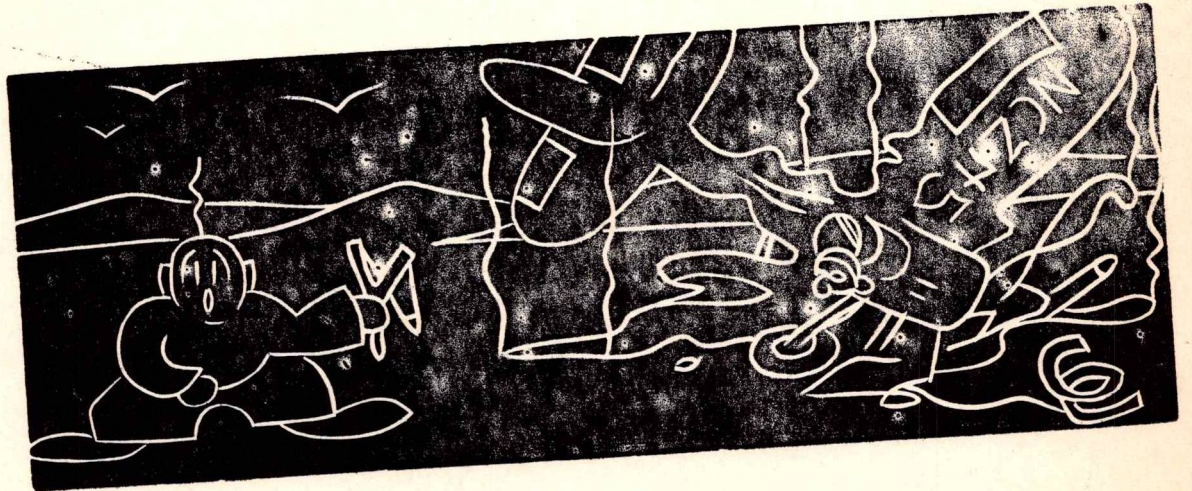


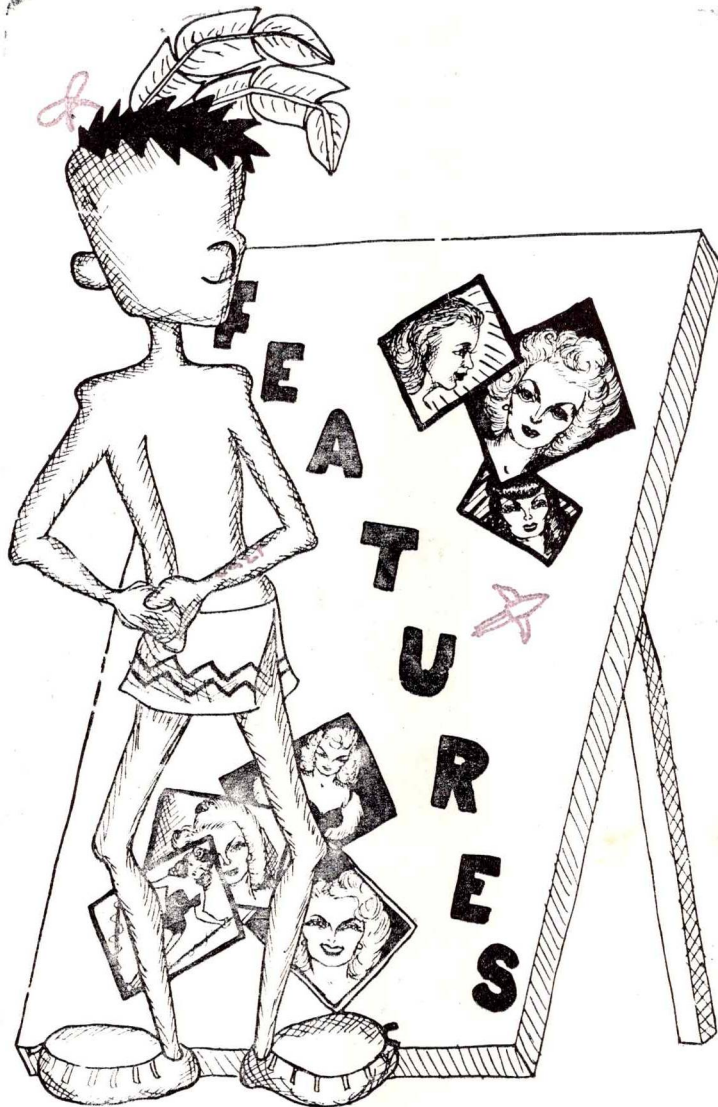
WAMPUS KITTY



Fantasy Potatoes # 13



# CULT





# The Prince

Maciavelli Stark

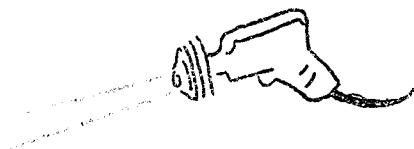
In Fantasy Rotator # 8, overshadowed by a move to abolish or at least restrict amendments, Stuart Nock proposed an amendment in rather confusing terminology that I think bears explanation.

During Christmas week, I managed to write four or five letters to Cultists sounding them out on a proposal to elect a three-man committee, whose business it would be to argue out the constitutional squabbles that all thirteen of us had been fighting over. I planned to make it more or less directly concerned with the membership lists, with moving up waiting-listers, and with expelling delinquent members, with a jamority vote of the Cult as a whole the only thing necessary to make their membership-decisions valid. On the constitutional questions, no amendment could be submitted to the Cult except by the committee, whether they thought it up themselves, or just passed it on. But full vote and ample rebuttal-time had to be allowed.

That was the essence of the proposal. Letters went to Don Wegars, John Hitchcock, Dennis Moreen, Stuart Nock, and Pete Vorzimer, before finals loomed large on the horizon and put a stop to my activities. None of the recipients, except Nock, expressed enough interest in the committee idea to make me think an amendment would have a chance. Pete didn't even answer.

The letters had a deeper effect, though, because I went a little farther than just proposing the committee, I made suggestions as to its composition, and asked for further suggestions.

My main points were that I wanted no persons of extremex opinion on the committee, and that I would prefer to exclude any members from candidacy who felt they were, or who were assumed by others to be "leaders." I wanted a cool, deliberative, logical board of governors, and I wanted no chance of autocracy. My suggestion was Magnus, Moreen, and either Nock, Wells, or Hitchcock. By letting this board quibble on constitutions, I'd hoped to rid the FR's of such hysteria as we've had in the first revolution.





Then I made my fatal error.

With only too brief a study of the Cultists, most of whom I didn't know before Spit arrived at my home, I began to tick off complaints of extremism and authoritarian behavior which prejudiced me personally against a few colleagues AS MEMBERS OF A DELIBERATIVE BODY. As debating opponents, most of them are highly prized and highly respected.

"Ah, sweet  
Idiodacy."

I excluded myself from candidacy on grounds of extreme opinion --- on letters in FR's.  
I excluded White on identical grounds.  
I excluded Anderson also for the same reason

The three of us were all involved in stating violently our extreme opinions on only one question; could any committee remain cool and logical with any of us as a member? I didn't think so, and don't now.

But the area in which I probably created the most confusion (certainly in Nock's mind) was that of excluding members from candidacy on grounds of possible autocratic behavior. I wanted no one member of the committee to act arbitrarily, and most important, I wanted no one member capable of swaying a majority of Cultists merely on the merits of his own personal prestige.

For that reason Peter J. Vorzimer and Charles Wells I considered unacceptable as committee members.

Vorz, as founder had and still has more prestige, more weight, than other Cultists. Some members go so far as to consider him an "Expert on cults" because the organization sprang full blown from his brain.



