

For the CULT: f/ractional rotator 591.13
being The Ratified Constitution (with addenda and commentary)
of the one, the only, the C*U*L*T

[florish of trumpets, offstage left]

by G H Scithers
PO Box 8243
Philadelphia Pa 19101-8243 on 1990 January 28.

FOR THE CONFUSED OR CURIOUS . . . :

The CULT is an APA. But not really.

Almost all of fandom's other APAs consist of material printed by the members and sent to an OE for collation and distribution. The CULT, on the other hand, functions more like an open letter between friends as the material, usually -- but not always -- a letter, is sent to a designated Member who edits, publishes, and distributes the Fantasy Rotator (FR, for short) by him or her self; you are reading a more or less typical FR. FRs are published every three weeks by the 13 Members in rotation; which explains why it is called a "Rotator" . . . we'll leave the "Fantasy" part to your imagination.

The CULT's waiting list doesn't work like those of other APAs either. There are two separate lists and people on the waiting lists are encouraged to participate. In fact people on the Active Waiting List are required to participate (the minimum is one letter to every other FR or one postcard to every FR). CULT publications are distributed to Members and the Active Waiting List. The Inactive Waiting List doesn't have to do anything, although they are often very active. Distribution of publications to the Inactive Waiting List is not required, but anyone who writes regularly will receive most of them.

These oddities don't bother the CULT. We're having fun and figure that it's the other APAs that are out of step. Now you've received your first lesson in being CULTish.

Your next lesson is not to believe everything that you hear. There was a time when the CULT was, like some fannish Alcatraz, a favorite stomping ground of fandom's literary thugs; this earned Our Little Group the sobriquet of "the nastiest bastards in fandom." We've mellowed a bit over the years but you might bear in mind that unexploded shells from World War I still kill people every year. The other description of the CULT, "a small, uninformed group," is as accurate as it ever was.

In any case, the CULT's main purpose is communication between the Members and a single Rotator can resemble an episode of a soap opera. If reading this FR makes you feel like you are eavesdropping, so be it; you'll be up to speed soon enough.

The CULT is not an invitational APA. The only membership requirement is the intelligence to work your way through our bureaucratic maze. Don't panic. If some of the twits we have had around could figure it out, so can you. First you must drop a note to the Official Arbiter (OA) telling him that you want to enlist (Dick Lynch is the current OA). The OA will append you to the end of the Waiting List pending completion of the second step. That second step is to have material (about a page) published by a Member or an Active Waiting Lister in a CULT publication. Most often, that means writing a letter -- for publication -- to a Member about to publish an FR. Names, addresses, and publishing dates are on the Roster in each FR (publication day is Monday, the deadline for letters is the previous Saturday). If you don't want to join, you don't have to do any of this.

There are other things that can be said about the CULT (or, as it is known to the cognoscenti, The Bucket or Our Little Group), some of them are even complimentary. If you are interested, anybody listed on the Roster page can answer your questions. Or you could just pick a likely spot and dive right in. The acid's fine.

Yale F Edeiken

THE RATIFIED CONSTITUTION
a/k/a TRC
a/k/a THE CULTSTITUTION

being the the sixth draft, 18th edition, of the CULT constitution including three amendments made since the publication of the fourth draft and, upon publication to become the 20th edition

ARTICLE I: GENERALITIES

1. The CULT is a Stefan organization whose primary function is communication among its 13 Members, carried out through amateur publications, the Fantasy Rotator (FR) which is published by the Members, in rotation, at three week intervals, for the Members and others attached to the CULT; and through two kinds of intercalary publications, the fractional rotator (f/ractional or f/r) and the decimal oscillator (d.O). Persons awaiting Membership make up the Waiting List, which is divided into two parts. The first 5 are the Active Waiting List (AWL), with certain rights and responsibilities. The rest are the Inactive Waiting List (IWL), with fewer rights and responsibilities. Persons who would be Members except for having a mailing address outside of North America are Associates.

2. The 13 Members occupy ordered places; their scheduled publication dates (pubdates), fall in that order on every third Monday. When a Member is dropped or expelled, the first AWLer takes his place; the remaining Members retain their places, while the rest of the AWL and the IWL each moves up one.

3. The CULT has one elected officer, the Official Arbiter (OA). He interprets the CULT Constitution, makes Rulings where the constitution is unclear, intervenes when the normally automatic machinery of the CULT gets out of whack, and dispenses divers indulgences.

