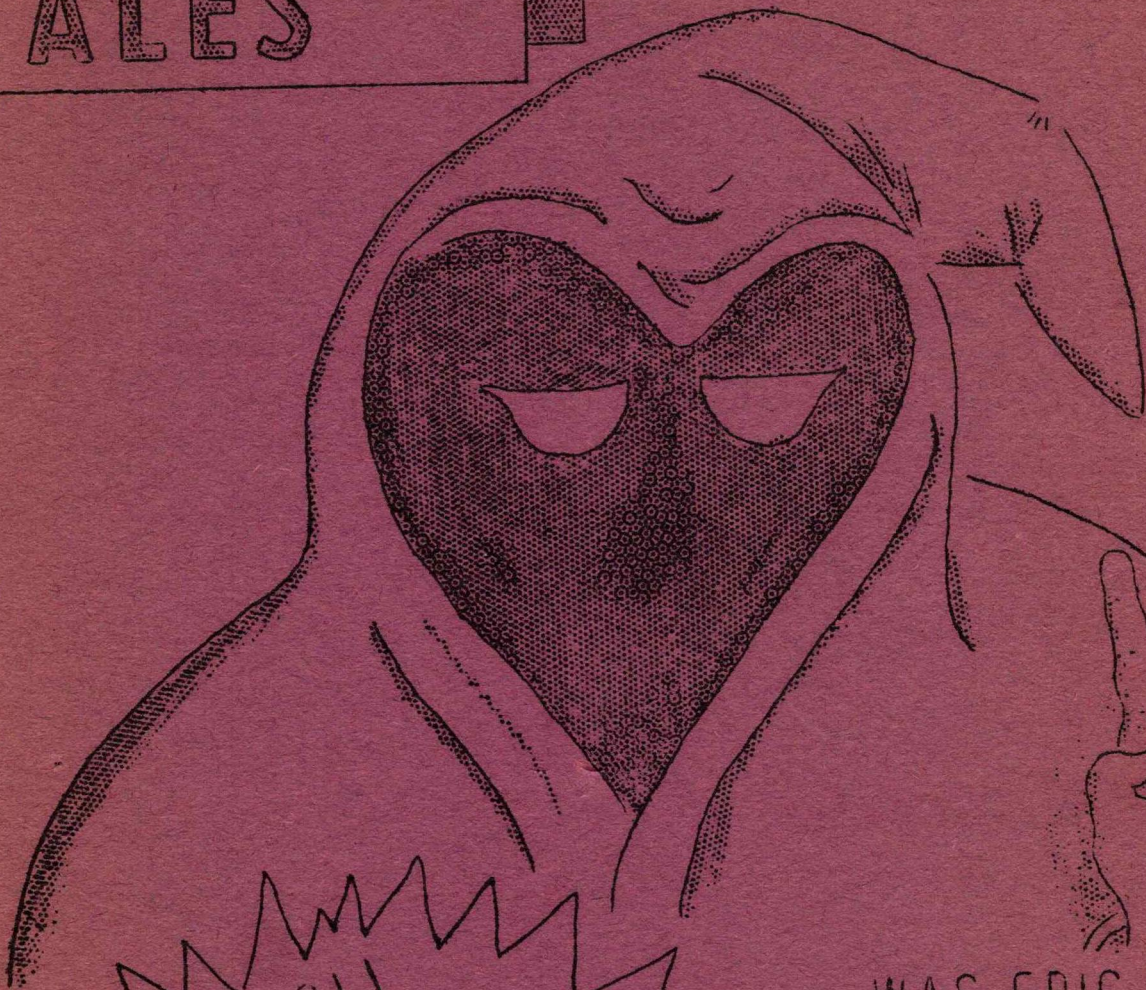


STRANGE CULT TALES



214



SPECIAL!
THE GROESOME STORY OF
LIFE IN A
BUCKET
FACTORY

WAS ERIC GALT
REALLY A TURK?

(see page 69)

WHY NOT HAVE
FEDERAL AID FOR
SPEED FREAKS

by Dr. Morris Fishbone, M.D.

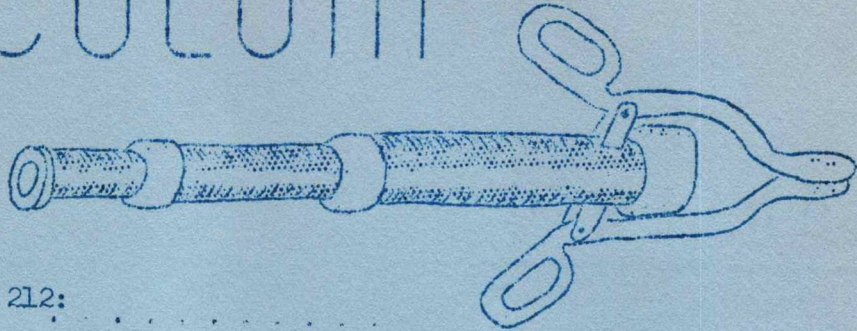
 STRANGE CULT TALES, FR 214, is brought to you this May 18, 1968 (Bertrand Russell's
 96th birthday, N.B.) or thereabouts by Scotty Tapscott, VI, through the grinding and
 machinations of the Body Press Works & Cobra Farm, 1222 Grandall Ave., Salt Lake
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This space here was originally going to be filled with a paragraph speculating on the unlikelihood of FR 213 ever getting published. Since I have been proved wrong on that score, I must perfore fill this space with something else. And what I intend to fill it with is a brief explanation of the color scheme of this here FR. You'll notice, unless I am mistaken, that the body of the entire zine (except for Pelz's special copy) is printed blue-on-blue, with the exception of Lerner's letter, which is black-on-buff. The howcome for the latter is that a stencilled & ran off Lerner's letter a goodly long time ago (before my pubdate, even). Since then I've used up the buff paper; also, I've temporarily loaned out the black-ink mimeo to the local McCarthy headquarters, for the duration of the campaign. That would have left me duperless, except that a short while back I got hold of a second machine at bargain rates, which I promptly cleaned out and infused with blue ink, just to see how I liked it. To tell the truth, I like it quite a bit. Blue has always struck me as making more attractive copy, but I've been too otherwise to switch over until now. Hoo ha, just call me jophan.

THE SPECULUM



FRELKING IN THE WOODSHED FR 212:

Eklund: Hey, who did the groovy psychedelic mimeographing for you? It's kind of hard to read the lavender print through the red smears & offset, but I'll betcha it's a thing of loveliness when viewed through the fumes of some Fancy Exotic Dope. Do you s'pose Evers thought he was having a free trip when he pulled it out of the envelope? You old Gordon Eklund you.

Somebody: On the subject of Desert Island Bibliographies, what's the upper limit supposed to be, volume-wise? If I were limited to three books, I suppose I'd take the works of Shakespeare, Wittgenstein's Philosophical Investigations, and the Bible. That last isn't because I've Come To Jhesus since you last heard from me, or anything like that. It just happens to be a fund book to read, and one that wears well over a long period. Shakespeare for same reason. The list may sound trite; but so be it. On the other hand, if I could take along lots of books, I'd also include everything written by Clarence E. Mulford, everything written by Mark Twain, Tristram Shandy, the collected poetry of e.e. cummings, The Circus of Dr. Lao, Chernev's 1000 Best Short Chess Games, Webster's International Dictionary, and My Secret Life. If there was still room, I'd include the complete writings of Bertrand Russell.

Lerner: What? "No restrictions on freedom of speech, no matter what their purpose"? No restrictions on people shouting "FIRE!" in a crowded theater? No libel or slander laws? Come on. # Kipling? KIPLING? Pfaugh.