But even more important, from my point of view, Vorz has far too often presented arguments with less coherence than emphasis --- arguments which appear to trade on this Great White Father prestige. I don't think it is intentional, but nevertheless the trend toward independent, daprecious, autocratic action was strong enough for me to express opposition to his candidacy on a board of governors. It was my opinion that Vorz, as an independent entity, might well organize his prestige-won power to either support the committee, or to make an effective opposition whenever the occasion arose.

"Your Interpretation?"

OUTSIDE the committee, Vorz would perform a logical service; inside, he could only destroy its effectiveness by his potential autocracy and his private power.

Wells I considered an enigma at the time. He had, by requesting dictator powers and by rushing ahead with his new constitution without any formal okay, openly ASKED for the position which Vorzimer had merely ACQUIRED. He had not been granted what he requested. Nor could I find any illogical capriciousness in either his actions or his motives. Perhaps Charles is just more thorough in stating his arguments.

However, I was reluctant to add the name of one who had admittedly sought to be dictator to that body I had presumed would be selfless in its ultimate opinions.

THAT was the background for Stu's contorted amendment --- not that anybody seemed to have noticed it, except Vorz, who had a right to be a little concerned at Stu's interpretation of my opinions.

Since then, things have become more acute. No matter what the hopes of the three or four who turned down my letter proposal for a committee, the Cult will elect a leader or a leader-clique of some kind, if it progresses long enough; whether the election be conscious or unconscious. The struggle for that position seems to have been joined, finally, and it appears by no means to be a simple nor an unviscious scuffle.



"That's not  
the way I  
interpreted  
it!"

Remember, I wrote Vorzimer around Christmas, expressing generally the same sentiments as I have here, and adding that possibly my prejudices would disappear if Pete and I might correspond a little more, personally. I have never received a letter from Pete; a duplicated broadside once, and once a carbon of a letter, and perhaps once part of a reader column letter was headed by my name. But there's been no attempt to change those opinions.

After FR #5, Vorz tangled with White on a couple of points in a protracted exchange. Also, Pete objected to my suggestion that the Zrov that put out Abstract was the same Zrov that founded the Cult. I think he concluded that both Ted and I were dedicated enemies of Vorzimer Enterprises, Inc, and engaging in collusion to multiply our enmity. He was wrong; we're friends who argue more bitterly with one another than with outsiders; but the impression was planted and grew, nevertheless.



Ted, meanwhile, had managed to gather his own bit of prestige. He'd answered every opportunity to comment, produced a monster FR, and instituted the Fractionals. Later, he gained in stature by placing his mimeo at the disposal of Sam Johnson and myself --- and by persuading Multog to combine FR's 9 and 10 in order to make a try at regaining the two-week schedule. Without fully meaning to, Ted acquired the position of a leader candidate; most probably because his name and address has appeared so often in Cultzines, and his activity is envied.

Wells, who asked in Fiendetta that he be granted some power, seems still to be ignored by most of the Cultists as a potential leader. I don't know how long he will continue to be ignored; personally, his motives appear sound, and his energy seems boundless enough to get something done. We'll see by the time this gets into print. (16 March is its writing date.)

Anyway, Vorz and White appear to be the only contenders who have openly challenged one another, or who seem to have developed dislike for one another.

The first real clash came when Vorz proposed amending Fractionals out of existence. It was in all probability a move with sound altruistic motivation, but it's apparent that, were the amendment passed, the prestige Ted gained by publishing the monster FR # 5 would have the edge taken off it. But it was defeated by a pretty decisive vote, too --- in a partial sense, a vote of confidence for Ted's industry, and an approval of his issuing a post amendment Fractional in open defiance of Pete's views on the matter.

Now, of course, the big explosion had occurred, and the argument has flared into full view of everyone. Both Ted and Pete are attempting to gather public favor unto themselves, and since the battle is being fought with constitutional phrases as weapons, everyone believes he has a vital interest, if not a legal right to an opinion.

(For the record, I just received and read Magnus' FR a paragraph ago: I had no idea ALL of this was going to be made so topical. I'll bring it up to date, eventually, so that things make more sense.)

Vorzimer noted these facts: I went to Washington; Multog and myself put our zines in White's hands for publication; and Peter J. Vorzimer was removed from the waiting list. To his eyes, all of them had a common origin: Hatred Of The Great White Zrov. He demanded reinstatement, accusing Ted and I of fomenting a four-man anti-Zrov Committee in the Balto-Wash area, and all in all turned out a pretty nasty note. Some day I'll have to quote it.

'Man, woman,  
or child?'



That was the real match in the powderkeg. I made some effort to right things (in the manner of Magnus final decision) and to prevent a broadside from either of the contenders. Were I successful in preventing Ted's initial explosion in FR # 11, maybe Vorz could have been reinstated quickly and quietly, without even Pete getting stirred up. I didn't, so now everyone's stirred. /-/ Hah. Undetstatement. Hah! /-

What impresses me most is the surprising devaluation of both Ted and Pete that has occurred since the ugly mess started. The prestige that a hundred pages and four FR's of work created for Ted has completely evaporated; no one looks up to a child, and since his first yelp of outraged dignity, that's precisely what he's been.

Vorz isn't much better, either. As the opening of this article shows, I was pretty certain that everyone had forgotten that Nock amendment --- but since Vorz is convinced that Ted and I hate him TOGETHER, he's raked it up as collateral ammunition. (It's interesting that we find little in Ted's and Pete's letters OUTSIDE their own private little battle; strikes me as pure exhibitionalism on both their parts to throw their invective in public instead of KEEPING it a private war.) Finally, I think there's a little more than a mere question of right involved in Pete's demand of "Position # 1 or Nothing."

Undoubtedly, these two will be the loudest and most talked-about Cultists for quite a while to come ---- but not in the respected tones that were used about them before. Ted is a hothead and Pete a special-privilege pleader, and as such, neither commands much respect, not even as much as was accorded them before.

Notice the gyrations Charles Wells has gone through to stay on the fence throughout the whole conflagration, though. He was fair and honest in the decision in his own zine, and made certain ~~statements~~ that everyone was made aware that he hadn't all the facts when he did make it. While Ted and Pete have called curses down upon one another's heads, and appealed in public for support of their separate "Right stands," forcing the rest of us to choose sides, Wells has acted arbiter, made it certain that his honesty was well displayed, and has managed to wire-walk the chasm LENGTHwise, supporting neither side, yet always voicing his fairness.

Not that I'm anti-Wells; for his sake, and ours, I hope this publicity he's receiving as an interpreter of constitutional convolutions and as an honest individual gets him into a position with an honest influence, if not actual power. If I were inclined toward one, I think Charlie'd make a good dictator.



He is honest, and more energetic than any two of us put together, and in all he's proposed and done, he HAS had the best interests of the Cult in mind. My one quarrel with him is his passion for FORMAL structure and FORMAL okay. If he wants to be dictator, he shouldn't ASK for the power, he should EXCERISE it; if we don't like it, we'll let him known soon enough. I do think, however, that if someone with an honest, logical approach to the Cult insisted on voicing his opinions and making positive moves, we'd all follow pretty easily.



SPLASH BORGONE

Which brings me to the real problem of the Cult, and the point I would have made whether or not FR # 12 arrived, but which I can make a little easier now that it has.

The Cult HAS damn good leadership timber, but none of it is in use. The sad thing about the Cult is that all the noise, and all the argueing, has been done by fools like me, who aren't qualified to do any leading. Ted has, unquestionably, put more workds into Cult-circulation than any other member, and one of the highest-prized attributes a Cultist can have is frequency of publication and lengthiness of argument. Without Ted, and his monster-issues, his Fractionals, there would have been MONTHS in which NO communication would have connected all yhr members. His energy is deserving of respect.

