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Dear Roy,

Many thanks for that copy of "Academy Series". That's what I call a real-public-service. Fact is, I have been waiting for someone to do this job, because I somehow can't bring myself to buy back issues of Mayfair at 2 Pounds apiece. So, great. As for your essay, I can't say I found it illuminating, but I do hope that it served its cathartic function for you. I have found it necessary myself to unlearn somecrippling thought patterns I acquired at the University...and elsewhere. In other words, I'm sure you realize as well as the next guy that talking about B's naive use of quotation marks won't get us anywhere. And whether or not the word is a virus is a moot point indeed. That words are more habit forming than heroin (e.g.) is the daily experience of anyone who keeps his eyes and ears open. And the most reasonable and apparently successful conversation still shows you that talking can get you only so far and then pfft. I'm sure that you've made the experience, at one time or another, that instant rapport is much more likely to occur in nonverbal areas. I'm not saying that a hieroglyphic language is The Answer, and I don't have the impression that Burroughs thinks it is. It does give anyone who uses it the option of silence (and it doesn't have to be stagnant silence either). If nothing else, it eliminatas the compulsive talker. Which is something. Clearly, if an alternative form of communication (telepathic or otherwise) is desirable - if not a matter of survival - , it is necessary to explore a number of nonverbal concepts. That is, some form of deconditioning from compulsive verbal patterns. What I like about Burroughs is that he's quite pragmatic about it. For instance, I ~~got~~ some really amazing results with the tape experiments he suggests (in The Invisible Generation, and elsewhere.) Same with cutup. Like the man says, it's a matter of experimentation, not philosophical argument. I've met a lot of people who said, I can dig what he means, but I don't see it in his books. Of course not. Why should he brainwash you with results that are only important and understandable to him? He gives you a blueprint, nothing else. And you take it from there, and maybe get results that are important to you. I got some. And I know a lot of others who did. Now you may well ask just exactly what were those mysterious results? and I cld try to tell you. But it would be like comparing LSD trips. "I got these Aztec patterns". "Yeah, I got them, too! and there was like a pulsing heart, like fluid marble, floating outa the palm of my hand.." "Right!, and..." I mean, it can be interesting to do this. Up to a point. It suggest a common wavelength and all that. But you know all the time that you're only scratching the surface, and the real experience was infinitely larger than that, you just can't hope to ever reproduce it in words. (Of course cutup or tape experiments is in itself nothing but scratching the surface. A first step. But it can be a good way to start.)

Well, who knows, Maybe I sound like I'm trying to sell peanuts to a gastronaut of innerspace!

Anyhow, thanks again, and here's something for you to rip off. book I wrote in collaboration with two amigos. The French are selling it at 15 Francs apiece. which is positively unethical.

Bob