told me that that is where they invented mustard, and let me tell you something, that was just about the best mustard in all the world (at least that I have ever tasted).

DON FITCH: Not in the least. I don't think I have overstated your position at all. It is hard, I imagine, for you to see yourself as you really are, and then also you aren't in on all the little conferences when your name comes up. It is, without a doubt, a very great asset to have Don Fitch behind you in ValsFA affairs. I seem to remember people thinking that if Don Fitch wants it, then it will pass. However, I can remember a few elections where even your support didn't carry me through for either Treasurer or for Chairman. You look for wonderful things from the young? You mean... you mean... Don Fitch is really not a pessimist? Gee, Bruce Pelz will be disappointed. I, however, don't look for much in that crowd, since the entire group seems to be on a downhill slope. I look for it to break up in a few months--like before summer--and if it lasts that long it will never last the summer.

DICK GEIS: Now, if Nelson can only be proved a commie!

--Eviil Snider 5

STEVENS:

Dear Cult;

I see that as of FR 202 I have achieved membership of sorts. With all this newly acquired status, I would like to pick my first official nit. My pub date should be May 27 vice March 25 as is listed on the roster page. As I understand it, I must now publish identical copies of ten pages of something in English on or before my pub date. Is that correct?

If I recall correctly, my letter to Bruce's FR was written right after I left the Philippines. That was about 18 days ago and we have spent all of those 18 days at sea. So far, we've been chased by a typhoon (you people who were in Apa L last year may recall that that also happened at this time last year) and had about a week of the ever popular monsoons. Between and amongst the bad weather, we've conducted a few strikes against North Vietnam. Our biggest to date was a raid against a town called Cam Pha. All the eye witness accounts indicate that we creamed the docks and coal handling facilities. ((I'll bet you do have orgasms when those bombs go off at that!))

Last cruise, I was too busy keeping my tail out of a sling as public affairs officer to notice the people who were around me. This cruise, I've had a little more

liesure and I've noticed that young American married men don't function too well at sea. As soon as they're separated from their wives, they start sleeping irregularly, losing weight and becoming rather bitchy. Bachelors like myself seem to survive much better.

At the end of 40 days at sea, I'm generally apathetic and a little withdrawn from the world around me, but otherwise I'm no worse for wear.

Since men have been going to sea regularly since the neolithic age, I find it hard to believe that married couples have always reacted like this. Maybe Americans are under the influence of togetherness more than most other people.

Comments on FR 202

FRED PATTEN: I think I would join Don Fitch in objecting to pot smoking at LASFS functions. Non-participating attendees can still get arrested that way and I, for one, object to being arrested for vices that I don't care to participate in myself.

It seems strange that a person might seem like a fuddy-duddy for insisting that a second person not commit crimes which might involve others in a social situation. Talk about Laissez Faire.

DICK GEIS: Judging from some of our 18 year old seamen (disclaimer), I would say that kids are about as hung-up on sex as they ever were. The most bizarre idea that some of these kids have is that catching VD proves their masculinity. It might be pointed out to them that it doesn't take much talent to go to bed with a girl in this part of the world. (Come to think of it, it doesn't take much talent to go to bed with a girl in any part of the world.)

Yours truly,

Milton F. Stevens

((Nor much talent to go to bed with a homosexual.
The gay boys have a very high clap rating.))

WRIGHT:

Dick and Sordid Others:

STEVENS: You are telling me that your Significant contribution to humanity is helping a war? Very jolly, but that kind of Significance humanity can do without. And so "hippies" are helping destroy the Establishment by bumming, etc. That is exactly as Significant as your contribution. Well, Milt, when you get your Utopia set up, with this system of everyone contributing "socially useful activity" just forget to call me, okay? In my opinion Society exists in my sphere to be milked for everythin it has with little or no return for myself. But then I don't accept the precepts of Our Society. If one did, then fine (and you apparently do accept such precepts). But just don't put down those that don't, okay? Finally, what do you consider a beggar?

PELZ: Sorry, Bruce, you're way off. Firstly, there is no Part B Rotator, and there never was any mention of publishing a Part B Rotator. My FR was completely and perfectly legal -- there was nothing more to print. I had only hoped to include more extensive comments by myself (and then thought I might put them in an f/r, and mentioned it). And secondly, if that does not satisfy you, then I can say Part B has already been published and distributed. Namely in the form of pp 6-8 of your FR. Thanks for stenciling, publishing and distributing my FR Part B, Bruce. And to have a Part B, one must have a Part A. My FR did not carry a Part A designation.

