

VANDY B1

IT'S MY WAY, by Robert Coulson

Those of you who recall the last issue (yeah, you; the stupid looking one over in the corner) may wonder why this VANDY is mimeographed, inasmuch as in said previous issue I remarked upon our acquisition of a multilith. Rest assured, we still own the machine. So far, however, we haven't been able to get it properly adjusted. Mainly because we know from nothing about the machine and our experiments so far have all ended with our sending a sample of the results to Lynn Hickman and George Scithers, accompanied by a wail of "What did we do wrong this time?" (You'd be amazed at the number of things that can go wrong with a multilith.) Right now I am planning on one final grand assault - I got some new equipment today - after which we let the thing set until we can afford to pay a Multilith repairman to look at it. (Or until George or Lynn drops in for a visit.) Multilith repairmen, we discovered, charge \$12 per hour, the time starting when they leave the office - and the office is 50 miles from here. The machine does run - that is, it feeds the paper and applies ink to it. The problem is in getting it to apply the ink where we want it; the machine seems to have delusions of being a non-representational artist. Hopefully by the time you read this we'll have the thing running. (Or at least, I hope so; I know you don't care, you ghouls. You probably think it's funny.)

HORIZONS (Warner) First, it seems I was in error when I said **in the** last VANDY that nobody has to either pay for or return unordered merchandise. Nobody in Indiana, New Jersey, and one or two other states have to, but apparently people in more backward areas like Maryland are still required to either pay or return. Little item in CONSUMER REPORTS **awhile** back on it.

Airplane vs. bus service. Industries demand good air connections because their executives like to fly to conferences. Whoever heard of a vice-president of a corporation going anywhere on a bus? (Hartford City has been losing established industry and new prospects, both, because of an inadequate airport. It doesn't really bother me; I'm here in the first place because I don't like burgeoning cities. But it gets the local chamber of commerce all worked up.) So the cities provide what the industries want; what do they care about the average citizen? Let him buy a car.

THE VINEGAR WORM (Leman) Don't recall if you get CONSUMER REPORTS or not; if not, you might be interested in the following quote from the Feb. 1969 issue. "People who answered advertisements of Leslie Goodwins Productions, Inc., Los Angeles, soliciting plays, stories, or ideas for movies and television were notified that their offerings had been "accepted for collaboration" and asked to pay \$279 for "collaboration services", even though the ads promised a "free" examination and did not mention any fees. So stated a complaint filed by the Attorney General of California, who said further....." and so on. "An injunction handed down by a California superior court barred Goodwins Productions from soliciting material for the purpose of charging the author a fee. It also barred Goodwins from continuing to use certain misrepresentations in ads. In the long list of such misrepresentations were: indicating that Leslie Goodwins was a director of leading television programs, when in fact he had been only an assistant; indicating that no special talent is needed to write the stories..." And so on. "The Goodwins firm paid a penalty of \$5500." That will do a lot of deterring, now..... But I suppose it's better than ignoring them.

A lovely, lovely, lovely issue. Man, like, you write funny.

SELF-PRESERVATION (Hoffman) Leo Hoffman's heroes shoot cap pistols.

Gee, all I ever found was one crummy arrowhead. Of course, I suppose the place to find artifacts would be in an elderly city; the countryside has been so thoroughly picked over. Good luck on your scavenging.

I'll be wary of turtles in the future, too. Damn if I'm going to risk them collecting any of my teeth; I don't have any to spare.

WARHOON (Bergeron) Willis and Shaw were great. I don't recall any American locomotive being sunk, but I believe we did have one rammed by a steamboat some years ago.

THIS THING (Sanders) Incidentally, I'm glad Joe explained his move so fully. Last fall I mentioned that I might see him shortly in Indianapolis, and after a short wait I got a reply from Fargo, North Dakota. That sort of thing tends to worry me....

Dopersonalization. That's one that I have trouble generating any sympathy for. ("Because you have the hide of a rhinoceros and a head to match", my friends tell me.) Well, yes, but the point is I wasn't born with a firm (and over-optimistic?) belief in my own worth; I developed it. What I can do, other people can do. So business treats me as an interchangeable unit - so? I think one contributing factor is this driving urge to succeed, to make money, that has been fostered in this country. (Or is that just another symptom? Men strive to succeed because it's the only way they know how to reinforce their sagging egos. They have to prove themselves, constantly, because down deep they don't believe in themselves.) It's a vicious cycle; in order to succeed most people have to accept positions as interchangeable units, and if they decide they don't like it they're afraid to quit. Anyway, I'm so far out of all that that I don't really understand it - as this paragraph probably proves.

