

Lynn Hickman
224 Dement Ave
Dixon, Ill.
Oct. 5, 1961

Dear Cam,

But I'd love to get your N'APazine.. Haven't seen anything from you in a long time. I'm not able to publish as much now as I had previously either, but my troubles now are mostly financial -- costs are too high and my money too low. Have #58 about finished but may have to wait a while before sending it out.

I think you will find that it is more the young fan and the beat fan that do not have a belief in God and doesn't seem to care for his country. Most of the older fans are church members. I am, my wife is, my oldest son is and the two littler children attend Sunday School each week. I just think it is the loudest fans whose minds aren't fully developed yet that yap about being athiest.

(GMC: YOU ARE RIGHT THAT REBELLION AGAINST AUTHORITY -- OF WHICH RELIGION REPRESENTS A MAJOR PART -- IS ONE OF THE PHASES OF IMMATURITY. EVERY ADOLESCENT GOES THROUGH SOME DEGREE DOUBT WITH REGARD TO THE VALIDITY OF THE RELIGIOUS TRUTHS HE HAS BEEN TAUGHT, AND IF HE DOESN'T, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH HIM. BUT THIS IS A NORMAL PART OF THE RE-EVALUATION WHICH GOES ON DURING THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING FROM A CHILD INTO AN ADULT. THE SIMPLIFIED CONCEPTS WHICH WERE ALL THAT THE INFANT MIND COULD ASSIMILATE MUST BE SUPPLANTED BY THE MATURER UNDERSTANDING OF THE ADULT. HOWEVER, WHEN THE INDIVIDUAL FAILS TO OUTGROW THIS ADOLESCENT REBELLION AGAINST RELIGION, IT IS A SERIOUS THING. EITHER HE IS A CASE OF ARRESTED EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT, SO THAT HE REMAINS IN HIS CHILDISH EMOTIONAL REJECTION OF AUTHORITY (AND THERE ARE A LOT OF SO-CALLED 'ADULTS' THAT BEHAVE LIKE BRATTISH TEEN-AGERS) OR IT IS LIKELY THAT HIS MIND HAS BEEN CORRUPTED BY ANTI-RELIGIOUS PROPAGANDA. IT IS NORMAL FOR HUMAN BEINGS TO BELIEVE IN SOME FORM OF DEITY -- TO REJECT ALL BELIEF IN GOD IS AN ABNORMAL CONDITION FOR THE HUMAN SOUL. THAT IS WHY COMMUNISM IS SO DANGEROUS, BECAUSE IT TEACHES A DELIBERATELY ATHIESTIC MATERIALISM. IT DENIES ALL MORAL VALUES, AND REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE THE EXISTENCE OF THE SUPRA-NORMAL..OR PARA-NORMAL AS THE ESP EXPERIMENTERS CALL IT. COMMUNISTS HAVE SPREAD THE CONTAGION OF THIS SO-CALLED 'LIBERAL' THINKING TO THE POINT WHERE GROWN MEN AND WOMEN ARE SPOUTING OFF LIKE MIXED-UP KIDS -- APPARENTLY UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE 'INTELLECTUALS'. WELL, MAYBE THEY THINK THEY ARE INTELLECTUALS, BUT GOD HAS A DIFFERENT NAME FOR THEM. PSALM 14:1)

(Hickman - 2)

I am worried about the country becoming a welfare state with all dependence on Federal Government with the Democrats in. I don't like Kennedy's efforts to create a war hysteria to try to bolster the economy. It hasn't helped here. In fact, I've lost money ever since he was elected.

Yo's
/s/ Lynn

(GMC: YOU'RE DAMN TOOTIN'.. THINGS ARE WORSE LOUSED UP NOW UNDER THE DEMOCRATS THAN WHEN WE HAD A DODDERING OLD REPUBLICAN IN THE WHITE HOUSE. BUT I HAVE MY DOUBTS THAT NIXON COULD HAVE DONE MUCH BETTER AGAINST THAT BOMB-RATTLING MADMAN IN THE KREMLIN. KENNEDY SEEMS TO ME TO BE A WEAK MAN -- A POOR CATHOLIC, A FUTILE PRESIDENT. A MAN IN THE SPOT HE'S IN NEEDS SOMETHING MORE THAN A GLID TONGUE AND A HEAD FULL OF HALF-ASSED THEORIES. WHAT WE NEED IN THE WHITE HOUSE IS A MAN WITH DEEP-ROOTED PRINCIPLES AND MORAL INTEGRITY. I WISH I KNEW WHERE WE COULD FIND ONE.)

Pat Scott
Box 401, Anacortes, Wn.
Oct. 7, 1961

Dear Miss Carr,

Have been absent from fandom for some time now and would like to know if anything is happening there. I'm not too proud to sub, but would like a copy of your zine with the subscription rates if you are still pubbing. If not (or even if so, if you're not too busy) would you be so kind as to send me the addresses of a few people whom you have reason to believe are putting out fanzines?

One reason I would like to join in is a pet project of mine. To wit, to get a fanzine column back in one of the mags. I know that this would seem a near impossibility, but I think if most of fandom could be gotten behind (nearly impossible, that) the idea it might, just might, be accomplished. I don't think we would ever have a really healthy fandom without it, and life is certainly more fun with it. There are several mags that don't seem wholly opposed to fans and I think if one were hit upon hard enuf and convinced that it would improve their circulation, well, maybe.

My main interest in fandom is art work (tho I am something of a letter-hack and am not above an occasional article.) Am sending the article on the John Birch society.* Hope you find it of some use. It contains all the relevant material that I could find on the doings of the Birchers in this country. There was a miss-guided General in Germany (one of ours) who got cashiered due to his espousal of the cause and distributing of Bircher propaganda among his men with orders to read same. It did not materially add to the picture of the group itself in my opinion, so I did not include it.

*(GMC: I ASKED PAT WHY HE THOUGHT THE BIRCHERS WERE "A BAD BUNCH". HIS REPLY IS PRINTED ELSEWHERE.)

Regards,

/s/ Pat

Marijane Johnson
N5525 Lidgerwood St.,
Spokane 23, Washington

SPARKLE-JANEY SAYS:

Dear Gem, she's a "jewel", that one!

This was meant to be a poem of thankfulness, but the old brainpan has been lacking in lubrication lately. So, after receiving "Gemzine" today I decided to make it a short letter...

(Marijane - 2)

Not being in N'APA, and (let's face it, you always do) not too much of a fanzine fan, there were parts of it that left me high and dry, as I expect you figured. But I most certainly did like your Season "post mortem" and to find me mentioned in all three of the paragraphs was almost too much for this already 'addled with fame' redhead! You do have a super way with words and I was right back at Hyatt House, dogging your footsteps and there's more truth than poetry to that! Loved the pic of you and your partner dancing at the ball, and Clancy clanked his chains in delight when I told him his "part" in your costume showed. I shall include the pic among my souvenirs of Season. Sure am hoping to hear when and where I can get some pictures taken at the ball. There will be some, won't there? Ralph Holland is sending out a BMM film he took for me to see. So, am looking forward to that, but want some pics for my scrapbook.

(GMC: I KNOW THERE WERE PLENTY OF THEM TAKEN, THAT'S FOR SURE! MAYBE IF ANY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHERS READ THIS, THEY MAY CONTACT YOU.)

