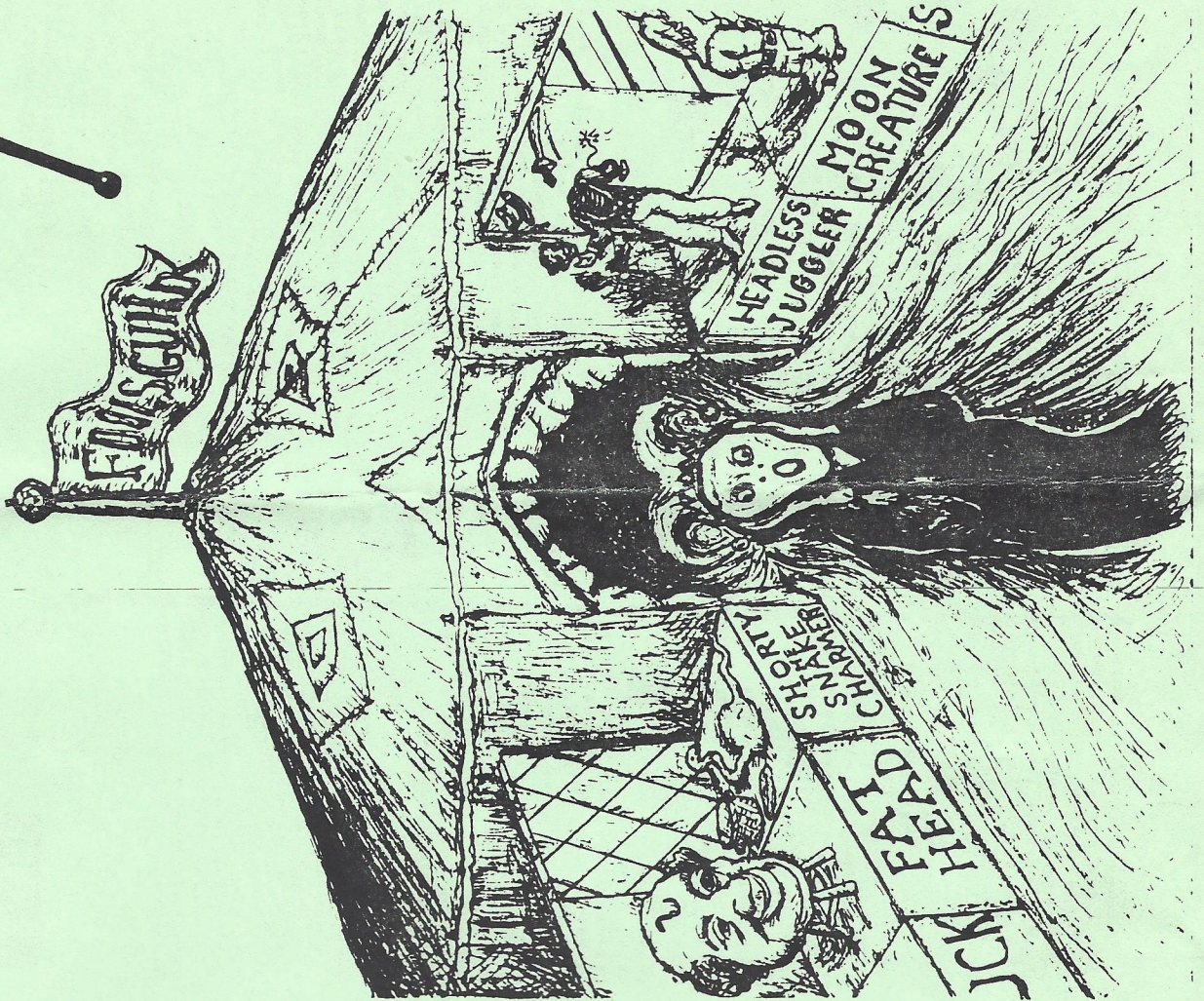


the JESTER

Volume 2, Issue 2.



Lore o' the Fool

Fools Guilds in History

By Andy Davis

The Fool's Guild is not unique to twentieth century Los Angeles. Fool's societies were quite common in France in the 1400's. Going by the term Societes Joyeuses, they were groups of young men who took on the traditional fool's motley, eared hood, bells and baubles. They were organized as kingdoms and each year elected a "Mere-Folle" (Mother Folly) or "Prince des Sots" (Prince of Fools) to rule over them.