But not of Honor and Elevation.

We have members I wish would become more widely distributed, more emphatic, more direct in their statements --- so that they can be heard over the babble. For one, John Magnus --- who is proving his intelligence by getting out of the Cult. It's a tradgedy, not that John thinks he ought to go, but that's he's never asserted his mature supriority. His is the oldest, the wisest, the coolest he ad among us, and his authority is deserving of respect, his opinions of an attentive ear. Instead, he's been revolted by his experiences and would rather leave than try to do anything to improve them. Perhaps he's right. Certainly it will be better for HIM if he does leave. It might help the rest of us if he'd stidk around a while, though.

Moreen is another fan whose abilities I've respected --- and mourned the loss of. Instead of succinct opinions on the childishness of the Cult, and the preferable possibilities, all that come from Denny are notes on all the outside activities that are preventing him from making many significant contributions. I feel he's actually leaving fandom without realizing it; at least he is certainly abdicating his Cult responsibility of participating to the FULLEST. We could use an Illinois opinion occasionally, if it were stated as forcefully as its cogency deserges.

And it might not be such a bad idea for more of us to listen a little more closely next time Wells asks for some power to do something. So far as I know, his constitution hasn't yet been ratified, though there's no opinion against it. If all he's waiting for is a vote of confidence to free his energies for some dictating, I'm for giving it to him to see what he has in mind. He's an idealist with a paper plan, but at least he's willing to ACT instead of sitting on his desk-stool griping. With guidance and backing, maybe he could perform a miracle. Maybe.

Well, anyway, # 12 is here, and Magnus is no longer here. I'll miss you, John, probably a lot more in the future than I have in the past. I'm sorry we disappointed you. Personally I'm not completely proud nor satisfied with many of the things I've done or said in the ten issues I've commented or contributed to. In my case, though, I think I'll have to say it happened to be the best I could accomplish at the time, given the particular question to opionate upon. Perhaps if some of the questions had been ridiculed into obscurity as honestly and mercilessly as you've ridiculed the Cult as a whole, I wouldn't have been able to make a fool of myself so often. I don't know.

I do know I could have used your experience and advice oftener than I heard it. I could still use it, and what's more, perhaps I could try to help get it listened to a little more often.

But I'm thinking about a future that won't even hold the PROMISE of comment from Magnus, as the past at least had. If anyone persuades you to stay around a little longer, I'll try to reform. But I don't want to try to make up your mind for you.

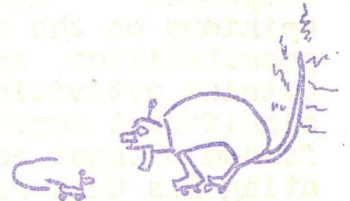
This "Article" began objectively; I have a feeling it hasn't stayed that way... At any rate, perhaps some of the origins of a lot of the enmity and invective that has infused the ER's of late have been cleared up by this. I have no idea where the search for a leader will take us next; I'm fully prepared just to sit back and watch the trends, and make occasional reports to my sociology class. We'll have a leader, eventually, whether he's someone with a vote attached, or just the person whose initial opinion is agreed with most often by most people --- a sort of leader by default. I don't know who it'll be, but I'll have fun watching him emerge.

Tick  
Tock



Cheers,

Larry





## Bugs In The Network

I heard the radio operas "Archie and Mehitabel" and "Echoes of Archie," as presented on Saturday, March 5, by the National Broadcasting Company.

The stars of "Archie and Mehitabel" were David Wayne, narrator; Carol Channing, Mehitabel; Eddie Bracken, Archie. Mr. Wayne took up a fascinating half-lilting style of narrating that completely absorbed me in the story. Miss Channing portrayed an alley cat perfectly. The true Mehitabel seemed to come out. You could picture a yowling, lusty, living cat, sitting in Shinebone Alley, singing and dancing with her fellow compatriots of the garbage can. Mr. Bracken's half-singing, half-narrative manner of speech was perfectly in tune with the plot. The lusty lyrics and poignant music of Joe Darien and George Kleingsinger were a stunning experience. When the music took up a nearly-boogie beat and Mehitabel declared that was lame on the rear starbord side, one could actually see her dancing with three good legs. Her rumpled fur and bumpy hide, her frayed ears and green-gleaming eyes, her "list to the starbord side" were all evident.

The lonely, deserted newspaper office where Archie typed up Mehitabel's many adventures was evident. The garbage-strewn expanse of Shinebone Alley stretched before you. You could see the tiny cockroach diving head-first toward the keys from the top of the typewriter, just barely getting each letter typed. Faster and faster he would go until he fell exhausted into the wastebasket, his narrative finished.

"Echoes of Archie" starred only David Wayne. He portrayed the roll of the narrator, and in one place the part of an actor cat of "The old school." The rollicking adventures of the Thespian felind held me stuned at the radio. The many poems of Archie, including the one of the "Boasting Flea," were marvelous. The flea had crept into the lion's den, bitten the lion, then stood there boasting of the deed. The lion didn't dare bite back; the lion just lay there cowering. But in reality, the lion hadn't even felt the bite.

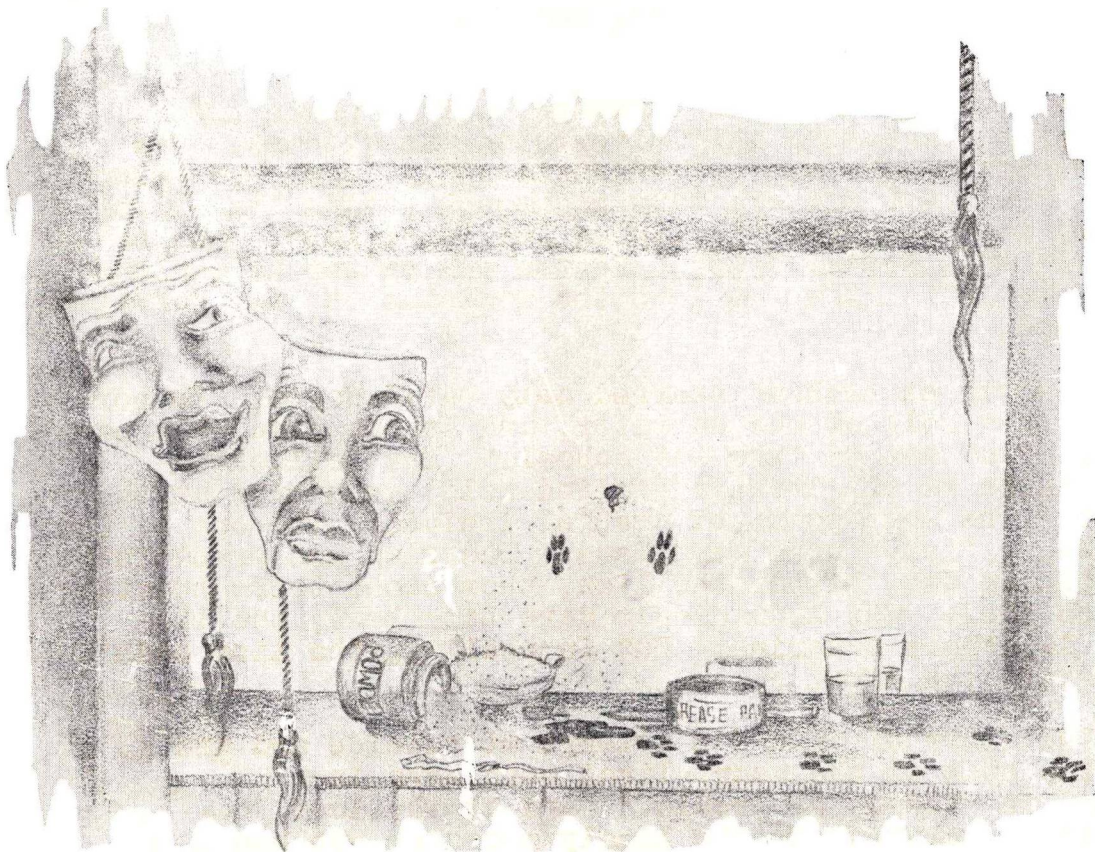
The story of Archie's attempt at suicide and the epic of the short-lived moth were included in "Echoes of Archie." And at the last, Archie is returned to the lonely narrator who had been wondering where he'd been, and reminiscing the events.