Stevens: Is "Gestapa tactics" a typo, or were you hinting that the LAFG has started a new in-group publishing club? (Or perhaps it's just the feminine of Gestapo.)

Leap: Quoting you: "I think the only moral justification is for non-interference, beyond that society gets what it is willing to buy." Would you mind explaining what you mean a little more clearly? I'm pretty sure I disagree with you, but I don't want to start in arguing until I know for certain what you're getting at, and why you believe it.

Eklund: Hey, now. Really. How much of that so-called Gemignani letter was for real? "So why fill up seventeen PR with or small war." I haven't seen anything quite like that in the Cult since "enthralled in an overpowering surge of sybaritian in an oestrus cycle profligate", back about FR 79 or so. Hey, did she really say that? God DAMN, that's funny. Maggie Gemignani. "Seventeen PR with or small war." Zow.

Jonaho: How come you wrote thà second page of your letter first?

Patten: Right; harring accident I will not be appearing at the BayCon. I have a hard enough time communicating with my fellow fan on paper, without subjecting myself to the absurdity of trying to do so in person. Actually, that's not the reason why I abstain from Worldcons. Up until a couple of years ago I was a full-time student and simply couldn't afford the travel expenses. Now that I'm a Productive Member Of Society, I find that I still can't afford it. I suppose that's another way of saying that if I find money for travelling, using it to get together with other fans doesn't have anything like top priority. From my point of view, fandom is for fanac, and fanac is something you do with a typer and mimeo. I think its rather nice to be able to be acquainted with other people through what they say on paper, without getting hung up in their otherhow personalties. For example, it's just barely possible that in real life Milt Stevens might be a civilized human being, despite all the evidence to the contrary in his writings. But I find no charm in the idea of putting myself in personal contact with him just to find out whether that's so or not.

Heap: What is an "unemployable"? ## Oh yes, I'd forgotten about Eney's Fifty Honorary Cultists. But then, they were only Honorary Members for one FR-period; Ellik was a permanent Honorary Member, who gained that status long before my time in the Cult and under circumstances not easily imagined.

Fitch: Yes, what you suggest as a viable justification for Massive Action Against North Korea seems to be part of what Stevens had in mind: viz., preventing repetitions of the Pueblo incident. But then, what appeared initially to be human concern for the crew members of the Pueblo turns out not to be that at all. Once again, they end up as pawns in the International Power Game. It's not their lives which are regarded as important; the men are only symbols, and as such they may cheerfully be sacrificed without losing their Symbolic Value (in fact, they might gain some). However, an easier way to avoid future repetitions of the incident would be to keep our spy-ships out of Korean waters.

Yes, pot-smoking is "up to five years worth of illegal". But in a great many states, underage drinking is up to two years' worth of illegal as well. So if the former "shows a certain contempt for Society", why don't you wish to say the same thing about the latter? ## The claim that "the use of drugs is almost a sine qua non of the anti-establishment types" is neither true nor relevant. A great many anti-establishment types (including, among others, criminals of various sorts) shun dope in favor of juice. On the other hand, the use of marijuana has become common amongst the paradigms of establishmentarianism, such as business executives, ad-men, etc. I have been given to understand that it is very In nowadays to blow a little pot after lunch.

f/r 213.0520:

Stevens: Apparently you, unlike those in higher echelons of government, have incontrollable evidence that the Pueblo was on the high seas when it was seized. I would appreciate hearing it. ## Granted that the US Govt. is absolutely obligated to try to get the ship and its crew (especially the crew) back, it doesn't follow that the govt. is obligated to undertake large-scale military action (or anything that would likely lead to it) in order to accomplish this. Advocating all-out action over the Pueblo incident makes no more sense than advocating nuclear retaliation over the shooting down of Gary Powers' U-2 plane a few years ago. ## The fact that you recommend the US to undertake acts of piracy comes as no surpr se to me. Once a person has committed himself to the view that Might Makes Right, there's very little more for him to say. Or perhaps you don't regard the seizing of shipping vessels, or "sinking them without comment" if they try to avoid seizure, as piracy, hmmm?

ESCRIVERUNT

JIM SANDERS

Dear Cult and OA:

Well, I have rejoined my strange part of the human race, and hereby petition for a place on the iwl of the Cult. And boy what a time it has been since the last time I was anywhere near a Cult roster. Most of the details are private, but I went through about 10 months of starvation and hell before I finally got working and settled up.

Eklund: I was a little worried about the drug discussion when I first discovered it, simply on the grounds that "Hey, this stuff is still illegal, remember." I don't want to see half of fandom busted, for admissions they made in fanzines. But, hell, so we form PenAPA, or whatever. As for me, to get the record straight, I have smoked pot a few times, and plan on doing it more and more, simply because I enjoy it. (No, Jimmy, I didn't start smoking until after I had been writing for some time. Sorry, boy.) I will not take acid, I am still afraid of it. Other drugs send me screaming away from their users. I think all drugs should be made legal, on the grounds that the government has no right to protect people from their own free choices, even if that choice is dangerous or suicidal, as long as they do not harm others. Laws against driving when you are turned on, yes. Campaigns like the current anti-smoking campaign, yes. Anything else, no.

And as a still unregenerate general semanticist, I still question any mystical insights that are supposed to come from LSD. By the way, there was a special issue of ETC. on LSD, surprisingly favorable to it, which was going to be issued as a paperback. I have heard nothing since the notice, but it should be interesting to see it.

Fred: You bring up very interesting Cultstitutional points. Hmm, I imagine the OA has the right, subject to override, of suspending correspondence requirements. Could he suspend his own for the period of his OAship? Then he couldn't be ejected, or anything.

If we are batting around the old chestnut of the desert island reading lists, let me make a slight change. Let's set it up so that at the end of a set period the reader would be returning to civilisation. Given that, which implies the books should have some relevance, my list would include the following: A good Hoyle, Jim Beard's FIRESIDE COOKBOOK, a good "biography of the Constitution" all of which are for me recreational reading. Complete sets of Carter Dickson and John D. MacDonald, and Rex Stout, all of which bear repeated rereading. I.F. Stone's IN TIME OF TORMENT; Irving Howe's THE RADICAL IMAGINATION; SEEDS OF LIBERATION. The complete Harper Torchbook history series whose name escapes me. A random sampling of fifty or so mystery novels from 1935-1950. (As You can see, I am packing a large steamer trunk, here) As much Wodehouse as there is room for. As much A,P, Herbert as I can find. {The punctuation of all that is sic.}

Your comments to Milt are so screwed up, I assume through typos, that I will wait to comment on them until I see if someone else can sort them out.

Jhuck: Except for your ruminations about the possibilities of a hoax, whose taste I question slightly, I like the ploy. At least I did when I first read it. The events of two days ago make death a little more real to me.

George: Hmm, again I get a situation tossed straight at my head. If I can reconstruct what Eney said from your comments, I am involved in a vaguely comparable situation. I have a friend, no one anyone of you would know, who is a professional singer. Petula something. She's had an album, some minor tv work, and she has such enormous potential and talent, well, wait two years and you all will know her. If... And that is the problem. If she doesn't continue in her current intention to give up singing. I am putting myself in a position to interfere, quite deliberately. I am going to try to sit her down with a bunch of songs, get her to hear them, and show her how she could be effective singing this sort of material, rather than the games she has been fooling around with. I know damn well that if she goes back to singing, it will mean, for a while, trouble and hardship, but there is so much talent there that I have to push it. {Disclaimer.} And, essentially, it is a disinterested push. I won't be getting anything out of it except satisfaction {D.}, and maybe a little reflected glory, but I can't watch that talent, and I am convinced that person disappear down the drain. Am I right? God I hope so.