But I forgive you -- you did a good job on FR 203 (better than I did with mine), with apparently no cutting.

You are still off on musical "high". But don't take my word for it, listen instead to Jerry Garcia, lead guitarist of the Grateful Dead. Jerry is a terrific musician (he's one of the better electric guitarists around; even if you don't dig his music you can't deny he has skill) and is also a confirmed drug taker. He has said, "drugs are a part of my life". And he has also said: "Playing itself is a high, playing is in fact the best high that I know... There's no comparable experience in drugs. Nothing like it." Now basically what this means is that The Musical Experience and the Drug Ex-

perience are, as I've been saying, two completely different things. The difficulty here is in the word "high". I use "high" to refer only to artificially (specifically chemically) induced states, euphoric and beyond. Listening to music and playing music (in other words, the musical experience) is something I'd rather differentiate from drugs and alcohol. Savez?

Yes, I do write music (poorly), but musical creation can be playing, too, y'know. And, in fact, usually is. I daresay more people play than write music.

You have misinterpreted my words. I'm not down on alcohol -- I dig beer very much myself, and drink it rather frequently (like when I'm at Busby's). Nor mild alcoholic euphoria isn't bad in itself (although marijuana euphoria is much better to my mind). But getting really stoned on alcohol is Ugly and a very negative experience. Basically it is just reducing all input-output of the mind to a miniscule level and crushing all thought or perception. I find that rather disgusting, although it does serve as a handy psychological crutch. But I think anyone glorifying himself in getting smashed on alcohol is Sick and only deluding himself.

ALL: You people who are so down on me about protesting the IWL -- please read the Legal Cultstution II and tell me where any of these fabulous obligations you so vividly image are incorporated into the Rules.

ROGERS: Well, gosh, I see Amazing Alva Rogers is just as assinine as ever in print although according to Bill Donaho he's not so bad in person. The trouble with Alva is that he tries too hard to be the Conscience of the Cult, and fails miserably.

Yeah, Alva, and what else is new? I hardly indulge in childish game-playing and nitpicking, you know. Want to know something? Guess who started this shit about the I.L? Eh? Well, it was George Seithers, OA/13. I merely protested the waiver and then George started yelling. Ah well... (And I see you admit my protest was legal.)

John Koning back in the Cult? Gad! And Seidman. And Eney. Too much, really.

BRATHON: You're right. Sorry I offended you and your legal protest is being taken care of right this moment.

Enough of this. Don Fitch is trying to discriminate between Evilness and Unjustice. The world must be coming to an end.

Yhos--

James Wright.

TAPSCOTT:

Clut:

Pelz's FR 203 to hand.

STEVENS: Your tone of voice pisses me off, which is no doubt just what you wanted. If you're looking for a verbal battle, you've come to the right boy, but at the wrong time. I'm far too busy now to get all worked up over the Cultish eruptions of a professional authoritarian boob. But I will point out, as softly as I know how, that however shallow my own credentials as a philosopher may be, yours are nonexistent. Until you get some, it might be wise for you to refrain from making categorical claims within or about that discipline.

Just for example, you say, "the presumption of free will is the only one under which we can rationally operate." This calls for two comments. First, it is itself a philosophical claim and as such requires some defense. What reason do you have for supposing it to be true? Or are you, as before, simply uttering your own opinions as Self Evident Truths? Second of all, even if it were true, it would have no bearing whatsoever upon the question of whether free will exists. And if it should turn out that there is no such thing as freedom of the will, the continued presumption that there is such a thing would be a false presumption -- regardless of how comforting it might be.

Also, with regard to your remarks about logic, I might suggest that you don't know what logic is, or what it is supposed to do. Until you learn, why don't you be silent on the matter?

Also, I would like to know what College Outline you got your so-called "most traditional definition of metaphysics" from. I'm not sure that traditionality is subject to degrees of more and less, but Aristotle, the man who invented the subject, defined it

as the "study of Being as such". Which just goes to show that definitions are seldom any aid to understanding. No, I don't accept any "contradictory definitions" of the term. And I don't deny that metaphysicians and scientists are in the same field of endeavor, if all you mean by that is that they are both trying to understand reality.

I deny that any of your suppositions are reasonable. Your move.

EKLUND: "The spreading use of LSD is very likely to produce profound and important changes in society." Yeh; a generation of congenital defectives, hm? By the way, if you run into a guy named Jack Bush, from Seattle, tell him to send me his address.

WRIGHT: Thank you mightily for the trade. NOTICE TO GEIS: JAMES WRIGHT AND SCOTTY TAPSCOTT HAVE TRADED PLACES. HEREAFTER WRIGHT IS NO. ELEVEN AND TAPSCOTT IS NO. SIX.

