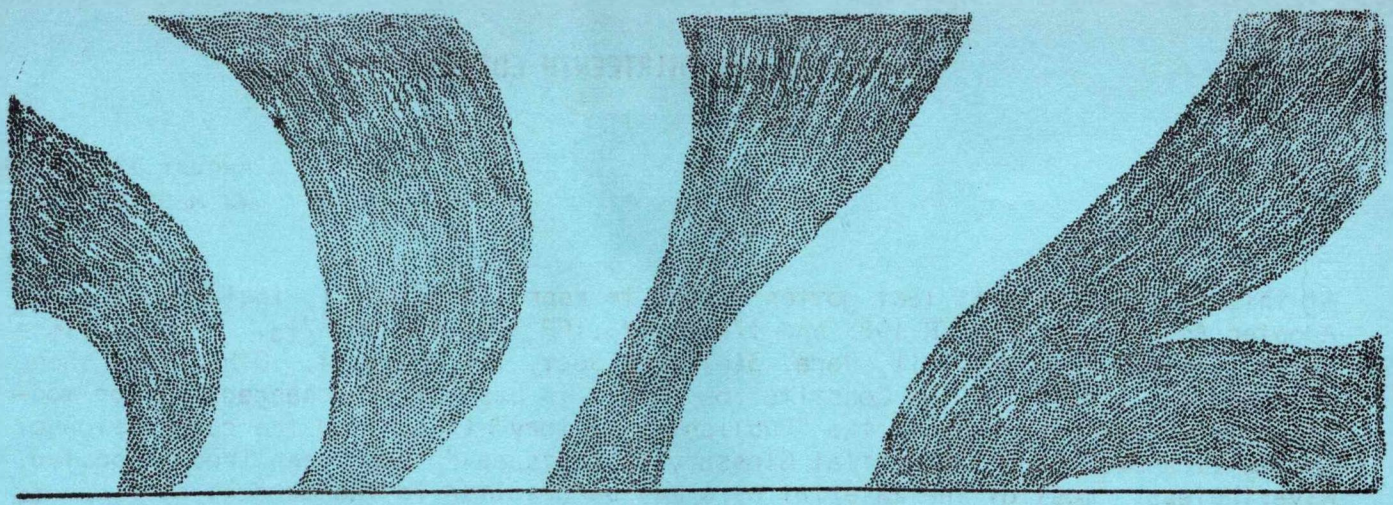
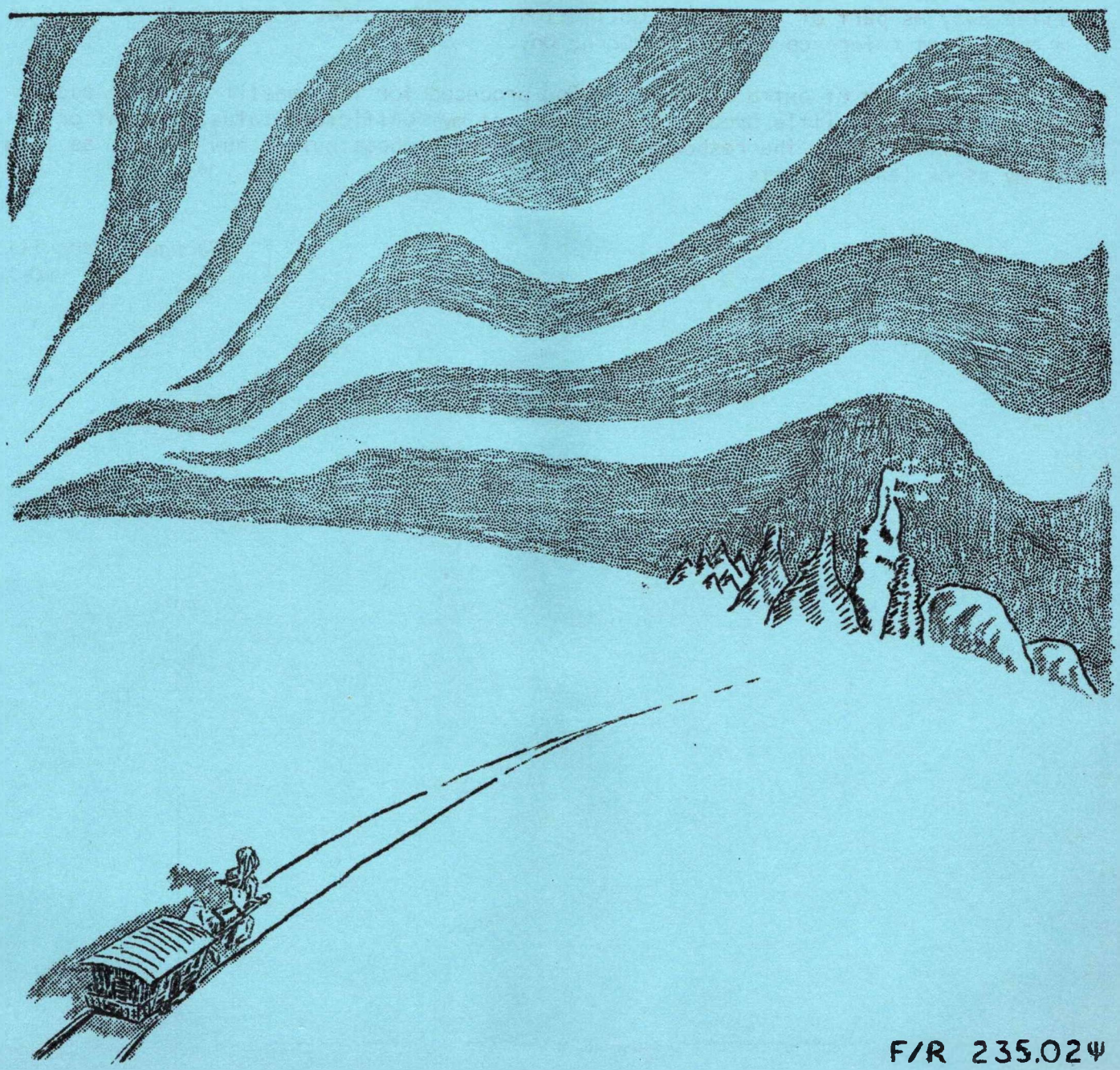