A number of cities in France had such guilds. The Basoche in Paris was an organization of law students and had its own administration of justice. Their courts conducted mock trials that often satirized existing political and social issues. Later they began to do public presentations and plays -- of a comic and satirical nature -- and gained a reputation for their comedy performing.

The Infanterie Dijonnaise of Dijon in Burgundy organized parades in which chariots filled with fools processed through town, stopping at various places to perform comic scenes. Members of their order would roam the streets during carnival season reciting satiric verses, performing plays and dancing. They would occasionally award a prize to the citizen who had done the most foolish thing that year.

The Enfants-sans-Souci ("Carefree Children"), also in Paris, was a group of penniless creative types who were famous for their "sotties", a satirical morality play in which all the characters are different types of fools. Their motto was "Numerus stultorum est infinitus" (the number of fools is infinite). Some of their plays still survive.

These guilds were recognized institutions of the time, and its members were pledged to the representation of the whole of society as a "great stage of fools".

JOKER



JOKER

THE JESTER
c/o The Fool's Guild
2116 Loma Vista Pl.
Los Angeles, CA 90039

Gargantuan! Awesome!
stupendous! Gnarly!

HALLOWEEN PARTY!

Saturday, October 31 7PM til...?
(Lodging Available at Modest Fee!)

THEME: DARK CIRCUS - The Haunted Midway
Tell your friends! Dress to impress,
to express... and, to excess!



Andy Davis
5662 1/4 San Vicente
Los Angeles, CA 90019



From Ignoramus XII

Beloved Guildsters,

Your king is happy with the way things are going, between doing the Straight Arrow ceremony at the Boy's Camp, the AIDS Walk, the parties, etc.. I am very pleased... Nonetheless:

HELP WANTED

SOCIAL DIRECTOR
FOR INTROVERTED KING

MUST BE FLUENT IN YUPPIE, HIPPI,
NEW AGE, DRUNK, NO PAY, GET A CHANCE
TO WORK WITH A GRUMPY OLD MONARCH.

APPLY: INGRAMUS REX

Yes, it's time to start a Welcome Wagon. I need someone to be Jester To The King, keep the parties & social events lively, and make sure that new people are sucked up to.

Also I would like you to send me your ideas about what the Fools Guild is/would like to be/shouldn't be; specific ideas/problems with solutions. I will bring this to the Privvy Counsel and ultimately (around January) we will call a Fool's Summit, with everyone there, and see which way we go next. The point of all this is to get as many people creating the Guild as possible.

We do things foolishly, unattached to the result. If you ever wondered whether you're a member - you are.

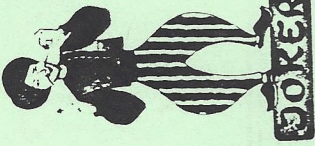
Love,
Ignoramus Rex

THE JESTER is the official organ of "The Fools' Guild," a loose confederation of humans who acknowledge & celebrate foolishness, humor & play. Contributions gleefully accepted; rights remain with the original authors. The Fools' Guild & THE JESTER assume no responsibility for any of the opinions expressed herein; nor for anything else, for that matter! Subscriptions= \$7 for all issues thru Spring 1993. Make checks payable to "Steve Marshall," & send to: THE JESTER c/o The Fools' Guild; 2316 Loma Vista Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90039. Individual copies are 50 cents each. ART: Cover, B. Barrett. Original Art. pps. 2, 5, & 6: Alfie King.

YOFOR



YOFER



THE FOOL IS A SUFI

Idries Shah has made cogent comparisons between Dervishes and European court jesters -- perhaps most compelling is the etymology of jester. Possibly related to geste (fr story: a meaning no longer used) the word jester is actually more closely related to chiste (Sp joke). The oldest Sufi order is called "Chisti" and major teaching tools are the stories of Nasrudin, fool-within-a-fool. Renaissance Troubadours (magicians, jugglers, weavers, balladeers) made their way into Europe thru Spain in the 11--12th Centuries, bringing with them a new form of poetry of romance and love, concepts which had not been used in a European literature centered on warfare and heroic deeds. The Provencal poets also brought the motley cloak (Persian shawl) and incisive eye of the court viziers and fakirs of the Muslim world. About the same time a similar literature emerged in Italy, based in the same concepts of romantic love which the Sufis used as a medium of worship. In Italian stageplays too, the court jester was a prominent figure, reflecting the current trend: a clown who juggled, danced and entertained with tales from far-off lands, singing ballads or retelling Aesop's Fables (which also has roots in Sufic literature). Of course, every culture has had a clown, but specific aspects of the European jester can be traced to trappings of the wandering dervish or court vizier of the Sufi world.