Pooch on those who badmouth the pleasures of booz. They are obviously escapists who use pot & whatnot as substitutes for the real thing, i.e. bheer.

I agree 100 per centum about the fuggheadry od Scithers' latest decision -- re informing ineipient Iwlers of their duty to Write. But...aren't you rewriting history? I can recall exactly one l etter which I discarded during my tenure as OA. It was from a friend of Boardman's, and said something like: "Boardman has mentioned your Cult to me and I would like to know everything about it to see if I want to join." My Oafficial opinion then, and my unofficial opinion now, is that the Iwl has almost no official standing in the Cult. Iwlers have no obligations to us; we have no obligations to them, beyond those governing normal civilized interpersonal relationships. This includes sending them copies of zines in which they have things published, informing them of Special Requirements applying to them, etc. But damn little else. I believe they have a right to know that the letter-requirement has been waived for them. But waivers are the exception, rather than the rule. To be safe, they should write a letter, whether they have to or not. Most applicants do, unless they are the result of Scithersian roster-packing. My standard advice to all applicants when I was OA was: "write a letter to the next publisher, who is _____. His address is _____. His deadline is _____." with the blanks suitable filled. Scithers writes so goddamn many postcards, a few more bearing this information wouldn't hurt him.

Since it is logically impossible for the Impeachment Petition to pass, I vote "yes" on it.

No, I don't think the waiver is a "silly rule". The original letter requirement was passed to avoid just exactly the sort of situation we have right now -- packing the roster with the names of a lot of folks most of us never heard of or haven't heard of in a long time. The waiver was instituted as a natural extension of this -- there are obviously well-known fans, for whom the "letter of introduction" would be silly. For example, Eney, Hulan, and Hansen, in the current batch.

Oh, by the way; I'll forward Jacobs' Ledder to you -- it's intended for FR 206.

GEMIGNANI: Are you perchance Gretchen Schwenn on LSD? I haven't the faintest idea what you are talking about. So far as I can recall, I have never revealed your littleness or stupidity to anyone. But now that the cat's out of the bag, of course I'm willing to confirm your description. Calling yourself a "Receptionist" now, huh? (Wink, wink.) Well, I suppose any old Title in a storm, hey kid?

PELZ: What happened in Seattle in '59, to rival Wright's move thereto?

SCITHERS: The last sixteen arrivals on the Roster (from Dian on down) have not been sent copies of TLC II. This for two reasons: (a) I don't have that many copies left; (b) I'm not yet convinced that all of them have completed their application to the Cult. Since Gold has not written (in spite of having been notified of the necessity for his doing so), and since Pelz B. has objected to the waiver for Hulan, Schumacher Hansen, Grant, Whalen, Carter, Koning and Seidman, I assume that none of these are full-fledged Iwlers. Until things are cleared up, like next FR or earlier, I shall abstain from my self-imposed duty.

By the way, I still have the stencils for TLC II, and am willing to run a Second Printing for circulation to new Cult applicants unless you have some other plan. I await your pleasure.

FR 202

PATTEN: Nelson had a letter in the FR. How come you gave him a "no" for credit?

GeOArge: I protest the waiver of the letter requirement for the following applicants: Jim Schumacher, Lewis Grant, Lin Carter, John Koning, Tom Seidman. Now let's you quit acting like a horse's ass and inform them of the application procedure, what say? Bratmon's letter was informative; I'm sure theirs would be, too.

Ronnie guard yez from Hochi-baby,
Scott

FRED PATTEN VII:

Dear Cult;

STEVENS: Even Campbell has been editorializing on the fragmentation of knowledge. Anvil's story, "Babel II", in the August issue, hammers the point about as ponderously as can possibly be done.

EKLUND: Legally, the vote on the Impeach Scithers Petition is called in FR 203; however, is there any law that says a Cultist must wait until this deadline before casting his vote? It would seem to be that any vote cast between the time a petition is officially & legally presented to the membership for a vote and the time that the voting is officially called, should be valid. To make you happy, though, I hereby reaffirm that I vote against the Impeach Scithers Petition.