THE LEGAL CONSTITUTION II



F/R 235.024

PREFACE TO THE THIRTEENTH EDITION

f/r 235.02¥

August 11, 1969
WE MADE IT #187

At this time, I have at last gotten around to reprinting TLC II, including Legally Adopted Amendments from FR 198 and f/r $205^1/_3$::FR 206::f/r $209^2/_{13}$. These affect Sect. I, Para. 2; Sect. III, Para. 3(h); and Sect. III, Para. 4. Other than these changes, the wording of the Constitution itself is basically unchanged. Minor modifications have been made to the "Publishing History" (thanks to the cooperation of *Scotty Tapscott*) and "A Partial Glossary of Cultspeak" has been freely updated. Nevertheless, most of the material here may be credited to the account of *Tapscott* and earlier experts in matters Cultstitutional.

Other items stolen from *Tapscott* include the spacing for right justification and the practice of mailing out *two copies to all current Cultists*. One copy may be filed away as part of a Complete Collection; but the other should be kept handy as a convenient reference to What Is Going On.

Lastly, a supply of extra copies is being produced for the benefit of later additions to our Happy Little Group. Regardless of my OAfficial Status, present or future, I will take on the responsibility of sending these out to new IWLers, as long as my stock (and I) lasts.

George R Heap iii
O A

ARTICLE I: Organization & Membership

1. The Cult is a Stfan organization whose primary function is correspondence among the members, carried out in the form of amateur publications (FRs and f/r's) circulated among the membership. It consists of thirteen Members, filling thirteen ordered places, whose rights and obligations are indicated below. Membership in the Cult is restricted to residents of the North American continent. However, the criterion of residency is normally one's mailing address, rather than physical location. APO or FPO addresses count as foreign, for purposes of residency.