Al: I don't know. There are some masters of Cultish manipulation of constitutions, but too much is quite often not that much. (every so often the "Old" Sanders shines through with magnificent clarity)

Bruce: Hey, sorry about that, but some one beat you to your ploy. And I bet you thought you had it all to yourself. Hmm, or did Crayne notice that Heap hadn't printed it and tell you about it and ask you to write it on the grounds that "No one would date cut a Bruce Pelz letter"?

Ken: Why is it that your letters to the Cult make you sound about seven years older than your letters to TAPS? {Great Ghu! You mean that in TAPS he writes like a five-year-old?}

Eklund: All in all a fiarly interesting zine, but the copy I borrowed, Earl's, looked like I had mimeoed it. Oh well, I know your father's an optometrist, but,...

Blessings upon thee,
Jim Sanders

AL SNIDER

Scott:

Here is a copy of my roster for you to base yours on. Only one problem, though. If Seidman, Van Arnam, and Hulan are now members, they won't know until your FR, because mine will be late! Now, when do we start counting off their allotted FR periods, with my or your FR? I guess this is a question for George, but I thought I might mention it. I guess they should be given two periods after they are notified, which means their not writing should not start with my FR, nor really yours for that matter. Anyway, I'll leave Cultstitutional Law to you Bozos to fight over.

George writes to me and says, "Bailes is safe so that, if he was re-instated by Lernerish Fiat, I, the OA, do confirm that re-instatement. However, the vote to compel Lerner to reveal the circumstances of that re-instatement -- i.e., what was the total vote and did Lerner pull a fast one -- went 6 for, one against, rest abstaining -- which I interpret as enough mandate to Rule that Lerner must reveal all. (I won't reject or eject him, regardless of the circumstances of the Bailes re-instatement; I will if he refuses to report what happened.)"

I figure the news should get out as fast as possible, so you can spread it with your FR. {?}

Al Snider
Cultist

GORDON EKLUND

Dear Scotty:

Apparently I gave Snider the wrong address for me for his FR. At least I think so. I haven't gotten the FR yet, and everybody else I gave the COA to has had it wrong. Anyway, the address is:

335 Stockton St., no. 308
San Francisco, Calif. 94108

Best,
Gordon

DON FITCH

April 30, 1968

Scotty:

To avoid rosteral problems: I have every intention of fractionalizing this weekend.

Don

FRED LERNER

writes:

30 April 1968

To the Cult:

Of course I have been following with considerable interest the present madness which has struck Columbia University. I would follow it avidly even if I were not a Columbia graduate; for thruout its history Columbia has been a prototype for other universities, as New York has been a prototype for other cities, and any movement or current which starts at Morningside will spread, sooner or later, to the other universities on this continent.

The New York Times and the various wire services have been providing their national audiences a fairly comprehensive and well-balanced report; and New Yorkers with access to the Columbia Daily Spectator and to WKCR-FM's round-the-clock radio coverage have an even better picture of events. But much of the background to the conflict has been submerged beneath the day-do-day accounts, and this is one case where the background is essential to a proper understanding of the situation.

Like any urban university, Columbia has always been in intimate contact with the great issues of the day. Where a Princeton student can study the economics of poverty, to sociology of poverty, the psychology of poverty, in the library and in the classroom, a student at Columbia can see and smell and hear and touch the reality of poverty, half a mile away in Harlem, or half a block away, for Morningside Heights is a racially and economically integrated neighborhood. Columbia students have always gotten caught up in the turmoil of New York: in 1776, when a student mob threatened to lynch the College's Tory president; in the anti-draft riots of 1864; in the anti-war protests preceding both world wars; and in all the social issues of today.

This urban environment can be both a strength and a weakness: by its exposure to urban problems and urban sentiments, Columbia is perhaps better able to study and deal with an increasingly urban society; but this may well come at a loss of the detachment and unbiased spirit of inquiry which a scholar or a learned insfitution should bring to a situation. I suppose that both the urban university and the rural one will have their roles to play in urban affairs.

To this natural and traditional student responsiveness to community issues is added the inadequacy of the Columbia administration. There are several reasons for this. The colonial King's College grew into a major university not by conscious plan but rather by gradual accretion: and this is reflected in a decentralization traditional to Columbia's structure. The forty-year reign of Nicholas Murray Butler as president of the University, a reversal of this historical trent, was an unnatural imposition of one iron will upon the University; and upon Butler's retirement in 1945 less headstrong men were sought as chief executives. Dwight Eisenhower filled this role admirably, and in 1952 he was replaced by Grayson Kirk, an eminent professor of International Relations. Mr. Kirk has had considerably less success in mastering university and community relations. He is not popular with the faculty, nor with the non-University residents of Morningside Heights and Harlem; and he is universally despised by the students, whose unanimity on this point transcends collegiate, moral, and political differences. The Kirk regime's command of Columbia's confidence, then, is strikingly similar to that enjoyed by Lyndon Johnson in the country at large; but Grayson Kirk has not had the grace to resign his office. (In 1952, Columbia rid itself of Eisenhower by fobbing him off on the nation; but America is not quite so hard up for presidential candidates this year.)

One reason for the contempt in which Grayson Kirk is held on campus is the consistency with which he has fumbled matters affecting the University's community relations and reputation. The images of the University as a cruel and heartless evicter of families and destroyer of parks and neighborhoods; as a purveyor of questionable cigarette-filters; and as a haven for disorder and insurrection, are all evidences of a profound communications gap -- an ignorance on Kirk's part of student and community attitudes, and an inability to make clear to both that Columbia is a benevolent institution, not a sinister conspiracy.

[I do not propose at this point to go into the substantive issues, the Gym and IDA, nor into the general question of campus decline.]

The lack of a consistently-enforced University policy on student demonstrations is a major contributory factor in the present crisis. Not only has the University adopted regulations which some students and other observers (of whom I am emphatically not one) consider to be improper infringements upon free speech; but it has capriciously defined particular occurrences as prohibited demonstrations or permissible ones, to avoid having to put its rules into play. This policy has angered those students who wish to put the University's rules, and its power to enforce them, to a decisive test; and it has been even more galling to those students who oppose disruptive demonstrations. The University administration has never learned that while one can't simultaneously please everybody, one can simultaneously displease everybody.

It was apparent at the start of the present crisis that the University had two choices: to surrender completely to the demonstrators' demands, or to remove them from the University. The demonstrators had proclaimed themselves unwilling to compromise, and their behavior in the past had confirmed that they were "true believers", so convinced of the rightness of their cause that they could not ever bring themselves to reach any settlement short of their ultimate demands. But the administration, failing to realize this, treated them as just another student group with a grievance: and, incredibly, is still (at this writing) holding to that policy. It is apparent to all observers, except the administration, that the only alternative to complete surrender to the demonstrators' demands is to expel them from the University and evict them from its campus. Unless this is done, one of two things will happen: the University will disintegrate into a radical ideological academy; or those students and other members of the University who oppose such a takeover will physically expel the demonstrators themselves.

As far as I am concerned, there is still time for President Kirk to regain control of the situation and reopen the university. But if he is unwilling to do this, it is up to the students and alumni of the University to bring to bear every possible economic and physical pressure on the University administration and the rebels, and to do this as soon as possible.

Then Grayson Kirk can be forced to resign, and a competent man can be found to superintend the rebuilding of Columbia University.