WRIGHT: Trading pubdates is not the same as trading positions, officially. Fitch & I could arrange to trade pubdates, so that I'd publish the next 12 spot FR and he'd pub the next 7 spot. However, unless we'd officially traded positions, I would still occupy the 7 spot and he the 12 spot. A trade in pubdates is usually a temporary arrangement, good for one Cycle; a trade in positions is permanent unless officially changed back again. I suppose a couple of members could arrange a permanent change in pubdates, without officially trading their positions, but there'd be no reason to do such a silly thing -- outside of a desire on the part of a couple of members to complicate the Roster just for the hell of it. Peggy Gemignani is real; she's been to at least a couple of Worldcons, including the Nycon III. Yes, her handwritten letters are bad, but just wait til you get a Cultletter from Tom Seidman! (Not illiterate but you 'll never be able to decipher it to find out.) Handwritten letters from Gemignani, Seidman, and Castora should be banned, along with Breen's typewriter.

D. PELZ: Actually, I was seduced into the Cult by your husband, aided and abetted by Ted Johnstone and Jack Harness --- The ARBM was in full tromp at that time, and I was jes' a lowly neo, flattered as Hell at being invited to join an exclusive apa (whatever that was) by these BNFs. I notice by Bruce's seniority list that I'm now the 4th oldest member -- the 2nd oldest, if you don't count those who've been dropped and gotten back in.

LERNER: The main difference in not letting neos vote for TAFF, and not letting them vote for the next Worldcon site, is that the TAFF campaigning never really reaches the stf-reading-but-non-fan bloc, which is the bloc that floods the Worldcons. Anybody interested enough in TAFF to want to fill out a ballot, is interested enough to listen to an explanation of why he must be a fan for a year first. The non-fan Worldcon attendee would only see that there's something important going on in the voting, which he isn't being allowed to attend, even though he paid his membership fee. He would probably never get an explanation from a regular fan as to why things are arranged this way, and just feel excluded, which might lose us a fannish recruit. Incidentally, I would be very interested in hearing any stories any Nycon attendees have to relate about the way the non-fans felt about the bidding system. I heard several complaints along the lines of "Next year's Con is just a fight between California and California; why doesn't some city around here bid for it so we might stand a chance of getting to it?" At one of the parties the L.A. bidders gave, a girl with a contingent of fans from Ottawa (I think -- not a part of John Mansfield's Toronto group, at any rate) was quite indignant over the fact that the California fans were "stealing" next year's Con, and she let us know that her group was going to present a bid for Ottawa to give the fans in Canada and the East Coast U.S. a fair chance at it. When I explained to her that there were rules that specified that the Con must come to the West

Coast, she said, all right, then, she'd present her bid in the name of Vancouver, B.C., which was on the West Coast, and how did we like that!? Nothing came of this, naturally. However, all of this shows two things: a) most of the off-the-street attendees do not know enough about fannish Convention customs to cast an intelligent vote, and b) at the same time they are interested enough in where next year's Con will be that some of them will be quite indignant if we prejudice against them by telling them that they have no say in helping decide where it'll be. So far, I like Chuck's idea best, of this year's Con selling memberships in next year's Con, wherever it's to be, and only those fans who're interested enough to pay 3 or so for next year's membership getting to vote on who actually gets it. This is a rationale the off-the-streeters should understand, and not object to.

f/r #202.99: postmarked 11:30 a.m., Sept. 18, so I guess Derek's safe.

NELSON: I notice the headline on this week's issue of THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER reads, "Electronic brain control made Oswald kill JFK!" Exactly what this is all about I don't know, since I have better things to waste my money on than THE NATIONAL ENQUIRER. However, it sounds like another theory for you. ((Yes, Nelson pushed the button that activated the brain that made the trigger finger pull!))

I swiped about 130 copies of that "Adventures of Astrobear" booklet from a soda pop display at a local supermarket about 6 months ago. 60 copies went into K-a, the Comic Fandom apazine; 40 went into Apa L; and I found I had just enough left to send to most of the Cult -- a couple of INLers had it missing in their FRs. I found it fascinating; I've seen the advertisements the Sugar Trust runs in the national magazines every so often, about how sugar is energy food and kids need soda pop and candy and such to keep from pooping out, but this is the first time I've seen soda pop baldly compared with the Elixir of Life, practically.

f/r's received following FR #202: f/r.13, "Verifaxed Villification", from George Scithers, one page, verifaxed.

f/r's received following FR #203 (so far): f/r #202.99, FLAP #1, from Derek Nelson, one page, mimeod.

Cultishly,

Fred Patten VII

DIAN PELZ:

Dear Cult,

Herein be comments on the 203rd publication, for what they're worth, which isn't much. I have been backsliding. I haven't pulled a really Cultish (sneaky, dirty, underhanded, meaningless) ploy for sometime. As I told some friends in SAPS once, I stay in the Cult to blow off steam. Who knows, very soon now, any one of you may be the recipient of my latest piece of nastiness. If I think of any. Sigh. I have about come to the conclusion that my old faithful typer, Calamity Jane, has about outlived her usefulness. Poor old girl. She won't cut a stencil anymore, and will hardly type a letter. I'm afraid she's got diseases even a good cleaning won't cure. Honest, old girl, I'm sorry I ripped off two inches of your tabstops.