I had a vicious cycle once; it rammed a spoke in my leg.

DIASPAR II (Carr) I agree pretty fully with your facts, and I DON'T LIKE THE RESULTS. "Laugh-In" was good for one year and is currently a big fat bore. The new writers -including Larry Niven - aren't as good as everyone in fanzines says they are. (Some of them are good - but not that good.) Maybe it's just because I don't see much connection between an ordered universe (which of course never existed) and organized fiction. I have yet to read any fiction that reflects more than an infinitesimal fragment of the universe, and those fragments can be quite orderly. I see no particular reason for reading fiction that is just like real life; I'm in contact with real life every day anyway. Why bother to read about it when you can live it? Talk about escapism....

DYNATRON (Tackett) Gee, Roy, I don't have to wonder about how I come across to my readers; they're always telling me about it, in no uncertain terms. (They're right, too.....)

TRILL (Wells) I think I agree with you in general, but you left out one item; equality of punishment. I don't mean so much that a Negro will get a longer jail term than a white for the same offense (though he generally will), but that a corporation can do too many things that an individual can't. An individual who swindles his neighbor can be jailed, or fined heavily enough to make him think twice about the risk. A company caught defrauding its customers is usually fined less than the amount of profit it made, and of course it goes right ahead. And individuals tend to feel that what's a mugging or two compared to the money Leslie Goodwins Productions took from the suckers? (Expressed, of course, as "they" rather than by giving specific names. "They" get away with it - why shouldn't I? Why, indeed?) A good share of this country's disrespect for law was brought on by the sort of law we have. (Not all of it, but a good share.)

SERCON'S BANE (Busby) I certainly wouldn't recognize you in the disguise mentioned, but then Juanita constantly tells me I'm unobservant. I think maybe it's a basic disinterest in people. Or maybe just a basic disinterest in people who put on funny costumes?

CACOETHES (Pelz) Enjoyed, but no comment.

HELEN'S FANTASIA (Wesson) If youth really grows wiser as it grows older, why do so many adults get drunk regularly? Everything you said about "pot" was true - and is equally true about alcohol. Never having used marijuana, I don't know if it can be used in moderation or not, but I'm told it can. LSD is something else.

HEUTE (Pavlat) On cremation, I take my stand along with Mark Twain. ("I told the preacher I wanted to be cremated when I died and he said 'I don't think you need to worry'.") Hmm.... "I am helping at one of the Citizens for Humphrey-Muskie groups..." No wonder Humphrey lost; all those people you talked to probably couldn't locate his name on the ballot. I don't think Nixon will be a catastrophe (though Walter Hickol in Interior may be), but I didn't vote for him. (I figured I'd voted for him the last time, and once was enough.)

MOONSHINE (Hoffatt) You can tell we're out in the sticks; I hadn't even heard of "The English" (not having read the FAPA mailing until tonight) until the paperback came out on the stands last week. I looked at the book, and the price, and decided I might pick it up sometime when I have more money to throw away.

That seems to be all the comments. I would like to thank all you good people who published con reports, however; it reduced my reading time enormously. Actually, I skimmed more fanzines this mailing than I probably should have; I didn't feel like perusing every word in the mailing.

Maybe next issue will be multilithed?

You know how it is when you submit material to fanzine and it folds without publishing it? Or join a club and it immediately disintegrates? I figure I've helped kill off at least three clubs and half a dozen fanzines in my time, but now I'm going on to better things. The last publisher to accept a "Thomas Stratton" sf novel is in the process of going bankrupt. (No, I don't mean Ace; we'd had a series accepted - but not paid for - by this cruddy little Wisconsin publisher.) Do you suppose I have the Power?

Somebody can doodle here, or maybe Juanita can put an illo.

RSC

EGGS AND MARROWBONE

Actually, I've decided to skip illos altogether this time. If I'm to have any expectation of getting this to the mailer before the deadline, it has to be done and ready to go by tomorrow morning. Since it's now 4pm and I have a few other things to do today....

Actually, I probably don't take the proper approach to apain. According to confirmed Cultist George Neap I know I don't. I enjoy many of the people in Fapa -- some of them are among my very favorite people -- but the cocktail party analogy may discourage me from participating as much as I might. Like the party, I've found in the past that the people I was most interested in talking to occasionally wandered away for a year or so between conversations. Now it looks as if I'm joined them in that particular habit.

Maybe next issue will be multilithed. We are planning to take a plunge of sorts and commit to multilith for the next issue of Yandro, which may or may not be traumatic. I adore some of the art effects one can get with multilith, but I am finding that with the corresponding lovely blacks one inherits a plentitude of rollers, knobs, wheels and almost uncountable things that can go wrong with the beast.

