

HONNEUR

FR 142



RECEIVED MAR 24 1964

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HONNEUR SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE

FANTASY ROTATOR # 142

Published on the 16th (actually the 18th) day of March, 1964, by Don Fitch

THE ROSTER OF THE CULT

I. Active members

		wrote FR	141	142	Pubdate
1.	Bangs Tapscott, OA, 2216 E. Mercer, Seattle, Wash. 98102	y	f/r		27 April
2.	A3/c Gordon Eklund, CMR#3, Box 5994, Travis AFB, Calif.	y	n		18 May
3.	Dian Girard, Box 100, 308 Westwood plaza, L.A. Calif 90024	n	y		9 June
4.	John Boardman, 592 - 16th St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11218	y	y		28 June
5.	Ted White, 339 - 49th St., Brooklyn, N.Y., 11220	y	n		20 July
6.	Prentiss Choate, 1326 Blake St., Berkeley, Calif, 94702	nf/r	y		10 Aug.
7.	Fred Patten, 5156 Chesley Ave., L.A., Calif., 90043	n	y		31 Aug.
8.	Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, L.A., Cal. 90024	n	y		21 Sept
9.	Norm Metcalf, Box 336, Berkeley, Calif., 94701	n	y		12 Oct.
10.	Tom Seidman, Box 3981, BSRL, Seattle, Wash., 98124	y	y		2 Nov.
11.	Dick Eney, 417 Ft. Hunt Rd., Alexandria, Va., 22307	pub	y		23 Nov.
12.	Don Fitch, 3908 Frijo, Covina, Calif., 91723	y	pub		14 Dec.
COAL3.	<u>Walter Breen, Box 277, Berkeley 1, Calif. *****Y****Y****6 APRIL***</u>				

II. The Separated Brethern

- 1. George Scithers, USA R&D Group, APO 757, New York, N.Y. (Aug.)

III Active Waiting List

- 1. Bill Donaho, Box 1284, Berkeley, Calif., 94701 y y
- 2. Darrell Best, 115 S. Eighth, St. Helens, Oregon n f/r
- 3. Bob Lichtman, 6137 S. Croft Ave., L.A., Calif., 90056 - -
- 4. Bill Osten, 3914 Brookhill Road, Baltimore, Md. - -
- 5. Enid Jacobs, 3914 Brookhill Road, Baltimore, Md. - -

IV The Inactive Waiting List

- 1. Fred Lerner, 926 Fernald Hall, Columbia University, N.Y., N.Y. y
- 2. Owen Hannifen, 3056 1/2 Leeward, L.A., Calif., 90005 -
- 3. Arnold Katz, 98 Patton Blvd, New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11043 y
- coa4. Len BaileS, 1729 Lansdale Ave., Charlotte, N. Carolina y
- 5. Dave Van Arnam, Apt 353, 1730 Harrison Ave., Bronx 53, N.Y. y
- 6. Dick Schultz, 19159 Helen, Detroit 34, Michigan y

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Reinstated by OAfficial Decree: METCALF
 Dropped for failure to write: CASTORA, JOHNSTONE (AWL)
 Must write to FR 143: EKLUND, LICHTMAN, OSTEN. (WHITE's pages herein, having arrived after my deadline, are claimed as f/r activity towards FR143.)
 Added to IWL: SCHULTZ, pending OAfficial acknowledgement of application.
Next Publisher: WALTER BREEN (note coa above)

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DICK ENY

Begins here a Cultletter -- I was going to stencil it for you, Don, but I gather that you're going to do a small-format FR, lithographed or something like that. ((I was going to, reducing it to the extent of putting a 32-page FR on one sheet of 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ x11 paper (the pages then being slightly less than 2x2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches) following it with the full-size edition a few days later, but a clot of other people got into the dark-room first, and the press was in use. Maybe Next Time. DF))

Everybody seems to be getting into the act, so why not me? I hereby announce my candidacy for Official Arbiter of The Cult. Gosh, almost a third of the Cult running for joffice. That's almost as high as the proportion of the Republican Party running in New Hampshire tonight... ((I wonder what would happen if all 13 Cultists ran, and each voted for himself? DF))

SEIDMAN seems to miss somewhat the point of the protection of private property. The idea is that there are a number of things -- mostly covered by the Bill of Rights -- with which the government may not tamper on any pretext; it is obliged to protect them without claiming any return. Included are the rights of dissent, free speech and private property; the problem is just figuring out where falls the linge between the sacrosanct essentials of these rights and their fringe benefits. This is oversimplification and all that, and there's another problem in figuring out where falls the other line between honest defense of these principles and cynical use of them to cover misuse of political and social power to maintain injustices.

CASTORA excludes segregation from "actions which violate the rights of persons other than those performing them"? Xst, all this argument and nobody's ever explained to me that it's the Negroes that are behind the enforcement of segregation.

EKLUND, you are too ploddy apologetic about Nastiness (cf your replies to Breen and Castora). Remember where you are, man. ((Wasn't he being Sarcastic, or something? As I recall, his comments were not in the least nasty; they were simply straightforward and reasonably polite expressions of disagreement. Perhaps he was commenting indirectly on the tendency to consider any sort of disagreement to be nasty and unpleasant, to be avoided or apologized for. DF))

I have a suggestion for LERNER's little bio-engineering problem. With -- as Pelz pointed out elsewhere -- Kryptonite available nowadays in all sorts of decorator colors, it should surely be possible to find an elastic Kryptonite with which to fabricate a certain appliance purely for the prevention of disease. Let us know how it works.

One thing I didn't remark to BREEN about the "steam-engine time" argument is that some of the effect may be due to the tendency of members of the Deciseve Event school of history to ignore the importance of technological progress in the wide sense. West Europeans started transatlantic voyages as soon as they had ships that could make the trip easily enough for predictable round trips to be planned, not because it was Exploration Time; ((Or did they develop practicable ships because they had a Need to Explore? DF)) similarly, classical steam engines couldn't have been built deliberately because classical metalwork simply wasn't that good; the Greeks and Romans were not able to make pistons & cylinders that would hold pressure well enough to produce an effective steam engine. ((And, too, they had slaves to do the dirty (or heavy) work, and didn't need machines. Sorry for all these interruptions, but

there isn't going to be time for me to write a regular Cultletter in the near future, and there's no point in thinking of things if you don't say them. DF)) Even when Watt and his contemporaries were succeeding, they thought their mechanics were hot stuff when pistons and cylinders matched within a sixteenth of an inch.

BOARDMAN's story is extraordinarily satisfying; he caught just the spirit of awareness of the routine inconspicuous but vital relationships of a civilization that I tried to keep to the fore in concocting the Adrean Mythos. I think Schultz' production of an educated Neanderthaler is also meritorious (though John didn't visualize him that way, as it turns out). While not "good-looking" -- which is what I'd asked for at first -- Durrow is sufficiently interesting in his appearance to make it plausible that he might make out with Countess Kjerelle. By the way, the Royal College of Heralds of the Hyborian Legion is a quasi-real organization; that is, it has actually been mooted, though never formally established.

The story of mine -- Larry Stark is a real fan who went gafia several years ago -- is connected with John's in that they're both from the same mythos; that passage in which Durrow mentions Kumi Han and his students (at the Academy of Military Virtues) cutting out half a jump ahead of King Per61 the Phugghead's Constables is the homebody's view of the start of the 5357th's expedition to Ered Lithui. King Per61 wanted to nobble the cadets as hostages in the Civil war John mentions, not as criminals.

THE TAPE was a beginning experiment; the bursts of irrelevant musich apparently came from slippage in the tape system. I mad no attempt to assign voices to Cultists in any consistent way.

Perhaps you Cultists might like to know something about the results of the FAN POLL so far. All Cult members running for the committee are handily In, barring a startling upset. Fanzines having over 45 points for Best Single Pub are DOUBLE-BILL 7, HYPHEN 34, THE READER'S GUIDE TO BARSOOM AND AMPOR, and XERO 10. Those with over 60 points for Best Fanzine are AMRA, CRY, DOUBLE-BILL, ENCLAVE, G₂, KIPPLE, HORIZONS, HYPHEN, MINAC, SAM, SHAGGY, STARSPINKLE, XERO, and YANDRO. Over 45 points for Best Artist are held by ATom, Bjo, Cawthorn, Eddie Jones, Krenkel, and Steve Stiles. Similar scores for best cartoonist have gone to ATom, Bjo, Rotsler, and Stiles, with Ray Nelson barely short. 30 points for Best Fan Writer gives us Harry Warner, John Berry, Wally Weber, Bob Tucker, FM Busby, Walt Willis, and, almost, Calvin W biff Demmon. ahahahahaha! Best columns with 25 points or over are "Strange Fruit", "With Keen Blue Eyes and a Bicycle", Hwyl, Happy Benford Chatter, Less/More Gerber, CRY of the readers, Ramblings, Rumbings, and The DisTAWF Side. Very low scors so far in the category of Best New Fan. Those with at least 10 points for #1 Fan Face are Harry Warner, me, George Scithers, Bill Donaho, Wally Weber, Walt Willis, Ron Ellik, Ted White, and -- almost -- Buck Coulson. I note votes for me, but won't count them in the final results. Have you sent your ballot in yet?

Best & all,

Dick Eney

((As far as I know, I haven't even been sent a ballot yet. It's true that Things are Rather Confused around here, but I'd remember something like that because I like to make out polls &cet. I like to, even though it's somewhat unfair; I have never seen a copy of ENCLAVE, for example, and have only recently noticed a couple of references which indicate that it's a pretty good fanzine. I wonder how many of the people who vote for these zines have actually read them, and how many cases there are like the bit in SAPS recently where one fan is supposed to have announced that he'd given the maximum number of points in the poll to another member, and expected him to reciprocate. (He resigned, instead.) DF))

DAVE VAN ARNAM

I was quite pleasantly surprised to receive FR 141 and to find myself an IWler; I had been under the impression for about two months that I had subtly mucked things up somehow by writing to the wrong person or not writing the right thing, or something. Since nothing was said about my being an "obviously well-known fan," I'm flattered to think that I'm so obviously "obviously well-known" that is isn't even necessary to mention the fact. Somehow, though, I find this hard to believe.

The day after FR 141 arrived, I called up Ted White and asked him if he knew what the little plus-sign by my name signified (I suspected a possible Breenmark). But the other plussed names didn't seem to mean anything (as a group) either to him or to me. I sincerely hope it isn't the *choke* Breenmark, though. I've struggled all my life to attain my present position -- 28 years old, a bachelor, living alone -- and people still won't send me any p*rn*gr*ph*. Arghhh.