4. The basic unit of CULTish time is the Period, which runs from the Tuesday after one FR through the pubdate of the next FR. CULT activity is required and recorded by Period, and each FR editor takes care of all routine CULT business during the period which ends on his FR's pubdate. A set of 13 such Periods, beginning with that of the first place on the Membership roster through that of the 13th, makes up a Cycle, after which the Member in first place publishes again.

ARTICLE II: PUBLICATIONS

1. Fantasy Rotators must carry a FR number. These numbers run consecutively from the Beginning, Peter Vorzimer's FR 1. Each may carry a secondary title as well. To be legal a FR must:

a. contain a complete, accurate roster of names and addresses of the 13 Members, any Associates, the AWL, and the IWL, including the CULT activity of each Member, Associate, and person on the AWL during the current and immediately previous Periods. The roster must also contain the next pubdate of each Member and Associate. The name, address, and pubdate of the next FR editor must be conspicuously marked.

b. contain any CULT business transmitted by the OA, any matters up for vote or for discussion pending a vote, and other CULT business including names and addresses of persons added or dropped, changes of address, and the like.

c. be legible; that is, easily read and understood by the Members.

d. contain at least one 8 1/2 x 11 page of not previously published material, not including the roster or CULT business, for each day between the scheduled pubdate and the day on which the FR is published.

e. be mailed First Class, to the 13 Members, any Associate, all AWLers, and any of those dropped during that FR's Period, in an edition of essentially identical copies. Lower class mail may be used for a FR of mailing weight over 4 ounces a copy, except the copy for the next FR editor must go First Class.

f. while distribution to the IWL, of identical copies, or by First Class mail is optional with the FR editor, he must send at least the notice of droppage to IWLers dropped, and any Ruling or other business affecting IWLers to all IWLers.

2. A fractional rotator is an out-of-turn CULTzine published by a Member, Associate, or AWLer. To be legal, a f/rational must:

- a. contain material not previously published anywhere.
- b. comply with the legibility, distribution, and mailing provisions (Section 1, subsections c, e, & f above) for FRs.
- c. carry a f/r number, which is formed by adding a proper fraction of arbitrary magnitude to the FR number of the FR whose pubdate comes just before the actual date that the f/rational is published. Thus, a f/rational published between the scheduled pubdates of FR 300 and 301 gets a number between 300 and 301, such as f/r 300 1/2 or f/r 300.5.

3. A decimal oscillator is a CULTzine published by an IWLer. To be legal, a d.O must:

- a. comply with the originality, legibility, distribution, and mailing provisions (Section 1, subsections c, e, & f above) for FRs.
- b. carry a d.O number, which is formed like a f/r number, except that it is expressed entirely as a decimal with the decimal point in front of the whole thing. Thus, a d.O published between the scheduled pubdates of FR 300 and 301 could be d.O 0.3005.

ARTICLE III: CORRESPONDENCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Persons wishing to join the CULT must apply, in writing, to the OA, who assigns them to places on the AWL or IWL in order of application. They then must have a letter of at least 300 words published in a FR or f/rational (but not a d.O).

2. Once on the IWL, IWLers have to meet only such correspondence requirements that may be imposed on the whole IWL by the OA.

3. On elevation to the AWL, a new AWLer may miss writing to the first two FRs which list him on the AWL, without his being dropped. Thus, one who first appears on the AWL in FR 300 must write to FR 302 at the latest.

4. All AWLers (except for Section 3 above), any Associate, and the 13 Members must either have a postcard reach the current FR editor by the Saturday before his pubdate, or must do at least one of the following during the current or just previous Period (thus, a postcard meets correspondence requirements for one Period; other forms of CULT activity are good for two Periods):

- a. have an original, substantial letter reach that Period's FR editor by the Saturday before his pubdate.
- b. be the editor of that Period's FR.
- c. publish a f/rational during that Period.
- d. have original written material in a f/r or d.O published in that Period.
- e. have original artwork in that Period's FR, or in a f/r or d.O published during that Period.

5. Anyone failing to meet the correspondence requirements will be placed in Limbo by the FR editor to whom he should have written and dropped by the FR editor after that.