2. Persons wishing to become Members of the Cult must apply for admission, in writing, to the Official Arbiter. In addition they must present the membership with evidence of their ability to take part in Cultish activities by submitting a letter of substantial length to be published either in the current FR or in a f/r published by a member. Applicants may not be arbitrarily denied Membership (or a position on the waiting list) solely on the basis of this letter. The OA assigns applicants to vacant places in the Membership, or to places on the waiting list, in order of application.

3. Members or Waitlisters who leave continental North America for an extended period, with the intention of returning, have the option of either maintaining a mailing address in continental North America or becoming an Associate Member. Waitlisters choosing the latter will become Associate Members at the time they would normally become Members. Associate Members are listed on the Roster directly after the Membership, and are numbered separately. Associate Members are placed at the top of the waiting list upon their return to North America or otherwise establishing North American residency in line with (1) above, and other Waitlisters are moved back accordingly.

4. The first five places of the waiting list are called the Active Waiting List (AWL). Persons filling these five places have certain duties and privileges not possessed by others on the waiting list. These are indicated below. The AWL appears on the Roster directly after the Associate Membership (if any), and is numbered separately.

5. Remaining places on the waiting list are called the Inactive Waiting List (IWL). There is no limit to the number of places on the IWL. The IWL appears on the Roster directly after the AWL, and is numbered separately.

ARTICLE II: Correspondence Requirements

1. The general correspondence requirement for the Cult is as follows: one letter to at least every other FR, or the equivalent. The following are its equivalents:

   (a) A substantial postcard to *every* FR.

   (b) Original artwork in at least every other FR.

   (c) Written material or original artwork published in legal f/r's during at least every other FR Period.

2. Written material may be on any subject, but traditionally consists of commentary on previous FRs and f/r's. Previously published material may not be used to fulfill the correspondence requirement.

3. The general correspondence requirement applies to the Actives (*i.e.*, Members, Associate Members, and AWLers) and only to the Actives. However, the OA may, at his own discretion, impose special correspondence requirements upon the IWL.

4. Written material is credited for the FR Period in which it is received. All other material, including f/r's, for the FR Period in which it is published. Letters, in order to count for credit within a given FR Period, must be in the hands of the publisher for that FR Period no later than the Saturday preceding his publication date. Letters received later than Saturday will count for credit to the next FR Period.

ARTICLE III: Publishing Requirements; The FANTASY ROTATOR

1. The official organ of the Cult is the FANTASY ROTATOR. It is published by the Members, in rotation, in order of their listing on the Roster, every third Monday. The number 1 Member publishes after the number 13 Member, and begins a new Cycle. The publishing schedule and the duration of FR Periods is unaffected by late or missing FRs. FRs are numbered consecutively.

2. Each Member is required to publish a legal FR on his scheduled publication date (but see Section 4 below).

3. In order to count as Legal, an FR must satisfy the following conditions:

Content:

(a) It must contain a complete and accurate Roster including the names, addresses, and publishing dates of all Actives and IWLers, including latepub deadlines for FRs hanging fire (see 4(c) below).

(b) It must indicate the Cult activity of all Actives during the Period of the FR, and the nature of the activity if other than letterac.

(c) It must contain all matters up for voting and/or discussion, and all other business such as OA Rulings, *etc.*

(d) It must be legible, that is, easily read and understood by the Actives.

(e) Copies must be essentially identical, except as noted below.

(f) The name, address, and publication date of the next publisher must be conspicuously indicated.

(g) The names of persons dropped or added must be indicated.

Distribution:

(h) Copies of the FR must be sent to all Members, Associate Members, and Active Waitlisters. Copies of the FR must also be sent to all persons dropped that Period, except that the Roster page alone containing notice of drop is sufficient for dropped IWLers. Distribution to the IWL is optional with each editor, but it is a matter of common courtesy to send copies to those having material published therein.

(i) Photographs, clippings, *etc.*, if included, need not be sent to Associates or Waitlisters.