All in all, this was a most satisfying afternoon's listening. May Mr. Darien and Mr. Kleingsinger try it again, soon. Very soon.

"Ammdment XIII?  
T'hell ya say!"

... WHERE TEARS  
ARE SHED



THESE THINGS ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY  
THEY ARE ONLY MEANT TO BE LAUGHED AT  
AND TO BE FORGOTTEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE



THE EDITOR

Dear Larry:

No column this time simply because I don't know whether your sitting or mircoing your FN.



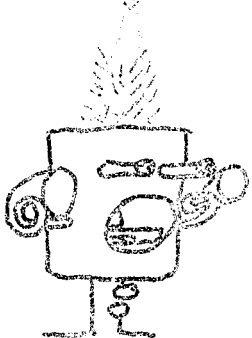
"I'm Little  
Petey Vorzine R."

I am worried and somewhat disgusted by the latest Fantasy Detector. Not by the IR itself, because Magnus did a beautiful job on it, but by the antagonism which seems to be ripping us apart. The editorial started it, after reading it, I found it impossible to enjoy anything printed from these on. It is plain that Magnus does not like or enjoy the Suit. I do. I rather thought (up to this time) that others did. It is obvious that they don't. Or won't after reading this editorial. It seems Magnus has become the catalyst in this hate campaign. I say catalyst, because like the true catalyst, the process and results will not bother or hurt. He is getting out. And, like Sampson, he is tearing down what he leaves. He has (perhaps unwittingly) forced false issues. I recall the various comparisons made with FAPA, SAPS, and PEF. This isn't because I dislike these particular organizations, but because unfair comparisons are drawn, and every time we follow, someone will say: "Yes see? FAPA is better." Sure, Fapa is better now. But read of FAPA's early days, torn by internal and internal strife. Fapa is what it is, only because it has had the time to grow up. I wish that for a moment that there haven't been some of those little feuds in 1971. I've read a great number of magazines from the sixties and late forties and early fifties, and this I can state with some authority. But no one tried to drag the entire organization down for this. In every group, you will find the dead-wooders who produce nothing creative. A very small minority gives this its life blood.



"Something, Horace?"

But the hell is in so many ways different. There are only 15 of us, and we are mutually dependent. I CANNOT TOLERATE DEADWOOD. Look what happened when Leon found himself unable to get UTULUNE out on time. We practically disintegrated.



"Big Baby!"

Up to this time, I had considered Magnus a friend, in the sense that I consider Dick Cois a friend. I hadn't corresponded muchly, but what a hee was always friendly. But this WEE EDITORIAL NOTHINGS bit is so openly antagonistic. I do take issue with some of his fool ions, and I feel it is anyone's right to do so. But Magnus plainly DARES you to contest him. You are not "his friend" if you don't agree completely with his every utterance. Now I have no desire to feud with Magnus or anyone else, but I am repelled by his entire mental outlook on the situation. Much of what he says is true. But he offers it not as constructive criticism, but only to tear down.

And a good thing, really, since no one who dislikes us should be forced to remain with us, and Mike's a nice guy. I might

state that I have made at least one basic friendship in the Cult and strengthened others. Many others have said the same. But not Magnus. He has remained uncommunitive and aloof. He admits as much when he states that the Cult is a "pure example of a last resort." Obviously the famous editor of VARIOSO has not need for a last resort.

/-/-/-/Ted, for one who doesn't want to feud, you seem to be doing an awfully lot of squabbling over minor points. I won't elaborate, but after this, what isn't of general interest will be neatly deleted. What is too strong for my gentle and sensitive tastes will be neatly reworded. Larry./-/-

I had been waiting for FR #12 for a long time, because I knew that the guy who turned out SF and VAMP and VARIOSO could give us one of, if not the best FR's. He had not chosen to do so. Instead, he reproves it and announces his tentative resignation.

Malz asks why I am so anxious to prove Vorz a liar. I suspected my Jacob Edwards hoax has backfired here, because tho' I'm not sure, I think Fred sided with Jake. /-/-Listen, Bo, don't feel bad about that. I came darn near siding with the poor fighting neo-fan, myself. You made him just to damn likeable./-/-

However, after past examples of Vorzimer's misstatements and exaggerations re Piper/Anderson, I had little choice in the matter. I would not put it past anyone who desperately wanted to belong to CULT to change a few dates. I'm not saying that he did, since the letter did finally arrive, but he has in the past (on paper) for less advantageous reasons. I'm afraid I had some basis, tho perhaps not justified, in doubting Vorz. /-/- I believe it was pointed out, Ted, that even if Zrov hadn't written until six months later, he would still have been qualified to stay in./-/-

I will not reverse myself that AT THE TIME I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE. Too, Stark defends me well in the matter of Vorz's letter to Stark and myself.

Had anyone else been in Vorz's position, I would have booted them as firmly as Wells did Nowell, Hitchcock, and Watkins. Now Pete demands all the special considerations due to the Founder. I wasn't the one who said that there would be no officers and we'd all share and share alike....

KING OF VENUS





The point at which I decided that Vorz had some sort of a grudge against me in not sending Abstract # 9 to me was AFTER I had kicked him out, not before. I STILL have not received # 9, tho I especially sent two bits for a copy. Surely this would warrant another copy if the first did not make it. If not, may I please have my two bits back? I have never held anything against ABBY and in fact, I particularly liked it. I wrote a long letter of # 8, too.

But it does strike me as strange that so little gets thru to me from Southern California. Since I began receiving it, Abstract has been variously shredded, mangled, and only one page of #3 arrove originally. Not only this, but I never received the first FOG #5, either. I'm a little too old to believe the Post Office is conspiring against me, but I wonder....

I am more than a little hurt that May has taken this attitude against me. Why Mike has chosen to build one particularly innocuous statement into a gigantic blast is beyond me. Perhaps he, like the rest of us, has a persecution complex. I had certainly thot that Wegars had sent him a copy of SLOB. The fact that he did not completely alters the complexion of the affair. But to my knowledge, May had received both #7 and #8 without commenting on either. Therefore, in that light, I was legally justified in kicking him off. I didn't do so since it wouldn't have done much good, he being the last of the waiting list, he could have re-attained his position. I did say that if he didn't comment next time, he should be kicked off. I sent him all the fractional FR's I could dig up that I had left, plus an article on the Cult for Epitome. I informed him several times of his requirements. I spelled it out to him.

I think I have cause for resenting the statement that I "insulted like a drunkard." I defy anyone to show where I insulted either Vorz or May in my letter. The only place I mentioned May was the second paragraph of my column, and at that, I fail to see where any of those five sentences could be construed as insults. I blasted neither Mike nor Vorz in that particular letter, nor May in any other. I shall decline from calling him an out and out liar right now. If he thinks he "got the worst of it," let him. He stands alone. Brave New Martyr....