I doubt I shall ever be as comfortable with the multilith as I've been with the Tower and the Gestetner. For one thing, I no longer feel the master of my printing press. It's dangerous to get mad at something that weighs 800 lbs and can iron you into a black cornflake if you're not careful. I always felt safe in cursing at the mimeographs. The least they could do was become annoying. Irving the Multilith has teeth.

HORIZONS (Warner) Milwaukee, the one fair sized city with which I'm moderately acquainted, has very good bus service. To prevent robberies they have recently begun using correct change or token setup, with the drivers carrying no change. But the routes are usefully close to where I, at least, want to go when I'm in the city, the fares are reasonable, the frequency of busses quite adequate even in the bitterly cold winters Milwaukee features. Ft. Wayne, on the other hand, is in that never-never category of cities desiring bus service: too big to get along without any during its rush hours and too small for the bus line to earn its keep between rush hours. As a result the bus business is, according to the papers, in an almost perpetual crisis, with outraged citizens and head-in-hands city councilmen mutually agonizing and nobody coming up with a very good solution. Apparently subsidization is impossible in a city with Ft. Wayne's tax base.

I don't know how it is in Hagerstown, but in a number of cities it's expected that if you intend to teach in the same school system the coming fall, you sign your contract before school is out in the spring. Otherwise, your position is up for grabs and the super goes recruiting at the nearest teachers' college. Not true everywhere of course, but often enough to make some teachers virtual slaves of the school systems in which they teach. And then, too, some teachers' strikes have not been for more wages for themselves but for improvement in the deal the school system itself gets from taxpayers and citizens. One has to know the situation to make judgments. Teaching is as hard to generalize on as any other profession.

Maybe you can't find it in your heart to censure smokers, but I can. I've about had it with them, after suffering for a good many years. I occasionally complained, got little useful response. Right now I'm to the stage where I sympathize deeply with the little old lady in the joke who took the scissors from her knitting bag and snipped the offender's cigar (the "Gentleman" sharing the railroad car with the No Smoking sign posted) in half.

Four Christmases sound terribly depressing to me. I suppose my Germanic background makes me think there's no way to celebrate year's end except in the warmth of cozy house, overloaded tree, piles of cookies and breads and general wallowing in the attendant pagan customs.

THE VINEGAR WOMAN (Leman) Oh boy do I bet you get letters! Wheel There may be talent buried under all these pompous introductions, but I think I could find it quicker if I didn't have to shovel down through all this stuff....and that goes for the subjects you're parodying, too.

Harking back to your adventures with the vanity publisher, I tend to laugh a little less and be a trifle more annoyed with them than some fans. I have a mundane friend who has the desperate urge to write and be published. Her writing is nothing spectacular, but it is certainly no worse than some things currently being published. But outside of telling her to just keep writing and submitting and try try again there isn't much one can do in the way of encouragement. It is all rather sad. I have warned her sternly about vanity publishers, but I'm afraid she may get so desperate after months of butting her head against the, to her, stone wall of "Them" in the publishing field that she may fall under the spell of a Leslie whoever. Which makes me annoyed with them, as well as amused.

SELF-PRESERVATION (Hoffman) Very much enjoyed, even if I can't find anything too much to say about it. Only opportunities, if they could be called so, for digging around here are in Mounds State Park. Unfortunately, the place has been well picked over by numerous college classes and amateurs who all got there long before I did. The mounds are now so overgrown that it's difficult to grasp their man-made nature. I understand about all that's ever been found there are a few arrowheads and occasionally a piece of pottery, all long since removed.

POOR RICHARD'S ALLIANCE (Brown) There is a sense of time-binding in reading all this about miniature golf. The lost years of my youth and such. Indyfandom too had its era of miniature golf insanity, but that all happened 10-15 years ago, when I was a young fan and full of enthusiasm.

Rich, I'm not sure why the conviction the Chi police had a vendetta against the demonstrators in particular. It was well publicized, certainly, but that town's police have rarely had a World's Finest reputation. The one paw out and look the other way approach has even been immortalized in folk song, years ago. And what's all this about the blacks? I saw very few blacks in the demonstrations, and McCarthy in particular lost any chance to get my vote by his clever skirting of the civil rights question.

ALIQUOT (Hevelin) Here's hoping you stay a con-fan, Rusty. See you in St. Louis.