A Professional Intuitive's Perspective of "The Fool"

by SHEILAA HITE, C. M. H.

"It is only by risking ourselves from one hour to another that we live at all."
William James

The FOOL is my favorite card of the Tarot. It is an indicator of one of the most important stages of life we are privileged to experience. Whenever I choose it for more correctly, it chooses me). I know the "old form" of my life has outlived its usefulness and I am about to change in some exciting, unexpected, profound way.

When the FOOL steps into my life, I willingly become the adventurer. I become one who seeks for the sake of seeking, spurred on by a divinely mysterious impulse that compels me to discover more about myself, life and my place in it.

The FOOL demands that I become the ultimate risk taker, leaving the comfort and security of my "nest" and stepping out on faith into the unknown with only one guarantee of safety - my intuitive certainty that since I am divinely inspired, I am also divinely protected.

The FOOL invites me to step out on faith, to risk, to trust, to live - and no matter what my head "thinks", my heart is always thrilled, and I accept the invitation.

(SHEILAA HITE is an intuitive counselor and Certified Master Hypnotist who specializes in creating Magic, Miracles, and Abundance.)

FONE TREE

The Privie Council asks your help in setting up a fone tree to notify members of Fools Guild events. We seek 14 people willing to make 4 calls each (about once each month) in advance of parties, outings and other events of interest to our membership. If you can work 1/2 hour per month for your Guild, please call Hakim at (818) 956-8193 for contact numbers and instructions.

BE ACTIVE IN YOUR GUILD

Fools Employment Opportunities

By Judy Kory

This week's topic is: JOBS FOR JESTERS!

How about.....

1)...Jesters instead of police officers directing traffic when the signal light breaks down? (Salary: 5 bucks for every car that makes it through the intersection.)

It seems to me that the King's courtiers and advisors gave their monarch opinions, interpretations, and excuses, while the Fool or Court Jester, in ye olden times, told it like it was or just what really happened -- making it fun without making it significant -- so, how about.....

2)...the next President having a Jester on a high stool making comments during his public speeches and cabinet meetings? (Salary: The same as the Vice President's, whose job would no longer be necessary.)

3)...or, "and now the News with Peter Lemming and The Jester! First, Peter's commentary on world events followed by those of The Jester."

(Salary: Whoever tells the truth gets the most scudi.)

4)...or, an appointed Jester at ALL meetings of city councils, boards of supervisors, state legislatures and Congress?

Actually, the Jester might tell it straighter if elected by the People!

SAMPLE BALLOT

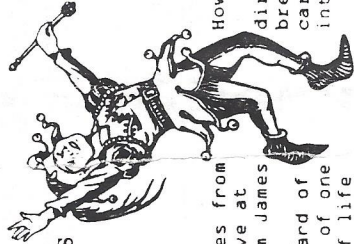
OFFICE OF SUPREME COURT JESTER

VOTE FOR SOME

1	NAME	1	POLITICAL PARTY
1	JEFF BRIAR	1	ANTIC
1	MACKY	1	FRANTIC
1	BILLY BARRETT	1	CHERUBIC
1	JUDY KORY	1	PNEUMATIC
1	JACK ALBEE	1	IAMBIC

....Jesters everywhere! What a break for the High Stool industry.

Next week's topic: RENT-A-MIME (to do what? and to whom?). Send your very welcome suggestions and inappropriate comments to: Judy Kory, 918 Havenhurst Dr. #105, Los Angeles, CA 90046



The Fool Ndar

DEFINITELY HAPPENING!!!

WHAT TO DO: Come celebrate!