Yours faithfully,

Fred Lerner, II

€ In the light of what has transpired since you wrote the above, Kirk seems to have finally seen it your way. And it seems to me that forcible ejection was just about the only thing he could have done, in the circumstances. But there is one question I'd like some information on, if you can supply any. Is it true, as a lot of people claim, that the cops used excessive force in removing the demonstrators, that a lot of them were needlessly beat up, etc.? Or is this just an instance of the "police brutality" gambit that too often arises when the cops use any force at all? -- st ‡

GEORGE SCITHERS, OA

April 29, 1968

Dear Cult:

Oafish matters: Bailes is confirmed or something -- vote was six for retaining, one maybe. The question of whether he was reinstated by Lerner's fiat or by vote of the membership is still of interest. Lerner argues that he excused himself from all Error as pretender to the OAc during his FRedhood. Leaving aside the illegitimacy of his pretender-OAc, all he can have excused himself from is the publication of the vote count in his FR. He cannot, I Rule, continue to resist publication of the vote count now, in the face of OAic demand, backed up by a six to one vote.

Frankly, I think the reinstatement by quasi-concealed fiat to be rather Cultish, though reinstatement by open fiat would be more in the spirit of Our Little Group. But now, when the results cannot hurt Bailes, it's time to Admit All (even if All consists of having forgotten to report the vote, or whatever). Moreover, I am trying to establish a precedent that erroneous rosters are generally not grounds for expulsion but are instead cause for OAic demand that the error be corrected, by f/r if necessary and appropriate. The accuracy of recent FR rosters has been deplorable -- and if the rosters were more accurate, they'd be a lot less nitpicking and Oafish pronouncements.

Harness, I fear, is no longer with the Cult. I have been stalling, but his continued non-publication of the required 15-page f/r, his lack of reference to it in letters, and his failure even to ask me for permission to be late seem to indicate that he is no longer interested.

Snider must have, by Scotty's pubdate, provided him with a list of who wrote, etc., to his FR. And a number of us must remember that the Cult does NOT operate by the TAPS constitution. There is no "three days of grace" on publishing an FR. It just happens that -- usually -- a day or so lapse in postmark date is blamed on the FRed. Considering how easy it is to get permission to pub late (like, just announce intention), there seems little reason to be lenient. Be ye Warned.

I am, for a while at least, at Box 895, Lawndale CA 90260.

Bailes is dreadfully upset to find that I seem to devote less attention to taking care of his membership than he does. Actually, I would eventually untangle matters if he got dropped by mistake, but as long as I don't give him the impression that I would, there is a chance that he will bestir himself enough to do something for his membership himself -- like, writing to the next FRed and tell him if letter or f/r credit has been inadvertently omitted. *sigh*

non-OAic matters:

Bailes et al.: Just attended the LA g&s group's production of The Pirates of Penzance. It compares well with the D'Oly Carte production -- the Major General is marvelously dead-pan, and there are a number of quite appropriate bits of business not present in the "standard" production. D'Oly Carte, of course, excels all others in matters of costume -- obviously, when they wear out, for example, a Lord Chancellor's costume, they can order another from the same firm that makes for the real Lord Chancellor. Ditto (one supposes) for pirate kings.

Fitch spoke of a production of the Mikado he attended, in Japan, in Japanese, in which the setting was Victorian England (costumes, etc.,) and the Mikado was, instead, Queen Victoria! A magnificent concept, wot?

The CULT really ought to be counted as the oldest of apas, in a sense; apa-age is measured in mailings or activity periods, and the CULT, at 214, is older than both the late apa-1 and FAPA. The FR, in fact, is of higher legitimate issue number than any other fanzine except Science Fiction Times! Doesn't that make you feel old? Doesn't it sound as if I'm floundering for something to say? You're right, and I will stop right here.

/sig/ George S. OA
13

(n.d.)

Bits of news: Wright is apparently among the uncaught -- Donaho got a letter or something from him a while back, saying he had to leave the houseboat (which was what that Seattle address was) in haste, and that he hoped to get back into the Cult someday.

Also heard that Tony Boucher died last Monday after a short illness . . .

So be salty on Semiramisdays,

G.

May 8

Dear Scotty:

Would appreciate it immensely if you have an extra copy of your FR and if you would be willing to send it to one Jerry Lapidus, 3127 Flint House, 5825 Woodlawn Ave., Chicago IL 60637. He's a possible recruit, and I'm looking for new, non-LA blood . . .

GS

May 11

Got another prospect -- more to the point, he has writ, & I will pub, the requisite letter in a f/r. Canst you send a spare copy (if any exist) of your FR + the Cultstition to: S.A. Cochran Jr, 805 Citizens 1st Nat'l Bank Bldg., Tyler, TX 75701. He is a diplomacy fan, is putting on a sailboat convention, and is an attorney-at-law. Cultish mentality, too. . . .

Many thanks,
George S.

May 13

'Tis a week after Tapscottsdays, & still no FR. Wha hopenen? ≠ I'm pubbing late.≠

Be wicked,
George S. 13
OA

GEORGE HEAP

April 21, 1968
Grhultrib .013

Xaipé -

Well, what with *Snider's* latepub, *Tapscott* should have a rather small FR to put out this time. If I was feeling really gung ho, and if the Department of Internal Revenue had been a little less greedy, I'd put out an obnoxious f/r for everyone to comment on, but..... However, this will have to do. I think I'll keep it 'open' all week to comment on f/r's and perhaps FR #213 if it gets here on time.

The Lee Harvey Oswald buffs should have a great time with the Eric Stravo Galt /James Earl Ray thing. Already the newspapers are starting to play up the

$$P^2 = \frac{4\pi^2 r_1 (r_1 + r_2)^2}{GM_2} = \frac{4\pi^2 r_2 (r_1 + r_2)^2}{GM_1}$$

discrepancies between earlier FBI reports on the activities and whereabouts of ~~John~~ Eric Galt and those of James Ray. I would guess that if Ray is guilty, whether or not he used the name of Galt at the time, that it was done for pay. From the police record they published for Ray, he just doesn't seem the type to worry about society to the point of murdering King because he disagreed with Civil Rights.

After waking up for a number of mornings to the to the news broadcasts, I've come up with a general idea of what the news sounds like on an average day.

"Last night our city had x murders, y muggings, and z robberies. The police have raided n gambling establishments, they have also arrested m dope addicts all of whom are suspected of being pushers." Later, in the newspapers, you read that the "dope addicts" are all young, generally students, all the police found was pot (hardly any LSD), and later, when the cases come to trial, nobody gets charged with selling the stuff.

What it seems to amount to, is that the police spend as much of the time as possible getting credit for breaking up "crimes" that have no relevance to what I would call public safety, but get the police a high amount of publicity. Like I don't really care if the pot smokers live next door. I don't particularly care whether the neighborhood bookie is in or out of jail. (I don't really think I'd like living next door to him, but no more so and for the same reasons that I'd not like to live next to an all night restaurant.)

Meanwhile, if burglars and muggers get caught at all, it's generally after a string of "successful" crimes. The police generally seem to do better with murder, at least when it's an amateur job, which it usually is.

We got a questionnaire from our Congressman the other day, asking about areas where we'd like to see more, or less, money spent. And there on the list was law enforcement! Like if there was double the amount of money spent, we'd probably get this really tremendous anti-drug campaign ---- and just about

as much real crime as we ever had.

Tapscott: That last page looks shorter than hell! What am I supposed to do, run it down to line 71?

All: I'd have more comments to make on past Culstuff, but I didn't save the carbon cushions of the stencils I cut for *Snider*. Sorry about that!

This is sort of old news, but I never got around to saying anything about it before now. About one Period back, Doll Gilliland, who reviews fanzines for THE WSFA JOURNAL, got hold of a copy of my first ROTATOR and proceeded to review it in her column (THE WSFA JOURNAL #47, October 1967). The following paragraph is excerpted from her review.