MILT STEVENS: I don't know that the current war is particularly significant. Of course you have to decide just what sort of significance you want it to have. In terms of future history, I doubt that it would earn more than a page in any history book other than the Vietnamese ones. ((It ain't over yet, kiddo.)) After all, it is essentially a war based on Principles and Ideals, and as such will not materially affect land distribution or anything else. It is not a war of expansion and will therefore not particularly affect the political subdivisions of the world. I don't think it's a very important war at all. But for the fighting man to admit that he was fighting for a cause that had no meaning would be disastrous.

EKLUND: (Sorry about the first name, my capital G isn't working too well) I like your Argentina theory. I can just see Kennedy, and the aged Hitler, and a few of their cronies playing whist. ((WHIST??)) // Funny sidelight on the Fitch problem. I have

it from a certain Source Who Shall Remain Anonymous, that pot smoking has a pretty good hold on the VALSFA in the person of two young men who ought to know better. Don Fitch ought to see about cleaning up his own backyard. (Oh, I'm in favor of cleaning up the LASFS, too, never fear. I'm anti-pot.)

ALVA ROGERS: Ah, so. I had high hopes the matter of the Con bidding would kill itself off or something. I personally don't care if there is one Con, two Cons, or ten Cons, as long as no one tries to force me to either attend or not attend them. I sort of feel it was unwise of Big Bill and yourself to spread How We Won around. It sounds a little too much like gloating and gloating isn't polite - besides, someone may try to knock your block off over it. I look forward to your Con, incidentally. I suspect a lot of people, ahem, of simply trying to stir up the pot to see it bubble. I hope you aren't one of them. Not that I haven't done a lot of pot stirring in my own time, you understand. I might be stirring this one if I cared enough about it. Which side I'd be stirring is an open question.

CHUCK CRAYNE: I just thought, in a moment of idiocy that I ought to volunteer to put on a fashion show if you put on a Con. It seems like practically every other outgoing femme wants to. I decided against it though. Why, I'd have to be crazy...

DICK GEIS: Aren't people wonderful? When we go out in the car I stare at the passers by, and I do the same thing walking. I remember driving through Compton some time ago and seeing one of the most beautiful high yeller girls I've ever seen, and yesterday, walking back from the store I saw a youngish fellow who looked like nothing so much as an illustration of a french sailor. He had a small neat beard, striped tee shirt, and carried a large bundle over his shoulder. We nodded and smiled at each other as we passed. People are splendid. // Just don't use that greasy kid stuff and maybe your girl will call back. Maybe you could start some sort of a club. Each member swears to phone another club member of the opposite sex once a month - anonymously - to add spice - and make sexy suggestions. ((Sexy, hell, I want girls to make obscene suggestions to me!))

--Dian

AL SNIDER:

To the members of the Cult:

Patten's FR was, of course, very good. His style, aided by the LASFS Rex, was most pleasing. However, I recognized the cover, but wasn't too disturbed, since it was something other than a rocketship taking off this time.

NELSON: As Patten notes, it is just a bunch of nit-picking that has nothing to do with anything very important. I, also, will take the position that it doesn't matter who killed Kennedy at this late date, and we would be better to let sleeping dogs lie. ((What are you afraid of finding out, Al? 'It doesn't matter who killed Kennedy at this late date' Jesus! Nothing bothers you, does it?)) However, I find it hard to disagree with Derek regarding Mark Lane. He has never appealed to me very much ((Obviously...I wonder why?)) and I have, many times, failed to see the logic in some of his reasoning. ((You find Garrison even less appealing, right?))

STEVENS: The other day I was listening to Radio Peking, and they were telling me all about what was going to happen when they took over the world. People from all nations were there, telling me over the radio that I should revolt and throw off the chains that my capitalistic masters had put on me. I heaved my 200 lb. bulk into a soft padded chair as they screamed that they (Capitalists) were exploiting me and using me for a slave. As I sipped a tall cool drink they told me how it would be wonderful to be under a progressive society such as in China. Why, food production would probably go up (I burped) and I would be free to express my opinions instead of being pushed around by the establishment (I then rearranged my 'Impeach Earl Warren' button) but most of all I would join a brotherhood of men who would share the work evenly! We would unite and conquer all of our problems. Radio Peking is funny!