There seems to be a burgeoning mythology as to the size of the "V" in my name; I have been a fannish retreat (first incarnation 1951-53) for a couple of years now, and yet on those few occasions I spot my name anywhere it usually has that small "v" that is beginning to vaguely irritate me somewhere in the hinterlands of my vast but as yet largely unexplored ego. It could be worse; in the Army they used to call me Von Arnhelm. ...Von Tarnhelm...hmmm...whatever happened to Coventry?

Bruce sent me FR 138, which was highly appreciated, even...yes, even down to "The Source's a Prentiss."

Follows some clear, incisive shillyshallying about the Berkeley Blowup.

The thing that strikes me most is that no one has yet really produced a case one way or the other. First and foremost, I have read Bill Donaho's DNQ Open Letter To Fandom and find it singularly unconvincing and inconclusive.

I think Eney summed up rather well what was intended by the DNQ OL (tho in a different context): "The facts...are these: Walter has been carryin' on among the younger set in Berkeley for some time now..." and reports became "urgent and specific ((my emphasis. DVA)) after the DisCon..." And right here it seems vital to call for clearing up one point before this mess gets too inextricably knotted in invective: Is more damaging evidence against Breen to hand that was omitted from the DNQ OL, and if so, why wasn't it published? Certainly it couldn't be more tasteless and crude than the Poopsie Ellington incident (I don't speak censoriously; I merely describe the obvious reaction of most people, including myself to a certain extent because I have not as yet thought through all my attitudes on this sort of thing). It would seem unlikely that there could be any more specific and incontrovertable incidents to retail since, considering his reporting on the Poopsie incident, a) Bill wouldn't hesitate to publish shocking incidents, b) For most people, what could be more shocking anyway?

This, then, would seem to put us back onto the original document -- and am I the only person who feels that of all the adjectives one might choose to describe it, "specific" runs dead last for appropriate connotativeness? The Poopsie incident alone is truly specific, and yet the most descriptive term for it I come up with in Inconclusive. As for the rest, it is far from specific and seems mostly to rely on semantically and emotionally loaded presentation.

On the basis of the "evidence" presented, then, I can't understand why it was published in the first place. If from honest motives, then why is it that they admittedly couldn't bring themselves to tell Walter that he wasn't wanted (or even hint that at least he should desist from his objectionable actions, assuming there were such) -- but found it easy to deputize Donaho to tell fandom Walter wasn't wanted. They couldn't bring themselves to expel him from Berkeley fandom, but they somehow have found themselves able to bring themselves to expel him from the Pacific-Con. A very uneasy kind of honest motive here.

Why not, then, from dishonest motives? I don't find it inconceivable, that (in Eney's comment on MINAC 12) "the Con Committee is Out to Get Him ((Breen))." The admission on the first page of the DNQ OL that "When Breen first came to Berkeley, Danny Curran took an instant dislike to him"; and the otherwise puzzling inconclusiveness of the DNQ OL; these make it seem at least possible that a personal vendetta against Breen is involved here. MINAC 12 didn't convince me that this was the case, but they certainly had grounds for the initial suspicion.

Also. I well remember the old Nunnery days (tho the Dive was, to my sorrow, broken up about 6 months before I first came to NYC), and I find it extremely hard to believe that Big Bill has placed himself in the present situation out of firm intellectual/philosophical convictions of long and deep standing. And of course, he admits that he had grave doubts about censuring Walter's morals in the fashion in which he, finally, did censure them. Moreover, the Ellington's views on sexual morality did not permit them to stop Breen from playing with Pooopsie. And this business about barricading the bedroom door but not barring Breen from the house. In this sense, then, I don't see that Berkeley has a complaint. But they want fandom to do their job for them.

There is, of course, the hypothesis that Walter is an actual physical danger to children, that he might do something more than "cuddle" them, and that this is what motivated the DNQ OL. But here Dick Lupoff's criticism of the handling of the case takes hold. Assuming he is a real danger to kids, the clear-and-present obligation is not to simply shrug him off, to ostracize him from fandom and be done with him: the obligation is to see to it that he is either voluntarily or involuntarily put in psychiatric care, since the man would obviously still be a danger to non-fannish children. (To which I would add one important caution -- it would not be right or decent to simply hand him over to the gendarmes, presently to be put away for many years in some thirdrate hole run by uncaring incompetents; as fans we would owe it to a fellow fan to insure that the thing would be done right -- but this is all based on an assumption, which they haven't proven, at least to me.)

to

So that/the other questions relating to whether the DNQ OL was prompted by honest horror or by the spirit of vendetta, this insight is added: If Berkeley was really troubled by the moral question involved, why didn't they take the moral course of action, instead of smearing him to fandom. Assuming that he's guilty, they've still smeared him, since the proper course of action would have completely omitted the DNQ OL in the first place, and rendered the whole question of excluding him from the World Con unnecessary.

One last thing -- in the old days I had a great deal of respect for Bill Donaho. I just don't know what I'm supposed to think of him now. If he can prove this is not the direct result of a get-Breen vendetta, I'd still like to know how he considers the action he has taken as proper. So far the case against Breen rates a Scots verdict from me ("Not Proven"); and it sure sounds like a railroading.

.....Sigh. I have a couple pages of fannish comments on FRs 138 & 141; but somehow I don't feel in the mood for typing them any more. Of course, I could have typed the fannish comments first, but that would have made sense...

Dave Van Arnam

GEORGE SCITHERS

For identities of the characters in "Transfer Point", some were fairly specific, some sort of generalized. Gorm (the chap who was lost) isn't intended to be anyone specifically, but obviously is some or other active member or active waiting lister. Tugos is merely himself. The streetcar driver ("The outrageous slings and arrows") was Fritz Leiber; the tall man with a bristling moustache ("Very odd dialect, too; some would hardly expect to find South Turanians here.") was L Sprague de Camp. Red beard was Dick Eney; the slender young woman with black hair was Dian Pelz. The coins that didn't belong to Redbeard belonged to our shaggy coin-dealer, who is obliquely referred to elsewhere in the story. The short, sandy-haired youth was Ted Johnstone; the man with a diabolically pointed blond goatee was Scotty Tapscott; and the magician in black robe and cap was John Boardman (re his DisCon costume). And finally, the muscular guy with a broad-bladed axe is Geo Scithers (the muscles are wishful thinking); the axe referring to being Royal Executioner of the Hyporian Legion, and of course the bit of knowing that the car was equipped with a typewriter. And twice twelve, less three, is 21, which is an FR Period...

The mysterious bit about the Boardman letter is this: Boardman, in a recent Pointing Vector, listed Kennedy, the Rosenbergs, and Oswald as victims of "political murder"; he had their names (and a number of others) in a box on the front cover. I blew up-- enough is enough, say I -- and sent Boardman and Eney copies of a brief 'historical note', which described John as "'having' become more and more extreme in his political thinking, until his retirement to 'the smallest town in Ioway'", where he published his monumental work that reconciled the Principle about which Hiesenberg was Uncertain, Classical Relativity, and Multi-colored Magic. Boardman assumed that this bit of invective would appear in FR 141, and wrote a reply; since the copy to Eney was apparently eaten by orcs or something, Boardman's reply didn't make an awful lot of sense to Dick, who wisely withheld it.

And in reply to Ted White's accusation that Boardman has no sense of humor: Boardman does so have an excellent sense of humor. Unfortunately, (as far as I am concerned), he keeps trying to argue politics on logical grounds, whereas in fact it is a highly emotional exercise. I didn't see the disappreciation of Calvin Demmon, but I'd probably say that it was justified -- John isn't the only one who's found *Biff* less than likeable at close range.

Hoping you are the same,

George Scithers

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((And from another, actually earlier, letter from that very same George Scithers:))

CHOATE: In FR 140, you say that Castora, by his remarks in FR 138, shows himself to be almost psychotically out of touch with what the Negro is like, etc. In FR 140, you say that Tapscott's concern for Negroes appears as a meaninglessness. And finally, after inviting me to Tell All about how come I left Dianetics/Scientology, you decline to say a word on what happened to you. And finally, you say you shan't expect much ridicule when you submit the name of Hubbard as one of the five most important humans.

Sir, you are like unto a Walnut ice-cream sundae on a hot day; nutty, shifty, and very gooey when one attempts to pin you down.

BRUCE PELZ (now one has to specify which one): Your point about the desirability of playing Diplomacy by mail -- perhaps that's why summit diplomacy for real has been such a shitty mess, as compared with the respectable, old fashioned method of dealing entirely through Ambassadors.

DIAN ✓ GIRARD: "Capsulated Cultist: Ted White" is very good. More, more.

JOHNSTONE: Well, at last the Scotty/Ted feud is running down -- and just in time, what with all the fights Choate seems determined to stir up. The Black Adept sounds to be a lovely title -- hope the result is as good.

FITCH: This "steam engine time" is a fascinating concept, particularly because some inventions so nicely follow the notion, while others flatly violate it. F'r'zample: the steam engine. Apparently, people kept trying to invent the thing repeatedly throughout the period centered on the 1600's and 1700's. The big stumbling block appeared to be the problem of making a boiler strong enough to hold an appreciable head of steam. Newcomen invented a steam engine in the 1600's in which the power stroke came not from steam pressure, but from the partial vacuum produced when a cylinder filled with steam was cooled with a jet of water -- obviously, little steam pressure was needed for such a device. Subsequently, James Watt invented a steam engine in which the power was derived both from the pressure of the steam driving into the cylinder and from the partial vacuum produced by a separate condenser. Still later, another chap finally invented the simplest -- what we think of as the typical--steam engine -- one in which the steam is exhausted from cylinders into the air, without bothering with a condenser and the vacuum obtainable therefrom. The reason for this order of development was simply that until boilers could be made which were strong enough to carry something like 40 to 60 pounds per square inch of pressure, a good vacuum was needed to make the contrivance work at all. With high pressure boilers, the vacuum became a smaller and smaller percentage of the total pressure available, and consequently, bulky condensers could be abandoned. The steam engine, then, is very much of a "steam engine time" kind of invention.

The concept that positive and negative electricity are opposite manifestations of a single electricity, instead of two different kinds of electricity, is another example. The first device that allowed people to store and manipulate static electricity in any quantity was the Leyden jar. By a series of lucky coincidences, Ben Franklin saw a demonstration of a Leyden jar within a couple of years of its invention. Within a year after that, he had come up with the theory. At the same time, a chap in England, working independently, came up with the same idea. Yes, very much "Steam Engine Time".