ARTICLE IV: PUBLISHING REQUIREMENTS

1. Each of the 13 Members, in his turn, must do one of the following:

- a. publish a legal FR on his pubdate.
- b. get another Member to agree to swap pubdates with him temporarily or permanently, give notice not later than one Period before the earlier pubdate involved in a FR or f/r, and then publish in accordance with the swap. In this case, all responsibilities are swapped as well. Otherwise, while a Member can get any amount of help with his FR, he is fully responsible for its legality.
- c. give notice in a FR or f/r not earlier than two Periods before his pubdate and no later than his pubdate of intent to publish late, and then publish no more than two weeks late. The pubdates of following FRs are not changed by this.

2. Any Associate must publish at least 5,000 words (with allowance for

illustrations) in f/rationals each Cycle (this is about 10 pages); or publish a FR while a Member for part of that Cycle.

3. A Member dropped either for not publishing at all or in the FR just before his own; and an Associate dropped for not publishing his required f/rationals may not re-enter the CULT or the Waiting List for one full Cycle unless he publishes a d.O of at least 7,500 words (with allowance for illustrations)(this is about 15 pages) in addition to the requirements of Article III 1, above.

4. Anyone failing to meet the publishing requirements will be dropped.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

1. Candidates for OA nominate themselves by filing with the Election Officer, normally the Member in the 13th place on the roster, by the Saturday before his pubdate. The Election Officer then sends out postcard ballots to the 13 Members, listing all the candidates, by First Class mail. This ballot must be mailed within three days of his pubdate, regardless of the date his FR is actually published. Only the 13 Members may run or vote.

2. The Teller is the next FR editor, normally the Member in the first place on the roster, unless he is a candidate, in which case the Election Officer appoints another Member to be Teller. The Teller receives the votes and announces the winner by f/rational or FR not more than one Period after the ballots are mailed out.

3. A plurality will elect. Write-in votes will be counted only if there are less than two self-nominated candidates. The incumbent OA loses all ties; he will resolve any other tie. The incumbent OA serves until the results are published, at which time the new OA's term begins.

4. If the office of OA becomes vacant in mid-term, the editor of the first FR following publication of the vacancy will become an Election Officer; and an election to fill the office for the remainder of the Cycle will proceed as in Sections 1, 2, & 3 above. If the vacancy is first published after the pubdate of the 8th FR of a Cycle, the new OA then elected will serve for the following Cycle as well. During the vacancy, the Teller will act as OA.

ARTICLE VI: PETITIONS

1. All measures presented to the 13 Members are called Petitions, except for the election of OAs. A Petition is put before the CULT by being published in a FR or f/rational, sponsored by exactly 3 Members, who are subsequently counted as voting in favor of it. To allow for opposing arguments, the Petition is discussed in the next FR whose pubdate falls more than two weeks after the Petition is published. The FR editor next after the discussion FR acts as Teller, unless the Petition affects him directly, in which case the OA appoints another Member to be Teller. The Teller receives votes and announces results as in Article V 2, above.

2. Petitions to amend the constitution require 9 affirmative votes to pass, and are discussed in two FRs following the submission of the petition. 5 negative votes will reject an amendment. If such a Petition is rejected, it may not be resubmitted in the same form for one full Cycle.

3. Petitions to reverse a Ruling of the OA require 7 affirmative votes to pass.

4. Petitions to impeach the OA require 9 affirmative votes to pass. Removal from office does not affect one's Membership otherwise.

5. Petitions to expel one from the CULT or the Waiting List require 9 affirmative votes to pass. Persons expelled may not be readmitted for one full Cycle.

ARTICLE VII: RE-INSTATEMENTS

1. Persons who have been dropped may be re-instated by the OA, provided this be done within three Periods of publication of the drop.

2. Re-instatement may also be by Petition, with 3 sponsors, discussion, etc, as in Article VI above. Re-instatement Petitions require 7 affirmative votes to pass.

3. Furthermore, a person dropped may petition re-instatement by getting a Member willing to be Teller, then distribute postcard ballots to the 13 Members for return to the Teller, who announces results by FR or f/r not more than one Period after the ballots go out.

ARTICLE VIII: OFFICIAL ARBITERS

1. The OA's chief task is to restore the orderly progression of CULTzines and other CULT activity whenever the constitution, the successive FR editors, and past Rulings are unable to cope. To accomplish this the OA may:

- a. make Rulings to fill constitutional lacunae or solve special problems.
- b. waive obligations temporarily and alter pubdates.
- c. re-instate dropped persons, either unconditionally or conditionally on performance of some reasonable, extra task.
- d. put Petitions before the Members for vote without additional sponsors.
- e. judge applicants to the IWL, place them on the IWL in order of application and impose special correspondence requirements on the whole IWL.
- f. require the dropping of a person from the CULT for failure to perform a constitutional requirement.