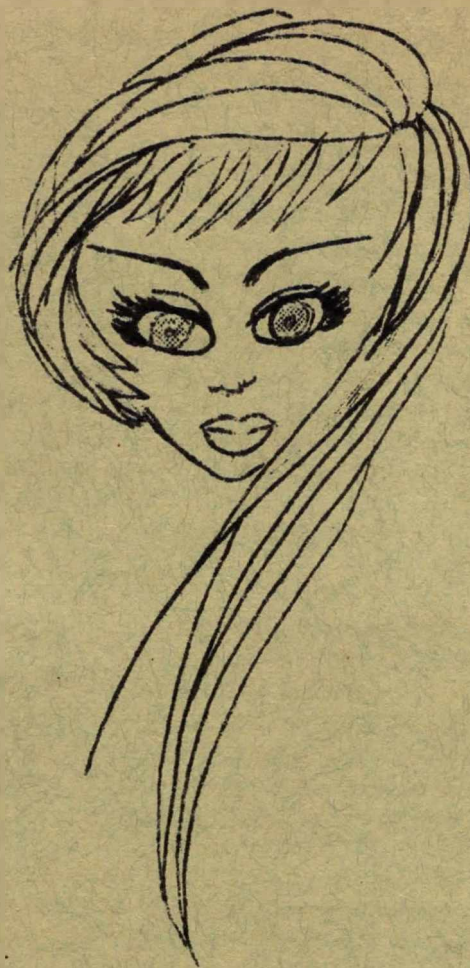
Although the answers to zines in Gemzine didn't mean much to me, I did enjoy your other meanderings into thisa and thata. Was especially tickled by your comparison to yourself and Rhett Butler.. Whether or not it's true I really couldn't say — don't really know you well enough. But, of course, in my almost 5 years of Neffing, I've been aware of some of the somewhat hot and heavy discussions going on about you and your views. As far as I've ever been concerned, and to what small extent I really followed them, I always got a rather "tongue in cheek" impression from what you were chewing on — and deflating human egos can be intriguing. Guess it all depends on who runs into the pin and how much it hurts, but it took "intestinal fortitude" to admit it like you did. A lot of explosions may have gone under your pin, but I'll bet some of them were plenty sheepish afterwards. The others wouldn't admit it if they were.

Yeeps, did I say a note? .. Nothing scatterbrained about me, meant to mention your letter and thank you for the postmarks. My collection all started very haphazardly and continues as such; all I save is the round mark with the town or city, state and date.

You're so right, it IS more fun to read reports on a Con you've attended. Thanks again, all around, and good luck...

/s/ Janey

10-23-61: Mike Kurman thought the Mailing Comments were superb, but "As I See It" was trite; ~~E&E~~ would have been the best thing in the mag if it were a page longer. and the topics of discussion in Baitbox were excellent except that I did a rather poor job re the "sucker lists" and my repro needs improvement in the artwork. The photo was a surprise -- pleasant -- in view of what he had imagined I looked like and all in all GZ 4/31 was very good, even tho the SEACON Post-Mortem told nothing. Glad you liked it, Mike.



George Jay Crawford
Redwood City, Calif.
October 19, 1961

Dear GMC,

Greetings, thank you for Gemzine 4/31. Most magnificently presented; congratulations, and I am none the worse for the reading! Believe it or not -- in fact, deep down in my innards there is a feeling of warmth like I had just ett a bowl of chili, or had a few snorts of Old Fitzgerald sour mash Kentucky Bourbon. Come to think of it, I wish I had!

Please accept my most sincere thanks for the inclusion of my two poems. You have made me happy indeed, and I feel greatly honored to appear under such Editorial scrutiny, for I find only the best in GMCzine. Also, I find an Editor possessed of that inimical quality of bravery rarely encountered in this decaying age, namely, one who is not afraid to tell all her readers to go straight to H... with her compliments. Such is indeed a pleasure to find and to read. I do not lean to the articles in much sincerity, but in the most interesting manner ever seen, I do love to follow up your criticisms and replies. Therein lies the Gem of Gemzine. It's an individual publication if there is one; stands alone and upon its own tootsies -- of course backed up by GMC.

Have just read "Premonition" in Jack L. Chalker's MIRAGE. Am putting it in my scrapbook and I assure you that only the great make that Hall of Fame... It gives me great pleasure to so confer this honor on you. My scrapbook has one of the best poems of this century, C.O.N.G.R.A.T.U.L.A.T.I.O.N.S. (I wish I had written that one!) Chalker is to be praised in his selection (I'll tell him, too) and why don't you collect your poems in a brochure??? (..or have you?) It's an idea.

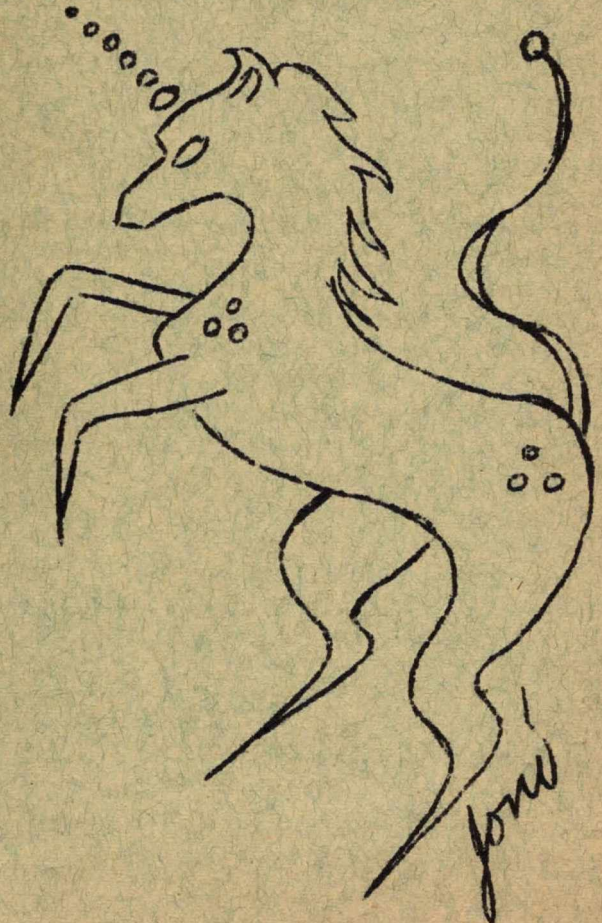
(GMC: SEVERAL YEARS AGO I DID HAVE A COLLECTION OF REPRINTED POEMS. I HAD ONLY ENOUGH COPIES TO SEND IT AROUND SAPS AS PART OF THE 40TH MAILING. 40 COPIES FOR THE 40TH MAILING -- MOST APPROPRIATE, I THOUGHT. I DARE SAY THERE MUST STILL BE A COPY OR TWO LEFT KICKING AROUND. BUT I HAVEN'T THE FAINTEST IDEA WHERE THEY ALL ARE NOW...)

Will you please remember me with other GEMZINES: a most enjoyable zine of interesting reading. I am just back from the hospital and awfully weak. Am never able to be out much -- a little walk in the yard is a long distance from base (my bed). A paralyzed wife in bed on the other side of the room oftentimes presents a kind of blurred picture to me. However, we never allow the clouds to obscure the life-giving rays of the sun of friends' correspondence (which we answer when able). Of those who so kindly remember us, we count you among the chiefest.

Bless you, most sincerely.. and hope the arm is healing and you can soon use the typewriter.

/s/ George Jay Crawford

(GMC: THANK YOU FOR ALL THE KIND WORDS. MY GOODNESS, JUST SENDING YOU A FANZINE SEEMS VERY LITTLE TO DO TO MERIT SUCH FLATTERY.. AND AS FOR PUBLISHING YOUR POEMS, IT IS I WHO SHOULD THANK YOU FOR SENDING THEM. I WAS GLAD TO GET THEM, AND SORRY I HAD TO CROWD THEM SO.)



Jerry Pournelle
4314 Roosevelt NE
Seattle 5, Wash.

Dear GMC,

...I am sad to see a shadow of the Gemzine's former self, but heartened to know that it will not be long before it appears again in all its glory.

(GMC: WELL, MAYBE NOT ALL IT'S GLORY... IT'LL BE A WHILE YET BEFORE I'LL FEEL LIKE DATTING OUT 30 OR 40 PAGES EVERY FEW MONTHS...)

I enjoyed the front page poetry... although I am not particularly a poetry fancier, at least this makes sense, and good sense at that.

You know, I sort of enjoy reading these strange things, zines... I am beginning to think that the only way to get into this activity is to put out my own -- only I haven't time to do that, and it is meant mostly as a way of saving time. I guess the guy who just likes to read and every now and again is moved to write on something he thinks is important is out of luck in fandom. I don't really feel like spreading ink all over paper all the time; just when I feel moved. Maybe it's because between teaching and taking four graduate seminars plus outlining every book in sight for my PhD exams this Spring I use up almost all the writing drive I have available?

You know, GMC, every time I turn my head, somebody hangs a lable on it! Now you say I am Conservative. I may agree, but how the hell should I know? This is a horrible problem... what label to tattoo on one's forehead. Conservative in the sense of "standpatter", willing to accept and protect the present situation, I am not.