(j) FRs weighing four ounces or less must be sent to all Actives by First Class Mail. This is optional for copies sent to IWLers and others, and for FRs requiring five ounces postage or more.

(k) The FR must be published *on time*, except under the conditions specified in 4(c) below.

4. A Member unable to publish on time may:

(a) Trade publishing dates with another Member.

(b) Arrange to have someone else publish *on time* for him.

In either of these two cases, all Actives must be notified of the arrangement in the preceding FR, or by First Class Mail posted no later than the scheduled pubdate of the preceding FR.

Any Cultist (Member, WLer, *etc.*) who agrees to publish an FR under 4(b) above is subject to all the requirements and penalties applicable to a regular FR publisher. Such an arrangement will not relieve the original listed publisher of any of his responsibilities unless the substitute publisher-to-be is a Member.

(c) Receive an extension of no more than four weeks, by notifying all Actives of his intention to publish late. Notification must be either in a preceding FR or by First Class Mail posted no later than his scheduled pubdate. A Member receiving such an extension must notify the following FR editor, prior to his pubdate, of all Cult activity to the late FR.

5. F/r's are Cultzines published out of turn, or by Associate Members or AWLers. In order to count as legal, a f/r must meet the legibility, identity, and distribution requirements for FRs, and must consist at least in part of material not previously published.

6. During each Cycle, every Associate Member must publish at least fifteen standard pages of legal f/r, or a legal FR.

ARTICLE IV: Dropping and Replacement

1. Actives who fail to fulfill their publishing requirements in size, content, distribution, or promptness, shall be dropped from the Cult.

2. Actives who fail to fulfill the general correspondence requirement shall be dropped from the Cult.

3. A person is dropped as of receipt of notification. Notification may be by FR, f/r, or by letter or postcard from the OA.

4. Persons expelled from the Cult by petition may not re-enter the waitlist for one full Cycle (*i.e.*, 13 consecutive FR Periods).

5. Members dropped for failure to publish, and Members dropped in the FR immediately preceding their own scheduled pubdate, may not re-enter the waitlist for one full Cycle, unless their application is contained in a Cultzine published by them which satisfies III 5 above and which contains at least 15 pages of previously unpublished material.

6. IWLers moving to the AWL, unless subsequently demoted back to the IWL, must satisfy the general correspondence requirement by the second FR following the move or be dropped from the Cult. For example, one whose name first appears on the AWL in FR 240 must write to FR 242 at the latest. Thereafter the requirement must be met as per Article II.

ARTICLE V: The Official Arbiter

1. The Cult has one elected officer, known as the Official Arbiter. His duties are to interpret and enforce the Constitution, to receive and judge membership applications, and to make Decisions on all matters not covered by the Constitution or where the Constitution is unclear. The OA is empowered to alter pubdates, waive obligations, reinstate dropped persons, *etc.*, as he sees fit.

2. All Decisions by the OA are binding, but any OAfficial Decision may be overridden by a vote of seven Members, provided that this is accomplished within six weeks of the Decision.

3. OAfficial Decisions become effective upon receipt of notification by the persons affected, unless an effective date is otherwise specified. All OAfficial Decisions must be published, either in FRs or f/r's, as soon as is practicable within six weeks of their effective date.

4. The OA need not abide by the Decisions of previous OAs, unless these Decisions have been formally added to the Constitution. However, all OAfficial Rulings remain in force until specifically overruled by succeeding OAs.

5. The OA may not do anything to override the Constitution or dissolve the Cult. He may be impeached and deposed from office for assumption of powers in conflict with the Constitution, direct violations of the Constitution, or failure to perform his duties. Impeachment is carried out by Petition, as described below. An OA deposed from office retains all of the rights and obligations of a Member, unless deprived of these for other reasons.

6. If the office of OA becomes vacant for any reason, it shall be filled by a special election as described below. During the period of vacancy, each FR editor shall have the powers of OA during his FR Period. If the vacancy occurs too near the end of the Cycle for a special election to be practical, each FR editor shall have the powers of OA during his FR Period for the remainder of the Cycle.