2. The OA may not:

- a. dissolve the CULT.
- b. override the constitution.
- c. expel persons from the CULT
- d. impose requirements or penalties beyond those specified herein.

3. Rulings of the OA are binding and effective on receipt of the notice of those affected or on publication by FR or f/r. Publication must be as soon as possible.

4. Only a Member may be OA. The office is vacated if the OA is dropped from Membership. Although he can re-instate himself to both Membership and office immediately on receiving notice of drop (but not impeachment or expulsion), then such re-instatement (but no other kind) may be overRuled as in Article VI 3, above.

ARTICLE IX: SPECIFICS

1. When one of the 13 Members moves to an overseas mailing address (including APO and FPO addresses) he loses Membership and becomes an Associate. When an AWLer with such an overseas address would otherwise advance to Membership, he instead becomes an Associate. When an Associate gets a mailing address in North America, he is restored to Membership if there is a vacancy, otherwise to the top of the AWL.

2. Pseudonymity or even non-existence is no bar to joining the CULT. However, the lack of a mailing address or the failure to maintain the appearance of independent existence are grounds for being dropped.

3. Where a Member's status is in confusion, to avoid jiggling the AWL and IWL up and down, a FR editor may list that questionable Member in Limbo awaiting last-minute f/rational or Rulings from the OA. Persons in Limbo temporarily retain their places on the roster and their right to vote.

Originally submitted in f/r 297.13, 22 Feb 1973 by: Yale F. Edeiken (3) Aljo Svoboda (7) Ted Johnstone (9)

AN INCOMPLEAT GLOSSARY OF CULTSPEAK, 2nd EDITION

ACTIVES: Collective name for Members, Associates, and AWLers.

ARBM: Arson, Rape, & Bloody Murder. Not a list of Attila the Hun's favorite hobbies but the CULTish grouping of Jack Harness, Ted Johnstone, and Bruce Pelz. Although their activities were not the genesis of the CULT's foul reputation, ARBM did bring the art of CULTish nastiness to full development. For any of the current crop who feels up to the challenge the following classified advertisement appeared in FR 380 shortly after the death of David McDaniel:

POSITION VACANT Wanted: part time pseudo-worker. Must have nasty sense of humor and willingness to indulge it, somewhat overblown sense of sexual accomplishment, and ability to put up with others of equal humor. Must be willing to join CULT. Several times, even. Apply to A_BM, c/o The CULT. Any race, age or sex acceptable; we are an equal opportunity insulter.

Although this advertisement was placed in 1977, the position has yet to be filled.

ASSOCIATE: A CULTist who has moved overseas or someplace.

AWL(er): Active Waitlist(er). One of the first five persons on the CULT Waiting List.

BAKER, E Joseph: (Member #68, Periods 109-117) A LASFan who published FR 116 completely translated into Esperanto, to the consternation of the rest of the CULT.

BOARDMAN, John, PhD: (Member #78, Periods 137-184) To date, the only person expelled from the CULT by vote of the Members. Although it's not the way he tells it, expulsion was for refusing to withdraw a threat to refuse to publish letters from certain other Members. The expulsion did not end Dr. Boardman's dispute with the CULT; approximately 80 Periods after his expulsion a Petition was presented to the CULT and duly passed by the Membership proclaiming that John Boardman did not have more rights than a grasshopper. It should be noted, however, that inasmuch as no grasshopper was involved in the debate no one was ever sure how many rights grasshoppers actually have.

BRANDON, Carl J: Historically renowned figmentary fan and CULT Member (Member #32; Periods 29-51), a joint creation of Terry Carr, Ron Ellick, Dave Rike, and other Berkeley fans. Carl served as OA during the Fourth Cycle, thereby making the CULT one of the few secular organizations ever to be ruled by a fictional critter. "Carl probably did as good a job as anyone else, despite the inevitable handicap of all non-existent persons." --John Champion

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX: You don't wish to know that information.

BREENMARK: Named after Walter Breen (Member #66, Periods 103-156), a prominent figure during one of the CULT's more ribald eras, this was an indication, usually an icon of a propeller beanie next to the name on the roster, identifying those to whom it might be considered Risky to send the more adult CULTzines. It has not been in use for several Cycles mostly because the outside world has gotten Adult faster than the CULT . . . but, with the rise of Jerry Falwell one never knows. The last Member to be Breenmarked was Aljo Svoboda (Member #117, Periods 287, 292-302).