"What a waste of time! Evidently this thing changes publishers with each issue; evidently this Cult changes a goodly number of members (due to inactivity) with each cycle. Considering the lack of issues in this issue, I can understand the lack of activity on the part of the members...who may be in non-member status until such time as they make restitution for their lack of active correspondence, whereupon they become active members again, or something. Even they can't follow all the ins-and-outs of their cultstitution.

"This issue's contents include reviews and comments re books and comics that are far less informative than my jottings on STAB [*Koning's* Diplomacy 'zine; reviewed in brief just prior to this item], some witty dirty limericks by John Boardman (the issue's only saving grace -- talk about unapt metaphors), and letters from various members. Even they complain about the lack of action. Sheer Dullsville! (Exception -- Ensign Milton F. Stevens writes a fine letter.)"

And there it is! Some of the topics at that time seemed to be of more general interest than Mrs. Gilliland gives us credit for, but not really when glimpsed only through the pages of one ROTATOR. All in all, not too inaccurate a picture of the Cult as seen by an outsider. The worst of it is, if I didn't have the original review in front of me, I could almost believe it referred to DOL CIRITH UNGOL #2 instead of DOL CIRITH UNGOL #1.

And so my Cultish friends, how do you do? [WATF]

We caught a really neat thing from CBL in Toronto last Friday night. They are broadcasting a radio play version of Rider Haggard's *King Solomon's Mines*. It's being broadcast in hour-long episodes each Friday, from 7:30 to 8:30 locally (Dial 740). There should be at least two episodes left. I think it's a network show, so any of you living within reach of Canadian stations might want to try for it.

While I'm on radio, one of the neatest of the Eastern stations is WBZ out of Boston (somewhere around 1000). I can't pick it up to well here in town, but a lot of times it comes through real clear on trips to the east. They have things like interviews with Allen Ginsburg and Timothy Leary; a lot of brand new pop music (that a lot of the so-called "big" stations won't play until it's a guaranteed hit); and they're not above playing cuts from Folk LP's in with their other numbers. Trip before last they played quite a lot from Phil Ochs' then-new "Pleasures of The Harbor" which is rather good.

An item that I will have to discuss at greater length Elsewhere is *The High King*, Lloyd Alexander's latest, and unfortunately the last, of the Prydain series of

young people's sword-and-sorcery adventure. One of the more impressive things is the way this book concludes the series, fitting together all the puzzle-parts left over into meaningful positions. The ending is not everything that Taran had hoped it would be; but he has learned to accept what must be some of the readers, at least, have not.

April 23, 1968

Time arrived today and I note that my remarks on Galt being a hired killer have been anticipated. Damn spies are everywhere!

CULTOSIS

Might as well run through the current f/r's and see what can be made of them. I'm still hoping for the arrival of FR #213 before the week is out.

JUST IN CASE (f/r 212.41468) {Crayne}

"Kiss the Cult farewell;
No fanatic in a cell." -Eney

Crayne: I suppose I should say I *knew* about the letter credit in FR #212, but as I didn't complain about it my letter to #213, I'm not likely to be believed in any case. ¶ If it's the same thing going bust every time, could you carry the part(s) around with you for the benefit of any mechanic you find? I used to cart around a spare fuel pump for a Ford that *ate* the damn things -- got so I could change fuel pumps faster than tires, though it always came as a shock to unsuspecting passengers.

f/r 212.91790 {Snider}

Snider: Good luck with publishing, in case you get this first. Hope your troubles aren't serious.

ZWILNIK #6 (f/r 212.0409) {Bailes}

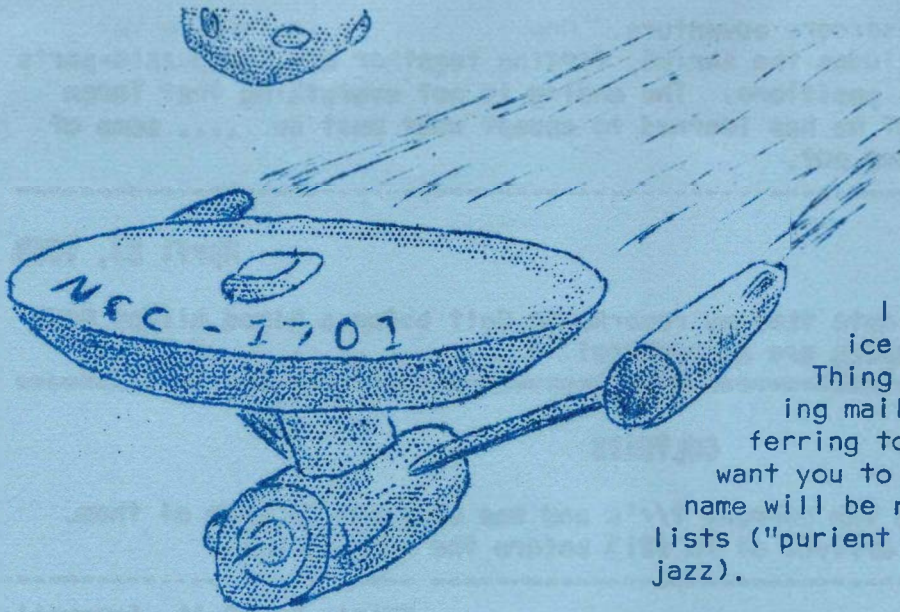
Bailes: Within reason, you should be safe, both by reason of *Snider's* latepub and because I mentioned your f/r in my letter. Probably not the Cultish thing to do, but in the interests of accuracy and all.....

An interesting review of Simon and Garfunkle's new album. The only things I've heard from it are "At The Zoo" -- out as a single a while back -- and "Mrs. Robinson", which I like, but don't quite understand. Maybe we should see *The Graduate*. ¶ "Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme" is still going great guns on the dj shows. It's sort of neat to find 300-year old Child ballads on the hit parade.

Representing W acid rock, The Doors were in Rochester about a month ago, together with the Stone Poneys. Jim Morrison does sort of a two hour Death and Transfiguration on stage. The Doors really put out a fine sound. For the Stone Poneys, well .. Linda Ronstadt is decorative, but they never really seemed to get together as a group. Even "Beat Of A Different Drum" seemed to lack something.

A week before, in the same auditorium, Khachaturian conducted a concert of his own works. That was good too. Sometimes this is a funny town for music.

One of the best of the recent pop records is "Love Is Blue". Some reviewer or other claimed it was a swipe of themes from Prokofiev's "Lieutenant Kije"; but after playing the latter at 33, 45, and 78 rpm, I claim that any resemblances



are purely trivial.
=====

April 27, 1968

And no more f/r's
or FR #213 as of
this date.

I see that the Post Office has come up with a new Thing (rather than delivering mail, of course). I'm referring to the form that they want you to fill out so that your name will be removed from mailing lists ("purient material" and all that jazz).

"It's Spock it to me time!"

I do believe this is just a new way for the USPOD to gather names and addresses for their investigators (paid out of the increase in postal rates, no doubt)

to get their claws into. I haven't seen the form yet, but the newspaper story made a big thing about the name and address bit.

For my part, I've never had the least trouble getting my name off firm's mailing lists. "Dear ABC Co., please take my name off your mailing list." has always gotten results. The main trouble has been with the people who sell mailing lists. Neither you nor the Post Office know who they are, and this new system isn't going to do thing one about it.

The papers have been making a Thing about minors receiving questionable material, implying at times that there is some kind of Organization collecting teenagers names & addresses for this type of thing. I suggest that this is rather unlikely first because the money is surely in the adult market, and second that with the legal climate in its present state, specializing in pornography for minors is just asking for trouble and any mail order house knows it. I suspect very much that any minor who gets "unsolicited" material knows damn well how *his* name made the lists. All of my friends (adults) can pretty well guess how *their* names were obtained. Those who don't order through the mail don't get on lists.