Maybe I'm "reactionary"?

At all events, I sure don't believe that every change is for the better, and I must admit that I'm more attached to the devil I know -- but that doesn't mean I won't try something new...given proper precautions. It also doesn't mean that I am not willing to scrap the something new if it didn't work, and go back to the devil I knew. Hence-- reactionary??

When I worked as a research engineer I had to design, among other things, physiological instrumentation for astronauts. We sure did try new things all the time. Course we had to be sure that they wouldn't be fatal to the wearer (once we did give a fellow a hell of a shock when an input tube shorted across internally) and we were always careful not to change instruments in the middle of an expensive experiment where we had to have the data and the old one would do the job, but we did try new things. Whenever we did, we kept the old tried and true unit around as a standby just in case the fantastic new thing didn't turn out to be so good after all. And I didn't feel even the least bit unscientific when I took a brilliant unworkable new invention out of the setup and put back in the old one. Course, when the brilliant new one that didn't work was my invention, and the old one was one of my staff's, there was an ego problem. But that's science for you...

I often wonder why these hot-shots that talk about scientific government -- whatever that is! I've been studying Political "Science" professionally for a while and I don't know -- why they aren't willing to BE scientific and admit it when something didn't work. It may be bold and brave (not to say brash) to scrap the old and try the new; may show that one has vision. But it is just plain stupid to keep it going after it is shown to be unworkable... and even more stupid to say that what is needed is more of the poison when one dose is almost fatal.

Maybe you could mention my name and address in the next issue and say something about how a struggling teacher-student without much time would like to have a few zines for relaxing reading?

Sincerely and lots of love and xxxxxx /s/ Jerry

Miles MacAlpin
7540 $\frac{1}{2}$ S.W. 51st,
Portland, Oregon

You Darlink Thing;

...are you truly as youngish as the picture in GEMZINE shows? I knew you were young enough to be my daughter, but not ~~THAT~~ youngish looking. The only poor feature in the pic, I would say, is a natural one brought about by the dance position. The honorable tummy could be the old-age bulge...or it could be young pregnancy. But it is not too out of line. With the youthful face, one could easily believe most anything...but I think you would have too much ^{as is} to try dancing when that far along. Honestly, I had a time figuring if it was actually you or if you had a young stooge posing for you!

(GMC: CHORTLE! NO STOGE NEEDED -- THAT PICTURE OF ME DANCING WITH JACK HARNES IS DEFINITELY YOURS TRULY... I HAD NOT INTENDED TO DRESS UP FOR THE COSTUME BALL, BUT AT THE LAST MINUTE JONI CORNELL KIDDED ME INTO IT... I HAD THE TIGHTS (IN CASE THE WEATHER TURNED COLD) AND THE SCARF FOR MY HEAD, BUT JONI PROVIDED THE LENGTH OF WHITE SILK WHICH SHE DRAPED AROUND ME TO SERVE AS A TUNIC. WITH SOME OF HER FLUORESCENT LIPSTICK AND ONE OF THE CHAINS FROM MARIJANE'S "QUANCY", I EVIDENTLY MADE A PASSABLE "FREE COMPANION" ("DON'T LET THAT 'FREE' FOOL YOU, BUB, IT'S STILL 10 CREDITS..") THE PICTURE FLATTERS ME, BUT EVEN SO IT MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE AN EFFECTIVE DISGUISE BECAUSE SOME OF THE FANS DIDN'T RECOGNIZE ME. ONE KID, IN FACT, REFUSED TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS GMC UNTIL I DRUSHED THE HAIR BACK FRM MY FACE AND LEERED AT HIM... THEN HE COWERED BACK WITH HIS HANDS OVER HIS FACE AND GROANED, "OH, NO..")

Angel of a thousand lights, are you never going to quit apologizing to the fandom for what you intend to go right on doing? Are the egoic balloons still sputtering at you, that you must even notice them? If you think it is your universal job to prick balloons like a goddess that undermineth only to elevate, then like a goddess you must hardly even hear the bubbling wells of complaint.

(GMC: WELL, SHUCKS, MILES... I'M NO GODDESS AND I KNOW IT! I'M JUST A SLIGHTLY PRANKISH HUMAN WITH A SENSE OF HUMOR THAT'S GEARED FOR TEASING. TO THE SPUTTERINGS OF DALLOON-PUNCTURED EGOS I PAY NO HEED, IT IS TRUE. BUT FOR THE OCCASIONAL WHIMPERS OF GENUINE PAIN, I DO APOLOGIZE. SOMETIMES I JUST DON'T KNOW MY OWN STRENGTH, AND THE NEEDLE OF TRUTH PIERCES CLEAR THROUGH THE INFLATED EGO AND HITS A PAINFUL BLOW TO THE HEART. FOR THAT, I TRULY AM SORRY... SO WHY NOT SAY SO?)

Maybe we should start a fad of IMEMY" zines so people can expose their egoic sins and virtues more widely and more successfully. Of course, that name is a splendid contraction of I, ME, MY with which so many zines are loaded. Maybe I shall put out a one-shot IMEMY myself!! Just for kicks.

Now I, Me and Myself
Must fall off the cosmic shelf,
Be publicized, and realized
And nationalized...then oxidized!
Oh comforting Ox of cosmic joy,
Turn your fire on this little boy.
Your ize of flame must sear my eye
And oxidize this I ME MY,

Now there is a poem worthy of GEMZINE, I think. You may have it for free, since you are its inspiring goddess... The more I think of it, the more I become intrigued with the idea of a one-shot IMEMY zine; will do it all myself, with Me and I assisting. I betcha it will make a few zinesters' ears burn, but of course I will not so much as mention any other zine nor publisher thereof. This will be an effort of FANTASY to bust through

(MacAlpin - 2)

the personality-binge in which so many fans seem locked up and down. Cost of production will prohibit anything but a one-shot Zine (if any)... at least till I hear the repercussions from the mob. There will be no reference to any other zine or any other person, since this is nothing but a blow-up of my own sputtering ego. And almost nothing but fantasy or what will pass for fantasy with the dull mob. Most any deep occult bit will appear most tantastio to the hoi polloi. I must start saving pennies for the publication of this forthcoming mighty work. Thank you, Darling, for giving me the big idea. Will keep you posted as to progress.

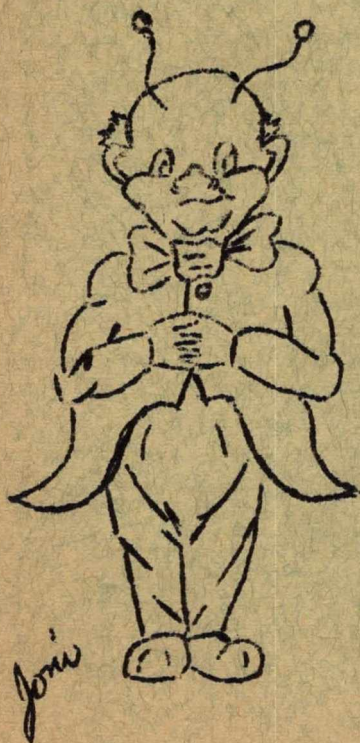
Even if you do not consider yourself my angel or my darling, in the material sense, who can say what we are in a cosmic sense? You can always tell peekaboo eyes that this is just a feeble carry-over from some of our affairs in past lives. Like when you would throw me kisses as I stood directing the placing of rocks on the great Pyramid 100,000 years ago. But maybe you do not completely remember how your feminine vibrations blended with my masculine ones in directing the mass-voice of the people toward the raising of big stones?

(GMC: NATURALLY I REMEMBER... HOW COULD I FORGET? I WAS IN THE SCULLERY DIVISION OF THE FOURTH ASSISTANT TO THE HEAD CROCODILE KEEPER, AND WHENEVER YOU'D SEND DOWN A BATCH OF OUTWORN SLAVES TO BE FED TO THE CROCODILES, I'D GIVE 'EM AN EXTRA-HARD SHOVE SO THEY WOULDN'T HAVE SO LONG TO SUFFER, JUST BECAUSE THEY CAME FROM YOU!)

How are we going to teach the hoi polloi the correct use of "its" and "it's"??? So help me, nearly everybody who writes to me or who writes notices here in the rink or in zines gets mixed up with respect to those two terms. Maybe I'd better include that in my zine...