But the Leyden jar itself? It could have easily been invented by the Romans or, with a bit more difficulty (glass was more expensive then), by the Greeks. And why did the phonograph wait until Edison to get invented? The Greeks could have invented that too, if they'd a mind to -- all the mechanical elements could have been assembled then. ((But the Greek orientation was not towards the particular sort of curiosity which led to the manipulation of things, and the invention of machines, any more than was that of the ancient Chinese. Their speculation were turned in a different direction. DF)) In theory, the telegraph could have been invented in Classical Greece too, but it would have quickly died -- metal for wires -- indeed, the techniques for drawing metal into wires -- were not available then in sufficient quantity. But the electric telegraph could have been invented and put into use decades before it was.

As for the semaphore-telegraph, de Camp showed that it could have been put into practice in late Roman times with the story "Lest Darkness Fall". But, for that matter, the Assyrians or the Egyptians could have invented and used the semaphore

ARNOLD KATZ

It's been a while since my last letter, and I feel that I should do something to deserve all the Cultzines that I've been getting.

AVANC

DARRELL: You're not kidding when you say that you missed a point here and there in the Cult. Uh, Darrell, old man, you must have led a pretty wild life if you couldn't tell that Dian was a girl. Like, usually two boys don't get married very often, not even in the Cult. There are a couple of hints just as subtle in recent FRs and f/rs, but far be it from me to rub it in when a Cultist flubs the dub.

TED WHITE: I don't know John all that well, either, but I think he has a very fine sense of humor. He also seems to take kidding very well, or has on the six or seven occasions that I've been able to observe him at close range. He even took some riding on Dian's piece (all right, stop laughing. Disclaimer) without getting all steamed up about it.

ENID & BILL: Congratulations, both of you. Hope your mother, Enid, gets over her ideas about fen. Hate to think of perfectly good fanzines getting ripped up.

MARSHALL (when a Cultist says it's Marshall, not General, then...) AVANC was one great job. It would be nice to see some others do zines as ambitious as this one. I got a real kick out of the play, so much so that I only cried for a half hour when I found out that I wasn't in it. Can I take a little poll of the Cult? In this iconoclastic, non-conformist, and imaginative group, how many played the other side of the tape just to see if there was anything there? No fibbing, now. I did, and enjoyed it nearly as much as the play itself. Your are very creative, Dick; the way the typing and guzzling sounds come in lends an entirely new dimension to the music. ((Apparently the reverse side of my tape was similar to yours, if not identical. DF))

TYRO

Aw, Darrell, you didn't really copyright this, did you? I don't think there are many fanzines that are worth copyrighting, but to each his own. This wasn't too bad at all for a first issue, and you shouldn't be so modest. At the very least, it was well reproduced.

SWEET THING

Thanks for sending it, Scotty. Breen's cultfile in the hands of the cops might not be too good a thing when you really think about it. Now if it were FBI or Secret Service, it wouldn't be too bad; they're pretty educated guys, but local police are often misfits who can't make it anywhere else. Not always, but often enough to make it Bad News if they get a set of Cultzines without a friendly Cultist (all right, that is a contradiction in terms, but you know what I mean) to tell them that those hooded figures aren't KKK men, and other niceties of Cultania. Perhaps, Walt, you would allow us to help you lose your Cultzines for the duration of this thing?

Wultly,

Arnie the K.

TOM SEIDMAN

Here it is, Firday, the 13th -- quite an appropriate day for writing Cult letters. I had thought to put out an f/r but got lazy at the last minute & figure this should still get to Don before the deadline.

One item of interest from these parts is the recent defeat (in Tuesdays election) of a referendum measure for open housing. It reminds me of an old Chinese proverb I read somewhere that a man with nothing but a branch of prickly mimosa is better armed than one armed only with a just cause. On the whole I supported the measure -- not because it was good (I can think of several major changes I would make in it -- & which, I hope, will be made before re-submission) but because, once it was introduced at all, it should get the greatest possible vote to establish the principle for future reference and as a protest against present abuses. By and large, the law which I would like to see would be addressed specifically to the licensing of real-estate agents (providing for depositing a bond to be forfeited, along with a 1-year suspension of license, in case of proved discrimination in listing &/or showing houses) and to licensing of multiple dwellings (with over, e.g., 10 rental units-- or, e.g., cabin-style groups comprising 10 or more rental units) (similarly prohibiting discrimination in renting, lease terms, etc., the rent from any unit(s) involved being deposited (along with an initial bond) to some fund and actual damages being collectible by the aspiring leasee). This would leave an individual free to try to sell his house privately (without using an agent) under any terms he pleased & boarding houses & such would not be affected. Such a measure should have a far better chance of passing as this should cut away a lot of the real-estate lobby's support. ((It would cut away mine, though I don't feel that I'm supporting the real-estate lobby just because I'm opposed to some aspects of a bill to which they are also opposed. DF))

A couple of comments on the Breen-Donaho imbroglio which bodes fair to involving the Cult in a highly emotional hassle.

(1) "Unorthodox" "Sexual" relations (whether homosexuality, pederasty or only (sic!) premarital fornication) are not a priori harmful or even undesirable so long as the possibility of exploitation of one of the parties is avoided -- as in any "love" relation one prerequisite is a mutuality, a feeling of responsibility toward the interests of the "other".

(2) In our society such relations must usually be clandestine and incur substantial social sanctions if discovered. Hence, the likelihood of eventual "damage" is great and, especially if one party is a child (with insufficient experience to assess the probable consequences), the responsibility is great. It is at this point that I might disapprove of Walter's actions, assuming they are essentially as reported.

(3) I have no reason to believe that this Con Committee had any information unavailable in previous years or any reason to suspect a greater likelihood of incident at the Con -- certainly there has been no complaint in the past. The committee's action would seem, therefore, unjustifiable. (As yet I have neither seen BOONDOGGLE nor heard from Breen & am going mostly on hearsay and past acquaintance.)

(4) As to the Boardman motion to dump Donaho, I don't like the idea of replying to one "exclusion act" with another, but will, meanwhile, await further information.

Tom Seidman

BILL DONAHO

AVANC 6 was a Cult zine what am a Cultzine. It should spark up quite a Cult revival provided more flamboyant current events son't swallow up all discustion...

FITCH: The country's all right to visit, but I wouldn't want to live there. City environments are often noisome and unattractive but they are a source of both stimulation and people which the country seldom duplicates.

I understand that Rick Sneary coined the term "gerberize" when Les was "defending" some Australian fan against Boyd Raeburn.

ENEY: I don't know why 85 Monroe St. was named Axel's Castle. I sort of vaguely remember that Dave Van Ronk thought up the name but I wouldn't swear to it. There is a book of essays by Edmund Wilson with that title, but I don't know whether or not 'tis a coincidence.

Oh, I don't think Ted was "lying". He believes it. Like if he doesn't think that certain actions are such-and-such, he doesn't care what the law says, they're not such and such.

SCITHERS: Thanks for the run down on the Savoy Theater. However, I disagree with you re the Mikado's dominating the stage instead of KoKo. I'd like to see such a performance just for variety, but I don't think that it corresponds to the original intent and also don't see how it could happen unless the guy playing Ko Ko isn't very good or deliberately plays the part down. ((Play down in G&S?! DF))

EKLUND: Your comments on Jefferson and various comments on the South floating around in the Cult, not to mention various comments to Boardman, remind me of a quotation from And Tell of Time by Laura Krey.

And Tell of Time is a sort of Texas Gone With the Wind (almost as long, too) and in some respects is much better. Mrs Krey is a member of the genuine plantation aristocracy of the South and presents its views on the Civil War, Reconstruction, etc. about as persuasively as they can be put. Which isn't too much so. However, the Southerners are all vivid and real and you can't help liking them and thinking of them as decent people.

Anyhow, the following conversation takes place at one of the last "caucuses" before the carpetbagger governor is thrown out and the conservatives are overwhelmingly successful:

"Authority." he snorted. "That's a word I plain hate. The matter with the Yankees is, they like it."

Colonel Rutherford smiled. "Mr. Jefferson, if I recollect aright, Titus, shared your aversion. "But," he observed, smiling more broadly, "I never noticed, in reading about him in office, that he minded exercising authority himself. You're kinda like him. I expect we all are. Authority is all right, provided we exercise it." He sent an interrogative glance around the group. "No harm in seeing ourselves straight, is there?" There was a ripple of appreciative laughter.

Bill Donaho

WALTER BREEN

First off, some CULTURAL business. Note my new address: it will last awhile, I believe. Note also that I will be publishing late -- most likely a week late, but not impossibly worse. But I will be publishing, as I now have access to a mimeo. # What mean the plus-marks beside various members, awlars & iwlars? # I abstain from voting on reinstating Metcalf.

ENEY: Strange you should quote Busby; he has gone over completely to the Donaho faction, even to the point of turning over all my letters to the con committee -- including those marked DNQ. I ceased giving him any more information after I found out that the DNQs were being broadcast from Seattle to NY to England; after which time he became far more cantankerous with me. I also wonder if he supplied the copies of TESSERACT which got turned over to the fuzz.

You surprise me. "Axel's Castle" refers either to Edmund Wilson's book of lit'ry criticism of the same name, or to the original A.C. of Villiers de l'Isle Adam, notorious for the line "As for living, our servants can do that for us."

"The facts, in brief, are" quite different from what you claimed. You, like TW & Gerber, seem to have assumed that the Boondoggle was factually true. It is, in fact, a concoction of outright fabrications & lies, together with some Berkeley Stories (significant initials -- and, as Fitch has said, too artistic to be believable as they stand) and a great many instances of viciously slanted exaggerations and distortions. Even Alva Rogers gave Donaho the lie direct on one particularly foul claim -- at the very kangaroo court hearing at which you say I had a chance to protest. (Put it more accurately: at which I refused to play their silly game.) Nor has Boucher been collaborating: he was called in, and reacted then & later quite otherwise than expected. But verb. sap.

LERNER: To the list of betterthanKipling shortstory writers our erstwhile OA provided, let me add Saki, A.E.Coppard, and the author of "Specialty of the House".