/-/Methinks about here, Ted, that if you don't control your roving tongue & temper, you may be the one to be martyred./-/



Lastly, let me say that May should read more closely such things before accusing me of showing him around.

It seems that I have assumed role of the villain of the Cult. I am tired of constantly defending myself, but it seems will continue.

Because of the fact that I've done more for the Cult than any other person with the exception of our founder, I've been on the hard end of a number of slams. Tho I doubt whether Magnus meant me in particular, he states that the Cult is the place of those who may have failed, egoboostingly, otherwise in fandom. Since I have been so active, to the point of neglecting general fandom, this puts me in the spot of being a failure. Since I have something of an inferiority complex, I might almost believe this, but for the fact that at the time I "retreated" into the Cult, I was receiving some acclaim.



"Vorzimmer, your day  
of reckoning  
shall come."

But I see no reason why someone who wants to work in the Cult, and continue it, must be held accountable for this. I have tried, in various ways, to ADD, not subtract, as Magnus has, from the Cult. I will freely admit that I have been wrong at times, and at such times, I have bowed to the will of the rest of the Cult. I've tried to make the zines I have worked on better than the previous ones. Someone asked "Why I didn't let Stark & Multog do their own zines." I see it was Moreen. The reason was that I was doing Stark's zine anyway, since he, having no mimeo, asked me to. And in the interests of getting back onto some sort of a schedule, I had the brainstorm of asking Multog if he would combine. They both made the decision themselves. Frankly, I lost considerable money on that thing, and it's a pity that no one bothers to realize the work of running off a zine that big and then assembling it.



A little further we come to May again stating that 9 & 10 wasn't so good because I dominated it, while Ghastly was good. Now I'm not going to debate the relative merits of the zines, but the fact that I dominated one zine more than another seems a foolish way to decide the better of the two. For the record, I appeared to a greater extent in Ghastly! I "dominated" fully one third of the zine!

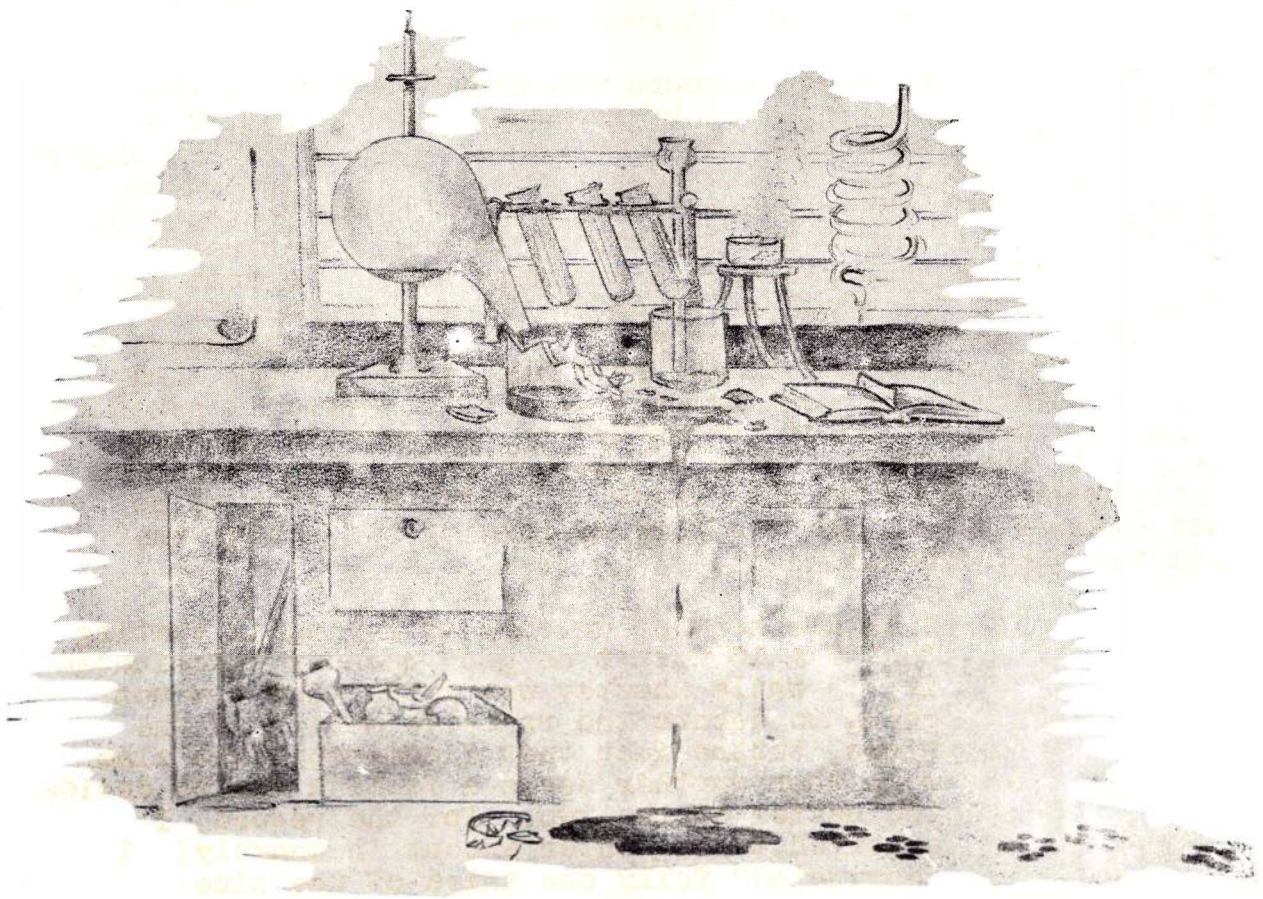
And just think! Not one amendment this issue!

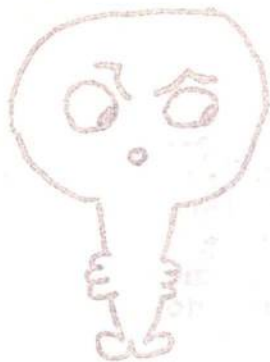
"Th'ell you say,  
Watkins."

Ted



... WHERE "BLOWUPS HAPPEN"



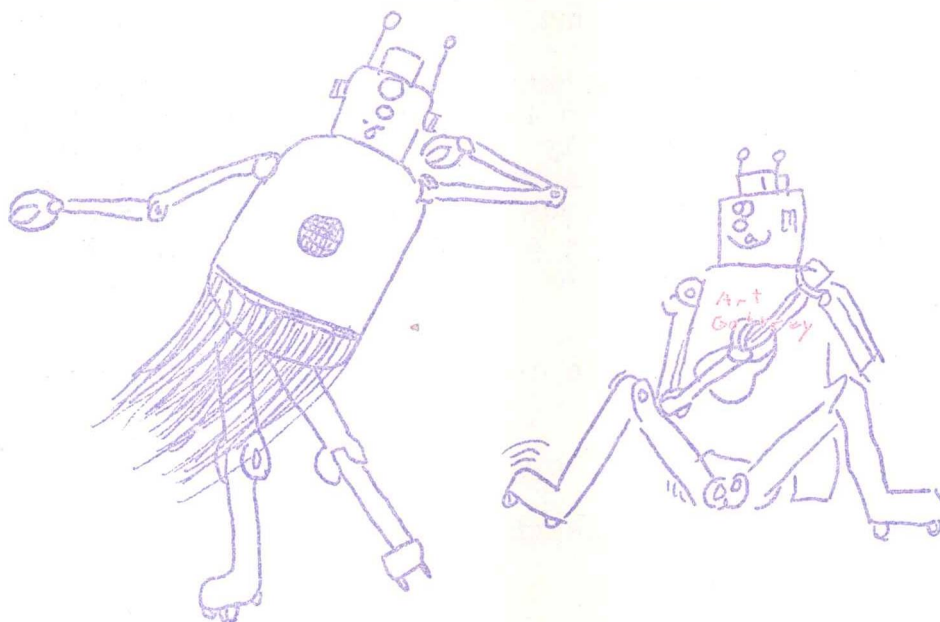


"Is you Little  
Petey Vorzimer?"