How do you start being a vampire? I mean, there are so many lovely necks with veins full of blood that must be sweet... I would not drain people dry, you know. Just take enough to make a small bit from each one. Dracula was a hog about it. If one had a herd of maybe fifty healthy and pretty kids.... I must ask my doctor how long it would take for a healthy kid to replace a mere cupful of blood in its system. I never did drink blood, y'know...should one be a vampire somewhere along the natural evolutionary path? Right now I shall fix me a glass of alka seltzer and then go forth to feast my eyes on potential dinners.

Lotsa bloody love, now!
/s/ Miles



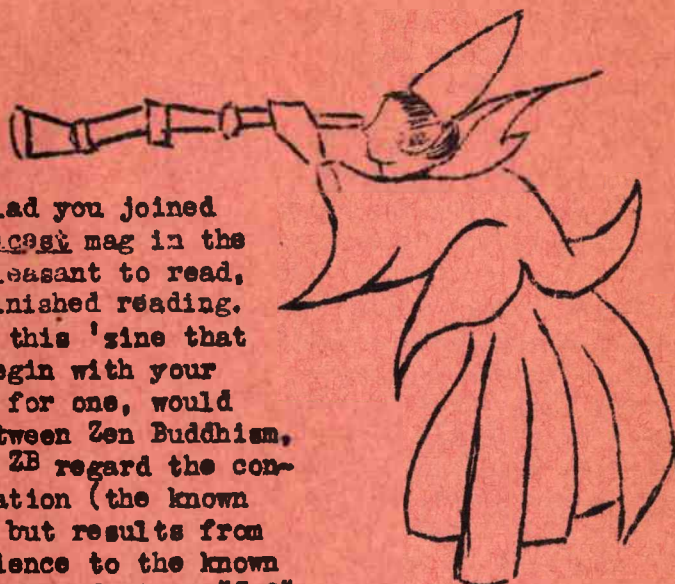
10-24-61: Bob Farnham says GZ 4/31 arrived in perfect shape, and the most perfect shape in it was on the inside bacoover! Tak, tak.. Says he's lost 100 lbs since 1957 and sent a photo of himself to prove it. I would not mind shedding some pounds myself, but 100 is too many!

11-4-61: Ann Chamberlain heard so many comments about my surprising costume at the Ball, that she just had to get a copy of GZ 4/31 to see it for herself!

11-6-61: George Willick says he enjoyed the photo on the back of GZ, "My wife just shook her head as I kept picking it up and just staring. I must say your mental image is different. Nice difference." Thanks, George, maybe I'd say the same for you if I saw YOU in tights!

11-8-61: Bill Wolfenbarger asks if I have an opinion re a fmz-review dept. in AMAZING. Nope, I'm sorry... How did I meet fandom? A telephone rang and asked me to join a fanclub. Bill Austin on the other end.

As I see it _____



Comments on
N'APA Mlg. #10

MEGALOSCOPE #1 - Larry McCombs. I'm SO glad you joined us, Larry. This mag is undoubtedly the nicest mag in the entire mailing: attractive to look at, pleasant to read, and emotionally satisfying when we have finished reading. There are so many openings for comment in this 'zine that I hardly know where to start, but let's begin with your suggestion about discussing religion. I, for one, would be interested in the basic differences between Zen Buddhism, for instance, and Christianity. How does ZB regard the concepts which Christianity defines as: Creation (the known Universe is not 'fortuitous circumstance' but results from intelligent design); Sin (willful disobedience to the known good) and God. Christian doctrine, of course, defines "God" as a Trinity composed of God-the-Creator; God-the-Man; and God-the-Spirit which embraces both. :: I am much impressed by what you say about many things, teaching, geology, thought-provoking Mcs...and even by your fiction. However, I limit my own comments because if I give you too much ground to cover in reply it may defeat its own purpose. (16pp)

THE CRY OF THE WILD MOOSE - Don Anderson. This is the largest mag in the mailing by way of pages, even without the two blanks. Best item, I thought, was the Dan Craig column. I remember how much I enjoyed the previous letters, and this installment was equally good reading. Not that I particularly agree with his philosophy of life, but I like the maturity of mind that he displays. Thanks for the description of the Co-Existence Candy Store. Sounds like the corner Drug Store rather than a Candy shop, but with a name like that I should have thought it would be bristling with Hammer-and-Sickles. I wish you had given greater detail about Les himself, because I have been quite impressed by his handling of a very difficult subject for discussion. No double-talk about it, the repro in this IS "clear" and entirely legible. (Which is more than can be said for entirely too many of our N'APAZines!) Re your comment in the Mcs about what I call "Smorgasbord religion", ie, people who go around sampling the tastiest parts of various religions and try to make one up to suit themselves -- I suspect this is actually evasion on their part. A religious frame of reference is intended to guide the individual in distinguishing "right" from "wrong". It also serves as instruction for spiritual development. Spiritual development is not easy -- it requires self-denial and moral, mental and physical discipline. These "Smorgasbord" religionists think they can gain the benefits of spiritual discipline but escape the discipline itself. Usually they end up with a sort of sentimental mush -- the sort of sickly "sweetness and light" that parodies religion like a satirical cartoon. (22pp)

NEOFAN #3 - Owen Hannifen. I'll be glad when you have been in N'APA for a whole year and won't be able to call yourself a 'neo' any more... This really nice fanzine, otherwise, is down-graded into practically pure crud by your apologies and timorous flights-of-refuge into self-proclaimed Neo-status. This was a nice-looking job; neat, legible, and of a size that promised all sorts of good reading. But that cringing attitude -- empty prattle about nothing at all -- really wasn't worth the trouble of reading. The worst of it is that every time you did come out with some sensible ideas and worth-while comments, you got all self-conscious and started throwing words about nothing... I liked the few glimpses I could see of you, but that Gosh-wow-oh-boy-oh-boy-look at little-ol' -neo-Me! chattering really was a waste of stencils! Next time, do me a favor, will you? Write your material before you stencil it, then you can blue-pencil all that silly stuff. Judging by the few flashes of opinion you did express, I'd say you have no need to apologize for anything -- let alone Neo! (15pp)

HIPPICALORIC #1 - Ted Johnstone. Whooosh! And you talk about somebody else's cover being "...enough to send a blind man running for his dark glasses"! Certainly these mailing comments should be proof in themselves (if proof be needed) that Mcs can be intrinsically interesting. Too much material in this even to attempt to cover, but to reply to your specific question: The restaurant where Frank asked what would happen if someone refused the wine-sample, was the larger of the two on the Bon Marche's Fifth Floor... The one where fashion shows are held, with exotic models slinking between tables, trying to keep their garments out of the mayonnaise and gravy, while swishing them in front of the customers' bugging eyeballs. I don't know -- maybe it gives some people a good appetite to see a gorgeous Size-12 Creation flaunted by a mannikin shaped like a split broomstick with two marbles in front, but I find it rather depressing... alas. (I haven't been able to get into a Size 12 since I was 10 years old, and even then it was a tight squeeze!): I'll accept the correction that there have probably been more Jews martyred for their faith than Catholics... I keep forgetting that history goes back a long, long time and even before the Catholics arrived on the scene, the Jews were being slaughtered.: Chortle. That letter really got 'em, didn't it? So far nobody has come even close to the writer. (Not that I would admit it if anyone did.) I like the illos, but found the format somewhat crowded. Legible, but confusing -- rereading the same line, etc. but not bad. (16pp)

PESKY'S 9 - Ed Weakys. Oh, nooo! Not again.. I'll be glad when you finally get the hang of that duper you're using, Ed, because it just simply isn't any FUN trying to strain my eyeballs on that fuzzy pink and purple, grey-green-blue blur. I did manage to make out that the reason you missed the Season was that you were working (and, besides, \$400 is a lot of dough!). Sorry to have missed seeing you. THE MARTIAN BARNACLES, no comment. It was legible, but why??? (15pp)