7. Any Member in good standing may run for and serve as OA. There is no limitation on the number of (consecutive) terms which may be served.

8. Only Members may serve as OA. The office becomes vacant if, for any reason, the OA ceases to be a Member.

ARTICLE VI: Petitions and Elections

1. All measures presented to the Membership for vote are called Petitions, except those having to do with electing the OA, which are called *Elections*.

Petitions

2. A Petition must be sponsored by at least three Members. .A Petition is presented by being published in an FR or f/r together with the signatures of its sponsors.

3. Voting on a Petition shall be called for in the first FR to be published *after* it is presented. The editor of the following FR shall act as teller, unless the measure is one which affects him directly (impeachment, expulsion, *etc.*), in which case a teller shall be appointed by the OA.

4. The teller for a Petition must publish the results of the voting as soon as they are known, but no later than three weeks after the voting is called for. If passed, the measure becomes effective as of the publication date of the FR or f/r in which the results are published, unless otherwise specified.

5. The following measures require *nine* affirmative votes in order to pass:

   (a) Petitions to remove the OA from office.

   (b) Petitions to expel a person from the Cult (if such a petition fails, it may not be resubmitted for twelve weeks).

   (c) Petitions to amend or add to the Constitution (if such a Petition fails, it may not be resubmitted in identical form).

All other measures require *seven* affirmative votes in order to pass.

6. Abstentions count as votes in favor of Petitions to amend or add to the Constitution. In other cases, they are ignored.

Elections

7. Member number 13 is the Election Officer. Candidates for OA nominate themselves by filing with the Election Officer at least one week prior to his pubdate.

8. It is the duty of the Election Officer to send out postcard ballots at election time to all Members, listing all Candidates. These must be sent by First Class Mail posted no later than his scheduled pubdate. The Election Officer acts as teller unless he is a Candidate, in which case he appoints another teller.

9. If the office of OA becomes vacant for any reason, the editor of the first FR following the publication of the vacancy becomes Special Election Officer, with the same duties as the regular Election Officer (7 & 8 above). Candidates file with the Special Election Officer, and the Special Election procedure follows (8) above. The Special Election Officer may, if he wishes, appoint the editor of the following FR as teller for the Special Election.

10. The teller for an election must publish the results as soon as they are known, but no later than three weeks after the ballots are distributed. A plurality will elect. The new OA takes office as of the publication date of the election returns.

ARTICLE VII: Voting

1. Voting on Cult business (Petitions and Elections) is restricted to Members.

2. No Member may vote on any Petition directly affecting his status. The right of a Member to vote in elections is not restricted. Members in Limbo may vote, **except** on Petitions directly affecting their own status.

3. The sponsors of a Petition are automatically counted as voting in favor of it.

4. In all cases, votes must be in the hands of the teller within three weeks after voting is called for, or must be regarded as abstentions.

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PUBLISHING HISTORY

Revision	Edition	Publisher	Dates	Description & Comments
Original	1	*Charles Wells*	Dec. 20, 1954 (Adopted Jan. 31, 1955)	Original draft of Cult Constitution [TLC I]
1	2	*Dave Rike* and *Terry Carr*	Oct. 22, 1957	
	3	*Dave Rike*	June 22, 1958	Reprint with additions
2	4	*Ted White*	Jan. 15, 1959	
3	5	*Ted White*, OA	Dec. 13, 1959	
4	6	*John Champion*, OA	Oct. 12, 1960	
5	7	*Ted Johnstone*, OA	Oct. 15, 1962	(Not ratified)
6	8	*Scotty Tapscott*, OA	Mar. 25, 1963 (Effective April 1, 1963)	
	9	*Dick Eney*, OA	Apr. 27, 1964	(Reprint of the sixth revision from original stencils; changes added to the end)
7	10	*Scotty Tapscott*, OA	Dec. 21, 1965	TSC - Abridged Version
---	11	*Scotty Tapscott*, OA	Jan. 20, 1966	The SPCA - Ultimate Abridgement
8	12	*Scotty Tapscott*, OA	Feb. 20, 1967	TLC II
	13	*George Heap*, OA	Aug. 11, 1969	

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A PARTIAL GLOSSARY OF CULTSPEAK
(Revision '69)

Actives: Collective name for Members, Associate Members, and AWLers.