BUCKET: CULTish vehicle to Hell, originally discovered by Bill Sarill (Member #55, Periods 72-76), who named FR 74 in honor of his discovery. Although the CULT has been eternally going Hellward in this conveyance, the closest it has gotten so far is Knott's Berry Farm.

CENTAUR: Means of locomotion for streetcars in a series of CULTfiction stories by George Scithers (Member #76, Periods 132-136, 157-present, Associate 137-156). Due to the energy efficiency and environmental safety of this mode of transport a proposal was submitted to the proper authorities for a grant to develop

commercial applications of this discovery. Unfortunately the Department of Transportation rejected the proposal on the grounds that streetcars were mythical creations.

- CLIFF-HANGER: A f/r at the last possible minute to save the publisher's Membership. The most consistant practitioner of the mad dash to the post office was Don Fitch (Member #72, Periods 122-253, 256-271, 273, 275-328).
- CLUT: A variant spelling of "CULT," invented as a typo by William C. Rickardt (Member #36, Period 30 1/2-71, 73-74) in the Third Cycle. It use was especially common during the Eighth and Twenty-fifth Cycles when the IWL numbered over 20 hopefuls.
- CRUD AND A MORAL SHIT, A: A perjorative used by CULTists when they were being descriptive rather than threatening (cf. OLD CULT JOKE). It has gradually fallen out of use due, it is assumed, to the ignorance of current CULTists rather than a change in circumstances that would vitiate its accuracy.
- CULT HYMNAL: A scurrilous, vile, and somewhat humorous publication brought out around FR 98, containing sundry new verses set to old tunes, dishonoring its author's current adversaries. Copies of this legendary and hard-to-get item are rumored to sell at high prices; inquiries should be sent to Bangs Leslie Tapscott (Member #59, Periods 80-226, 237-244). When last heard of, it was still considered Classified Material and unsuited for general distribution.
- CULTOON: A humorous cartoon of CULT Members at work & play, originated by Jack Harness (Member #22, Periods 22-104, 106-108, 113-133, 254-255, 263-270, 273, 335-338, 340-?, Associate 199-212) in FR 38. The typical CULTist, according to these, wears a long, monkish robe with a hood, and is Up To No Good.
- CULTSTITUTION: The governing rules of the CULT. The current version is TRC (The Ratified Constitution) first published in its final form as f/r 297.13 (22 February 1973). The most recent edition is the 21st (?) published in 1990.
- CULTZINE: A publication distributed by a Member of the CULT, Associate, or Waitlister to the CULT. The three official flavors of CULTzines are Fantasy Rotators (FRs), fractionals (f/rationals or f/rs), and Decimal Oscillators (d.O). The CULTstitution contains very specific definitions for each category of CULTzine.
- CYCLE: Thirteen consecutive Periods, beginning the day after the pubdate of the 13th Member and lasting through his next following pubdate. The First Cycle included the Periods FR 1 through FR 13.
- DIEHARD: Dian Hardison, the only Member expelled by an OA (for libel, but not of that OA, GHScithers), who at the same time appointed another Member to receive votes for re-instatement. None appeared.
- DISCLAIMER: A call which ostensibly disclaims a double-entendre or pun in conversation or correspondence, originated at the Fanhilton, a Slanshack presided over by Bjo Trimble and inhabited by various LA CULTists.
- DRAGON, THE: An unofficial CULTish mascot of sorts which made its appearance during the Twenty-third Cycle as a cover illustration on a FR and reappeared in various CULToons for several Cycles thereafter usually with an oblique reference to the original art. The original art was discovered on a coffee table in the apartment of Jerry Jacks and concerned an unclad male, chained to a wall, who was being warmed in an unusually sensitive area by a very small, fire breathing dragon.
- ELDER PROPHET: Denis Moreen (Member #3, Periods 1-29), the CULT's first OA, who dropped out of the CULT and fandom at the end of the Second Cycle and wasn't rediscovered until the end of the Twenty-second when he was contacted and drafted onto the Waiting List. Named such because of what he said he felt like when he received a history of the CULT in the mail. What he said when he found out he had been drafted onto the Waiting List was equally colorful.
- EXULT: Collective name for ex-CULTists. --GHScithers.