SCITHERS: But wasn't the Bachish "interweaving" deliberately written into the score by Sullivan at the "Bach interwoven" line? I've heard it in other recordings of "Mikado", so it doesn't sound like any interpolation by the conductor. Harry Warner could doubtless settle the question in a moment. ((Or Bruce Pelz. DF))

EKLUND: It might be an interesting game at that, though one might have to distinguish between "influenced our own lives" in person and through writings. The fun then would be to find out whether any two people named the same person. The personal acquaintances who influenced me the most were Guy Pickard, now deceased prof of history at Cushing VA Hospital's rehab&education section, who started me thinking in different categories and accelerated my departure from papist nonsense; Ted Newport, mulatto ((Is that Significant? DF)) poet at the same hospital, who awakened me to literature and humanism; Kate Brackett, poet and mistress, who awakened me to *woman*; Les Gerber, who brought me into fandom; Ted White, who awakened me to jazz. By their writings, though, I would have to name Walter Kaufmann (Critique of Religion & Philosophy), for rousing me from dogmatic slumbers, Robert Graves; W.H.Sheldon; B.Russell; George Orwell. Those are influences, not favorites, let me add hastily.

Best,

Walter Breen, XIII

FRED PATTEN

Things seem to be all snafued again as to publishing schedules. Eney published late, Fitch will publish late, and with the current hooroar about W the B hitting fandom just as Walter is about to be laid up for an operation on his pubdate anyway, FR #143 may never materialize at all. (Deep breath, now.) Actually, it's not so much getting my FR's late that hurts, it's finding out that non-Actives are getting their copies before I do. I read Ron Ellick's copy of FR #141 two days before getting mine, and Ron's not even on the IWL, fercryingoutloud! I believe in being magnanimous to the peasantry just as much as we all do, you understand; but at the same time, rank does have its little privileges, and I feel that we should continue to show a firm hand on this subject in order to keep the rabble in its place. Après nous, le deluge. (Qu'est ce que Tarzan a dit quand'il a vu le deluge venait au haut de la colline?) (("Merde!"? DF))

Congratulations, Dick; AVANC will doubtlessly be the high-spot of this cycle. The Schultz and ATom illos seem to have been drawn especially for this material. I don't know how you got them, but try to get more. The fiction is all good, with George's action-whimsey my favorite. The Akrean story sounds quite Coventranian with all its familiar place-names from well-loved sources; what plot it bears could've bee lifted straight out of a Campbell editorial. Any chance of follow-ups to these -- especially to George's incident on the TO&FMESR?

I speak on the current Breen business from the position of an interested bystander only, as I haven't seen any of the notorious publications (BREEN BOONDOGGLE, MINAC#12) myself, or talked to any of the principals. Thus, my only knowledge of the affair comes from reading this AVANC, or from talking to fans who've talked to Walter or Donaho. Third-hand information, at best, which is not the most reliable kind; but I suppose it puts me in the same position as a large part of fandom, which is apparently being asked to make a Decision regarding Walter without any better information. First, as a peace-lovin' fan, I resent Fandom being plunged into another War, and I'm wondering whose fault it is. What, exactly, are the charges against Walter, as distinct from any runors that may be floating around? If they're what Owen and Pelz tell me, are they true? Assuming the worst of the charges and rumors are true, and the Pacificon Committee had to bar Walter from the Con for its own good, did they have to go about it this way? According to you here, Dick, the committee gave Walter a chance to protest its action; Walter did nothing; the Committee expelled him. If I'm reading correctly, it means that the troublemaking public denouncements didn't come until Walter had already been expelled from the Con, and had more-or-less agreed by his silence to accept this expulsion. This, to me, puts most of the onus for Starting Trouble on the heads of the Berkeley group, and they do seem Out to Get Him. In fact, af all I've heard on this matter so far, not one word is attributed to Walter himself. So while Walter's personal sexual tastes might be at fault as the groundwork for this disturbance, Walter seems to be the innocent, injured party in regards to the feud itself. As you point out, Dick, Walter's tastes have long been known to all of us. Is there any pertinent reason for their sudden springboarding to Fandom-wide prominence? If not -- and if Walter was willing to accept expulsion from the Con without putting up a fuss -- why did the Con Committee deem it necessary to start such a fuss and furore over a matter that seems to have been, in effect, already settled? I don't seem to be entirely In the Picture here; I'll be interested in following further bulletins.

BEST: Kuttner's "The Graveyard Rats" was reprinted in Phil Stong's The Other Worlds, an old but extremely good anthology containing a fine selection from the pre-WWII pulps. Possibly the best anthology until Healy-McComas and Conklin came along after the war.

LERNER: Heinlein's "They" also appeared in Pratt's Worlds of Wonder, as I recall. A complete listing of all reprints from UNKNOWN would probably be long enough to satisfy someone's FAPA page credits for a year. ~~##~~ The streetcars out here (before they ripped 'em out) had doors on both sides. The system was double-tracked, and you entered and left by the right-hand doors facing the direction in which the car was travelling. I'm thinking of the old cars on the 5 line that went right by my house, not the newer cars they used on some of the lines closer to downtown LA. Tempus fugit, and all are gone now; replaced by buses which help produce smog and don't seem to go nearly as fast. The 5 line had its own right-of-way down the middle of the street. The city asphalted it over when the switch to bus service was made, which added an extra traffic lane in each direction on the boulevard. But the buses have to fight the rest of the LA traffic now, which doesn't help matters any. The trolleys may not have been flexible, but they were dependable.

EKLUND: The name of R. Creighton Buck shall always remain in my memory for his delightful line about "a Mr. L. G. Jehovah, of Kansas City".

It's late & I'm sleepy. So long for now.

Fred Patten, VII

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DICK SCHULTZ

Let's get on the stick thar, eh?

I write this in anticipation of the usual Fitch delay in Publication. And what lateness, you ask? Why, in pubbing the next FR, that's what!

Yes, yes, yes, it has finally occurred. Feeling flush with good will and bursting with a plentitude of happiness, I've decided to join the lush quiet pastures of the Cult. ((You're Putting us On! DF))

I've notified Tapscott of my request to be put on the waiting list. And I will endeavour to comment on all fanzines reaching me.

I was going to comment on AVANC#6 to you to print, but I think I'll send it to Eney instead. ((It's that ~~not~~ bad? DF))

Have fun.

Until that great day in the future when we all get obliterated, I remain...
Yho hble & obt svt,

Dick Schultz

NORM METCALF

Tyro #1, f/r 141.1 - Darrell Best

I certainly hope you do relate your experiences while traveling around the world. ((One of these new self-contained portable tape recorders would be useful. DF)) So if you are holding back because no one seems interested you have at least one interested reader. ((Two. DF))

I see that you're well aware of what you're getting into by joining fandom. It seems better this way than to have someone arrive with illusions and then have them shattered.

Your idea of forming CRAP has been anticipated. Try to have Pelz send you a history and bibliography of the organization some time. ((It would be better were Pelz to publish it. DF))

Avanc #6, OpCrif CCXLV, FR 141 - Dick Eney

BEST: Henry Kuttner's "The Graveyard Rats" was in Weird Tales for Mar '36. It was reprinted in Phil Stong's The Other Worlds. (25 Modern Stories of Mystery and Imagination in the reprint edition was in larger type than The Other Worlds) and in Groff Conklin's The Graveyard Reader (a Ballantine paperback). If you want to make a movie out of it Ted Johnstone would probably be glad to help. But how do you plan to get it past the censors? Sex is something they're allowing these days, but genuine horror seems to be O*U*T.

WHITE: If you're wondering why I dropped you from the Cult, I suggest you read the Constitution. (The same goes for some of the other jokers now in the cult.) To quote:

"ARTICLE II. Correspondence Requirements 1. The general correspondence requirement for the Cult is as follows: one letter or its equivalent to at least every other FR. The following are considered to be equivalent to the requirement: (i) a substantial postcard to every FR; (ii) original artwork, to every other FR; (iii) written material or artwork published in F/Rs during at least every other FR period."

Since your telegram wouldn't cover much area on a postcard and you hadn't anything in the previous FR out you went.

LERNER: As for short story writers who have surpassed Kipling I'll nominate Talbot Mundy, Conan Doyle, Poul Anderson, Robert Heinlein, John Buchan, Eugene Manlove Rhodes, Dashiell Hammett, H.H. Munro, and with looking through some anthologies I can no doubt find quite a few more. (The ones I've listed are not in order of my esteem but in the order in which they occurred to me.)

You're right -- streetcars aren't as flexible as they might be. I found this out the last time I tried to bend one over my knee.

CASTORA: I don't know how you ever lived without my index. But now that you mention this does raise a question....? ((sic.))

PATTEN: Thanks for all the additions and corrections to my listing.

Boucher's "The Ghost of Me" is in Judith Merrill's Beyond the Barriers of Space and Time (which is what you were trying to think of). And yes, "One Man's Harp" was omitted from the BRE of From Unknown Worlds. Okay, I finally remembered where Miller's "Over the River" appeared -- Derleth's The Sleeping and the Dead.

TAPSCOTT: Some time back you mentioned about Cultzines lacking such proper enclosures as live baby alligators... . Gentlemen, the Post Office is actually on our side. A new addition to the Postal Manual concerns itself with directions for shipping live alligators.

ENEY: That's very excellent mimeography you did on my letter. How much do you charge for giving mimeo lessons?

Regards,

Norm Metcalf

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((In a letter dated 6 Mar 64, Metcalf wrote to Tapscott and Fitch:

... "Four days in advance of Eney's FR I airmailed two stencils to him. On the same day the backing sheets were mailed to Tapscott in the traditional method of proving that a member had written. ... What it boils down to in my estimation is how much time we're supposed to allow the Post Office. I consider four days a reasonable length of time for an airmail letter to reach the east coast. ... " ... Metcalf

In a letter dated March 7, 1964, Tapscott replied, in part:

"... Your arguments for saying that you ought not to be dropped aren't all that convincing. It's true that I did receive the carbon-sheets from your stencils to Eney; it's also true that I don't remember what the postmark date was. ... you did write, that's true. But the Cultstitution and tradition both dictate that Cultac must arrive before the deadline in order to count; the fact that past and present OAs have been lenient about this doesn't change the rule.

You had three weeks in which to mail your Cultac to Eney. You also know as well as I do that "Written material is credited for the FR period in which it is received." By waiting until the last minute to get the stencils off, you were taking your chances with the PO and you knew it. Therefore, I don't believe you have any legitimate claim that you were wrongfully dropped.