Associate Membership: A category reserved for Cultists who have temporarily moved overseas or someplace.

AWL(er): Active Waitlist(er).

Brandon, Carl J.: Historically renowned figmentary fan. *Carl* served as OA during the Fourth Cycle, thereby making the Cult one of the few Secular organizations ever to be ruled by a fictional critter. "Carl probably did as good a job as anyone else, despite the inevitable handicap of all non-existent persons." *(JCC)*

***Breen*mark:** An indication once used in the Roster to identify those to whom it might be considered Risky to send the more adult Cultpubs. It has not been in use for several Cycles, but One Never Knows . . . . . Named after *Walter Breen*, a prominent figure during one of the Cult's (occasional) dirty eras.

bucket: Cultish vehicle to Hell, originally discovered by *Bill Sarill*, who named FR 74 in honor of his discovery. Although the Cult has been eternally going hellwards in this conveyance, the closest it has gotten so far is Knott's Berry Farm.

cliff-hanger: A f/r published at the last possible minute to save the publisher's membership. Its most notorious disciples are *Don Fitch* and *Chuck Crayne*, who use it approximately every other FR Period.

Clut: A variant spelling of 'Cult', employed during the Eighth Cycle when the IWL at its heighth numbered twenty-three hopefuls.

CULT HYMNAL: A scurrilous, vile, and somewhat humorous publication brought out around the time of FR 98, containing sundry new verses set to old tunes, dishonoring its author's current adversaries. Copies of this legendary and hard-to-get item are rumored to sell for as high as two dollars apiece. (Inquiries should be sent to *Scotty Tapscott.*) When last heard of, it was still considered Classified Material and unsuited for general distribution.

CULT SKETCHBOOK: A tastefully arranged collection of artwork, depicting a then-Cultist in his workaday attitudes. Though some protested that it had too much Stark Realism for their tastes, it met with generally favorable criticism. For the record, it was f/r 147.1.

Cycle: Thirteen consecutive FR Periods (*q.v.*); beginning twenty days before Member #1's pubdate, and lasting until the pubdate of Member #13. A standard unit of Cultish time. The First Cycle included the Periods of FRs 1 through 13; the Second Cycle, Periods 14 through 26; *etc.* This 'zine, for example, was published in the Nineteenth Cycle.

d.0: Decimal Oscillator. An unofficial Cultzine, published by IWLers, *etc.* (*George Scithers*). While other numbering systems have been used, currently it is considered In to take the last FR number (*vide* f/r), append the publisher's position on the IWL, and express that number as a decimal. Accordingly, d.0 0.23505 would be published by IWLer #5 in the 236th Period (*following* FR 235).

Exult: Collective name for Ex-Cultists. (*Scithers*)

FR: The FANTASY ROTATOR. Generally pronounced "Eff-are".

FR Period: The three weeks up to and including the pubdate of an FR, starting with the day after the previous pubdate.

f/r: Fractional Rotator. Official Cultzine published between FRs. Also written 'F/R', 'F/ractional', and 'FRactional'. Regardless of which spelling is used, it is always pronounced "fractional". A f/r is normally numbered by taking

the number of the last FR as a whole number, and attaching thereto a decimal fraction (arbitrarily chosen by the issuer). *N.B.*: A f/r for the 235th Period (intended for credit to FR 235) is numbered 234.nnn.., and may be published *up to and including* the pubdate for FR 235. While the Constitution does not specify that f/r's *must* be so numbered, various OAs have taken the position that un-numbered 'zines were not Cultzines; and incorrectly numbered f/r's have lead to the publisher being Dropped in the confusion.

