

at various clubs in Dallas. On November 22, 1963 the boys were detained for several hours at a downtown Orange Julius in connection with the JFK assassination. The band had stopped there briefly after trying to pick up a book for Trotter at the Texas School Book Depository as recounted by historian Andrew Ol' Crochety Jackson during the Senate Conspiracy Committee's investigation of 406 in 1978.

"In regards to 406's purported involvement in the Kennedy assassination, it is in my opinion that any claim linking the illustrious American superband to the JFK conspiracy is, in a word, poppycock. It is but mere happenstance that 406 also happened to be in Dallas on that fateful November day." As legend has it, Q. Bessel Vanderzee was in Dallas to pick up the book "You're in the Navy Now: Julia Child's Special Recipes For Seamen" from the Texas Schoolbook Depository.

Evidently there were only 36 copies of the book in print, but it was a must read for the band since it had been a childhood favorite of Snoopy Jazz Freshy T Dogg Trotter." Jackson concluded his report by debunking what may be one of the greatest myths associated with the band: despite its persistence, rumors that the band had planned to open an Orange Julius on the fifth floor of the Depository are completely unfounded.

After the experience in Dallas, the band was emotionally scared severely. I met TJ Schubert in his summer mansion in Herculaneum, Italy where he said, "I was clearly upset at the whole implication of the No-tones in the Grassy Knoll incident. But, I believe everything

happens for a reason. We used our inner rage, our trials and tribulations for writing our music. It's a shame that a president's head had to blow up in order for us to be inspired. Oh well... or as Mr. Lennon said 'Whatever gets you through the night.'"

1964 through 1969 are known as "Watershed Years" for the superband. They wrote some of their best music and Q. Bessel published a small book of poetry (a la Jim Morrison) titled "Cantos of a Poem of Some Length." TJ Schubert joined John and Yoko in their controversial Love In sessions. Meanwhile, Trotter, Anderson, Rojo and Bildeau became faithful followers of the Maharishi Meesh Yogi.

In January of 1970, 406's "Brown Bag" album was cut. This album was a groundbreaking musical accomplishment. The music, the lyrics and the mood surpassed any other work done at that time, and perhaps will be done again, by any other band. Unfortunately, the album, wrapped in it's brown packaging, was not recognized as avant garde art but mistaken for trash and thrown away before it could be released to the masses. Despite this minor setback, 406 began their American tour. Needing an expert roadie, Anderson put an ad in a local paper (hey, it worked the first time) for a "skankin', bald-headed, Commie-sympathizer, Head Roadie." Mike Dorrian responded and joined the tour. Also replying to the ad was Ted Kaczynski, but for (until now) "unknown reasons," quickly left the tour.

I spoke to Mike Dorrian while at a Ska concert in New Jersey about his relationship with Kaczynski. "He was a quiet guy. I remember the day he left. It was after a big con-

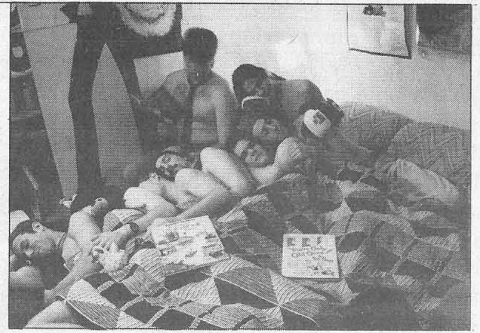
cert in Duluth in '71. It was raining and we were having some problems with the equipment and Ted was getting very frustrated. The concert was a total bust and the band was, with good reason, disappointed. I explained to Ted that sometimes things can just get screwy and that I hoped that the incident had, in no way, effected his passion for technology. He didn't reply. But I remember his eyes having an eerie glaze over them. He left soon afterwards." When I asked Dorrian if he had anything more to say, he responded "pick it up! pick it up! pick it up!"

With the absence of Kaczynski, Gordon Sumner joined the tour. However, he left eight months later after a "double-dipping" incident during a buffet. As leaving, according to Anderson, he was called a "royal pain in the ass." Sumner then went on to reinvent himself as the "King of Pain." After Sumner left, Mark Hokanson, technical wizard, joined the band.

The tour continued and in 1978 the band picked up the corporate sponsorship of the fledgling Atari company. Unfortunately, 406 lost the sponsorship when Trotter made an off-handed obscene remark on stage about the size of his "Pong."

The band took the incident as a sign to get an agent for themselves. Putting yet another ad in a local paper for an agent with "expert tutelage and flawless guidance" Mike Ovitiz entered the scene. And a good thing at that, for soon afterwards his guidance was needed most when 406 was implicated in the infamous "Leather Pants" controversy.

Anderson was asked politely by his old mates the Rolling Stones to tour with them along the English countryside. Anderson, after speaking to the other members of the band, agreed. "It's a shame the way things happened," said Trotter, "honestly, there is nothing bet-



ter than playing in pubs full of men drinking beer and having darts thrown at you." But all good things must come to an end (especially when you're talking about the Rolling Stones). TJ Schubert said "We were nothing but kind to those boys and all they did was push us around. They wanted us to change the lyrics to 'Bishaintlistenin' to 'Fucking chick—I can't hear the bitch.' It just didn't flow. But the last straw was broken when they tried to destroy us as a band."

"Keith must have still been bitter by our fame, fortune and our lack of blood transfusions," said Chuck Anderson. "So, when he introduced Mark Q. to heroine we had to call it quits." Bessel had to spend several months in de-tox, but he pulled through and wrote some of his most moving songs while rehabilitating (such as the tender ballad "Help, I Have a Syringe Stuck in My Vein," and a touching cover of "Cold Turkey").

Because of the animosity felt between the bands, when Mick Jag-

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