

Q

AND DON'T CALL ME TEX

Around the apartment and swimming pool are several large bushes. I am not familiar with the specie although they resemble mint bushes. I was startled about a month ago to see a chameleon sunning itself on one of the branches. It was the same type that is so commonly seen in carnivals and fairs. A delicate little creature about four inches long, rather void of features, it is inevitably dead after a few hours of handling by children. If it lives long enough, it dies because of the change of climate and lack of food. The chameleon is the victim of one of our cruelest practises; selling a living creature to certain death for a profit of a few pennies. Of course people buy them because of the bright colors. While I was watching, the little beastie shifted position and changed color from a brilliant green to a dusty brown. Although I watched for more than half an hour, I never saw it feed. Several times since then, I've watched it or one of its buddies, for there are several living in the bushes. I was so startled because, I had never thought of the small reptiles in a wild state. It was very hard for me to realise that this was their natural habitat. They were not planted, but instead are very plentiful in all local heavy vegetation.

More than anything else, this little animal forced me to accept that I am now in Texas. For good. Houston is one of our southernmost cities. It has many characteristics that are strictly tropical, including some of the flora, fauna and all of the weather. For example, there are palm trees in my front yard. I remember looking forward to finally having a chance to collect some of the rarer North American Heliconians. And perhaps observe the large spiders and scorpions at home. And if I was very very lucky, find a specimen of the rarest of all arthropods, the primitive spiderlike Ricinuleids. The only recorded locale in the United States is from the Rio Grande area near Edinburg Texas. I have long been fascinated by this ancestral arachnid.

Yes, living in Texas is bound to have compensating factors. But not everything about Houston is so interesting. It is a big city coldly laid out. From the air it looks like a graph; there are no outstanding landmarks or geographic features. Only the Astrodome is memorable. And it brings tears to ones eyes to go to this beautiful airconditioned stadium and watch the Astros ..uh, play baseball.



I want to go home!

Drawing by Jerry Burge



*"COMMUNICATION IS POSSIBLE"*

Mary Mushling Reed In the meantime, is this your permanent address? (Rubber-  
71 The Fairway stamp, like this, points to your finally settling. Al said  
Banbury, Oxon you travelled alot with your job and all.)  
England

(( 'Fraid not, Mary. I settled in Atlanta for almost a year this time, but will be in Houston by time you get this fanzine. My new address is in the colophon. When I do get there, I really hit the road, and will only be home one week a month. ))

Let's see --- Between now and last time I wrote, a group of us went to see The Man. [[ Bob Dylan ]] ... the concert was on at Newcastle, which as you probably know is my beloved homeland. But the travelling was worth it -- ah, he's such a little thin bloke. Looks very ill! Apparently he said he wouldn't be back to this country and that his (recent) songs were just "vulgar". He was a little sarcastic about the so-called "drug song" (STONED) but everyone I've asked says this theory is a load of old rubbish. There was a film of him on BBC-2. (We do not have the necessary equipment in our tele to get this newly-started service so we couldn't see it.) And I was away when they repeated it on BBC-1. This was some time ago mind....

(( And so, is this answer. Sorry about that, Mary. But I wanted to bring Bob Dylan's name into the fanzine, and the opinions of an overseas fan seemed to be the best way to do it. I have seen him in concert only once. It was not a very impressive performance. I still enjoy most of his early work and can listen to some of his recent music. But I feel his talent is going in an unnatural direction. His topical writings were once about the best available. Now .... Well I guess it's just not what I want to listen to. Somebody hasn't lost faith in him. I heard over the radio that he signed a one million dollar contract with MGM Records. The first record is due around June 1967.

I'm curious about the one and two you were talking about on the the BBC. I'm not familiar with your television arrangements. I know that the BBC is the only legal broadcaster in England. But I was under the impression that you had more than one channel. Perhaps by one/two, you are separating the uhf/vhf frequency ranges. I'm also curious about material shown with such an easy path for official censorship. Or recommendations, or whatever the slanguage is. Do you feel that your television is censored? ))

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Frank Stoldolka By the way, I agree with your comment in your editorial,  
13508 Smith Drive Amphipoxi, concerning the harsh treatment (you) rendered to  
Hopkins, Minn. Larry Richardson. Whether he has seen KING KONG 20 times or  
55343 was merely using a figure of speech to put his point across  
is beside the point. [[?]] Of course, I wouldn't retract  
what I had said if I were you either: but by being as blunt as you were, you  
may have raised more trouble and caused more ill will than it is worth. Admit-  
ted, from all indications, Larry Richardson seems to have sealed himself off in  
a nice secure little world of ERB and wrestling (with KING KONG watching the  
whole mess from the top of the Empire State Building.) But does THAT justify  
the public psychoanalysis that you gave him? Why weren't you just a little bit  
more subtle in your vindications and instead of saying he was narrow minded,  
merely ask him if had ever seen METROPOLIS, WHEN WORLDS COLLIDE, or any number  
of other sf films? Instead of criticizing him for the limitations he has set upon  
himself it might have been better to point out all the good things he is mis-  
sing because of those self-imposed limitations. In any case no one likes to be  
torn apart publicly, even if it is for his or her own good. And chances are the  
shock of this attack on him may be just as easily converted to blind hatred as  
it may be toward breaking the shell he has built up around himself. Finally, I  
would like to remind you that everyone is biased and narrowminded. The best