I have a rather unpleasant feeling that this thing is going to have repercussions in fandom.

F/R'S RECEIVED: Continued from the list I published in FR #211.

210.30468	<i>Bailes</i>	(211.???)	<i>Fitch</i>	212.41468	<i>Crayne</i>
211.99	<i>Scithers</i>	212.13	<i>Scithers</i>	212.91790	<i>Snider</i>
				212.0409	<i>Bailes</i>

Fitch's f/r wasn't numbered, but should have been 211. something-or-other by the postmark. All others were numbered correctly by the postmark on my copy. Please note that this is not intended to be complete for the current (213th) Period.

Tapscott: Happy publishing!

All: And that's the end of *mygibberish*.

Orbit orthogonally
on Orcsdays,

grh iii

EARL EVERS

Dear Scotty and CULT:

When Milt Stevens said, "There is no poverty in America", my first impulse was to shudder in disgust and forget about listening to his opinions on this topic from now on. But in a way he's right. . .

I've decided it's not material poverty that creates problems for a society, but rather attitudes toward poverty. We're having what amounts to a "poor people's revolt" not because people are that bad off physically, but simply because a lot of people are finding their present environment intolerable. Intolerable enough to want to burn the whole shootin' match to the ground in the hopes that "whatever they build to replace it has got to be better".

The blame for this, of course, falls to communications and education. The middle class has been preaching The American Dream for so long the poor people have finally swallowed it. The Civil Rights movement has given minorities enough equality under the law so they've finally gotten ahold of something a lot more dangerous: the basic ideal for Freedom, freedom as something you can actually have if you're willing to work and sweat and dream and bleed and die and, especially, fight for it. Yeah, man, that old flag wavin' bullshit has finally gotten through, and whatcha gonna do now.

That's half of it. The other half is TV and movies and advertising. How can you expect people to accept poverty calmly when the mass media keep rubbing their noses in the way the Middle Class lives?

All I'm saying really is that poor people are as deluded by a mess of materialistic bullshit as everyone else. Every liberal I discuss this with acts like he'd like to tie me to a stake for heresy and a squad of integrated poverty-workers burn me on a pyre of garbage collected from the streets, but I'm still beginning to think the solution to the whole problem of poverty, prejudice, and so on should not be a material one, but rather a process of education.

As unhappy, hung-up, and plain blind frustrated as most members of the "Affluent Society" seem to be, what makes people think the poor would be any better off if we elevated all of them into the middle class materialistically? I really don't think giving people jobs to make money to buy material possessions is the answer. I'd much rather see everyone, rich, poor, and in-between trying to achieve happiness by learning to adjust to their environment rather than by trying to alter it.

What no one seems to understand is that it's entirely possible, and it could be done the same way the problem came about, through propaganda in advertising and the mass media. Of course, the government would have to start it, and it would cost a great deal, but I think it would cost quite a bit less than most of the poverty programs now advocated. What's more, it would work, which is more than I can say for any of the present programs.

What exactly do I mean? My basic assumption is that very few people in this country are so bad off materially they couldn't adjust to their environment and be happy, if they and the rest of society were to develop the right attitudes. This is the point where everyone says, "Bullshit" and ends the discussion. But go back to that statement, "There is no real poverty in America". Is there or isn't there?

For instance, what's really so bad about living in a slum? People. The only really intolerable part of it is the crime and general aura of despair, hatred, and self-pity. { Rats? Bad plumbing? Repair-shy landlords? What about them? } I found this hard to believe till I started checking it out, but the actual buildings in New York slums are in no worse condition than in "good" residential sections, meaning the overall housing situation is pretty shitty. So why are people reasonably happy in one area and ready to explode into self-destructive violence in another?

Would it be impossible to convince people that the citizens of a neighborhood could actually do something about crime? That the tenants in a building could keep the building cleaned and repaired, and get paid for their labor by refusing to pay rent. (It's pretty hard to believe that the government would even try to evict a tenant if he did a bunch of necessary work in his building, "paid" himself by deducting his labor costs, at the minimum wage per hour, from his rent, and made damn sure he got lots of publicity doing it. And if thousands of tenants did it, I have an idea most governments would end up solidly behind the movement.) { Surely you jest. Since when have courts started refusing writs of garnishment to bereaved landlords, etc. ? }

These are just examples. It wouldn't be at all easy, especially since these techniques are being used already by various groups in the slums and having only marginal success. But if a great deal of publicity were put behind the movement, I think it would catch on. But how would you start something like that?

Well, the experiments with "auxiliary police" { which the regular cops are completely opposed to } of various kinds are a start, although the ones I've heard about so far seem doomed to failure. I'm not thinking about an organized small group of men who walk around and call the regular fuzz if they see trouble, I'm talking about something a lot broader. Namely the idea that a "decent citizen" doesn't have to stand for crime, and he doesn't have to rely on the fuzz either. { I recommend that you read The Ox-Bow Incident. }

No, I don't mean a return to the Vigilante days either. I'm not thinking of arming everybody or anything like that. Some examples of what I mean. One night in a restaurant, two men were having an argument near the front door, and both of them were holding open switchblades before they finally decided to cool it and sit back down. A few minutes later, two cops walked in and had coffee, and no one bothered to say a word. I don't think it would take a lot to change attitudes toward finking that much. Or if you want to talk about the violent side of it, suppose you see someone climbing around on the fire-escape of your building. It wouldn't take much to go up on the roof with a brick... { and get a blade inserted in your groin. }

No, I know you can never teach people to love the fuzz. I don't love them myself, in fact I probably hate them more than most slum-dwellers because I've known enough of them personally to know that the large majority of cops really are biggoted, sadistic bastards. But if you could get people to know you can use the cops to protect you just as you would use a weapon... And even better, you can use other people. Would it really take much to convince people to trip an unarmed { how do you tell? } purse-snatcher who runs past them?

In a way there's hope even now -- it's getting fairly common on the Lower East Side to throw water on people who are raising hell in the street. Now if they learn to follow through with bottles and bricks and loaded garbage cans, it might at least drive the pickpockets and surly little assholes looking for trouble back into the doorways. And once you've got them in the doorway, well, if you've ever wired the lid on a barrel full of wet garbage and rolled it down a flight of stairs and out the door, you'd think twice before standing in doorways.

I've always found it strange that people consider themselves helpless and defenseless against crooks just because there are a

few really tough types around who wouldn't be cowed by tactics like I describe. Sure, maybe one crook out of a thousand might have the guts to actually come back and take vengeance if a bunch of ordinary Joes stomped the shit out of him for trying to break into an apartment or something. But I think the technique would work simply because it has worked, and right in the slums of New York at that.

When a lot of the present Negro and Puertorican ghettos were Jewish and Irish and Italian ghettos, there was a lot of crime and violence, but it wasn't the sort to put the ordinary citizen in terror. Sure, you might have killings in the corner saloon every Saturday night, but anyone who prowled the halls of a tenement trying doors wouldn't last long. And if a woman screamed in the street, forty or fifty men would come running out in their longjohns carrying clubs... Hell, I've heard that muggers and pickpockets were always careful not to bother anyone who lived in the neighborhood, and that's probably bullshit but you'll never even hear anyone bullshitting like that nowadays...

I know, it sounds totally ridiculous to say you can raise a family on fifty bucks a week. But I know hippies who are doing it, and seem to be pretty happy. For that matter, I know a lot of hippies who live on less money than the average "deprived" slum dweller and are perfectly happy. It's all in your attitude towards life. If you spend half your income on clothes, like a lot of young men in the ghettos do, you're not even trying to adjust yourself to your income. God, would it take much to persuade slum housewives to walk three blocks to the A&P instead of paying 20 % more at a little corner bodega? Well, maybe it would, but I still think a lot more energy should be devoted to adjustment than to physical improvement, to alleviating the feelings of hopelessness than to inspiring greed for possessions. ("Why, they's lots of protein in pinto beans. What're them nigras complainin' about?" quoth the Alabama sheriff.)