Date	Description/Location	Contact
10/11 7:30PM	FOOL MOON CAMPFIRE/DRUM/STORYTELLING Boy's Camp, Griffith Park All ages-genders-musical abilities/disabilities welcome. By a roaring campfire we sing, howl, cavort, drum, and otherwise let it all hang out!	Andy Davis (213) 931-3263
10/27 6-10PM	VARIETY ARTS WORKSHOP Silverlake area A panoply of splendidous skills shall surely be shared, from juggling to unicycle and stick to subtlety. Call with your requests, and for details as to location and props to bring.	Billy Barrett (818) 591-0000
10/31 PM	HALLOWEEN PARTY Boy's Camp, Griffith Park The annual orgy of costumed cacaphony - dancing, laughing, noshing, and more. This year's theme: "DARK CIRCUS - The Haunted Midway."	David Springhorn (213) 662-1542
12/31 PM	NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY Boy's Camp, Griffith Park Come and have another great time. Plenty whoopie!	Jeffrey Weissman (818) 902-1126

EVENTS WHICH REQUIRE INPUT

WHAT TO DO: Check 'em out, and if interested, call the contact person to suggest a date/place that works for you-all!

Description	Contact
Fool's SOFTBALL GAME	Billy Barrett (818) 591-0000
Silent MOVIE House	Jeffrey Briar (213) 650-9784(after 12/1)
BAUBLE-MAKING Workshop	David Springhorn (213) 662-1542
A Night at the OPERA	Jeffrey Briar (213) 650-9784
CAMP OUTS in San Gabriel Mountains	Daria Hitchcock (818) 398-6730
CATSKILLS CAMP (weekend of dancing, lawn games, stand-up a la Catskills Resort)	Daria Hitchcock (818) 398-6730
Winter DRUM CAMP OUT	Steven Overstreet (818) 896-7295
AIDS Project L.A. PERFORMING	Jack Tate (213) 469-5643
DRIVE-IN MOVIE	Jeffrey Weissman (818) 902-1126
PLAYGROUND in the PARK (be like kids again: run, jump, climb, frolic, laugh, hide-n-go seek, tag... reawaken your Inner Child, bring her/him out and PLAY!)	Jeffrey Briar (213) 650-9784(after 12/1)
Mad TEA PARTY	Jonathan Findlater (213) 650-9642
VIDEO Nites (Wednesdays?) various locations	Billy Barrett (&...?) (818) 591-0000

EVENTS WHICH NEED A VOLUNTEER (Contact Person) Before Becoming Real for it (guaranteeing that at least one person - yourself - will show up), write or call to list the event

Description	Contact
Doo-Dah PARADE(11/29/92)	
HAY RIDE	Glen Ivy HOT SPRINGS
A Day At The RACES	CLUB Nite
Graveline TOUR	BOWLING
CIRCUS Day (Ringling)	OBSERVATORY
MINIATURE GOLF Nite	WATERSLIDE Day
Tijuana/Rosarita DAY TRIP	Peace MARCH
The Snipe HUNT	
=(Treasure Hunt/Road Rally)	

Other suggestions? Please

write the Jester!

Fool Event Reviews

PLAYING WILD INJUNS AT THE BOY'S CAMP

It's been a long time since most of us played Injuns. But that's what some of us did for nine weeks this summer. Each Friday night, a handful of us Fools stuck feathers in our hair, grabbed our 5-gallon Sparklett's bottles and headed up to the Boy's Camp in Griffith Park to participate in the ceremonials around the campfire. We were supposed to be the back-up band. The director of the camp had listened to us drumming on FOOL MOON nights, and asked us if we'd do some drumming at the closing ceremonies each week. We figured it was a good opportunity to pay back the camp for everything they've given us. 'Turned out to be much, much more.

We suddenly found ourselves putting on a show for the kids, which included storytelling, howling at the moon and bits of pseudo-mysticism -- set to a throbbing drumbeat. It was great fun! We became "The Coyote People", protectors and keepers of the sacred lands on which the Boy's Camp sits. And the kids bought it -- we're moved and inspired. We created a "Rite of Passage" which some of them will always remember.

Great fun was had. We made a lot of discoveries. And drumming around a roaring campfire is always exhilarating. There is no question -- drumming induces an altered state of consciousness. The Coyote People will continue to drum up at the Boy's Camp on or around full moon nights. The next one is set for Sunday, October 11th. Be at the Boy's Camp between 7:30 and 8. For info, call Andy at (213) 931-3263. AD

CHRISTMAS CAROLING IN AUGUST

Four months before Xmas Eve three warbling fools strolled the Santa Monica promenade in Dickensian garb stopping in doorways to sing Yuletide ditties. One highlight was when 3 strangers in the night stopped and joined us loudly for a few songs. Amanda B's worst fears were realized when she ran into someone from school. Oh well, Art & Foolishness take their toll on us all. Join us next time!