Golden Member, the: *Owen Hannifen*'s pet name for himself. Complaints that the nobility of the metal was overrated were shouted down, on the grounds that the accuracy of the rest of the image made up for the exaggeration.

Heap's **Disease:** A complaint suffered during the Fifteenth Cycle and later. It is, variously: the issuance of too many f/r's (*Al Snider*); or the use of too many type faces (*Scithers*); or a variant of the Hong Kong Flu (*Heap*).

IWL(er): Inactive Waitlist(er).

letterdate: The last day in which Cultletters, postcards, *etc.* may arrive in the FR publisher's eager hands and still count for credit to the FR. It is (see TLC Art. II, Sect. 4) the Saturday preceding the official pubdate.

Limbo: A category for Cultists in various states of disgrace, uncertitude of membership status, *etc.* Though not required, it is Wise to send copies of FRs and f/r's to Actives listed in Limbo.

Member: When spelled with a capital initial, this signifies one of the thirteen Members of the Cult. When spelled with a lower-case initial, it may signify anyone attached to the Cult, such as WLers, *etc.*

Nastiest Bastards in Fandom, the: Our Little Club. Research reveals that this appelation was coined by *Bruce Pelz*, in a limerick published in FR 77. Though no longer completely accurate, due to the proliferation of short-term apas, it still comes closer to the truth than imaginable substitutes.

nitpicking: Standard or garden variety Cultac. "According to fannish traditions, the Cult spends all its time squabbling among itself about rules. Nowadays [1960] it doesn't confine itself to just rules." (*JCC*) "Nor nowadays". [1967] (*BLT*) Or even today!

OA: The Official Arbiter, sole Cult official. There was no OA during the First Cycle, an oversight which the Cult often wishes had been protracted.

OC: "Old Cultist" or "Original Cultist", a title borne by *Ted White*, who was one of the Original Thirteen, and who maintained a more or less unbroken Membership for 171 consecutive FR Periods.

Old Cult Joke: An exotic type of repartee popular during the heyday of Los Angeles Cultdom. Example: "Call me that again, and I'll kill your sister."

OUT: No Longer In The Cult.

pantograph: An electrical substitute for a centaur.

Period: See **FR Period.**

pubdate: Publishing date, as listed in the Roster of the FR.

69: FR 92 (*J. Champion*) was entitled *69*. All references to this mystical number in Cultzines are about FR 92, of course. In the grand scheme of things, Member #69 is *Bill Donaho*.

Small Uninformed Group, a: Description once applied to the Cult by Alma Hill. A movement was begun to find a volunteer to go and pee on her, but it failed due to the comparatively high value placed upon urine.

Spermy Mary: A beverage invented by *Bhob Lichtman*, and discussed at some length in Eighth Cycle Cultzines. It would appear to be nutritious, but has little else to recommend it.

telegram: A generally effective, but expensive, device for saving one's membership at the last minute.

TLC: The Legal Constitution. An affectionate abbreviation for the current edition of this document.

Tridecycle: Thirteen consecutive Cycles of Cultish time, ending with the equivalent of a centennial. The First Tridecycle ended October 4, 1965 with the publishing of FR 169. The Second will end on June 23, 1975 with FR 338. The Thirteenth Tridecycle will close with FR 2197 on May 11, 2082. The Second Coming of *Peter Vorzimer* has been prophesied for this time.

trolley: A sort of oblong bucket with a pantograph.

TSC: The Shorter Constitution. F/r 172.two.

Vorzimer, Peter J.: Our Founder and Spiritual Father, Who Created the Cult in 1954. Although *Vorzimer* was the Being Than Which None More Cultish Can Be Conceived, He gradually withered and gafiated. But we know that somewhere, out there, there's a little bit o' the Cult grimly gouging away at Reality. In 1968, He was reported to be gouging away at NASA, with rather impressive results, judging from recent events.

w & b: Whining and Bitching. The most common substitute for nitpicking (*q.v.*).

WL(er): Waitlist(er).

Wult: Collective name for persons on the Cult waiting list. (*Scithers*)

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