Nevertheless, in view of the fact that you did write, and on stencil; and in view of your past record (which I cited the last time I reinstated you), you are here-with Oofficially reinstated in your original position. That makes twice this cycle. I suggest that you not push your luck again, either with me or with whoever is next OA. If you want to stay in, write on time. "

Yhoa,

Scott I

Which takes care of that, I guess, and yos Prentiss Choate back down to the top of the AWL, and Bill Osten to the depths of the IWL, albeit the higher depths thereof. It's lots of fun to publish an FR and Play God -- I may gafiate any minute. This is my second time around, and you'd think that by now I'd have enough sense to gather together well in advance a bunch of filler material in order to avoid having to fill up blank spaces, such as this would have been, with natter even more meaningless and insignificant than the usual CultLetter material. *Sigh.* -- DF))

PRENTISS CHOATE

Add notes on Blitte #2: I have just been informed that Bill Donaho personally delivered a copy of BOONDOGGLE into the hands of the police; and that he has been making regular visits to the police to furnish them with any further information that comes into his hands. So Please be careful! ((I've been told that someone delivered copies of B'LE & TESSERACT to the police, though presumably not MINAC 12 or any substantial number of Cult- or C.R.A.P.-zines. As far as I know, I haven't violated any laws (except grammatical ones) in fanzines, except maybe a statement here and there which might be considered libelous, but then I'm not the sort who likes (or needs) to see how much he can get away with. DF))

ENEY: Dick, I understand sooo well your charge of idiocy among Scientologists. When I read something like Castoroil's letter in AVANC I want to crawl under the nearest mattress and swear I never heard of Scientology. I just happen to think past lives is not such an idiotic hypothesis, and I never asked yall to believe it, just to consider it for a moment.

I don't know where you got your consideration that Scn. was a faith-healing racket; I don't have to know, I can guess, because I know what kind of Kooks mosquito-swarm around any movement that's sufficiently far out, and that such types have been the hair shirt of Scientology.

Hadacol doesn't "work": work should be defined as having more efficacy than a Placebo. As to whether Scientology does, nolo contendere; you are speaking out of a vast reservoir of no data, and my assertions carry no weight.

DON: I want to keep this short so you'll publish me, so some brief comments and a fuller discussion in a later letter to Breen. I agree re the Negro older generation; I feel the same way about the white older generation in the main. Occam's razor is the reason I accept reincarnation; it's the simplest theory that explains all the data. I accept your point that Hubbard's contribution remains to be seen. (Incidentally, there is an error in my peice in FR 140 -- of the 34 names suggested, only Paul's appears more than once, not twice.) Eney seems to have understood the difference between action and an overreaction; an overreaction is a response inappropriate to the situation in which it is used. ((Or an "incorrect action"? DF))

I did not mean my criticism of Scott's personal attacks to disqualify his arguments; I thought I described them as well taken and beautifully put together. ((I realized that, Too Late. DF)) But TAPSCOTT, now that I've said the worst about you, may I also say that I've noticed you usually try to be very fair in your rulings; with a couple of exceptions, your actions are more generous than your words.

I think it will be very nice to have you a puffet gennulmun for a while, but don't think you need be on my account. Hassle, scream and argue just as viciously as you want; only always keep in mind that your target is the other guy's arguments, not him as a person.

I know I have violated this myself in the case of Donaho. My only alibi is that he has made a direct attack on someone else as a person with intent to damage him as much as possible; but I still feel guilty about retaliating in kind.

Goomy.

Prentiss Choate

JOHN BOARDMAN

The brief contretemps between George Scithers and me over the contents of the cover page of Pointing Vector #19 has died down, and I see no point in resuscitating it in the pages of the Cult, which has much more controversial matters to discuss these days.

I would like once more to solicit support for my petition to expell Donaho from the Cult's waiting list. If he is to conduct private trials on the basis of allegations about Breen's sex life, then next will probably come private trials based on allegations about my or Castora's political beliefs and actions, or whether Tapscott's cussedness or Dian's spike-heeled soliloquies represent mental instability.

Walter Breen is, as everyone in fandom knows ((except me. DSF)), seeking legal redress against the libel Donaho persists in circulating about him, and now about Marion. If Donaho persists in publishing to fandom these attacks on Breen, as he has told me he intends to do, this can only lead to court action. The Cult has traditionally rejoiced in its freedom of expression, and I've enjoyed personally all the W&B in our publications. I would not like to have this tradition endangered by the possibility of postal or judicial scrutiny of these writings at some future date. Donaho is responsible for this, and we ought to show him our appreciation by ejecting him.

Of course, at any time Donaho abandons his attacks on Breen, publicly apologizes, and restores Breen's convention membership, I shall be happy to withdraw this ouster petition and Perdita and I will reinstate our own convention memberships.

ENEY: As always, yours is the best FR in the cycle. The Cult would live by taking in each other's washing were it not for the original material introduced each cycle, principally in Avanc. The only criticism I have is that, when you lift up a typical issue of Avanc, about half a dozen small items fall out.

People in the car with the President report that he was facing forward at the time he was shot. And, I hear, that windshield has finally been brought in for study by the Warren Commission. Governor Conally was, however, seated in an odd position ... check the medical report of the wounds he suffered from the one bullet that hit him.

Re: yr. comment to Castora, canonization does not take necessarily more than 100 years. Not too many years ago in Italy there was canonized a little girl who'd been raped and murdered. Her mother was present at the ceremony -- as was her murderer, whose reformation and rehabilitation was regarded as the new saint's principal miracle. ((Careful, there; you'll be giving Breen or Donaho Ideas. DSF))

And in ancient times a popular outcry of grief at the funeral of a man who'd lived an exemplary life was considered enough to attest to his sainthood. There was talk of reviving this canonization procedure for the late Pope John XXIII. But there's no need for Roman Catholics to canonize him -- the Protestants and Jews will do that.

Wot's "yarst"?

And ~~what~~ was the ideology of "Axel, the Sinister International Conspirator" of the pre-war "Little ~~Orphan~~ Orphan Annie"? To judge from Harold Grey's present point of view, he probably regarded the Axis as a bulwark against the Reds, and was most disappointed when the exigencies of Weltpolitik made it necessary for him to give his villains

German accents. Even in this day and age I have heard people seriously try to tell me that the United States fought on the wrong side in WW2.

BEST: Tyro was a good first effort -- far better than Pointing Vector #1. New York neos now planning their first fanzines could take a tip from you -- vide Judy Sephton's execrable productions.

WHITE: You forgot another use for the multiple opener -- it can also be used to peel shrimp.

A joke is explicit criticism -- sometimes justified (in which case I'm quite ready to laugh) and sometimes not (as with Demmon humor). One of these days Demmon will tell one of his Famous Funny Stories, and some neo will say, "But the Emperor doesn't have any clothes on!" Demmon will promptly vanish into thin air.

ROTSLER: "I was raised on red pepper and blood..." Josef Stalin's favorite tippie was red pepper and vodka, though rumor has it he wasn't averse to (figuratively) blood. Allegedly Russians often drink pepper in vodka to take out some of the impurities introduced by home distilling.

CASTORA: You assert that Tapscott's "Without legislation there's no hope of bringing about a change in education to eradicate the prejudice" is preposterous. Care to back up that summary judgement?

PATTEN: According to Joe Pilati, Gh. M., "Zacherley's" real name is John Zacherle.

ENEY: What reaction have the Akrean Tales evoked from those who Came In Late?

SCITHERS: I enjoyed "Transfer Point" immensely. For some reason it reminded me of the little red Pacific Electric car I used to take once a month from El Monte to Los Angeles. I hope you'll excuse my reminiscences at length, but I'd like comments from some LA fen on what changes may have taken place in those parts since the late 1940's.

In those high and far-off times I lived about a mile east of El Monte, and some two blocks off the PERY line which ran parallel to San Bernardino Blvd. Every fourth Saturday I would load up a shopping bag with 28-day books that had to be returned to the LA Public Library (the one with all the pretty colored lines on the floor) and board the PERY at Cogswell & San Bdoe. Sights along the way included the former site of El Monte High School (abandoned after the Great Quake of '32), the trackless wilderness of the Rio Hondo riverbed (dry 11½ months of the year), a beautiful view of Mark Keppel High School (our traditional rivals ... this was a year before Rosemead High was built), and a hillside vista of one-story stucco houses which I understand was the Jewish quarter of LA. The train eventually, after a 55¢ ride, pulled into a dilapidated station about half a block south of the Burbank Theay-ter (is that still in existence?), and I walked over to the library, stopping betimes in Pershing Square if there was an interesting demonstration going on. That being the summer of the Wallace campaign, there usually was. (I understand that nowadays the only kind of demonstration which occurs at Pershing Square is the kind the police call "indecent exposure".) If I didn't get too engrossed in the library, I would go out for a large 65¢ lunch at Clifton's, the only restaurant even in LA which has a waterfall down its front.

Presumably the PERY is no longer in existence, and the semi-rural character of the San Gabriel Valley through which that line traveled has since passed.

EKLUND: Since the Warren Commission began sitting, it has conceded one point after another originally made by Mark Lane. First Warren reversed himself and said that there would be no need to hold testimony secret for decades. Then the Commission reversed itself again and appointed an attorney to defend Oswald. Then, after having originally rejected Lane's brief, the Commission gave him an opportunity to testify at length on his finding. At last report the Commission has even examined the famous windshield, which the FBI pulled out of public scrutiny shortly after a reporter saw a bullet hole in it.

And I didn't say that "left-wingers don't do things like that"; I referred specifically to Communists. Or are all left-wingers identical to Communists with you? ((With me, at least, they are no more identical than Conservatives are with Right-wing Extremists of the John Birch Society sort. DSF))

Jefferson on electoral systems? Jefferson, that great friend of democracy, wanted to disenfranchise the urban working class as potentially revolutionary. With friends like that, democracy doesn't need enemies.

Fortunately, this didn't turn out to be an agrarian nation, and we put together our political institutions as we go along, without regard for either Jefferson's or Hamilton's preconceptions.

BREEN: The fiction of Imperial suzerainty, as assumed by Karl I and Otto I in western Europe, was just that -- a fiction. The reality, by contrast, was found in Constantinople, which enjoyed the continuous rule of a legitimate succession of Roman Emperors from the beginning of the 4th century C.E. to 1204 -- and also enjoyed a higher state of civilization than any other nation in Christendom. The "Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation," which survived in one form or another until 1918, was just a bright idea by a few Popes and overly-ambitious sword-swingers.