OECC Al Snider 5

((Sorry I had to ~~cut~~ cut your letter, Al. No more room.))

GOLD:

Dear Cult,

Well, I don't want to get dropped with the IML as long as it is, so I'd better write a letter. Luckily, all this fuss over The Hill lets me fill in with a not-so-brief history of The Hill.

The Hill is an outgrowth of the Labyrinth series of slanshacks, residences of Jack Harness and Owen Hannifen. When the last of the old-time big slanshacks in LA folded, Jack and Owen founded the first Labyrinth. (Bruce, who was around at the time, can fill in details, if desired.) When they moved, Jack and Owen, both avid E.E. Smith fans, decided to follow the pattern of the Skylark series. Their second residence was called Labyrinth III. This lasted but a short time, and an invasion of cockroaches drove them to the Labyrinth of Valeron. They were still living there a year or so later when I got into fandom in November, 1964. In February or March of 1965, I think, Jack and Owen, annoyed by the landlord's refusal to fix a leaky roof, moved to the Labyrinth Duquesne.

About October, the running argument between my parents and me over where I should keep my fanzines came to a head: they threw out my fanzines. I rescued the fanzines from the trash bin and called the Lab for a place to spend the night. This ended up with me becoming a permanent resident in the Lab. At the end of the next February, Owen moved out to shack up with Hilda Hoffman in a similar apartment 3 blocks away called Thrush Central. Jack and I continued to share the Labyrinth Duquesne for about six months, until Jack decided to move out because of the "Entheta atmosphere," while Owen and Hilda were looking for a reduction in rent. So at the end of November, 1966, Owen and Hilda replaced Harness as the occupants of the back bedroom.

In the interim I had gotten back on good terms with my parents and was spending only half of my time at the Lab, the other half at Bag End. Jim Schumacher was looking for a place to stay after he was graduated from high school in February, and he came to stay at the Labyrinth in mid-April. He used the front bedroom when I was at Bag End, and slept on the livingroom sofa the 3 or 4 nights a week when I stayed at the Lab. In mid-May a fringe-fan named Bill Wolfenbarger came to stay on our livingroom rug. This made $4\frac{1}{2}$ people living in a two bedroom apartment, and Owen started looking around for a larger place. Then, at the end of May, the Booby Hatch, another LAcad slanshack, was evicted for non-payment of rent and failure to mow the lawn. Two of the Booby Hatchers, Don Simpson and Phil Castora, moved into the Lab. This made $6\frac{1}{2}$ residents. Then, in mid-June, Fred "Flieg" Hollander moved in for the Summer. This made the situation on nights when I was up there intolerable. A sigh of relief was breathed when Owen was finally successful in his search for a larger place. We moved into The Hill (the third place to be seriously considered for that name--the other two deals fell through) just in time to host the Westercon LASFS meeting and throw an after-Westercon party at which all the toilets stopped up and we had to drive people back & forth to the Labyrinth, thereby keeping the continuity of fan residence there.

After this inauspicious start, The Hill managed to recover somewhat and we now have hopes that it will last, if prospective residents are not scared off by wild talk about it. Although I had to lend people money to meet their rent in July, August and September, all but one person paid their rent on time this month, and we managed to meet the rent without necessity of a loan from me, even though we have an empty room this month.

As to claims that (a) there are 17 pot smokers in the LASFS and (b) several of the 17 are living in The Hill, I consider both statements absolutely ridiculous. I lived at The Hill for three months, and I couldn't testify to any pot smoking at The Hill. In fact, I could only testify to there being two (2) pot smokers in the LASFS: The Junkman, LASFS's obviously well known head, and Miss Wealz, his shack-up.

I favor the "Kennedy is alive and well in Argentina" theory of the assassination. Not that I believe it...I just favor it. I think it's a nice idea.

May The Ceiling Never Fall On Thee,
Barry D. Gold

GEORGE R HEAP -

September 30, 1967

Χαίρε

Dear Cult: I'm about as late as usual getting started on this *and* I've got a large pile of stuff to make comment on; so rather than send a long letter to *Geis* which he might not have time to deal with, I'm doing the runoff thing myself. Just so you know who to blame the typos on.

VOTE: I vote *no* on the petition to impeach *George Scithers* as OA.

PETITION: To have *Norm Metcalf* reinstated as a Member of the Cult.

s/ *George Scithers*

s/ *George Heap*

We need one more signature to get this off the ground. Wright: I did write to Metcalf about this, but so late that he hasn't had time to answer. Figured I might as well get this started before any more time passes.