- FR PERIOD:** The Period of a particular FR, beginning the day after the scheduled pubdate of the previous FR (no matter how much later than the the scheduled pubdate that the FR might actually be published) and ending three weeks later, with (and through) the scheduled pubdate of the FR whose number the FR period bears. **FRed:** The FRed is the Member charged with getting the FR into the mail on the scheduled pubdate.
- HEAP'S DISEASE:** a complaint suffered during the Fifteenth Cycle and later. It is the issuance of too many f/ractionals (--Al Snider) or, alternatively, the use of too many typefaces (--GHScithers).
- IWL(er):** Inactive Waitlist(er). Those on the Waiting List who are not on the Active Waiting List. In the first two Cycles, the IWL was called the Unofficial Waiting List.
- KEEPER OF THE FLAME, THE:** GHScithers, the tireless recruiter who kept the CULT alive during several inactive eras. GHS replaced Walter Breen in Membership position #13 at the beginning of the Thirteenth Cycle (FR 157) vowing not to depart until the Bucket actually Got Somewhere. The CULT has yet to arrive and GHS has yet to depart.
- LETTER DEADLINE DATE (LETTERDATE):** The last day during which CULTish activity can reach the FR editor's eager clutches and still count for credit to the current FR. It occurs on the Saturday just before the scheduled pubdate of the FR.
- LOST AMENDMENT:** The amendment to the CULTstitution creating an award called the Vorz. Although proper language was drafted no-one has yet been discovered who will admit to knowing what it is. Members or Waitlisters who wish to create general ill-will by rediscovering it are advised that it was last seen in Terminus . . . or Fort Mudge . . . or Owlswick.
- MAD LIMERICIST, THE:** A plague that descended upon the CULT in the Twenty-seventh Cycle when someone began anonymously composing limericks of a derogatory nature about other CULTists. The limericks were so poor that no-one was surprised when Brian Burley (Member #125, Periods 329--?) admitted authorship.
- MENACE:** A person unappreciated by the rest of CULTdom. The most notorious person to so qualify was George Senda, a noted fannish felon and hot topic of gossip in the early 1970s. Eventually he discovered that, while Our Little Group lives up to its reputation more often than not, the CULT remains an organization of friends who have certain standards for admission to the fraternity. Senda departed one step ahead of a CULTstitutional amendment (never actually passed) to limit to one the number of Members with the initials "GS."
- NASTIEST BASTARDS IN FANDOM, THE:** Our Little Club. Research reveals that this appellation was coined by Bruce Pelz (Member #56, Periods 77-197, 201-236, 241-246, 248-271, 359-360) in a limerick published in FR 77. Though no longer completely accurate it still comes closer to the truth than imaginable substitutes.
- NITPICKING:** Standard or garden variety CULTac, "According to fannish traditions, the CULT spends all its time squabbling among itself about rules. Nowadays (c.1960) it doesn't confine itself to just rules."--John Champion. "Nor nowadays." (c.1967)--BLTapscott. "Or even today!" (c.1969)--GRHeap. "Especially today!" (c.1990)--GHScithers. Complaints about this have been found as far back as FR 8.
- NON-INTEGRAL VIBRATOR:** Another form of CULT publication invented by GHScithers. Only one of these was ever published, thank Crom.
- OA:** Official Arbiter. The sole elected official of the CULT. There was no OA during the First Cycle; the first OA, Denis Moreen (cf. Elder Prophet) wasn't elected until FR 20. The howling chaos which has accompanied each subsequent period during which the identity of the OA was indeterminate has almost convinced the CULT of the need for the OAcy. Almost.