And don't count the Byzantine Empire out even today. Upon the death of his father, King Paul I, the Diadoch Constantine took the title of "Constantine XIII". And his Greek title, "Basileos", is the same as that borne by the Komnenii and Palaiologoi.

WHITE: I wasn't talking about the flags of any nations. I was referring to a star-spangled saltire borne by a gang of rebels, slavers, and Pirates. ((Speaking of pirates, hadn't we better start tearing down the Jolly Roger when we see it displayed on automobile radio antennas? And maybe we can start a Blackball Movement against Bill Blackbeard, who features that flag blatantly on the cover of his Shadow FAPA zine, Queen Anne's Revenge. DSF)) The swastika flag is forbidden to be sold or displayed in New York City because it is deathly offensive to the city's Jewish population. Do you feel that you are living in a "police state" because of this law? ((I understand that such a law was recently proposed in L.A., but the people who came out against it included some of the more liberal members of the Jewish community, who said, in effect "today the swastika, tomorrow the Star of David." A similar law came very close to passing in Santa Barbara recently -- forbidding the sale or display of the flag of the United Nations, which is deathly offensive to a large segment of the population up there. DSF)) The rebel banner should come under the same ban. The one flag says to Jews, "You ought to be dead", and the other says to Negroes, "You ought to be enslaved."

SEIDMAN: Further details follow on the boycott after the situation clarifies.

Stay well,

John Boardman

LEN BAILES

Doesn't anybody pay attention to CoA's around here? I wrote Seidman about it and that was two FR's ago. ((1729 Lansdale Dr., Charlotte, N.C., 28205.))

Anyway, I'm down here in this veritable garden spot. The BFI ((? DSF)) has annexed two more members down here. Ignorance marches on. Hey George, want to join?

Three cheers for Dick Eney! Not only did he take pity on a poor IWler and send me that monstrous FR, but when it looked like I had lost in the mail he offered to send a duplicate. You don't find them kind anymore hardly. And even the tap recording he sends yet! ((I'm sorry to see you acting so nasty and Cultish this early in the game. You do know, don't you, that you have thoroughly humiliated Eney by revealing to the rest of the members that UnCultish action? DSF))

As far as the Breen bit goes, I think the position Tappscott advocates in his FRactional is certainly the most reasonable. By the way, Scotty, my name is spelled with an S at the end. Lord knows I have enough trouble with people who try to put an "O" in my first name without that to complicate matters. ((Our OA has his troubles, too.))

Surprisingly enough, I have seen nothing down here which smacks of Racial Prejudice. And there is a March being organized by Negro and White students. I guess Charlotte just isn't one of the Trouble Spots in the South. The High School kids seem to be fairly openminded on the subject, too, and the school is integrated. I did have one experience, tho. My English teacher was lauding the groups from the various religions which keep "Trash" off the streets. ((Magazine and book-stands? DSF)) I quietly and restrainedly asked her who gave them the right to determine what was trash and she replied that anyone could SEE what shouldn't be allowed. I then asked her if she was advocating that the Church take on governmental powers. When I got home that day, I found out that the Principal had called and branded me a "dangerous influence." My mother had a hard time restraining herself from laughing. Imagine, me, 5'3" bespectacled Len Bailes a dangerous influence. My, my. I must remember to keep from spreading blasphemy. ((You might remember to keep from spreading Cultzines, too. DSF)) I pretty much expected this sort of thing in the South, but what surprised me was that the corresponding bigotry doesn't seem to go with it.

SCITHERS: As you must have surmised by this time, there are others who grew up in the First Animal Republic. Too bad you're not eligible to join ECPA. You're stationed in WEST Germany, I believe. ((I hope so. DF)) As far as the quality of the series goes, I would rate it below the Dr. Dolittle books but above things like Miss Pickerill and such junky SF as Lucky Starr and Kipling. (AAagh, Lerner, put down that grenade.)

I hope all you people (well...and Cultists too) will send your FRs winging this way. Also, if anybody has doubles of Seidman's FR (or Tom, if you have an extra copy) I'll even pay cash for it to keep up my consecutive string. (All of 5 issues.) ((Five? Humm... when your letter arrived, I thought "Gee, when did he get on the Waiting List?" But then, I haven't been Paying Much Attention to the Cult Recently.DF))

Urendi Maleldil,

Len Bailes

FRED LERNER

On to AVANC, the best of the cultzines I've gotten since I got on the IWL. Dick Eney seems to be talking with more sense than anyone else on the Bherkeley affair. I can't see much sense in boycotting the Pacificon because the con committee took comparatively mild action to protect itself, and, incidentally, to protect the reputations of a lot of people whose names would be linked with Breen's if some sort of major scandal developed among the Earthlings. But dropping Breen from the committee and "kicking him out of fandom" (if that is possible) are two separate matters. Any attempt to do the latter will bring on the largest fandom-wide feud of recent years. ((So it would seem. DF)) Why can't the people in Bherkeley call a moratorium on public pronouncements, agree that it would be better for all concerned to leave Breen off the committee, and cease all activity directed at barring Breen from attendance at the convention or eliminating him from fandom? ((Perhaps I'd better not say anything about that being a loss of Brownie Points. But I guess I can mention that as far as I've heard, Breen was never on the convention committee, so that's not a bone of contention. DF))

I liked the stories in AVANC, especially "Transfer Point". "The Cult Caper" was amusing, but I don't see what it was supposed to prove. (But then, to quote from Eney, "Pray tell why should you be any better off than we?").

SCITHERS: Thanks for the list of "Freddy the Pig" books. I just began a rereading of the entire series. Want to join the BFI? I like your idea about spice and the waitlist, but then I have a vested interest.

T. A. F. N.,

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Fred Lerner

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"However, an extremely flirtatious young lady-in-waiting named Lady Shonagon, without any warning, showed him into the chamber where the two sisters were sleeping. Since he had, from the start, felt a strong liking for the elder sister, he picked her up in his arms and went inside the curtained screens, carrying her. Her alarm was such as might be expected under such circumstances, therefore I shall not write about it. "

---from the Tsutsumi Chunagon
Monogatari (11th century)

More than the old days
When I knew you not,
My heart is badly distracted
This morning,
Like tangled green willow branches.

"We might reassess Bach the unconscionable absentee and nonconformist, forever in hot water with Rectors, Councils, and Highnesses, writing long official alibis for his sine of omission and commission. The raging Bach who while conducting hurled his wig at an offending musician, and the choleric Bach who insulted an obnoxious scholar in the street and went for him with his sword. Then there is the mulish young Bach whose pig-headedness got him thrown in jail for a month when he defied Duke Wilhelm Ernst of Weimar. I must confess I'm rather taken with the picture of Bach as an ex-convict, and I would also like to know a great deal more about the Bach who at twenty was discovered in the choir-loft with the "strange maiden." Poor Spitta was so upset by this last episode that he wrote whole pages in a desperate try to make it legal, insisting that this girl later became Bach's first wife, though there isn't a shred of evidence for the notion."

"As you are probably aware, certain critics might accuse you of simply rummaging the Bach sources for anything discreditable."

"I might confess to that -- but only if they confess that they find "discreditable" what is in fact wholly human. Biographers have no business shocking easily, and I'm prepared to go even further. I observe that Bach also had a deep streak of the apparently necessary callousness with which genius keeps itself from being swamped by the more bathetic human sympathies." ...

"The summer he was sixteen, Bach hitch-hiked to Hamburg...in the course of the trip, he was standing one day near an inn, extremely hungry, when a window opened noisily above him and a pair of herring heads were thrown at his feet. Bach picked them up and found a Danish gold ducat in each. ... Bach's unseen benefactor, or benefactress, had made him a present of at least fifty dollars, a very handsome handout indeed. You'll note that Bach obviously felt he had it coming to him, making no attempt to return it to its source. Of course, he was not the first -- or the last-- poor but likely youth who has had to explain a sudden access of wealth to a cynical world. And if the tenderness of his years distresses you in this context, recall that this was a picaresque age and read Tom Jones -- or at least see Rosenkavalier."

"The real scandal about Bach is an intellectual one, and it deserves a book to itself. It is the story of his professional apprenticeship, and I suppose you could say that its moral would be that genius is always horribly unjust to mere talent. It would examine the way Bach imperturbably made a triumphant and wholly Bachian music from the awkwardly realized creative agonies of lesser men. He was perhaps the greatest transmuter of substance in the annals of art, and in this activity he exercised no more morality than an alchemist. "

..."Bach lived with his older brother, who had a collection of clavier scores that he kept locked in a latticed cabinet. At eleven or twelve years, Bach defied his brother,...and spent six months copying them in secret...his brother discovered the completed copy and appropriated it...I don't think his action was punitive in any sense. I think he was worried to death. He was the first man on earth who had seen the incorrigible will of Johan Sebastian Bach. And he had seen it under the most chilling circumstances possible, in the eyes of a child...I think the boy was already irritated to distraction with his predetermined function as an anonymous unit in a clan -- with his unavoidable attendance at the incredible Bach family reunions, for example. I ask you to imagine them: dozens of people all named Bach performing each other's almost indistinguishable compositions amidst a beery welter of clanging harpsichords, bawling infants, and bad Thuringian puns...I think that..the boy...had already resolved to stop being a Bach, and to become the Bach.

DON FITCH

A FANZINE REVIEW

THE GREAT BERKELEY BREEN BOONDOGGLE, #1. 8pp plus flyers (2?), ditto. From Bill Donaho, P.O. Box 1284, Berkeley, Calif. 94701. Presumably free, but also, presumably, the edition is now exhausted & if you want a copy you'll have to borrow or steal it.

PLEASE NOTE WELL: This review is based on two quick glances through copies of the zine, for a total of perhaps 15 minutes, which is not nearly enough time to make an adequate appraisal of the contents of something as important as this; it is quite possible that I have misinterpreted some passages, and have overlooked some completely. Also, some of the remarks which follow will be based on more recent information from various sources, some of which may be incorrect. Since I started thinking about this review a month ago, my attitude has changed considerably, and probably will change farther, in the future, so please note that this is a reflection of my personal opinions in early March, 1964.