THE PARADOX #2 - Bruce Robbins. At least I can say this much for that story you wrote in the Fourth Grade.. it made about as much sense as the usual run of fan fiction. Are you sure you're not getting your branches of the Christian Faith mixed up? According to the popular belief, it is the Protestants that refer everything to the Bible... Catholics are supposedly not allowed to read it. Haven't you heard they kept the Bibles chained to the Pulpit during the Middle Ages? Tsk, tsk.. besides, isn't it the Protestant translation that called Jonah's taxicab a "whale" -- the original Greek merely referred to "a great fish"... and what makes you so sure that kids in public schools get "...a true, full view of things"? Seems to me they get a ~~loggish~~ short-sighted view of things when they aren't even allowed to learn about God. If you believe in a "...scientific to a religious explanation of things.." what is the "scientific" explanation of Life? Reason? Faith, hope & charity? (12pp)

SONOMA #6 - Norm Metcalf. Tsk, tsk, are you still chewing at that same old Grotch? Sure, I can tell you what members we'd lose if we tried to "...satisfy the new Neffers". By trying to satisfy everybody, the N3F would be in such a muddle of a mess that we'd promptly lose all the backbone members who've been carefully nursing it to its present good health! They'd be so disgusted at the puerilities and empty yakking that they wouldn't have the patience to clean it up all over again, most likely. But if you're so all-fired anxious to introduce N3F to "general fandom" what's stopping you? You could start by putting a cover on your N'APazine, adding some articles, illos and maybe a bit of fiction and thus show the rest of the members what a good N'APazine can look like! And it's no use saying you haven't got the material -- the N3F Mss Bu has plenty of it, available upon request. Maybe if you started to take advantage of some of the services N3F DOES offer, you wouldn't have so much time to gripe about the things it doesn't have. Furthermore, if you think the new members should be informed about general fannish activities, instead of griping at Art Hayes, why don't you get off your lazy butt and inform the new members yourself? There's nothing stopping you from sending your own fanzine, containing all the information you think a new member ought to have. In fact, as a member of the Welcommittee, that's what you SHOULD have been doing all along instead of griping at the other members because they didn't do it! If you are so sure N3F needs improvement, you'd better start with yourself as a member that grotches and crabs at everything, is too lazy to do the

job on Committee that he accepted and then squawks at those who do work because they don't do it to suit him; who insults the other members in his apa by complaining at "crudzines" when all he is contributing is grizzling mailing comments full of nothing but complaints — not even bothering to put in an occasional cartoon to relieve the monotony — ! Huh! And you have the gall to gripe because N3F is "provincial". The best place for such chronic grotchers to start "improving" N3F is to start improving your OWN membership! You can complain about other people's "crudzines" when you've made sure your own N'APazine is above the same reproach; and you can rightfully gripe at the Welcommittee greeting only when YOU have done YOUR share to improve it! If you can see anything that N3F could offer its members that would persuade them to renew their memberships, why don't YOU get busy and send it to them! Certainly it is no inducement either to join N'APA or remain in N3F just to hear your gripes!(12pp)

DEVIL RITTER #1 - Gordon Eklund. This is not bad at all for a first entry, but I do hope you take your own advice, namely (and I quote from your comment to Norm Metcalf);

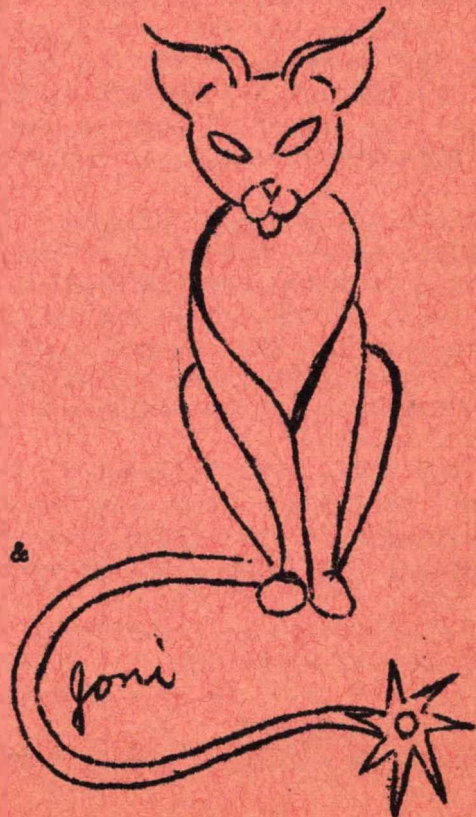
"From my meager knowledge of other apas I would say that the best 'Gimmick' for N'APA to use would be simply to get readable publications out of its members and then the size of the mailings would increase."

It would also help if the members would take the trouble to make their mags attractive and interesting as well as "readable". How about a cover and some illos next time?(8pp)

FOOFARAW 2 - Fred Patten. I read your offer of the match-pad collection with mixed emotions. Thank heaven I haven't got hooked on match cover yet! Have you ever seen the pro-publication "HOBBIES"? in their classified ads I often see offers to buy things like that. Before throwing away a collection — no matter how far-fetched it may be — I would recommend hunting up a copy of this publication and reading the ads. You never know who might be in the market for your cast-aways. Although it is said that 'Comparisons are Odious', I think it won't hurt to point out to some of our other new members that it is not necessary to run off 20 or 30 pages in order to have a well-planned fanzine. This little N'APazine is only 9 pages, but it is attractively laid-out with plenty of "white space" and contains several varied items: adequate mcs, an editorial column, a couple of brief articles, all neatly embellished with lettered headings and topped off with a cover. These few pages are certainly a more valuable contribution to the Mailing than the close-typed, sloppily formatted, and all-too-frequently semi-illegible sheets of nothing but mailing comments which some of the members seem to think is good enough for N'APA. The N'APazine doesn't have to be big to be good. Thanks for proving it. (9pp)

THE SEVEN EYES OF NINGAURLE - Larry Anderson.

This is another instance when the addition of a cover and a little judicious "white space" around the edges made the difference between a pleasing and enjoyable N'APazine and merely a mc-crudrine. Like the oft-quoted comparison, "The soup may be the same but it makes a lot of difference whether it is served in a dirty cracked bowl at Greasy Joe's, or on a clean plate & tablecloth at home! Re your specific questions: Sure, I can give you standards of "right" and "wrong", although how "semantically precise" it is depends on your semantic acceptance. For practically all of the world the basic 10 Commandments cover human relationships (or at any rate 7 of the 10): Namely,



Do not murder; do not steal; do not lie; do not indulge in illicit sex; obey lawful authority; respect your neighbor's personal and property rights. This portion of the Mosaic Code comprised the "Don't" in human behavior, the remainder cover the positive mental attitudes conducive to good citizenship: Honor God, refrain from blasphemy, and observe the religious taboos. Is that semantically precise enough? You will find that practically every offense which one person can commit against another is covered in these relationships. Furthermore, you seem to excuse psychiatric cases for their excesses because, as you say, "...they can't control..." their passions. But the real crux of the matter is not whether they can't or won't -- the point is that they DO NOT control their actions. And it is for this breach of conduct, this offense against the other members of the group, that Society, meaning the group organization, has the right and duty to protect the other members of the group by eliminating the wrongdoer. If the only safe and efficient way this can be done is by killing him, then in my opinion that's what they'd better do. There is more sense to killing the person who DOES NOT control his actions (whether because he won't or can't) than there is to coddling him and letting him kill some citizen who DOES. (7pp)

FANDOM IS JUST A HOBBY #2 - Frank Prieto. I appreciate the work that went into this but I would have enjoyed it more if there had been some mailing comments. Seems empty with no egoboo for anybody inside. (Which just goes to show that a cover, artwork, elaborate format and plenty of illos isn't everything...nice as they are. Like trying to make a meal out of catchup and mustard!) (6pp)

DUSKE #1 - Dave Locke. I'm sorry, Dave, but I'm not even going to try to comment on this. The repro is too pale to strain my eyes on -- it really isn't worth while putting a mag in the mailing if it cannot be read. (8pp)

NEBULOUS #3 - Phil Harrell. The same goes for you, Phil. I managed to make out ~~that you mentioned~~ having written me a letter which I did not acknowledge. Yes, I did get a letter from you -- a very nice one, too, and I was very pleased with it. But that was round about last May and things were pretty upset for a while. It came too late for inclusion in the current GZ, and heaven only knows what happened to it by the time the next GZ rolled around. Sorry -- but it did brighten up one of my days in the Hospital! (9 wasted, illegible, pages)

