

NOTES for QUERIES

Following through on earlier article on mass media interest of mass popular interest in the occult, the April 13, 1970 issue of Newsweek runs a survey of "The Cult of the Occult" (pp. 96-97). The article briefly covers Satanism, with emphasis on Anton LaVey's west coast Church of Satan (its ritual, claims a Newsweek staffer who joined it, is "a highly stylized, arcane bore"), "white" witchcraft, and spiritualism (as practiced by both whites and blacks and Spanish-speaking minority group members).

The Orkin pest control people, who operate in a number of Southern states, are currently using a line from the Irish folksong "Molly Malone" in their billboard advertising. Gaily fiendish bugs hop across the signboards, which declare: "Alive Alive Oh." Whether the "Oh" is the cry of a housewife in consternation, or the death rattle of the expiring insects as Orkin zaps 'em is an open question. Incidentally, we are informed that a Baton Rouge exterminator drives to his jobs in a hearse.

An attempt to compile a definitive bibliography of the tarot is being undertaken at Columbia University. The bibliography will take in all aspects of the tarot deck, aesthetic as well as occult. Those who wish to contribute information or make inquiries may direct their queries to Les Morgan, Earl Hall, Columbia University, New York, N. Y. 10027.

Also on the occult scene, the Witches Liberation Movement is getting under way. An organization called WICA (Witches International Craft Associates) has been formed to defend witches against the kind of Establishment charges that have been hurled at them for centuries. The group plans to establish a newsletter and a WEB (Witches Encounter Bureau), which will put practitioners in touch with each other. A Witch-In is planned for Halloween in New York's Central Park.

Current rumor has it that Richard M. Nixon seeks advice and guidance from the late Dwight D. Eisenhower, via a lady medium who visits the White House frequently. Walter Scott, in a recent Parade magazine column, spikes the tale with a terse "Nonsense."