BOONDOGGLE, originally sent out to about a dozen people, then given a much wider circulation after the DNQ on it was lifted, apparently was intended to be several things, and does not seem to be conspicuously successful at any of them, perhaps due to an unfortunate addition of emotionalism to a case which might better have been presented dispassionately. It begins as a request for advice, describing (in lingering detail) 4 specific instances (all backed up by the names of eyewitnesses) in which Walter Breen engaged in activities usually described as "child molestation", then announces that unless convincing arguments to the contrary are brought before the Convention Committee, Breen will be barred from membership in the Pacificon II, because of the large number of juvenile monster fans expected there. Finally Donaho announces that he intends to perform a surgical operation and cut Breen off from fandom.

At first, I was Incensed and Indignant at most of this; I have heard a lot of Berkeley Stories, and admire their Artistic Polish, but do not really believe most of them, having observed in L.A. the way in which Stories can build up and reinforce an Image which has very little correspondence to Reality. I felt, in short, that Breen couldn't possibly be that bad. Apparently, however, Donaho and the Convention Committee were able to present enough concrete evidence to the Convention lawyer that he advised them that they would have to exclude Breen, or be ready to share legal responsibility for any untoward action on his part at, or as a result of, the Convention. The Committee apparently felt that the probability of Something Happening was so great that they could take no other course of action, despite the storm they knew it would arouse.

I have a considerable respect for Donaho's psychological evaluations of people, but in a situation such as this, I would prefer a somewhat more authoritative professional opinion; I do not find it easy to believe that someone I've met a couple of times, and whose writings I've enjoyed (though often disagreed with) in fanzines, is a dangerous sexual psychopath. The evidence presented, however, seems to be sufficient to almost require such a professional opinion.

A number of questions puzzle and rather bother me, however, and I doubt that even a thorough reading of BOONDOGGLE would answer them. What were those people in Berkeley who are now so outraged doing then? Did none of them stand up and say, either privately or publicly to Breen, "Stop that!"? (There is a large group which believes that he was telling the truth when he said later "Why didn't someone say something? I'd never have dreamed of doing it if I thought anyone objected.") How, under any circumstances, can this situation have continued to exist for over four years, if it is as bad as is claimed? Do the people realize that by standing by (or sitting, drinking beer and talking about philosophy and religion) and doing nothing to stop these situations as they occurred, they bear much of the responsibility for ensuing actions of a similar nature, and for the present Spectacular Mess? Am I wrong in the impression I have

HOT R NOC
DINATA

gained that the Policy is to bar Breen from membership in the convention, and cut him off from fandom (perhaps a somewhat autocratic attitude to take towards people who like to think they can think for themselves), and accept no further responsibility for him -- to consider that "It's ok with me if he Gets Into Trouble, or molests small children, as long as he doesn't do it around here."? Is Breen really a dangerous sexual psychopath? Are people who consider him to be one mistaken? Or is this merely (as one person who dislikes him is quoted as saying) "a handy club to hit him with"?

It seems that a large number of people are convinced that Breen is dangerous, and a large number are convinced that he is not. It would appear to me that those who believe him to be a threat to himself and to others have a social obligation to do more than Talk About it, or Publish Fanzines; they might consider persuading Breen to have himself committed for psychiatric observation and (if indicated) treatment, or, failing in that, to take action to have him committed, before he gets into the really Serious trouble they seem to expect.

I suppose it's only a matter of time until someone's patience wears thin, and the D.A. and/or the manager of the Convention Hotel receive an envelope containing copies of BOONDOGGLE and MINAC #12 (a defense of Breen by White & Gerber) and I do not enjoy contemplating the probable results. I do not, in fact, enjoy contemplating the probable results of any course of action I can visualize in this situation.

The Convention Committee was probably wise in bringing this matter, which they assuredly must have realized would be an unpleasantly explosive one, to a head this far in advance of the convention; by next September it is probable that the fandom-wide split will have healed, the feuds will have burned themselves out, people will be more than a little ashamed of a lot of the things they have said in the heat of the moment, the air will be clear (as it usually is after a Big Storm), and the Convention will be an enjoyable time of fellowship and reconciliatinn.

I sure hope so, anyhow; I'm still planning to take a two-week vacation at that time, & I guess I'll go up to Berkeley, though I am observing with some interest the present tentative plans for a dissenting sub-Con ("They'd call it a "rump Con", but people might get the Wrong Idea"), but I don't know... I have visions of a Convention heavily salted with Plainclothesmen ready to pounce if anyone under 21 picks up a can of beer, and with hotel officials popping into the rooms of members to Check on Things (and maybe discovering the floor covered with unauthorized sleeping bags). I probably won't stay at the Leamington, even during the Con weekend, and I have a feeling that I've just made so many people mad at me that I won't be welcome for two weeks in any Bay Area fan household. *Sigh.*

-oOo-

By the time I've been in fandom for another two years I should be able to make a chart by means of which I can predict the stand any particular fan will take on an issue, if I know the position any other fan has taken. Here's how it works: when some Major Issue comes up, fan A takes a certain position. Fan B automatically takes the opposite stand, and C goes along with him because he always does. Fan D takes the side of A, because E is a friend of B (who has said "You're stabbing your Old Pal in the back if you don't support him in this"), and E gave D's latest fanzine a poor review. F,G, & H take the side of E, partly because they like him, and partly because they dislike D; J takes the opposite side, because he lives in the same city as F,G,&H, and never does the same thing they do, because he doesn't want to be considered their satellite, and so on and on throughout fandom. So very few people seem to look at the issues involved; they react on an emotional basis, largely in connection with personalities -- and even that is mostly done on a secondary level, rather than with the individuals primarily concerned.

-oOo-

TED WHITE

I have hopes you'll not edit as heavily as has Eney -- he cut entirely an Encapsulated Profile on Dian Pelz which might've sparked some changes in the present bicker-snipe circuit -- especially as I feel the need to Say Some Things. ((Ok, but I think you're going to make an ass of yourself on a couple of points. DF))

MINAC #12 was not mailed out in one swell foop; postal costs, and our lack of same, dictated two mailings over a week apart. And until recently we hadn't the necessary for #13. However, that issue is now in the workks and will contain a good deal more on the Breen Business than I feel like going into here, so what I say here should be read in light of my other statements on the subject. I'll confine myself here to Eney's curious treatment of the case in FR 141.

It is a rather sad thing to observe someone so set in habitual reaction-response patterns that when situations change he is unable to so alter his responses. Recently Eney and I have found ourselves on the same side of the fence at least twice (once in FAPA, on the Martin affair, and now -- from between-the-lines evidence in FR 141 and what Walter's told me -- on the Berkeley-Breen-Boondoggle), but you'd hardly guess it from the way he has taken advantage of the present unhappy state of affairs to sharpen his old axe against me.

I presume the SIC SIC SIC is intended for wider distribution, and its intent is obviously not to make any constructive comment on Walter's problems. Eney should remember that private correspondence is and remains the property of the sender, and that he, like Busby in turning walter's letters to him over to the Con Committee, is treading dangerously thin ice in making any disposition of such correspondence which is a) done without the consent of the sender, and b) might be construed as injurious to the sender.

Be that as it may -- and I for one am not even thinly veiling any threats of legal action; I don't hold with such stuff -- Eney is resorting to thin word-play in his latest attempt to make me out the True Villain. Both statements are substantially correct. The first related solely to the charges in the Boondoggle -- the charge of child-molestation is not proven -- and if the second is supposed to contradict the first it is only because in whatever letter of mine Eney reports to be quoting, I did not specify the fact which Walter also told me about his first "affair": it was not sexually consummated, and lasted only the space of a single weekend, years ago.

(My first affair with a girl occurred with a child of four, with whom I committed several obscene and indecent acts in the woods behind our house. However, before anyone charges me with child-molesting, I should point out that I was the same age as she.)

While in MINAC we did not say Walter is "pure as the snows of Helicon," we did point out many of the inconsistencies in the attack against him, and refute as many points as personal knowledge would allow. We've since found out the entire bedroom scene at the Rogerses, and subsequent "barracade" was also constructed out of whole cloth by Donaho, and the lie given to it by the Rogerses themselves, for instance. I do not think any defense of Walter need go past two cardinal points: 1) the charges in BOON DOGGLE are falsified either wholly or in part; and 2) they are irrelevant insofar as Walter's attendance at any convention is concerned. This is our stand, and I don't believe that if Eney feels it is necessary to defend Walter in any respect that there is any call for him to knock this defense.

As far as the business about the con-committee's motives, well, I don't know. Donaho has been (along with Walter, ironically) one of fandom's biggest gossips for years, and the most charitable light which can be thrown upon his motives would suggest that this simply went to his head. ((Wouldn't it be even more charitable to assume that Donaho actually believes that Walter is Dangerous, and ought to be Put Away? That might entail believing that Donaho is Mistaken, but that shouldn't be difficult. DF)) That he is, along with certain other Berkeley fans, indulging in a vendetta is not open to question, however. His entire handling of the episode makes this unmistakable. ((Well, he could be both mistaken and inept. DF)) And he has continued his campaign of villification, now including Walter's Bride-to-be, Marion Bradley, in the smears. One of his staunchest supporters, F.M. Busby, has stated that he considers Walter "A Shit", and that the entire campaign is richly deserved.

On the other hand, any linking of Anthony Boucher with the campaign is apparently without justification. Walter tells me Boucher has gone out of his way to be friendly to him since the dirt began flying, and has had Walter to his house.

It is curious that Eney says my statements, if picked up by the Berkeley Police, would cause Walter trouble. There is nothing in MINAC which goes beyond BOONDOGGLE (and the most explicit sections of MINAC were not written by me), which was apparently mailed to over 100 fans and pros. A copy of the BOONDOGGLE is also in possession of the Berkeley police. One guess how they got it.

So much for that. In every other respect this is a superior FR -- easily the best of this, or any recent cycle. I plead guilty to not yet reading the fiction -- however good it may be, I find my occupational disease is now a shudder at the sight of any fiction not presented to me in published print -- not excluding my own.

When Dave Van Arnam was over here last Tuesday, we played our tapes. They were identical on the first (Cult) side, and on the reverse appeared to be recordings of Eney listening to music over a radio or record-player, and periodically typing in accompaniment. I'm glad I had the transcript to follow the tape with; despite generally good editing, there were some tough transitions in several places. I'm quite pleased with the, umm, lines Eney gave me; both Dave and I thought them among the funniest.

I'll forego comments on the letters, except to say that I was surprised to find the Metcalf pages so underinked as to be nearly unreadable (but if he wants to petition, I'll sign for him). ((I found one side to be completely illegible. DF)) And I cast a vote for Boardman's proposal to oust Donaho, despite my general opposition to such tactics. It seems to me that Donaho will not cease and desist until he is truly made to know exactly how little fandom thinks of him for this business -- Donaho for TAFF in 1965, hah!