"No, I'm not little  
Petey Vorzimer."

Am just now listening to Montovanni's recording of the  
march of the Robots. Purty darn good. Has a half-way mambo  
beat that is slightly incongruous. Have you ever tried to  
imagine a robot doing the mambo. It'd be enough to wear out  
his relays. It's purty rough on mine:



I've got me a good radio, at last. I've  
always wanted a real good one. Picked this up second hand  
for not too much. A Graybar 310. Cost from 350 to 400  
bucks when it was new. It has about an eight-inch speaker,  
and one thing that you don't find on most radios --- you  
can move the speaker about. It's on a cord and separate  
from the original radio. Has a distance knob, too. The  
volumn control is shot, though. It's in an oak or walnut  
case about three foot long and a foot both other ways.  
Was a darn good radio when it was made back in the '30s.



RALEIGH MULLTOG /

Dear Larry:

Magnus' Johnmag received tonight after I got home from work, so if I hurry, I can get this out in the 8:00 mail. Man, it's spring, like 65 -- 70° weather here in Maryland today and I've got Spring Fever. Plenty of it. Plus a slightly sore finger. As I opened the window --- you know the kind --- where one part goes up and the other goes down, my finger almost got caught midway. Owitch!

Now it is the case of the missing envelope! Ye gads, What's next?

Hitchcock must be suffering from a case of gafia these days. I haven't heard a peep out of him for a month ---

What to talk about tonight when this is my favorite night for watching tv? Whoops, that reminds me, Walt Disney is on tonight. Anybody see last week's program?

I'd appreciate any of you guys sending me news for Anes. Plus views and comments. I need them.  
/-/ Now I printed his request ---- why didn't anyone print my requests for material for Wampus Kitty? I think that last one was printed, but none of the other numerous ones./-/

Moreen, the reason that one Multog and Stark couldn't print their own is that White turns out so much better of a zine than either I or possibly Larry could do. And plus the fact that he has more and better modern equipment than we have. Besides, I don't trust my mimeograph anymore. It needs a new pad, ink, etc --- and it gets the worstest when I need it the mostest --- only person that can operate it is my father.

Yipe, I'd better get this letter addressed. Fifteen minutes intil Walt Disney.

S@long

Raleigh



Peter J. Vorzimer /

Gentlemen:

I enjoyed FR#12 -- and for a number of reasons. I thank you all for your vote. I did sincerely believe that the Cult had terrific possibilities if handled right, for that is why I started it. The possibility -- and it was a strong one -- of my getting ostracized hurt me very much. I believe the Cult has come a tremendously long ways since its inception. We have finally arrived at that one thing that I felt we needed from the start -- a spirit.

Magnus, I believe, is one of our most valuable members, but then, of course, it takes all 13 to make a CULT. It's good to see each man with his own individual personality.

I hate to bring up the old matter again, but even in the U.S. certain laws are made and are flexible, all according to who the person is that is enforcing them, so must it be with the Cult. Some lenience must be allowed. I think this should be the end of this matter.

It Won't be long before the first complete cycle will be finished. I'm having a couple of pictures taken for the FIRST ANNIVERSARY ISSUE. I can't promise any great length of the mag. It will be a good 25-50 pages long. It all really depends on you, the other members, and what you send in for publication.

As far as I'm concerned, the ANNIVERSARY ISSUE shall be as 'gala' an issue as you guys want to make it. What I'd really get a kick out of seeing, is all 13 of us represented -- especially in our little Annish. If you gentlemen would consider it worth doing, I could print up some 25-50¢ copies of this and we could send the issue out as both an explanation and introduction of outside fandom to the Cult.

A page could be devoted to each member, a place for his snapshot, a paragraph or two about his other fannish activities, what organizations he belongs to, what sub-zine (if any) he publishes, and other pertinent matter. This would serve as a complete gallery to every cult member. At one time, in one issue, he could see what each and every one of his Cult brothers looked like.

Think it over, and send in those pics! I'll be looking forward to Larry's Rotator, and I'll see you all then ---

#### P E R S O N A L S

RUSS WATKINS: Thank you, Russ, for your vote of confidence. I have been exceedingly busy with college and could not get the last DUSK out to you. Have future installments available and can get to work in about a month.

DENIS MOREEN: Denny, AB will be delayed in coming out. For one, I have not collected more than \$20 on it thus far, next, Bill Rotsler is tied up as far as art work goes, as is Bob



Bloch. Sooo --- see if you can't scratch out your column in the next month or so and maybe everybody can converge for AB#11 in the near future.

STUART NOCK: I'm not quite sure -- but I believe it was I who wrote to you last, Stu. There was a while back there that we had quite a lengthy correspondence going --- remember that 9 page letter? I expect I'll be back writing for TCF again, as soon as possible -- again after my FR rolls out.

FRED MALZ: Will get that \$5 to you ass soon as possible. I had just sealed a letter to MacElroy with the check in it when your letter came in. One of these days, You'll have to cut Souty --- f'rinstance, I hope on dropping in down at beautiful La Jolla, California to visit Tom Piper.

DAVE RIKE: You're certainly going to be an indispensible man to the Cult when you get in, Dave. I'd certainly like to have you do some art for the CultAnnish. Also, I'd appreciate it if you got on the stick with your proposed AB column.

PAUL NOWELL: Paul, I'm ashamed of you. You were the second guy to become a Cult member. As a matter of fact, if it wasn't for your help on these numerous phone calls we passed between us, my idea would never have become a reality. And there you are on the waiting list. How bad has this latest Gafia attack been?

TED WHITE: Ted, I'm willing to forget this whole business. I'm sorry you didn't receive ABatrack #10 -- I am forwarding another copy to you. A good friend would have possibly reasoned it out that an error could have been made by the post office. The issue were not stapled, it is possible that the cover and bacover (together -- the back having the name and address # might have gotten torn off in transit. /-/??/-/

Thank for all of you who gave me that vote of confidence --- Oh yes, one more ---

RALEIGH MULTOG: One final word about the letter I sent that started this whole mess. You state rather specifically that there was no date on the letter. However, no letter can be mailed in the U.S. without having a postmark affixed on it. /-/ There, Zrov, you are quite mistaken. I have seen numerous cases of a letter not having been dated by the PO. If it is mailed from a smaller station, this is even more likely to happen. Our nearby Polytechnic PO doesn't date anything. L.E.A./-/

I suggest you scout up the envelope and take a look. I sincerely believe that the letter was mailed anywhere from the 1st to the 6th of the month. Besides, it never hurts to give someone the benefit of the doubt and attribute accident to the circumstance.

Pete.

I've unmercilessly cut Rike's and Wegar's efforts. To get this thing out at all, this is necessary.

Don Wegars /

Larry --

do we stampede? Shall we leave in an orderly manner, or

Don

Dave Rike /

Dear Larry:

Johnmag was a nice fmz, even though Mag did put himself in it at a minimum. Too bad he hasn't thus far put even half as much into FAPA.

Talking about anniversaries, this year is (a) the 75th anniversary of the invention of the hectograph (b) the 30th anniversary of the invention of the spirit duplicator and (c) the 80th anniversary of the invention of the mimeo by that Benefactor of Fandom, Thomas A. Edison. It's also the fifth anniversary of the bombing of Art Rapp's house in Saginaw, Michigan by Eugene Seger, and assorted MISFITS.