PETITION: To add to Article I, Paragraph 2 of the Constitution, after the sentence ending "..... to render any such waiver void.": This protest must be clearly defined as official business in an FR or F/R and the publisher is required to send at least that page to the applicant being protested.

s/ *George Heap*

This is basically Crayne's proposal from FR 203; formalized and slightly changed. Hopefully, he will cosign it, but I didn't want to assume this. At any rate, two more cosigners are needed.

In addition to the unfairness, already pointed out, of dropping iwlers without notification; I think some of the Membership has lost sight of the fact that the Cult needs a waitlist in order to continue its existence. While I agree that unknown neos should be protested, I don't see any purpose in blanket protests or automatic protests on the applications of fans well-known to the protestor.

George Scithers, OA¹³: I've got a couple of questions for you in your oafficial capacity. First, does an FR publisher have the right to decide that a message of Cultic interest, mailed in an envelope, is not a letter? For example: If I had mailed *Geis* a letter voting on the impeachment petition, could he say that this was not substantial enough to be a "letter" in the Cultic sense? [All: Please note that this example is *hypothetical!*] The second is that as Art. III § 3(j) indicates that FRs less than five ounces must be sent by First Class Mail; and Art. III, § 5 says that F/Rs must meet the distribution requirements of FRs; aren't F/Rs (less than five ounces) *also* required to be sent by First Class Mail?

FECAL DELIGHT (FR 201) {*Wright*}

Fitch: What I'm hoping for, is that the Pissed Office will get back to the business of delivering mail as they were setup to do. I wonder how much of the ever-increasing cost of doing business with them goes for Inspection and other useless "services".

Wright: Forgot to tell you before; but your FR didn't arrive until August 18th (nine days after it was mailed) with a USPOD stamp on the back: "FOUND IN CIRCULAR MAIL. Aug. 17, 1967" !!!???

EDIBLE CULTDOM (f/r 201.5) {*Snider*}: Unfortunately for the future of EDIBLE CULTDOM, your hilarious first sample was like very much *inedible* by the time it arrived in these regions. After inspection, it was deposited (with all due ceremony, you understand) in the incinerator. [And there

goes *my* reputation as a completist.] *Margaret* told me that her "copy" arrived in about the same fetid condition.

CON MUCHOS ARBOLES #8 (FR 202) {*Patten*}

Nelson: The problem with the assassination and its aftermath is that so many inconsistencies have come up, that the field is wide open to critics. The fact that some of the critics went overboard, does not disprove that the initial police work on the case and, to some extent, the Warren Commission's investigation were considerably screwed up. The day that Kennedy was assassinated, the radio news had it that he was killed with a Mauser rifle. I *heard* this announcement. Please note that weapons are normally identified by the manufacturer's name, not by the name of the firm holding the patent on the action.

Lerner/Crayne/Patten/Scithers: *Scithers* is right; the *mechanics* of determining who is and who isn't eligible to vote for the next con-site is impossible within the structure of fandom and the Worldcon. Sure, a lot of neos don't know what is coming off; but at the same time, a lot of long-time fans are *still* voting primarily on a location and personal friendship basis. And as far as being well-informed is concerned, didn't the latest S.F. WEEKLY list Canada as being included as eligible to bid with England, Germany, etc. in the new four-year rotation plan?

Crayne (& Rogers in FR 203): Many of the professional conventions are planning their meeting-sites two or more years in advance in order to get a better choice of hotels. While our Worldcons haven't had to do this, possibly because Labor Day is a slack time for big city hotels, we may get forced to the two year route at some point in order to get the desirable hotels. Is there any comment on this from the '68 bidders?

Tapscott (& Pelz in FR 203): How come *Wright*, who was *behind* me all the way up the waitlist, is numbered as getting into the Cult *first*?

VERIFAXED VILLIFICATION (f/r 202.13) {*Scithers*}: Don't get the "quantity" bit at all. ¶ "Conan Slays" indeed!!!!
How about "Conan Slays While Hadrathus Prays"? Nice illos is this here 'zine.

The Cultic Calendar/Mundane Calendar problem seems to revolve around the 21 days of the Cultic Period more than the thirteenishness of the Cult itself. It just sort of happens that that the 146,097 days of a Gregorian cycle (400 years, after which the calendar repeats itself) is divisible by 21. So every 400 years, Cultic pubdates repeat. But, 146,097 is *not* divisible by 13; so it takes 5200 years for the pubdates and the Member #s to repeat. The same sort of thing happens in a Julian Calendar. The repeating cycle here is 10,227 days (28 years). 10,227 is also divisible by 21, but *not* by 13; so it would take 364 years (13 x 28) for pubdates and Member #s to repeat here. The Julian Cycle has seven Leap Years; hence seven February 29th's, one to each day of the week. So you're quite right that Cultic pubdates could be arranged to avoid this date. The 400-year Gregorian cycle has 97 Leap Years and February 29th's; and according to my calculations, it is impossible to establish a *regular* series of Cultic pubdates (three weeks apart) that does not hit February 29 between three and seven times.