Yhos,

Ted White

((Good job I published late; your letter was postmarked on the day of my deadline, and arrived the following day, undoubtedly through some error on the part of the Post Office. Since letters are credited to the FR period in which they arrive, I suppose this one counts as writing to/for FR 143, or, more precisely, that this pages counts as a f/r, mailed with FR 142. Let's call this sheet, then, f/r 142.1 -- but maybe you'd better get a ruling from the OA, just in case. DF))

BRUCE PELZ

It has been said by any number of people that the amount of interest a fan has in an APA can be measured by his participation therein. On this basis, it appears that Eney is more interested in the Clut than anyone else. Now if we could just figure out why... .

Eney: After all these years, you still wonder when Johnstone gets his foot stuck in his typer? Good grief, I'm only surprised we haven't been treated to a blow-by-blow description of his married life!

I assure you I was not speaking in favor of sweetness-and-light when I advocated Underplaying things. I was and am simply in favor of less bashing about with hammers, tongs, and slapsticks and more subtlety in attacks. The latter, though perhaps not at all effective on one's target, is at least aesthetically pleasing to the audience — and I'm sure you'll admit that one doesn't expect even the hammers etc. to be effective on one's target, since the target is obviously steadfast in his ignorance/stupidity/etc.

White: You're correct on the matter of the artist of All-Star #37's cover. According to Bails's index, anyway, Irwin Hansen did the cover. Naydel did covers on #'s 27-32.

Scithers: You are partially right about the Savoy "Mikado." Though the Mikado himself is the primary stage figure when he is on, Ko-Ko is still the main character in the operetta. Everything hinges on Ko-Ko: it is his idea to trade Nanki-Poo a bride for his head, and also his idea to phony up the death certificate. The Mikado is simply the Deus-ex-machina, the force that makes someone decide to do something. But anyway, you're right: D'Oyly Carte does a great "Mikado," and as I can't come over there to see it, I'll have to get them to come over here again.

Boardman's Akrean story is a good introduction to the world, and I'd like to see more of such stories — how about more from you, Eney? Or will you just let John Boardman play Johnstone to your Stanbery? Seriously, I did like the story. (One nit to pick with Schultz's illos: he got the people seated wrong at the table.)

Scithers, on the other hand, ought to be shot! Akrean Cult Fiction!!?? Aaargh!! But it reads well, and I did enjoy it, so I guess he should be applauded. And then shot. I, as you might expect, particularly enjoyed the Transfer bits.

Eney, your excerpt was good, but too short. Background for the composite unit? More excerpts — longer ones?

I played both sides of your tape. The one with "The Cult Caper" is fun, but the other is more commentable: it had a couple selections from a record called "Sing a Song of Sickness," and I didn't think anyone else had ever heard of that thing! One of the two guys who wrote the songs (Milt Larsen) lives in central LA, and has a fabulous collection of old cinema material — in addition to a private movie theater complete with a beautiful and huge orchestrion! Eney, if you liked that record, have you heard the other one the same two guys did: "Smash Flops"? I didn't care for it as well as "Sing a Song of Sickness," but it has some good bits.

Mmph. I see Scithers has heard the Slanders & Fawn record, too.

George, I have not declared a vendetta on Alan J. Fuggead for having a vendetta against Tapscott. Mine came first, and I'm using his to bolster mine, in that I think I can get other people to see that AJF is an Unuseful character to

have around. Also, by bringing the bit about AJF trying to get Tapscott blackballed in FAPA out into the Cultish open, I figured I might be able to put a spoke in his wheel. Pity he's already a member... .

Breen: The term "Gerberize" was invented by Rick Sneary in connection with Gerber's defense of Boyd Raeburn in CRY, ca. 1959.

I dropped in a Tapscott blackball last year out of personal dislike, not for his publication of THE CULT HYMNAL. I have always thought that songs and cartoons were the dirtiest way of fighting, and I appreciate an efficient dirty fighter. What my opinions would be if these were aimed at me, I don't know. However, I find it quite easy to dislike Tapscott and still want to see the CULT HYMNAL rejects. Perhaps Scotty would consider a trade of said rejects for other "Songs Not For Now."

Eklund: I have been annoyed by that Harness cartoon implying McQuown is/was a Nazi ever since it was published. The problem is that the information that filtered through to LA on the subject came from Rich Brown, who was with him at Tyndall, but was not particularly supported by Mike's Cultish writings.

Lerner: If I were asked to write that article on Homo Sapiens for the Encyclopedia Britannica of ten thousand years hence, and were limited to 1000 words, here's what I'd say: "Dear Sir: Get someone else to write your bloody article."

Allen Sundri: If you will permit me to bring up the subject of Ayn Rand once more, I would like to reprint part of an article from UCLA's Daily Bruin. It is by Norman L. Hartweg, and appeared in the criticism section, "INTRO," on 4 March 1964. It comes a lot closer to saying why some of Rand's ideas appealed to me than I — or anyone else, so far — have done.

...the problem lies in our assumption that the public needs to be educated into tastes for something other than the Beverly Hillbillies; this is true but incomplete: the process of so educating the public (which is, after all, us, isn't it?) will be undertaken against the will of that public (of which the success of the Beverly Hillbillies is ample and frightening proof) which, rather than be led toward culture, will have to be dragged into it kicking and screaming. They will ride forth, in fact, "in defence of ignorance," do battle to maintain it. One has nightmares of little red eyes like those of rats, glittering out there in the darkness, waiting to drag down and devour anyone pretending or aspiring to levels higher than those the rats deem acceptable. And in this they have the all too unaware support of people like Orville Prescott of the N.Y. Times, Robert Kirsch (or is it Kitsch?) of the L.A. Times, and the aforementioned Prelutsky. [Another Bruin reviewer, against whom Hartweg inveighs, saying Prelutsky is afraid to set Standards of excellence for the movies he reviews. Prelutsky's vaguely anti-"Strangelove" review got him labelled as a Reactionary — by the reactionaries themselves...BEP]

Now then: I must run the terrifying risk of having the same thing happen to me as happened to Prelutsky, therefore let me make it clear instantly that I abhor the curious little woman about whom I am going to write, and her whole system of ideology. Nonetheless there is a pulse of reaction against this enshrinement of mediocrity, and one person who has her finger firmly on it is Ayn Rand.

Ayn Rand is a writer of hulking novels which are no more than vehicles for her odd ethic of the Dollar and the Ego. No reasoned evaluation is necessary to dismiss these "works" out of hand; and yet, horrid an admission as it may be, she compels from her vast and eclectic readership the going for her, a something compounded of many little things we have forgotten long ago or have had pounded out of us by the rats.

In her "novels", one point she makes (in reference to the foregoing) is that in a sense it is quite necessary for standards to be degraded and the mediocre enthroned. For standards are in themselves a recognition of value differences, whereas the egalitarian ethos insists that there are no value differences, and certainly not between people. Thus anyone who nudges greatness seems, by the very act of doing so, to lessen all of us who are nowhere near doing so: by being great, he makes us small. The simplest answer to this threat is to prevent him from achieving that greatness, or so it seems to the rats, who believe that it is not a man that is great but his works; while this is fallacious, it is viciously effective in that it can keepius from receiving those works as a result. The undistinguished by its very prolificity becomes the norm and from thence the standard against which all else is judged; and whoever would stand in contrast to that norm is deemed harmful to society and is thereupon suppressed. Man differs from the animal most precisely in his ability to judge qualitatively, and when he refuses to do so he quite effectively blurs and/or destroys that which separates him from the rat.

For it is the rats among us who are gaining the ascendancy and wreaking the havoc we all deplore yet feel powerless to prevent. It is the rats who riot at Ole Miss and unleash the dogs in Birmingham, who wreck disarmament conferences, who control our elections. The rats have chewed all standards to rags with their small, yellow teeth, and we, by not protesting, have helped them do it. We do it also by not combatting their belief that we only have existence as little members of some larger aggregate, rather than as ourselves; that we are interchangeable and inessential except as gear teeth whose function is to mesh. It is this incredible and savage myth of the Little People, the Little Grey People, the Little Workers of the Great Mass, that has done us in and brought the rats to power.

And the rats will stay in power until each of us can look at himself and say, "I am, therefore I matter," and recognize that the very act of existence is an existential commitment to standards, to value differences and to the necessity of judgement.

Admittedly, this article leaves something to be desired in the matter of sentence construction in a few places -- but if you have comments, direct them at the ideas, not the nits, huh?

- - - - - Bruce

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11 March. PILLYCOCK 8 arrived today, with the result that you get more comments instead of a cartoon. John Boardman, if you think Donaho is engaging in a one-man vendetta against Breen, you have another think coming. And here's one vote against your ouster petition, even if you got it presented correctly.

Bruce Pely

and here's another one - Dian Pely

DIAN GIRARD

Greetings and salutations from your friendly (as friendly as a Cultist ever is) neighborhood female Cultist. I am hereby filing as a candidate in the forthcoming OA election. I do this with the full knowledge and grudging agreement of my lord, the Elephant. (I don't think he particularly likes the idea, but I pointed out to him that he would be restricting my destructive urges.) Now, I feel that I am at least as well qualified as the present incompe.... err, incumbent. I know nothing at all about the Constitution and probably could not even find my copy if I looked for it. This very fact makes me very well qualified to arbitrate on matters concerning the Cult. I am nasty, ill-tempered, unfriendly, and cruel - as my husband will be happy to testify. I am running on the Incompetency ticket and promise, if elected, that I will not change constitutions on you. (I might make a few teensy,weensy alterations in the one we have, but I won't draw up a new one.) Remember, Every Cult Needs A HIGH PRIESTESS. Learn how incompetent an O.A. can be, choose someone who makes even Scotty look good. DIAN FOR O.A.. (Besides, when things get all fouled up, as they always do, you can fall back on "That's what comes of letting a woman meddle in....")

Oh well, so much for politickin'. I really ought to have a Capsulated Cultist ready for this FR, but I haven't written it up yet, and I am certain that even Fred cannot be squashed down into a half page. Sorry, you'll all have to live in breathless expectation until Breen's zine. (Considering the current gossip, and the current trends - will WB be around to publish the next FR?) Well, until then, goodbye, good luck, and may your noses all grow fat. Vote for me or I'll slip rat poison into your food at the next convention.