And sure, there's enough wealth in this country to go around if it were distributed properly. More than enough. But when you try to distribute it, you run counter to the whole Establishment, you hit the haves right in their greed-gland and all that shit. So why not approach from the opposite angle...

Just how much publicity would it take to start convincing people that you don't have to have a house in the suburbs to be happy, that there's no reason why a three room apartment on East 4th street should be hell and one on West 4th heaven. That you can rat-proof an apartment with nothing more elaborate than a hammer and nails and flattened-out tin cans. And so on.

Only it's no use rapping about it, almost, at least to white liberals. This whole thing has been brought up time and again by the Black Power people, only they make the mistake of including trappings of black racism and shit in their own spring. How far is it from "Black is beautiful" to "You are beautiful." Quite a ways, actually.

I still think there's a chance to apply some this after the "Revolution" happens and there's a cold winter and a big silence and people begin to realize things are still the same as they were except that a lot of people are dead and a lot of property destroyed and a lot of other people disillusioned and angry that were sympathetic to begin with.

Is there a single poverty group in this country organizing people to clean up slum buildings on a daily basis? I mean like recruiting volunteers to work a certain area each day. If there is, it hasn't received much publicity and it isn't spreading its ideas very fast. Sure, the painting and street-sweeping campaigns are a step in the right direction, but they really aren't that much. The hell of it is, most people would still rather stand on the street corners and spout hate and self-pity than pick up garbage. But I still wonder if it would be so hard to parpagandize them into it.

And how many groups are training people to fix up apartments? Some, but too damn few. Fewer than are setting up rifle ranges in basements... Again, why isn't some public money poured into this sort of thing, both to finance it and to get people interested in it.

I've worked as a day laborer in the Garment District, pushing carts handtrucks around in the street, and all day I kept wondering, where in the hell are the labor organizers. This area employs more minority people than any other job area, or so it looks, why the hell don't they start putting on the pressure for decent pay and working conditions instead of looting stores in Harlem..

And enough of this sort of shit. That's what you get when I don't have an FR to comment on. Four pages of rapping, first draft, undiluted Evers... (Squeezed to a little over 3 pages without a single word being cut or altered.) 'Nuff to make you think three or four times before you declare Latepub. It's Snider's fault...

/sig/ Earl

THE COMPLETE ROSTER

For the benefit of latecomers, Complete Roster entries come in two parts: a listing of Members in the chronological order in which they entered the Cult, together with the periods of their Membership, and a cycle summary, indicating which Member occupied which of the 13 positions during which FR periods. A Complete Roster of the first 13 Cycles was published as one of the volumes of FR 169. Cycle summaries for Cycles XIV-XV were published in FR 202, along with a partial Membership listing which wasn't too informative. Therefore, yuvs decided to compile another entry at this early date, in order to give the complete Membership for the last 3 Cycles. As always, only fully legal Memberships are counted, and an asterisk (*) indicates a person's first period as a Member.

CYCLE XVI

FR 196-208

OA: G. SCITHERS

1. F.M. Busby (196-199)
Chuck Crayne (*200-201)
Lee Jacobs (202--)
2. Dave Hulan (196-198, 200-201)
Al Snider (*199)
Fred Lerner (202--)
3. George Heap (--)
4. Alva Rogers (196)
Gordon Eklund (197--)
5. Len Bailes (196)
Norm Metcalf (197-200)
Al Snider (201--)
6. James Wright (--203)
Scotty Tapscott (204--)
7. Fred Patten (--)
8. Bruce Pelz (--197, 201--)
Tom Dupree (*198-200)
9. Norm Metcalf (196)
Len Bailes (197-198)
Ted Johnstone (199-201)
Dick Geis (202--)
10. Lee Jacobs (--201)
Chuck Crayne (202--)
11. Scotty Tapscott (--203)
James Wright (204--)
12. Don Fitch (--)
13. George Scithers, OA (--)

MEMBERSHIP: CYCLES 14-16

0. Ron Ellik
5. Ted White (1-29, 30 1/2-123, 125-133, 135-138, 140-171)
39. Dick Eney (35, 60-164, 168-176)
52. Dick Geis (66-79, 202--)
56. Bruce Pelz (77-197, 201--)
59. Scotty Tapscott (80--)
62. Ted Johnstone (83-96, 98-121, 200-201)
64. Norm Metcalf (93, 95, 97-133, 135-140, 142-159, 193-200)
67. Fred Patten (109--)
69. Bill Donaho (109-123 res., 155-192 res.)
72. Don Fitch (122--)
74. Gordon Eklund (124, 131-166, 197--)
75. Dian Girard Pelz (132-191 res.)
76. George Scithers (132-136, assoc 137-156, Member 157--)
78. John Boardman (137-184)
80. Fred Lerner (163-192, 201--)
81. Arnold Katz (165-180)
82. Len Bailes (167-192, 195-198)
83. Dave Van Arnam (167, 172-183, 186-192)
84. F.M. Busby (177-199)
85. Dave Hulan (181-200)
86. Alva Rogers (184-196)
87. James Wright (185, 193--)
88. George Heap (192--)
89. Lee Jacobs (193--)
90. Tom Dupree (198-200)
91. Al Snider (199--)
92. Chuck Crayne (200--)

YE

SACRED SCROLL

<u>MEMBERS</u>	Wrote	213	214	Pub
1. Chuck Crayne, 1050 Ridgewood, Los Angeles, Cal. 90038	f/r		N	21 Oct
2. Fred Lerner, 98-B The Boulevard, East Paterson, NJ 07407	n		y	11 Nov
3. George Heap, Box 1487, Rochester, NY 14603	y		y	2 Dec
*4. Gordon Eklund, 335 Stockton St., no. 308, San Francisco 94108	y		pc	23 Dec
5. Al Snider, 1021 Donna Beth, West Covina, Calif 91790	pub		y	13 Jan
6. Scotty Tapscott, 1222 Crandall, Salt Lake City, Utah 84106	n		pub	4 Feb
7. FRED PATTEN, 1704-B S. FLOWER ST., SANTA ANA, CALIF 92707	y		N	27 MAY
8. Bruce Pelz, Box 100, 308 Westwood Plaza, LA Calif. 90024	n		f/r	17 Jun
9. Len Bailes, Box 474, 308 Westwood Plaza, LA Calif. 90024	f/r		N	8 Jul
10. Dian Pelz, 1231 J 12th St., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404	y		N	29 Jul
11. Limbo (see below)				19 Aug
12. Don Fitch, 3908 Frijo, Covina, California 91722	y		pc	9 Sep
13. George Scithers OA, Box 895, Lawndale, Calif. 90260	y		y	30 Sep

ASSOCIATE

1. Milt Stevens, LTJG, USS Coral Sea, FPO San Francisco, California, 96601	n		f/r	
--	---	--	-----	--

ACTIVE WAITLIST

1. Chuck Hansen, 701 S. Grant, Denver, Colorado 80209	y		N	
2. Earl Evers, Box 192, Old Chelsea Sta. New York, NY 10011	y		y	
3. Dave Van Arnam, 1730 Harrison Ave., no. 353, Bronx, NY 10453	---		n	
Cindy Van Arnam, same address as Dave Van Arnam	---		n	
4. Dave Hulan, Box 1032, Canoga Park, Calif. 91304	---		n	
5. Bill Donaho, Box 1284, Berkeley, Calif. 94701	---		---	