BOB

KLEZMER CONCERT

A capacity crowd overflowed the Pacific Design Center Amphitheatre for a rollicking recital of Klezmer music (usually associated with dancing at Jewish weddings). We listened determinedly as the Mistress of Ceremonies (who also blew some mean Tuba) related the trials, tribulations, and joys of being a late 19th/early 20th Century traveling musician (a job title considered almost as low as being a pig butcher). Several "pop" tunes from the 1930's and 40's (including the Andrews Sisters' big hit, "Bei Mir Bist du Schoen") were revealed to have had their origins in this style of music.

A handful of fools absorbed the culturally stimulating sensations, but the real stars were the 5 musicians (Clarinet, Violin, Accordion, Tuba and Drums) and the light-hearted (and left-footed) seniors who attempted to dance in the over-crowded aisles. Bodies swayed, toes tapped, tears trickled; and folks occasionally sang along (in Russian, Polish, German, or other exotic tongues - including English). Yee-haw! or, L'Chaim, even!

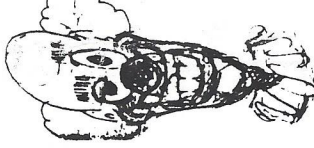
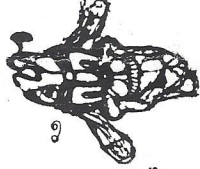
VIDEO NIGHT

A pleasant time was had by all who gathered to watch various classic comedy performances from my half-vast video library. Bill Irwin's "Regard of Flight," Denis LeCombe (formerly of Cirque du Soleil), & a rare film of Grock provided by the great Billy Beck were cool and groovy. Laugh and Learn. - IN RISU VERITUS - BOB

MAGIC MOMENTS AT MAGIC MOUNTAIN

It was a beautiful day, and we met at the appointed time and place, all of us excited! Once inside, we split into smaller groups for mobility and hit the rides. The park was not crowded and my group rode Colossus six times, Viper four, and all the rides at least once (except the wet rides, since none of my companions had dry clothes). The hardest decision was whether we wanted to wait an extra ten minutes and sit in the front car, or sit in the back and go now! The last ride of the day was special. We were in the front car of Viper, and as we reached the top of the first 300' climb, the full Harvest Moon had just risen. We felt as if we could reach out and touch it, it was so huge. We just had time to gasp in admiration, and then we were off. Spectacular!

JIMS





Letters



"foolish" to set up an A.A. meeting for members, but it is important, for it's criminal to watch your friends die and not offer any help.

I do not want to contribute to the problem, to be an "enabler." To have a group of people with so much talent and potential, not put its energy into developing and sharing that talent and potential, that to me is not foolish. That's just very, very sad. - Sandey Grimm

Editor's Comment: Sandey Grimm is not currently involved in Fools Guild activities and does not want to be, nor to lead any workshops or events. Your editor advised him that (surrounded by articles and reviews of events that might make his criticisms appear unfounded), his letter might seem a bit, uh, um... "foolish." Nonetheless, it is his hope that his comments will spark interest in someone who is active in the Guild to take actions in sympathy with his views - and that this letter will stir responses, protests, or other actions. If this letter "struck" you (in any way), please pick up a pen and send a letter of comment (rebuttal, agreement, or suggestion) to The Jester c/o The Fools Guild, 2116 Loma Vista Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90031.



Dear Mr. Editor... (I grieve) me heartily to read the letter from Ludicrous (myself) published in The Jester (vol 2, issue 1).

Unfortunately, you seem to have misplaced the single most important message of the entire piece... Not that it was of much concern to some, but to others-- perhaps-- and most of all to myself. Somehow, you seem to have lost that line (from the middle of the letter, incidentally) which does indeed thank all the fools for a great (and I do mean great) ride. As a result of this grievous mishap and other not so important oversights I fear that I might now be taken as a bitter, shell of an ex-king which I definitely am not (shell - perhaps; bitter - not a prayer; ex-king - perhaps, however. I should be thankful. After all... It gave me the chance to say it again and in no uncertain terms..... "u-h-h-h, I forgot..." and I still love you all... stay naked! Ludicrous I. ex-rex

MURKHOUS GRUMBLES MORE...

