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 victem 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 brillant 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 nature They were not planted, but instead are very al habitat. 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 primative 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!

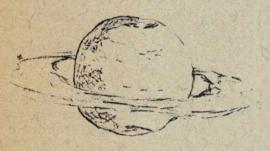
OUAY-BERTH

JANUARY 1967

"AS I LOOK AROUND ME "

AND THEN THERE WERE TEN

a position on the plane of Saturn. Sa- zine, Sky And Telescope gave Janus only turn, you'll remember from your high four paragraphs in March and one sentschool science class, is the planet ence in April. The spectacular suceswith the rings. The less scientificly ses with the man and moon probes have inclined may remember the Oldsmobile filled the public's apetite for space. logo, a sphere with a pie plate through And the other astronomers and space it. The reason for the sudden interest scientists are too concerned with radio is that for several days last year, the telescope data and the new insights to pie plate (rings) would be edgewise to- Cosmology offered by subatomic research ward earth. This gave astronomers a to notice. Nobody cares! The discovrare opportunity to measure the thickness of the rings. And also a chance to science books. It will yeild new knowutilize new equipments to measure the ledge of Saturn's rings, and perhaps a mass and composition of the rings.



During the observations, the gasgiant's secret was discovered. Saturn has ten moons. The tenth, just named Janus, has been hiding itself in the rings. Its orbit was in the same plane, and very close to the outer ring. When the rings were viewed edge on, Janus stood out like any other satellite, while the rings almost disappeared. They are only miles thick, while Janus is tens of miles in diameter. A French astronomer, Dr. Andouin Dollfus is credited with the discovery.

Is your Sense of Wonder aroused? Excited? Man extends his knowledge of his neighborhood, and no one cares. Even good."

During October 1966, the earth entered the widely circulated astronomy magaery of Janus will now change most basic new theory of their origin. But it did not even draw a ho-hum from the people professionally affected.

> Scientific American stated some of the foot dragging concerning the recognition of the discovery may be due to another "discovery" of Saturn's tenth. Around the turn of the century, W. H. Pickering, of the Harvard Observatory, claimed to have discovered a tenth moon which he named Themis. The existence of Themis was never established. [[Although SA doesn't say so, I believe that Themis was supposed to be an outer moon, not an inner one such as Janus.]]

> The only magic left in the discovery of a new moon was to us old timers of science fiction. We grew up on the trite but exciting stories of lost moons, ore mines in the rings, and new or great discoveries that are the salvation of mankind. But in today's world with its thousands of little metal moons, how can one become excited about another? Why it isn't even man made! And as a friend of mine thoughtfully worded it, "Now my kid's encyclopedia ain't no bhp

QUAY-BERTH is the home port of the Q series of Kheda minizines. That is to say it is the first issue in the Q line and the first of the khedas. It is dated January 1967. Copies are free to interested persons, though that interest must be shown either by a letter of comment or some sort of trade. Editor/publisher is Billy H. Pettit, and by time this small fanzine has been mailed, his addres will be: c/o Control Data, 1010 Holcombe Blvd., Houston, Texas, 77025.

"COMMUNICATION IS POSSIBLE"

Mary Mushling Reed 71 The Fairway Banbury, Oxon England

In the meantime, is this your permanent address? (Rubberstamp, like this, points to your finally settling. Al said you travelled alot with your job and all.)

(('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! Appearently 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 net 'amiliar 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 c.sy path for official censorship. Or recommendations, or whatever the slanguage is. Do you feel that your television is censored?))

>>> >>> <<< <<<

Frank Stoldolka 13508 Smith Drive Hopkins, Minn. 55343 By the way, I agree with your comment in your editorial, Amphipoxi, concerning the harsh treatment (you) rendered to Larry Richardson. Whether he has seen KING KONG 20 times or 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. Admitted, 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 critizing him for the limitations he has set upon himself it might have been better to point out all the good things he is missing 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

"COMMUNICATION IS POSSIBLE"

thing that could happen to anyone [[of this nature]] is to come to a better understanding of himself and the consequences of his biases. Sure you were right in admonishing him, Bill. But did you have to discuss such a personal thing so callously in public? Wouldn't it have been better for everybody if you had been more polite or, even better, if you had written him a personal letter instead?

((This letter is in reply to an earlier editorial comment. I took the man in question, Larry Richardson, to task for several rather incredibly stupid and phlegmatic statements. Not the least of these, was that NO good movies have been made since King Kong and that Edgar Rice Burroughs was the only author worth rereading. He then said, "The justification needs no further expounding in my estimation." In my "estimation" more "expounding" was definitely needed. And a little pounding too. I tried to apply both. Of the ll0 readers who responded, Frank was the only one to offer legitimate criticisms of either Larry or myself. A few others disagreed with his choice of Burroughs and King Kong!

My bluntness was deliberate, and I thought, restrained. Ordinary words will not be heard by a fanatic; shock is needed to crumble part of the blocking wall. In this case it did not work, for Larry never replied.

The reason I asked no questions was the emphatic statements he made. He had found something he liked; 'his mind was made up --- he'd never like anything else. And of course he was right. Once the decision to stop learning was made, nothing new would give him pleasure. It is rare to see an extreme case of arrested learning such as Larry's. But it is a human trait that is present in varying degrees in most people. Two other examples come to mind instantly: The boy entering the Armed Forces knowing the time will be wasted. It is. And the other is the person with strong musical tastes and the snobs or peasants who don't share his tastes. I am weary of this form of limited emotional maturity and have become intolerant of persons who say that nothing good has been written since _, or I don't see how anybody can like that _, or he is the ONLY _. Whenever a Larry Richardson starts touting emphatic generalizations, I will do my best to put him on the defensive and attempt to get him to explain his beliefs. Any belief must be defendable verbally, logically and/or mechanically to maintain any validity.

I published his letter because he had not asked otherwise. If he objected to my observations, he had only to write and I would have printed his reply.

Re your statement "....everyone is biased and narrow-minded," 7 can only comment, speak for yourself, Frank! I challenge you to prove such a harsh rationalization.

The opposite extreme would also be worth looking into. This is the sated hedonist, the person who has tried many many different emotional experiences but not yet found satisfaction. Many of the experimenters of LSD fall into this category. To them, reality is not enough.))

Billy H Pettit c/o Control Data 1010 Holcombe Blvd Houston, Texas 77025

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