INACTIVE WAITLIST

1. Arnie Katz, 42B Oxford Ave., Buffalo, NY 14226
2. John Koning, 2008 Sherman, no. 1, Evanston, Ill. 60201
3. Madge Gemignani, 67 Windemere Rd., Rochester, NY 14610
4. Ken Goldsmith, 3874 Willowcrest Ave., N. Hollywood, Calif. 91604
5. J.G. Newkom, 7338 Cartwright Ave., Sun Valley, Calif. 91352
6. Alex Bratmon, 281 Norton St., Long Beach, Calif. 90805
7. Jim Sanders, c/o James Seligmann, Inc., 342 Madison Ave., New York, NY
8. Sid A. Cochran, Jr., 805 Citizens' Bank Bldg., Tyler, Texas 75701

DROPPED: Alva Rogers (no. 11), Jack Harness (Assoc. no. 1), and Tom Seidman (AWL no. 3). Alva failed to write FR 213 and FR 214, and is Out. It should be noted that the lateness of these two FRs is no excuse. It is every Member's duty to keep track of when he has to write. Harness failed to satisfy the Associate pub requirement per TLC II, III,6; and, if Pelz's f/r means anything, Jxtn doesn't much care. Seidman, first listed on the AWL in FR 212, failed to write to FR 213 and FR 214, and is Out per IV,6. The comment on Alva also applies here.

DROPPED IN FR 213: James Wright, Dick Eney. For comments on Blue-Eyed Jim, see Scithers' letter elsewhere thish. Wright vacated position no. eleven, which was then occupied (unawares) by Alva, who has now been dropped. In a phone conversation I encouraged the CA to reinstate Eney in his former position

(just above Chuck Hansen). He said something about a petition, instead. I'm willing to cosign for Eney if necessary, but I think Eney's record during his last stint in the Cult is a sufficient justification for reinstatement by fiat. Let's see what George says after thinking about it.

LIMBO: Due to what I regard as the incertitude of Eney's status, I have left position no. 11 vacant. If Eney is reinstated, he becomes Member no. 11. If not, Chuck Hansen becomes Member no. 11 (as of FR 214, for historical purposes).

MUST WRITE FR 215 (Letter Deadline: 25 May): Crayne, Patten, D. Pelz, Hansen, Van Arnam, Hulan. (The latter two first appeared on the AWL in FR 213). The present FR is going Airmail to these six.

MUST WRITE FR 216 (Letter Deadline: 15 June): Bill Donaho, new Awler thish.

NEW IWLEERS: Jim Sanders, Sid Cochran. I have listed Cochran in my FR since it is the first one to come out after the publication of his letter. If Patten publishes Hollander's letter, thereby legalizing his application, I'll leave it up to the OA whether Hollander goes after or before Cochran.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Cordon Eklund. Scithers' address is pretty new, too, by the way.

THE NEXT PUBLISHER IS F R E D P A T T E N .

Deadline for letters: 25 May 1968

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Before anybody starts hollering about this FR being late, I direct everyone's attention to FR 212, p. 9, last paragraph, in which I announce latepub.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: George Heap, for stencilling his own letter. However, for the record, George, the reason I requested that the first page start at line 10 is not because my machine prints funny; it was simply to allow for the lettering-guide heading. Next time (and I ask this humbly; I am grateful that you stencilled your own) please don't go below the standard bottom margin; since it makes it necessary for me cut cut a piece out of the top of the stencil before it will print high enough again.

LATEPUB DEADLINE: For Al Snider: 13 May, 1968. (P.S.: He made it.)

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS: Directed mainly to our frantic OA, George Scithers. George, dammit, you make me nervous. You can discover more crises in the Cult than any man I ever see, and half the time you discover the wrong ones. Now, what the hell was all that blast at Snider for? (f/r 214 1/13th.) You say, quote, "he wucked up the roster". Now, that's true, he did, wuck it up. But not in the way you mention. You jumped all over him for one utterly trivial matter, and for one matter that to the best of my knowledge has never before been even considered. So, he put somebody's name on the roster without that person's having a letter in the FR. Big deal. That's happened a million (figuratively) times in the past, and nobody has ever before regarded that as grounds for screaming "INACCURATE ROSTER!" The fact of the matter is, Hollander was just incorrectly listed. The appropriate thing to do would be to announce that his name was to be eliminated from the scroll until the letter was published; not, for Christ's sake, to put Snider to the trouble of putting out a f/rationalized roster minus Hollander's name. That strikes me as absurd.

It accomplished nothing, except to cost Snider some money and trouble. But now, in what way did the presence of Hollander's name cause the Cult any grief? After all, it was only in one FR. (I would have eliminated the name independently of your directive; I know the Cultstitution, too.)

The second thing you jumped on Snider about was the way in which he listed Van Arnam's membership. Now, in the first place, the Cultstitution says nothing about "joint memberships", so Snider had nothing to go on there. And second of all, there is no precedent in Cultish tradition (so far as my time in the Club goes) to justify your assertion that the Van Arnams have a joint membership and that "correspondence from either satisfies requiredac", so Snider had nothing to go on there, either. The only conclusion I can arrive at is that you, at some point, decided that there were such things as "joint memberships", and that they were as you describe, but that you never bothered to make this decision public until after Snider published. Therefore, your penalty was ex post facto, and, I believe, unjust.

There has never, within my memory, been a joint Membership (capital M) in the Cult. A good many years ago, when Ted White was still married to Sylvia Dees, the no. 5 slot was sometimes listed as "Tedsyl" or as "Ted & Sylvia" -- and in fact Sylvia put out FR 70; but most of the time it was listed as "Ted", period; which never caused anybody any distress at all. I seem to recall that shortly before Dave Rike dropped, a hoaxy-sounding lady called Virginia Rike wrote a letter or two to FRs that got credit; but he was never listed as anything but "Dave". The Lupoffs were listed on the awl for a while; but I don't recall Pat doing any of the writing. All of this is just by way of pointing out that Snider's act was thoroughly in keeping with previous Cult traditions.

Furthermore, since you seem to be inclined to make a Federal Case out of leaving Cindy Van Arnam's name off the Roster, let me ask you this: just exactly when the hell did it become a joint membership, and just exactly where the hell was Cindy Van Arnam's letter of application published? Van Arnam returned to the iwl in FR 204, listed simply as "Dave". He remained listed that way up until your FR 208, when all of a sudden he appeared as "Dave&Cindy". Did he perhaps request the change? And is the request perhaps buried in the cuteness of that FR? If so, please cite the page for me; I don't intend to hunt. And did you OK the change, without asking for a letter from Mrs. Van A.? If so, I protest vigorously, and in my best Federal Case tones. If we are going to have a new category -- that of "joint memberships" -- then I demand that both joint members write letters of application, to be published in a FR.

So much for defending Snider. His roster was seriously inaccurate in other ways, and I find it bothersome that you didn't take him to task for them. Specifically, a good many of the addresses are incomplete, and some of them are just plain wrong. Omitting a direction indication, such as "S" or "E" from an address can make a piece of mail undeliverable in a great many cities (e.g. Seattle, which has a 40th E., an E. 40th, and a 40th; or Salt Lake, which has all possible permutations of directions and numbers). Snider consistently omitted them, as well as "Ave", "St", etc. He gives Lerner's add. as "98-B Boulevard"; Gemignani's a "67 Midemere", and Bratmon's as "281, Long Beach, Ca. 90805". Now, if you wanted to give him some shit, why didn't you give it to him for the serious things?

HOWEVER: I do not recommend that you jump on him for it now. The damage that was done has been rectified in the present FR. Let's leave it at that.

Yuvs,

Scott VI