"My name is Sandey Grimm, I'm a fool..." "Hello, Sandey." I don't like the Fools Guild. (Wow, I feel better already!) This doesn't mean that I don't like the members of the Guild. I've known and worked with many of you for a long time and among your ranks are people who I love very deeply. But for the past few years, I have avoided most of Guild events. I've been "on my own." I've been "on my own" for that Shippe Hunt thing that was really, what is it that has turned me off to something I was once so attracted to?

I used to love the Guild; the parties, those cakes, that house. There was true feeling of celebration, of joy! Billy Scudder was everyone's favorite bush, Jack Albee's face the day he was crowned King. The Guild was the "re" in "Fair", the bells on Martin's shoes, the everfull hat in Greg Bean's hand. It was Marque up a tree, Mackey in a tuxedo, Andy in a dress. The Fools Guild meant light, sound, creativity, and we all saw it, we all were "it." We shared the energy, the focus; we were childlike, alive, foolish! We performed and we applauded. We danced and pranced together. We were together! We were.

But that was then and this is now. Has that burning white energy that once made up the soul of the Fools Guild become dark, dim, bitter, and cold? Has the vitality, support, and optimism that once made up the spirit of each Guild member been replaced with apathy, stagnation, and a morose attraction to failure?

I was at the last Feast of Fools. All the elements were there: the costumes, the food, the decoration; but the joy was hidden. It seemed a recreation of a celebration; everyone was yelling, everyone was doing their own bit, everybody was doing something at somebody, but not with anybody. Mere those rolls thrown at Billy and Amanda; as they were trying to sing together, coming not from a place of affection and support, but from a much darker, angrier place? No. It's not my imagination. The energy of the Guild has dramatically changed. (And I don't buy the age excuse. I've been funny, out with a number of talented people who are funny, happy, successful and yes, even foolish; and most of them are surrounding forty like it were a campfire.)

So what's the point? Exactly. What's the point? What is the point of all those talented people gathering together as a Guild, if they aren't going to explore, expand, develop, encourage, or even USE their talents? What's the point? To act foolish? Come on! Is it too practical, too mainstream, to encourage success, to work together, to network, to develop scripts, to bring those talents to schools, children's hospitals, retirement homes? Is it too scary, to raise money by offering workshops, plays in the park, to incorporate that wealth of talent in the Guild and take it out into today's world, instead of wasting it all pining for yesterday's faire site?

And, alcohol is a problem. I know there are a few recovering alcoholics in the Guild and some members have no problem with drink at all, but there are a number of people in the Guild with serious drinking problems. It is not

FOLKLORIAN seeks any info on the careers of "the lost Marx Brothers." We all know about the 5th Marx Brother, Gummo, who, along with Zeppo were not nearly as well-known as their famous siblings, but serious researchers want to fill in sketchy areas of the lives of the other 3: "Bilko," "Charro" and "Danno." We know Charro, the youngest brother, went to Sweden with Christine Jorgenson, and had one awful singing career. Bilko, of course, had his act stolen by Bill "The Ripoff" Silvers, who took it to national TV fame, while the real Bilko slipped into drugs and alcohol, becoming a family embarrassment before finally disappearing completely in Akron in 1959. The Byzantine movement of Danno's career is much harder to follow, and any help filling in the years between his last appearance as an infant in a Marx Brothers film in '47 & his reappearance as a detective's manservant on Hawaii Five-0 would be greatly appreciated. Especially seeking photos of all the brothers together, or any of the "lost three" with their more famous brothers. Call Andy Davis.

FUN-LOVING CREATIVE WOMAN SEEKS PRIVATE ROOM TO RENT IN LARGE, SUNNY HOUSE OR APARTMENT (with pool if possible). Will pay \$250.00 per month plus services (negotiable).
Contact Judy Kory (213) 654-9602

PERSONALISED BASEBALL CARDS

The Fools Guild now offers baseball cards with your photo & choice of statistics on the back. We encourage a color photo of yourself in full fool regalia. It's a limited offer: a mere \$55 buys you 200 cards (or \$75 for 400 cards). Meager profits go to the FG Widows & Orphans Fund. If we get enough orders, we'll have a photo day with cool backgrounds, so call Hakim NOW: (818) 956-8193.

AD RATES

FOOLISH PERSONALS (UP TO 40 WORDS)	\$5.00
CLASSIFIEDS (UP TO 40 WORDS)	5.00
BUSINESS CARD	7.00
1/4 PAGE	12.00
1/2 PAGE	20.00
FULL PAGE (6 AND 1/2" X 7 AND 1/2")	35.00

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