S'long, Slob

Rike

Lawrence Speaketh;

This crummy effort is mercilessly late. I have failed to meet my mailing date. Expell me if you wish. I'm so damn tired I don't know what to do. Went to work Thursday (the 24th) at 8:00 in the morning and worked until 1:00 PM. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday were likewise spent in hard labor. We had a play festival down at Eastern (Montana College of Education) and I was electrician for the furshlugginer thing. 18...mind you...eighteen plays to light. Each had their own separate lighting script, etc. Thursday was spent in preparation and Sunday in cleaning up.

Magnus has been dropped, as he requested to be at the end of the cycle. If anyone doesn't like anything in this mag that I have done.....D R O P D E A D !

I'm too tired to argue with you now.

Larry

RUSSELL K. WATKINS of 110 Brady St, Savannah, Georgia is the next editor of this beleaguered journal of strife.



Russle K. Watkins /

Dear Larry

I sorta liked Johnmag, even though John didn't have his heart in it. Well, I can see his position exactly. If it had happened to me, I believe I would have done the same thing he has. Being lambasted by letters like that -- all fussing and feuding against one another -- is enough to make any member sick of the whole thing. I don't want to see any more of this sort of thing. It is certainly true that if we don't trust one another and if we don't have abiding friendships within this organization, then there is no point in having the Cult at all. We all should have mutual feeling about these things, but I believe I pointed out in my first letter that I knew this sort of thing would happen -- that is, disagreements. I believe, however, that they could be solved by discussing and not by name calling. I was wrong about that, for there are several too-strong personalities in the group. And perhaps by not having a president, or a leader -- at least on paper -- to make decisions, has caused this sort of an affair to happen. Or at least allowed it to happen. Perhaps we should have a man to make decisions on these matters and his word is law like unto the umpires in a ball game. What think ye?

I'm sorry to lose John. He could have been a very valuable member of the group. But I can't really blame him. Maybe he will give us another chance in a few months if we can show that we really can do something besides bicker.

Thanks, Don Wegars, for exchanging places. You're a living doll /-/. Is that why he has sawdust in his head? LEA/-/. That will give me a chance to at least get something out.

Well, at least John came up with a first in the Cult before his demise. This was the woodcut. I believe I was first with the picture suggestion. White was first with colored mimeoing. Wells first with a combination of mimeoing and dittoeing. What next? This is one of the things that fascinate me. The small circulation keeps the cost down enuff so you can do something new and different that you couldn't on a large generalzine.

Thank you Dennis for the kind compliment anent my writing the column RUSSELE'S RAMBLINGS. I just tried a different style. Sort of satirical slang-throwing, more in the style of everyday talk.

I think it is the letters that make the Cult so interesting. I believe it wouldn't be out of line if someone did not cut a letter and printed them all and nothing else in his zine.

Take it away anderson. I hope you have a nice interesting mag and don't get disallusioned like John.

Russle

John Hitchcock /

Dear Larry,

This is requirement. Pure requirement. I don't want to leave the Cult right yet, and when I go, I want to make a speech about it instead of being incereemoniously booted out.

I suggest that the slightly turbulent Cultists re-read John-mag several times. It will be the only Cultzine done by a master --- We are a youth group again now. But reflect on Maggie's arrangement -- his style -- what all he didn't put in.

I'm sticking with the Cult over this hump; but the least bit of college interference and I'll send my FR 24 material straight on to Ted White.

Good luck. You'll need it. Sean

Mike May /

Dear John:

/-/ If you wanted to talk to John, why didn't you write to him instead of to me? This organ should be used only to talk to most or all of the Cultists ---strictly my opinion, of course --- consequently, I have cut everything but what is of general interest, and will send the card to Magnus. L.E. A./-/

In my first letter I wrote, I tried to be fairly interesting without cutting into this feud business. I wrote a bit about the size of Texas, but Charles Wells cut it out. I wish now I hadn't written the letter about Ted White, but I just got a little fed up.

I think the Cult should have discussions in its letter page -- not fights. Larry Stark is the only one that seems to want to do this. Discussions about late stf books, fanzines, prezines, etc. would not only be interesting, but worthwhile.

Mike



Samuel Johnson /

Dear Larry,

Well, in spite of Maggie's gloomy outlook for the Cult, his FR was quite readable.

I would like to make comment on this little scrabble over the #1 position that has just been settled. This reminds me of several children fighting over a coloured rock, which, when they get it, will not have been worth the trouble. It's a most disgusting outburst from people for whom I normally have the utmost respect.

Now, after reading Maggie's editorial, I was a little disappointed at first --- You see, for about 6 issues of FR I've been of much the same opinion. I had, however, kept silent in hopes that I was mistaken. No one else seemed to be of a like opinion, so I finally began to believe that I was mistaken. Here I see that Maggie is expressing much the same opinion as my own. I am saddened to no end. I simply do not know what to do. I know that the Cult is more of a bust (and I'm not referring to lacteal glands, wither ) than a success. I made a futile attempt in my mag to pull some of it together by suggesting a subzine for the Cult. However, as all know, that, too, was a bust. It was much the same with the N3F and me. I joined thinking that here I would get a chance to get in on some great fun. I found, however, continual bickering (which I even joined in occasionally) and actually no progress at all. Let's face it, we cannot continue unless some common bond of interest can be found. There are a few (very few, sadly ) members who are willing to contribute to the FR, and to the Cult. The very essence of enjoyment in fanning is in exerting our individualism. Fans are, in my estimation, the most individualistic people alive today. They will do anything to gain recognition for their individualism. Most do not stop this practice in fandom proper, but carry it into their everyday lives! We feel that we want to be noted for being "different" from most normal people, and even from each other. I think the term "Fanarchy" is the most correct one-word definition of fandom that can be found. In the Cult, we have become stale since we are so individual, there are blessed few things we can agree on --- even then we have reservations. The only way we can save this organization is to find some way to be individuals, and to gain some measure of spontaniety in our workings. Spontaniety is another of the things we need to be individuals. I thought that perhaps that subzine might help, but I can see that even that would not work. I simply do not know what to suggest, since someone would disagree anyway --- damned individualists! At any rate, unless something can be suggested, I can't see a reason why we should stay banded together grinning our make-believe grins a little more foolishly than necessary.

It might be that we could throw the Cult wide open to all who would want to join in and contribute, though not necessarily publish. This would be a last resort measure. Or else we could work out a way to circulate this FR among a great number of fans who's only requirement would be to make comment

on each issue that they wanted to... It would result in a modified Cultzine, but it might be that link that will hold us together. This is but my own suggestion, and it's not even complete at that. I want to see the Cult survive this crucial period, since I believe in it --- BUT.

Maggie's comment about my bit of poetry was very appreciated. I need such comment ever so often to keep me writing. I write for my own pleasure, but it helps when someone else enjoys my writing. Mike's comment about my reviews were also appreciated, and I will comply if the FR editor says he wants me to write him one.

SAM

/~/ You talk about everyone should contribute --- yet you gave no contribution but a letter to this Fantasy Rotator. You say you will write reviews for any editor who requests them --- yet you gave forth with nothing in response to my many and varied pleas in former FR's for material of any sort. Come on, kid, let's practice what we preach, even if it may hurt just a little. L.E.A./~/



Anderson all alone out  
in Montana



Charles (sic) Wells /

/-/After that, Charles, you shall be called "Seegars" Wells./-/

Dear Larry:

The Magnus FR was one of the best yet, although I am immeasurably saddened to see that he is leaving us. I'd like to point out that FAPA had the same trouble when it was founded, and that these feuds and organizational difficulties blow over in time in any organization, provided they don't break up the organization first. If he'd stay with us another couple of years, he'd find that we will have settled down quite well.