NEFFERVESCENT #1 - Don Franson. This isn't bad at all for a first 'zine, and I'm glad to see that you are getting off to a good start by giving the members something interesting to read, as well as the usual stint of egoboo by commenting on their 'zines. I thought the article on the history of the N3F emblem was very timely, although I am satisfied with it the way it is. With a cover, some illos, and a little more experience, this could be one of N'APA's better 'zines. (7pp)

VAUX HALL FANATIC - Seth Johnson. Seth, I don't know what's cooking with you... Seems like you are going out of your way to down-grade yourself. The mcs are too crowded to be attractive in appearance, and too ramblingly redundant to be interesting to read. Actually, an apazine is not like a Round Robin letter -- it is more like a magazine. Readers get easily bored with mcs that drone along without saying much, and saying it in an uninspired and uninspiring format. I think you can do better than this if you really want to. (7pp)

ULLY MULLY GUE - Mike McInerney. I chortled over your account of seeing "PSYCHO" -- I thought it was only old maids that were scared to go into a dark house... I'm getting chicken as I grow older, and find that Hitchcock's TV shows are too rich for my imagination, let alone a magnum opus of a chiller-diller like his movie. (6pp)

Aev SUB.#3 - Al Lewis, beautifully written and interesting to read in a melancholy sort of way; BAYCON BOOKLETS - Noted; GRIBBLE 2 - Sorry to lose you, Jeff; RACHE 4 - Bruce Pelz. Do we have to have goals, yet? I thought it was just that FIAGH; GERNSBACK'S EPHEMERA'S etc. - Coslet. No doubt you enjoyed doing these, but I doubt anybody else gets much from them; NO PLACE #6 - Busby. Noted. FANDEN - Racy, PM'd.

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Looks as though Seattle is the center of newspaper attention, lately. What with the President of the United States flashing his boyish charm at the local voters in behalf of Perry Como's "good friend Senator Magnusson". The old boy must be really shaky in his chances of re-election to the Senate from this State -- after 25 years of porkbarrelling -- if it takes the biggest guns of the Democratic Party, the President and Vice President both to stump for him. In addition to presiding at a \$300,000 fund-raising dinner, Kennedy donned his silken gown and addressed the University of Washington. I'd been wondering what it could have been that brought about the sudden 'defection' of UofW Prof. Junge to Russia. Communists are as snugly safe on our college Campus as they ever could be in Russia -- where even Stalin's corpse isn't safe -- but maybe it was the prospect of listening to all that highflown hooplah about not being too "rigid" toward the Kremlin that got him.. He must have been afraid he'd bust out laughing right in the middle of it and spill the beans.

The artwork
 thish GZ4/32
 was drawn for
 me by Joni Cor-
 nell. Thanks a
 million, gal. By
 the way, Joni says
 she is opening shop
 in Monessan. Asked
 for some of GEMS BEMS
 so if you're looking
 for those Martians with
 curly toes and purple
 hair" ask Joni about 'em.
 "SAINT Mystery Magazine"
 Jan. 1961 ish, has a story
 by Djinn Faine.. Remember
 the big, beautiful blonde who
 used to pal around with Bjo?
 Good writing, though it tele-
 graphs the punch a bit... Just
 in case you missed it, I see that
 Ray Palmer is now offering bribes
 to his readers to get them to sub-
 scribe. (for that matter -- who
 isn't?) Among the current induce-
 ments to read FATE, etc, is a bag
 of "turkey peat". Surely a most ap-
 propriate bonus, and quite in keeping
 with the type of material he features.
 AITBOX thish consists of two views
 of the controversial JOHN BIRCH SOC.
 1st, the image created by the public
 press on the uninformed reader, and
 2nd, the facts as seen from the inside.
 Not that it will make any difference to
 already-prejudiced readers who have decided
 the JBS is baaad! As the saying goes, "Don't
 confuse me with facts, my mind is made up!")



JOHN BIRCH

GOOD, BAD OR

BY PAT SCOTT

IN THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR (1961) A NEW GROUP SHOT INTO PROMINENCE IN THE NEWS MEDIA OF THE NATION AND THE MINDS OF MANY CITIZENS. THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, SELF-STYLED COMMUNIST HUNTERS (I CALL THEM 'SELF-STYLED' BECAUSE THEY AREN'T ACCREDITED INQUIRIES. THIS IS 'SELF-STYLED' IN MY VOCABULARY), THROUGH THE SPEECHES OF THEIR LEADER, ONE WELSH, HAD BECOME NEWS. SINCE THEN A GREAT DEAL OF INVECTIVE, AND VERY FEW FACTS. WHAT ARE THE FACTS? ARE THE BIRCHERS THE MENACE THAT MANY BELIEVE THEM TO BE, OR ARE THEY THE MERELY LUDICROUS PHENOMENON THAT MANY OTHERS HOLD THEM TO BE? CONVERSELY, IS IT POSSIBLE THAT THEY ARE AN ACTUAL AGENCY FOR THE GOOD OF THE COUNTRY?

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR FACTS IN THE SENSE OF FIGURES AND STATISTICS, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE DOOMED TO FAILURE, FOR THEY JUST AREN'T AVAILABLE. ALL OF THE INFORMATION IN THIS ARTICLE IS, HOWEVER, 'FACTUAL' IN THE SENSE THAT IT WAS COLLATED FROM NATIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES AND IS PRESUMABLY TRUE.

FIRSTLY, WHAT AND WHO ARE THE BIRCHERS? THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY IS A SECRET ONE DEVOTED TO THE DENUNCIATION AND ROOTING OUT OF COMMUNISTS IN THE UNITED STATES, NOT ONLY IN PUBLIC BUT IN PRIVATE LIFE. THE BIRCHERS ARE NO MORE 'SECRET' THAN THE MASONS, FOR INSTANCE, BUT THEY ARE BOTH 'SECRET' ORGANIZATIONS IN THAT THEY BOTH CALL THEMSELVES SECRET. THEY ARE, IRONICALLY ENOUGH, FORMED ALONG THE COMMUNIST LINES IN CELL GROUPS OF 20 TO 30 MEMBERS. I THINK IT IS "IRONIC" THAT THEY HAVE ADOPTED COMMUNIST MEANS BECAUSE I DO NOT THINK THAT THE MEANS JUSTIFY THE ENDS, HOWEVER EXCELLENT THEY MAY BE. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS CLAIMED BY THE GROUP IS NOT KNOWN; DESIGNATED ONLY AS 'MANY'. THE LEADER AND FOUNDER OF THE BUNCH IS A CHAP NAMED WELSH. HE IS THE AUTHOR OF A BOOK 'THE POLITICIAN' WHICH IS PURPORTED TO GIVE THE SCOOP COMMIE-WISE ON THE NATION. I HAVE NEVER SEEN THE BOOK, BUT THE QUOTES AND OPINIONS ABOUT IT ARE TAKEN FROM NEWSWEEK AND TIME. AS TO THE OVER-ALL INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED FROM THE BOOK, I'VE NO MORE IDEA THAN MOST. I DO NOT LIKE WHAT I HEAR OF IT, BUT IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT THIS IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE. JOHN BIRCH HIMSELF WAS A YOUNG ARMY MAN 'MARTYRED' IN CHINA.

WHAT ARE THE CLAIMS OF THE BIRCHERS? SEEMINGLY THAT ANYBODY WHO IS ANYBODY IS ALSO A COMMUNIST -- OR AT LEAST A SYMPATHIZER. IN THE BIRCHER LANGUAGE A 'COMSYMP'. AMONG THOSE WHO WERE STATED TO BE DEFINITE COMMUNISTS WERE DWIGHT EISENHOWER AND EDWARD R. MURROW. TRUMAN, ACHESON AND ELENOR ROOSEVELT WERE STATED TO BE 'PINKS'. I THINK THAT TRUMAN, ACHESON AND ELENOR ROOSEVELT ARE PERHAPS MILD SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, BUT EVEN THIS THE PEOPLE IN QUESTION WOULD DOUBTLESS DENY. WHETHER OR NOT THEY HOLD A STRONG LEFTIST POSITION RATHER DEPENDS ON WHERE YOU ARE STANDING. (CONT'D OVERPAGE)

SOCIETY INDIFFERENT?