- OC: Old Cultist or Original Cultist, a title borne by Ted White (Member #5, Periods 1-29, 30+1/2-123, 125-133, 135-138, 140-171) who was the last of the original 13 to leave the Bucket. Nowadays "Old Cultist" could be applied to Scithers, Rike, or Conlon, depending on how one measures oldness. This term has fallen out of use.
- OLD CULT JOKE: An exotic type of repartee popular during the halcyon days of Los Angeles CULTdom and the ARBM axis. Example: "Call me that again, and I'll kill your sister."
- OTHER MATTER: Although CULTish matter has, traditionally, been written, there have been occasional aberrations. These have included feathers (just add Ed Baker and tar), cacti (never actually distributed), slices of salami (cotto), film clips from strange pornographic movies, miniature figures (a wizard), packages of grape Flavor-Aid, the hard-cover book To Serve Man, and names badges from the Latvian Loganberry Festival. A suggestion that kittens might be distributed was quashed by an alert OA who noted that all f/rs must be essentially identical to be legal.
- OTTO MATIC, DR: The first computer program to apply for Membership in the CULT. He appeared on the IWL during the Twenty-fourth Cycle and seemed to be some sort of variation on the Eliza program altered to simulate the repartee of a Freudian psycho-analyst. Those who denigrate the efforts of those trying to create artificial intelligence should note that this one was smart enough to depart before it had to publish a FR.
- OUT: (var: out) No longer in the CULT.
- PERIOD: The length of time from the day after one FR's scheduled Pubdate to and including the scheduled Pubdate of the next. It was fixed at 2 weeks by FR 1, a wholly unworkable interval. Ted White suggested lengthening it to 3 weeks as early as FR 4, but the change wasn't made until FR 25.
- PRESS GANG: A CULTish recruiting party, usually sent out when the Waiting List gets too short. The name is derived from the method used by the British navy to man their ships in the 18th century which, although more gentle, does bear a certain resemblance to the methodology employed by various CULTists over the years.
- REVENGE!: A boardgame designed for the CULT by Jack Harness and last published as f/r 308.5007. The object of the game, played on a board that bears some resemblance to a double Monopoly board, is to kill off the other players. The title is derived from a rule that allows each player to reincarnate once.
- SCHEDULED PUBDATE: Although Ted White advocated firm, fixed pubdates as early as f/r 3+1/2 it was not until a tridecycle later that OAs stopped moving scheduled pubdates to cope with spectacular wuckups and the like. Nowadays, a FR may (with notice) be published as much as two weeks after its scheduled Pubdate; once it was 6 weeks. The scheduled Pubdate is the identifying date of an FR listed on the roster; it is the point from which the letter deadline and the allowance for late publication are measured. The fact that scheduled Pubdates are known well in advance is a convenience to Members who, with a glance at the calender, are able to determine when they will be next struck by some sort of catastrophe.
- SEANCE: A face to face meeting of a group of CULTists. A Seance is held annually at the Worldcon immediately after the Saturday evening festivities; all CULTists, past, present, and prospective are welcome. High spots of past Seances are 1971 when a frightened occultist chalked a pentagram on the door to ward off the demons we might be invoking and 1982 when we evicted a group of trespassing filksingers from the allotted premises.
- SECRET MASTERS OF FANDOM, THE: A term applied to Our Little Group by some of its more enthusiastic Members, mostly from the CULT's habit of infiltrating World Science Fiction Convention committees and other prestigious fannish

organizations. While the CULT often takes pride in these activities it should be noted that the Worldcons most fondly remembered by fandom are, for the most part, those done without CULTic assistance.