Good heavens, does magnus look like that? It's generally true that we imagine fans who we haven't seen to look quite different from what they actually are, but this is one of the most remarkable cases in a long time! I had the idea John was a big football-type blond. And here I see he is mildmannered-looking and Fannish. By Geogre! Er, I mean, By George!

The general edition of Fiendetta has folded. I want to emphasize that it folded before #9 --- the same issue as my FR -- came out. I now have a cover for the general edition by DE printed up which will not be used on the general edition, plus a couple of interior pages. Pity to have to throw them out -- altho I may use the de cover in FAPA...

This business of my publishing only eleven days after the last mag...look here, I published my FR ON THE DAY OF MY DEADLINE! The deadline as given in FR #9-10. I refused to extend my own deadline just because White extended his. This organization's very life depends on ALL OF US STICKING TO THE SCHEDULE! If any of you didn't get their letter published because I came out ON TIME for once, blame White-Wegars-Multog, not me, dammit.

/-/ I feel a word of defence is here due. A good half of the letters I received came on Saturday the 26, and quite a few more on Monday the 28. Hardly any of these would be in..... including yours, Charles...if I hadn't delayed publication./-/

But, tho, I am sorry I dropped Rike off the w-1. I freely admit he shouldn't have been. However, this brings up a problem touched on by Magnus: when must a letter be in to count toward fulfilling a member's minimum requirement? In my FR I went on the example of FAPA and said, "The letter must be in the editor's hands by the deadline to count." Magnus points out that according to the Constitution, it does not matter when a letter is mailed. I think there is room for a constitutional amendment, much as I hate to say it. (By the way, did anyone ever consider what a problem we would have on our hands if a Britisher joined the Cult? Gad!)

Like I said before, I do not vote against a subzine, but I think it is unnecessary, and rather silly. I certainly won't support it.

As for poetry, I am enclosing two poems, Larry. You may use all or none of the, or some of them, as you wish. Please send what you don't use on to the next editor, but it doesn't matter if you don't, because I have another copy -- two as a matter of fact -- of each of them here. I warn everyone that they are to be printed in my next FAPAZINE -- in May. (Did I say that I am going to concentrate on FAPA now that I have folded fta-sub edition?) By the way, to clear up a misunderstanding, John Magnus' piece in my FR was NOT printed in ANY OTHER EDITION OF FTA: I never even thought of doing that, until White mentioned he thought I was. Now that I have thought of it, however, I will print it in my next FAPAZINE, after obtaining Magnus' approval.

To White: If I had used a different kind of paper for mimeo work the mag would have looked disjointed. That was what I was specifically trying to avoid. You know, every magazine before that FR which did mimeo and ditto work at the same time looked like a hodgepodge. I am proud of the results in my FR, even if it DOES smear! White can just damn well not put his fingers on my printing if he doesn't like it smearing!

In my letter where I corrected that unfortunate sentence, I meant what I said, and John should not have corrected me. I could have phrased it better, tho ...what I meant was, "When I typed the sentence, I changed what should have been 'Stark' to 'Multog'."

Russle Watkins didn't write that thing on poetry, I did!

As for Russ' letter; I like to hide my magazine titles. If fta came out more often, it would be famous for that. ...Mike May didn't sign his name like that. I couldn't find his letter when I went to duplicate his signature, so I forged one.

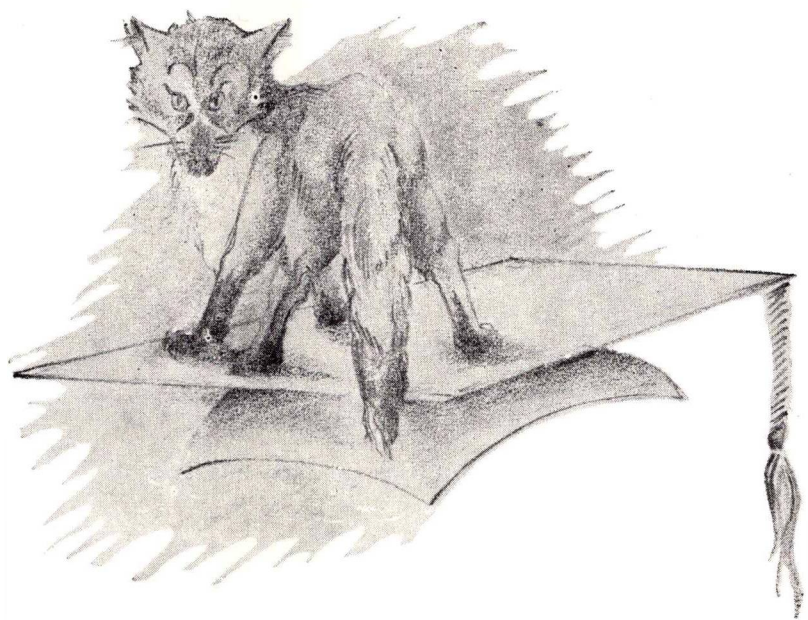
The curfew knells the toll of darting pay...  
sincerely,

Charles /- / Seegar /- / Wells



F E S T U R A      V E G A L O O S E

1. Peter J. Vorzimer (4/7; 10/6)  
U. of Cal. at Santa Barbara  
104 Toyon Hall  
Goleta, California  
Please, members, take pity on poor Anderson. I merely parroted the list to the left, and couldn't figure out whether Watkins was #2 or #7.
2. Russle K. Watkins (4/21; 10/20)  
110 Brady St.  
Savannah, Ga.  
You all notice that Rike now has Magnus' # 12 place. Since so many people cherish their numbers, I'm taking up the policy of just putting the new member in the quitting member's place.
3. Denis Moreen (5/5; 11/3)  
214 Ninth St.  
Wilmette, Illinois
4. John Nitchcock (5/19; 11/17)  
15 Arbutus Avenue  
Baltimore 28, Maryland  
It seems that everyone has dropped the asinine quibbling but White. Could this be a sign of something or other?
5. Ted E. White (6/2; 12/1)  
1014 N. Tuckahoe  
Falls Church, Virginia  
Your next editor will be, instead of Russle Watkins, as formerly predicted,
6. Stuart K. Nock (6/16; 12/15)  
RFD # 3  
Castleton, N. Y.  
PETER J. VORZIMER  
see address at top of pages
7. Don Wegars (6/30; 12/24)  
2444 Valley Street  
Berkeley 2, California  
Nock, Moreen, Nowell, and Malz didn't write this time. Write next, or you're out on most honorable ear, heroes.
8. Sam Johnson (7/14)  
1517 Penny Dr. Edgewood  
Elizabeth City, North Carolina  
Thish is beginning to shape up pretty nice. It looks like just over 30 pages. OOOOOHHH! my aching back. I have yet to assemble this 30 page monstrosity.
9. Raleigh Multog (7/28)  
7 Greenwood Road  
Pikesville 8, Maryland
10. Larry Stark (3/24; 9/22)  
Route # 9  
New Brunswick, New Jersey  
I hope you can read the black dittoing. It isn't quite as clear as blue or purple, but I thot I'd try it for once.
11. Charles Wells (2/24; 8/25)  
405 E. 62 Street  
Savannah, Georgia  
I am indebtd to Rike for the symbol on the cover.... a delightful parody of Moreen's and White's symbol.
12. David Rike (8/12)  
Box 203  
Rodeo, California  
Fharewell, fhools,
13. Larry Anderson (9/22)  
2716 Smoky Lane  
Billings, Montana  
Larry Anderson  
2716 Smoky Lane  
Billings, Mont.



"I done graduated this course,  
Kiddies."