FLAP #1 (f/r 202.99) {*Nelson*}: Er I'm glad to see you saved your place in the Cult, and ah it's sort of nice that you met me and all, but *what*, exactly, brought on the comment?

ANGMAR #22 (FR 203) {*Pelz*}

Eklund: *The Debauched Hospidar* and just about everything else mentioned in the porno or semi-porno line has been available here in Rochester, so much for the

small town question. As a matter of fact, much of the time, things have been sold openly here that weren't in Philadelphia ---- ten times the size. Every couple of years we have an anti-porn campaign, and the town becomes clean (relatively speaking), for at least a month or two.

Geis: Now that I've finally managed to remember that your book is *The Sex Machine*, I can't find it. I swear I noticed the title on the stands a while back, but now all I can locate is *two different books*, both entitled *Sex Machine* (no *The*). Both are science fiction, but neither is close to the plot as described by yourself and *Dian*.

Wright: "High" has been used to indicate *mild* alcoholic intoxication for some time now. I've gotten about the same type of feeling from my limited experience with pot *and*, at times, from music. I think the reactions people get to these, and other stimuli, are too subjective to get dogmatic about what you *should* feel.

Patten guessed, not "noticed", that you'd sent *Margaret* your FR.

Fitch lacks the Terrific Need to publish a dirty FR; he said so!

Glad you liked HYBORIAN TIMES. I'll probably continue it in some manner or form, but its future as a rider to S.F. TIMES is rather in doubt. I'll check out The Doors' "The End" as soon as my amplifier returns from the hi-fi shop: but I did

"Baby, Won't You Light My Amplifier?"

listen to the complete lp, and don't remember "The End" particularly.

Hoax? What hoax? The only one around here that suggested a hoax was *you!* And why do you drag *Tapscott's* name into this? His existence was settled years ago. As for *Margaret*, I can only suggest that you drop down to Los Angeles and see for yourself. She left for there October 1. I really would have thought you were enough of a Diplomacy fan to have recognized the name.

Dian: I had the same idea, about sending *Wright* a photo of *Margaret* from the Nycon costume ball. But she wasn't holding up a sign then either. Why don't you LASFan type Cultists get up an *affadavit* and send it up to *Wright*. Maybe it will calm him down a little.

Pelz: The Cycle I data is appreciated.

Patten: Thanks for the HYBORIAN TIMES review in Apa L.

Eklund & Others: Regardless of *who* killed Kennedy; deep in my heart I feel that his family knows *all* and has Taken Care of the matter. Who knows, we may be returning to the social structure of the Renaissance and the whole thing was a family feud.

Dian & Pelz: Suggestions as to what to *do* with *Snider's* bologna:

- 1) Photograph it.
- 2) Formaldehyde or some other preservative.
- 3) Seal it in a vacuum jar and expose it to sufficient radiation to kill off the bacteria
- 4) Send it to the Cryonics people who will store it until someone develops a *cure* for it.

5) Fertilize a potted plant with it; then save the plant.

6) Eat it; and in some metaphysical sense, you will be f/r 201.5.

7) Save it for a combination Seance and Last Supper at the Baycon. ("This is f/r 201.5, broken for you. Eat ye all of this.") Of course, you might have difficulty in collecting the entire Cult.

Actually, I've only begun to touch on the possibilities. I'm sure others will occur to you as you meditate on the subject.

Lerner: I've just thought of another usage. Just let it decay a little more and then send it *back to Snider*. ¶ On your proposed changes to the consite voting procedure, don't forget that the TAFF balloting is by mail while up to now consites have been voted on by attendees in person with, generally, not too much time allowed for checking complicated credentials. Further, if you use previous Convention *attendance* as the criterion, how many recent Cons can tell you (a year or more after the Con has passed) who really attended as opposed to who was a member?

All (mostly directed to the West Coast): What *did* happen in the voting at the Nycon? I had, rather naively I suppose, figured that as the Pacifico² was held in Berkely, the next West Coast Convention would be (or should be, actually) in another area. Was one reason I voted for L.A., *not* for the location certainly.