BY JOHN ROSS

In 1958 Robert J. Welch became concerned at the advance of Communism. He expressed this concern in a series of addresses beginning in December, 1958. These speeches were later published as The Blue Book, now in its 4th Printing. By January of 1959 Mr. Welch and a group of friends had formed the John Birch Society, named after the first U.S. Casualty in Red China -- a young Army Captain who had been killed by the Chinese Communists. Mr. Welch was interested in the history of this young man and in 1954 had published a book on The Life Of John Birch.

The aim of the group was to combat the influence of Communism in this country. It was organized along the same lines as the Communist Party -- a highly efficient system of 'cells' which could act independently of each other and swing into action at short notice. Their method was threefold: First, to educate the American public to the nature of the Communist enemy. Americans are notoriously big-hearted and reluctant to believe that their enemies mean what they say. Not even the published Communist's Time Table of Aggression was taken seriously, although it was proceeding right on schedule up to and including the Communists takeover of Cuba in 1961. Study groups were formed. Books, tapes, movies, and pamphlets were made available. Citizens were urged to look around and see for themselves what is happening in the world, and why. Secondly, they urged citizens to take an interest in politics. Particularly in Foreign Affairs. Citizens were urged to write to their Congressmen expressing opinions about pending legislation, to newspapers expressing their thoughts on public matters. To read the textbooks their children brought home from school. Thirdly, Committees were formed and Petitions circulated protesting legislation contrary to the interests of the United States, such as, for instance, The Petition To Impeach Chief Justice Earl Warren.

It is immaterial whether or not Mr. Warren is a Communist. What IS important, is that a study of the decisions handed down by Justice Warren shows that in 20 cases involving Communists, Chief Justice Warren has decided in favor of the Communists every time. As a result of his decisions, the State and Federal Agencies are powerless to protect themselves against infiltration, and he has given our enemies legal protection to go on undermining our Government. To people who believe that Khrushchev meant it when he said, "We will bury you; your grandchildren will live under Communism" this looks very much as though Chief Justice Earl Warren is handing Khrushchev the shovel to bury us with. For a summary of Justice Warren's decisions, you can send to The Committee To Impeach Earl Warren, PO Box 8046, Northgate Station, Seattle 55. Ask for The Remarks of the Hon. Styles Bridges as excerpted from the Congressional Record for Aug. 22, 1958.

(Continued Overpage)

TO THESE SPECIFIC CLAIMS WERE ADDED THE SOMEWHAT MORE GENERALIZED CLAIMS THAT NO LESS THAN 7000 U.S. CLERGYMEN WERE 'COMSYMPs', WHILE AT LEAST 60% OF THE PRESS AND BROADCASTING SYSTEM WAS COMMUNIST CONTROLLED. NATURALLY THESE STATEMENTS WERE NOT TO GO UN-NOTICED OR UNCONTESTED. A FEW WEEKS AFTER ALL THE SHOUTING BEGAN WELSH SEEMED DESIROUS OF REMOVING IKE FROM THE LIST OF SUSPECTS, IN FACT ASSERTING THAT HE HAD NEVER ACCUSED HIM AT ALL. UNFORTUNATELY FOR MR. WELSH HE HAD DONE HIS ACCUSING IN MUCH TOO PERMANENT A WAY TO BE ABLE TO SUCCESSFULLY COVER UP. THE ACCUSATION WAS IN HIS BOOK. QUOTE: "MY FIRM BELIEF IS THAT DWIGHT EISENHOWER IS A DEDICATED, CONSCIOUS AGENT OF THE COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY". WELSH CLAIMED THE BOOK WAS A "PRIVATE CONFIDENTIAL LETTER" (IT HAS IN FACT BEEN REMOVED FROM CIRCULATION) AND SEEMED TO FEEL THAT THIS MADE EVERYTHING ALRIGHT. AMONG THE OTHER REVELATIONS THE BOOK HAS TO OFFER IS THAT BOTH SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE INCOME TAX LAWS ARE FLOWERING OF THE RED PLOT IN THIS COUNTRY.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DOING AND MALLOOING BROKE OUT SEN. BARRY GOLDWATER CLAIMED THAT IF THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY WERE MADE KNOWN MANY WOULD BE THE RED FACES IN CONGRESS. SO FAR ONLY TWO MEMBERS HAVE STOOD UP TO BE COUNTED AMONG THE RANKS (THERE IS SOME DOUBT IF GOLDWATER IS ACTUALLY A MEMBER.) THESE GENTLEMEN ARE EDGAR HIESTAND AND JOHN ROUSSELOT, BOTH REPUBLICANS FROM CALIFORNIA. GORDON SCHERER OF OHIO CALLS HIMSELF "FAVORABLE TO THE ORGANISATION" BUT DECLINES TO ADMIT MEMBERSHIP.

IT HAS BEEN ASKED, HAVE THE BIRCHERS DONE ANYTHING BESIDES NAMECALLING? VERY LITTLE, BUT THEY HAVE TAKEN SLIGHTLY MORE STRENUOUS MEASURES ALONG THOSE LINES. IN NASHVILLE THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WERE SET TO CALLING UP THE CITIZENS OF THAT TOWN TO WARN THEM OF NEIGHBORS WHO WERE COMMIES. I DID NOT GAIN THE IMPRESSION THAT THE NASHVILLE AFFAIR RESULTED IN ANYTHING BUT A LOT OF ILL WILL, OF WHICH THAT CITY SURELY HAS MORE THAN ENOUGH ALREADY. IF YOU DO NOT LIKE NAME-CALLING SURELY THE EVILS OF THIS SORT OF THING ARE OBVIOUS. IN WICHITA A PHILANTHROPIST OF THAT CITY WAS PREVENTED FROM GIVING A SIZABLE DONATION TO THE COLLEGE ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE WERE MANY PROFESSORS AND BOOKS OF SAID COLLEGE WHICH NEEDED REMOVAL BEFORE IT COULD BE DESERVING OF SUCH REWARDS. THE WICHITA PHILANTHROPIST WAS PREVENTED FROM GIVING HIS DONATION BY SIMPLE SOCIAL PRESSURE. HE WAS TOLD THAT IF HE PERSEVERED THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY WOULD HAVE NO RECOURSE BUT TO DENOUNCE HIM AS A COMMUNIST. THE MAIN GROUP IN CALIFORNIA HAS MADE A CONTINUAL NUISANCE OF ITSELF DEMANDING THE IMPEACHMENT OF CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN. I PERSONALLY FEEL THAT WARREN IS ONE OF THE BETTER MEN TO SIT ON THE SUPREME COURT, AND THE IDEA THAT HE HAS GIVEN GROUNDS FOR IMPEACHMENT I FIND RIDICULOUS. LAST, BUT FAR FROM LEAST, SOME 150 MEMBERS OF THE GROUP IN NEW ORLEANS GATHERED THEMSELVES ABOUT A PUBLISHER OF THAT CITY, KENT COURTNEY, WITH THE INTENTION OF FORMING A THIRD PARTY. SO FAR AT LEAST THE BIRCHERS HAVE HELD THEMSELVES ALOOF FROM THIS ENTERPRISE, CLAIMING THAT THEY HAVE NO POLITICAL AIMS. ON THE UNSPECIFIC SIDE IT SEEMS THAT THE TEENAGERS OF THE ORGANIZATION (AND THERE ARE MANY) ARE ASKED TO SPY ON THEIR TEACHERS, ETC, AND TO REPORT ANY EVIDENCES OF COMMUNISM AMONG THEM.

IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT IN THEIR IRE OPPONENTS OF THE BIRCHERS HAVE STRUCK OUT, UNDESERVEDLY AGAINST EVEN THE POOR NAMESAKE OF THE GROUP. WHETHER UNDESERVED OR NOT IS A MOOT POINT. JOHN BIRCH AS A YOUNG MAN WAS RAISED BY MISSIONARY PARENTS IN CHINA. SO FAR SO GOOD. BUT THEN AS A YOUNG MAN IN COLLEGE HE FOUNDED A SECRET SOCIETY TO ROOT OUT 'HERESY' WITHIN THE SCHOOL WALLS. FIVE OF THE PROFESSORS OF THE COLLEGE WERE TRIED FOR THEIR 'HERESY' AS THE RESULT OF THE GROUP EFFORTS. AT LEAST ONE WAS BROKEN BY THE AFFAIR. ALL OF THE PROFESSORS WERE ACQUITTED, BUT ONE OF THEM WAS BROKEN BY THE MERE FACT OF THE ACCUSATION AND TRIAL, NOT FROM ANY GUILT. BE THAT AS IT MAY, I DO NOT LIKE WITCH-HUNTS OF ANY KIND. THEY ARE ONLY ONE SMALL STEP FROM THE STAKE, IN MY OPINION.