WARNOCK (Bergeron) If you think I'm going to stick my toe into such exotic waters, featuring such a line-up, as run through this issue, I'm sorry. I'm not that brave. I shall just stand here on the sidelines and admire. Spectacularly impressive.

THIS THING (Sanders) It's good to hear from you again, Joe. And you sound as thoughtful as ever. Too much to discuss here to be treated in a short-short FAPazine. I'll have to write you a twenty page letter one of these days.

DYNATRON (Tackett) Walker sounds a trifle young. Incidentally, anent this discussion on mainstream, I wonder that Salamanca's LILITH got so little notice in the fan press. There is certainly an element of it -- amid the rampant symbolism -- that is strongly sfnal. The narrator asks himself whether or not the girl was truly unbalanced or whether she just might possibly have been in contact with Something outside our sphere of knowledge.

DIASPAR (Carr) Speaking of people making Peace gestures, NBC, I think it was, showed a Wallace rally being disrupted by demonstrators; and while some of them were indeed flinging the V-for-Peace sign several who were well within sharp focus were making quite another gesture, and it boded nothing at all in the direction of peace. The wonder is that NBC didn't edit out those pieces of film including those gesturers. Maybe they're too naive to know what it meant.

I hope you're right about the sturdiness of the plotted story in sf. I hope you're right about the new hope for peace too. I'd feel hopeful if I hadn't read so much history. It gets discouraging. The media may make the difference in this pacifist movement -- maybe. I'm afraid I'm not so sanguine about the altruistic nature of the human species in general. Idealism gets the lumps knocked out of it the hard way, or it always has in the past. It'd be nice if you were right, though.

SYNAPSE (Speer) Everytime I read one of your grammatical bits, whether a nit picking to point out a misspelling or such as O Say Can You Parse, I wonder what you think of the alternate statements of grammarians that the grammar we are

currently using in English is all wrong. Their point is the grammar is derived from Latin grammar and the language isn't, and I gather their stand is the whole mess should be thrown out and we should start over. It has some merit as an idea, particularly if you've ever tried to explain the rationale for some English grammar to a school child. Far too much of it exists solely on the basis of: do it that way because the book says so.

TRILL (Wells) I bet you're going to get argued with, too.

SAN (Stiles) My one objection to drugs as a general thing for humanity is my fear that in too many fields of human endeavor it's going to mean stagnation, and as a result, death for people who could otherwise be kept alive to enjoy their particular things. I don't think Banting would have been able to isolate insulin (to cite an example rather important to the Coulsons right now) if he had been turned on and dropped out to the needs of a larger society that involved large drug manufacturing corporations, the A.I.A. and a lot of other sometimes unpleasant Establishment outfits.

CACOETHES (Pelz) Trouble is (or maybe the proper term is tragedy), if we as a species cease to exist in this century or the one immediately following, it will have been too late for many of our fellow species. This is the way of nature, I suppose, since we are currently the most successful experiment and that gives us the right to crowd out or eliminate any others we choose. We also have the potential to eliminate all other species, which I don't think Nature would exactly approve. She probably would make a stab at starting all over again, but if you think along those lines you end up on a maddening treadmill.

QASAR (Chalker) I think maybe you should talk things over with Donaho. He says the combination masquerade/light show/rock band bit was a smashing success and everybody loved it. I wasn't there, so I can't say. I can only say to judge by the comments in letters to Yandro by people who were there that opinion ran something like 9 to 1 that while the light show and rock bands were enjoyable, they distracted from the masquerade, rather than contributed.

HEUTE (Pavlat) Maybe the reason your plant recuperated so well was that you talked to it and defended it against the cat. The current National Wildlife has a very fascinating article about a former CIA polygraph expert who hooked up his little truth or consequences box to a philodendron and got positive readings. In one instance the plant practically had hysterics when he said aloud that he was thinking about burning one of his leaves. They include the graph paper and everything, and the article is headed by a full color picture showing the guy seriously eyeing the philodendron with the polygraph leads hooked onto its leaves. We're trying to decide just how much they're kidding, and if they aren't, what do all the vegetarians do now? You hear that, Andy: plants are sentient and feel pain when you cut and cook them, so I guess you'll have to quit eating them, too.

HOMQUE (Clarke) As someone who, I suspect, transferred more Pickering articles to stencil than most PAPANS, I very much appreciated that -- only that's what he reads like after he's edited.

I'm sure there are checkmarks I missed, but I really must get this thing on the mineo realsoonnow or it's never going to make it. *JWC*

This has been VANDY #31, from Robert & Juanita Coulson, Route #3, Hartford City, Indiana, 47348, for FAPA mailing 126, February 1969