- SIXTY-NINE: FR 69, entitled "Cadillac Glory," was supposed to appear in the early part of the Sixth Cycle; it wasn't published until the latter part of the Seventh. FR 92 (John Champion) was entitled "69." In "The Complete Roster," Bill Donaho is Member #69 (Periods 109-123, 155-192). All reference to this mystical number in CULTzines are about these CULTic phenomena, of course.
- SMALL, UNINFORMED GROUP, A: Description once applied to the CULT by Alma Hill. A movement was begun to find a volunteer to go and pee on her, but it failed due to the comparatively high value placed upon urine.
- SPERMY MARY: A beverage discussed at some length in Eighth Cycle CULTzines. It would appear to be nutritious, but has little else to recommend it.
- STREETCAR: A mythical mode of mass transport frequently depicted as being powered by a centaur; from a distance they can resemble an old oaken bucket. In CULTish legend streetcars can often be found travelling a triangle bounded by Terminus (consult Encyclopedia Galatica for exact co-ordinates), Owlswick (Owlswick is in Buckinghamshire, northeast of London, in the triangle formed by Longwick, Kindewick and Princess Riseboro; Clanking is just across the valley, on the railway), and Ft. Mudge (Ft. Mudge is about 20 miles southeast of Waycross, Georgia, on the road and railroad to Jacksonville; its the last remaining name still on the map of a ring of forts built around the Okefenokee Swamp).
- SUNFISH, OCEAN: The result of the fusion of two ocarinas. There was a brief theological dispute during the Thirty-second Cycle concerning the ultimate disposition of the holes.
- TCR: The Complete Roster (--BLTapscott) not to be confused with TRC, a listing showing who occupied which of the 13 places on the roster from the Beginning, FR 1, down to whenever TCR was published; TCR was last updated and published by GHScithers as FR 364b wherein the only detectable typo was in the report of his own CULTish record. Until that edition it had been traditional to list Ron Ellick as CULT Member #0 as a CULTish mascot (Ellick was never a Member except as part of Carl Brandon); the practice was discontinued at the emphatic insistence of Peter Vorzim(m)er.
- TLC: The Legal Constitution (--BLTapscott) the 11th edition of the CULT's constitution (f/r 125+); as TLC II, the 15th, 16th, and 17th editions of same.
- TRC: The Revised Constitution (--GHScithers) the substitute for TLC II. Circulated (erroneously numbered) as T17E, The 17th Edition, in various drafts throughout the Twenty-third Cycle, the fourth draft (f/r 297.13) was submitted to the Membership by YaleF Edeiken, Aljo Svoboda, and Ted A. Johnstone and ratified. It was the first constitution actually put to a vote by the Membership since the fifth edition (FR 39+).
- TRIDECYCLE: Thirteen consecutive Cycles of CULTic time, ending with the equivalent of a centennial. The First Tridecycle ended 4 October 1965 with the publication of FR 169 (a four volume monster). The Second ended on 23 June 1975 with FR 338 (unmarked by any CULTish celebration). Assuming no OA will move any scheduled pubdates between now and then, the Thirteenth Tridecycle will close with FR 2197 on 11 May 2082. The Third Coming of Peter Vorzim(m)er has been prophesied for this time.--GRHeap
- TYPOS: The inevitable result of sitting at a typewriter hour after hour transferring the literary output of other CULTists to mimeo stencil or other publishable media. Several of the more imaginative examples have passed into CULTic lore and at least two Members have suffered semi-official alteration to their family names (Dick Smith, generally known as "Smtih", and Matthew Tepper, who endured several Cycles as "Ttepper").
- UNCLE DICK'S LITTLEST THING: FR 461, published by Dick Smtih, which has the

distinction of being the first FR to be published on microfiche. It also has the distinction of being the first FR to be published on illegible microfiche. This was most frustrating to the rest of the CULT which now had to obtain special equipment just to be able to not read it.

VORZ, THE: The only CULTish award, it is presented annually at the worldcon Seance. There were definite standards established to regulate the bestowing of this dubious honor, fortunately no-one will admit to knowing what they are (cf. The Lost Amendment).

VORZIM(M)ER, PETER J.: Our Founder and Spiritual Father, Who created the CULT on 29 August 1954. Although Vorzim(m)er was the Being Than Which None More CULTish Can Be Conceived, He gradually withered and gafiated. His withering took him OUT after FR 8; He Returned for FR 10, left again after FR 18, and wasn't seen again until the Twentieth Cycle. His Second Coming encompassed FR 251 through FR 262, during which He published one of the most magnificently illegible FRs on record and then departed vowing that He wouldn't. There was an abortive Third Coming during the Twenty-eighth Cycle when George Senda tacked Him on to the IWL without His permission. In a rare burst of understanding about the true nature of the CULT (indeed, perhaps the only time He evidenced such understanding) he wrote an impassioned letter to FR 364 defending his illegible publication and threatening all and sundry with Thunderbolts unless He was dropped immediately. He was retained on the Roster for another Cycle. Currently He teaches History at Temple University in Philadelphia and is the author of a book on Charles Darwin.

W & B: Whining & Bitching. The most common substitute for nitpicking.

WADING LIST: An early name for the Waiting List based on a typo in the First Cycle.

WO3W: Wide Open Three Way. A faaaanish practice of the 1950s originated by Redd Boggs, Dean A. Grennel, and Bob Silverberg who agreed to share all correspondence. In FR 1, Vorzim(m)er cited this arrangement as His inspiration for the CULT.

WULT: Collective name for the people on the CULT Waiting List.--GHScithers

YO-YO: Originally Bob Lichtman (Member #63, Periods 90, 93-113, 116-121, 123-130, 162-164), so called because he kept bobbing between Membership and #1 on the AWL because of a series of cliff-hangers and the like. It has since come to refer to any person occupying the first position on the AWL.

This is published by GHScithers from a disk provided by Meg Stull, and is based on the 20th edition of the TRC, published by Yale F Edeiken. Further proofreading is needed, and it is likely that one or two of the most recent amendments to TRC have been left out.

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