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At first the John Birch Society was only one of many anti-communist groups which sprang up. Conservative opinion in the public was stirring uneasily but had no general impetus toward any one group. By July 1959 the Committee Against Foreign Entanglements were able to circulate 70,000 petitions of 20 names each, but very few people had ever heard of either John Birch or the Society.

In December, 1960, the Communist Parties of the World held a conclave in Moscow, Russia. The Communist leaders announced that in the United States, the #1 Objective must be to crush the slowly growing anti-Communist movement. The Communist Time Table of Aggression depended on the American people remaining complacent and unaware of what was going on -- as the citizens of the other 'Iron Curtain' satellites had been. The U.S. Party was instructed to use ridicule, smear tactics, and accusations of 'mental instability' to discredit the anti-Communists -- especially those already organized and active, such as the John Birch Society. The details of that conclave were reported by Mr. Ed Hunter (author of the book, "Brainwashing") to the Committee of the Judiciary, U.S. Senate and is reported in the U.S. Government Pamphlet, "The New Drive Against the Anti-Communist Program". This pamphlet is available from the U.S. Printing Office for 25¢.

This anti-Anti-Communist smear campaign was put into effect in February, 1961. The San Francisco Communist newspaper, The Daily Worker, led off with a blast at the John Birch Society. This was repeated by newspapers all over the nation. Editorials from newspapers in New York, Seattle and Chicago showed almost identical phraseology and wording, so much so as to appear that they were all quoting from the same central copy. All the attacks followed the same pattern, i.e. The John Birch Society was a group of ludicrous crackpots whose only danger was the 'rabid excesses' of the 'extremists' and the 'Nazi influences' of their 'fascist leaders'. Newspapers and periodicals were filled with angry letters denouncing these John Birch 'reactionaries' interspersed with a few letters in defense of the group.

Newsstands suddenly sprouted hastily-written paperbacks by old Party hacks such as Richard Rovere (best known for his virulent attack on Senator McCarthy -- after the Senator was safely dead...evidently Rovere grew a little bolder since then and dared to attack a living target) and F.J. Donner (who was denounced in Congress by the Chairman of the House Committee on Un-American Activities. A reprint of Congressman Walter's remarks about Donner can be obtained without cost from the House Committee On Un-American Activities, House Office Building, Washington DC).

Inasmuch as there is actually little that can be said about a group of citizens urging the peaceful pursuit of lawful civic action, the books attempted to discredit the John Birch Society members by ridicule. They were depicted as fuddy-duddy old maids of both sexes, or as wild-eyed anti-Semites or Segregationists; and by reporting instances of over-enthusiasm on the part of individual members. Particularly in the troubled area of the South, where forced de-segregation was causing much civic turmoil; turmoil which had nothing at all to do with the John Birch Society.

But the main blast was concentrated against the person of the founder, Mr. Welch. Among the many writings and published works of Mr. Welch, was an unpublished privately-circulated document wherein Mr. Welch expressed his private misgivings and personal opinions of certain officials in Washington DC and other places. Very few persons other than Mr. Welch's personal friends had ever seen these papers, but the Communists somehow got wind of it. Lacking anything discreditable to charge against him, they attempted to make use of this. Lurid quotations were attributed to it, such as saying that Mr. Welch had accused the President of the United States of being a Communist. A few sentences, wrenched out of context and misquoted, were repeated in every way possible in order to make it appear that the unpublished document was a scandalous libel. Denials from those who had read the manuscript and who insisted that no such statements were in it, were ignored by the Press. The public had no access to the book so they could not check for themselves as to the accuracy of the alleged "quotation", so this smear campaign of the mysterious "book" was quite effective. (Con'd last page)

AFTER GRADUATING BIRCH DETOOK HIMSELF TO CHINA AS A MISSIONARY. WHILE THERE THE WAR BROKE OUT. IT WOULD SEEM THAT MR. BIRCH WAS ONE OF THOSE SINGULAR MEN OF GOD WHO DO NOT FEEL THEIR MILITANT PATRIOTISM TO BE IN ANY CONFLICT WITH THEIR CALLING. I DO NOT INTEND TO IMPLY THAT IT WAS BAD TO FIGHT FOR ONE'S NATION IN TIME OF WAR. I INTEND, IN FACT, TO BE QUITE EXPLICIT. I THINK THAT THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR A CLERGYMAN TO INDULGE IN MANSLAUGHTER FOR ANY REASON. I DO NOT APPROVE OF WAR, AS BEING AT BEST WASTEFULL, AT WORST TOTALLY DESTRUCTIVE. WAR CAN NEVER EFFECT ANY GOOD, AT THE VERY BEST IT CAN PREVENT GREATER EVIL, ASSUMING THAT EVIL CAN BE CLASSIFIED.

TO MAKE A LONG STORY SHORT, HE JOINED THE WAR EFFORT AS AN ESPIONAGE AGENT AND COMBATANT. AFTER BEING CAPTURED BY THE CHINESE HIS DEATH RESULTED FROM HIS VIOLENTLY ARGUING WITH THE CHINESE COMMANDER, CAUSING HIM (THE COMMANDER) TO 'LOSE FACE'. IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE ORGANIZATION IS WELL NAMED, OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY IF YOU DO NOT LIKE THE BIRCHERS, YOU ARE NOT APT TO APPROVE OF JOHN BIRCH.

(RATHER NEEDLESS TO SAY IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING OPINIONS ABOUT WAR, I AM NEITHER A COMMUNIST NOR A SYMPATHIZER. I DETEST THE VERY BASIS OF THEIR IDEOLOGY. I DO NOT APPROVE OF THEIR IDEAS, AND SURELY NO SANE PERSON COULD APPROVE OF THEIR ACTIONS.)

SO MUCH FOR THE BIRCHERS. ARE THEY DANGEROUS? PROBABLY NOT. ARE THEY LAMENTABLE? I THINK SO.

But the smear backfired. Instead of killing the group, it alerted new interest; the orphaned right-wing elements discovered they were not alone. Membership grew. In 1960, the group had 600,000 protests in the mail against the 2nd Summit meeting; a year later, 1961, the objections to the "Federal Aid To Education" Bill grossed FIVE TONS of mail. When this became apparent, newspapers dropped the smear. Except for occasional sniping, activities of anti-Communists were not reported even when news. For instance, the four day Anti-Communist Rally in Hollywood bowl which culminated in a 3-hour TV broadcast over 33 stations on the West Coast. Attendees included top Hollywood celebrities, Congressmen flew from Wash.DC to speak. The Publisher of LIFE made a public apology to the Guest of Honor for an article published in his magazine. This was the biggest Anti-Communist TV since the McCarthy Hearings were televised. Under any other circumstances, it would have been headline news. But the Seattle papers did not mention it at all until irate readers who had missed the program or who wanted to know what it was about pressured them into mentioning it; one with a 2" column on the Amusements page, lamenting that so many viewers had missed Mrs. Roosevelt's "gracious" speech on another Channel, and the other by a brief report of Mr. Jackson's apology to Dr. Skousen. A total news-blackout, in fact.

There is nothing secret about the aims and objectives of the John Birch Society. Literature is available in libraries, public reading rooms, bookstores -- and if a community is so small as not to have any of these, a dime to Fulton Lewis Jr's radio sponsor, THE BOOKMAILER, Inc. Box 101, NYC 16, brings a catalog listing among other things, all the published books of Robert J. Welch, including his Blue Book and the Life of John Birch. Far from being "secret", people are begged to investigate it -- for it is impossible to dig very far into the John Birch Society without coming face-to-face with the true meaning of the Communist Conspiracy. And the more who are made aware of the real nature of that Enemy, the more the John Birch Society will have achieved its purpose. Thank you, and God Bless You.