

look what
your tax
dollars
make possible.

\$andworm 14

And SWorm is available for letters of comment, trade, articles and/or artwork or if you really get desperate 50¢ a copy. If you have a weak stomach and would only like to see a sample copy, I'll unwillingly peddle you a copy for six 8¢ stamps, unlicked and uncanceled. I'm unwilling because I'd prefer for you to comment.

Nexttish is a special one for me since it marks a fourth anniversary. Four yrs in fanpublishing - hardly seems that long. But #15 is going to be at least as big as this one since I'm holding some material over. Gaggle of artworks from people like the ohhh slightly fabulous Jim McLeod, super great Grant Canfield, indescribable "Washington in '74" Alexis Gilliland and hopefully a fine cover from Mario Navarro plus C. Lee Healy, Dan Osterman and a few surprises.

Anyway, if you feel like you'd want #15 either to read or laugh at or to wrap your fish scales in, write me and ~~grovel~~ comment on something. I'm easy to get a copy from....you don't have to read Hoffman's STEAL THIS BOOK (write me a review of STB and I'll print it even if the Freep won't...or anybody else for that matter).

cover by Dan Osterman
page 0....illo by Dan Osterman
page 1....Giudichar, an editorial or something
page 3....illos by rising fanartist Mario Navarro
page 5....illo by the multi-award winning C. Lee Healy
page 6....Rotsler makes his 1st appearance in SWorm
page 7....illo from SWorm riding Dan Osterman
page 8....FILM FLAM by Al Jackson
page 9....Rotsler makes his 2nd appearance in SWorm
page 10....illo from Texan George Proctor
page 12....Rotsler makes his 3rd appearance in SWorm
page 13...The Trackless Waste, a compendium of opinion
and wit from you... (Yes, you!)
page 19....illo by Bob "Ratso" Reini
page 9 again...I forgot to mention Doris Beetem's
mlg wrapper illo by Gail Barton //fmz reviews
sorry about that

America's Greatest Nutritional Deficiency.

Another round of Sandworm comin' atya again! This is an issue devoted to plugging the madness that seized New Mexifen some time ago. New Mexican 3 or Bubonicon or anything else you care to call it. August 27-28 at the Ramada Inn East in Albuquerque. A sort of freeevent with no planned program save for an enchilada luncheon on the 28th.

Cost is embarassingly small in this inflated society. I'm almost ashamed to admit that we can put on an interesting convention and charge only \$1 membership and \$3.50 for the lunch. I'm ashamed, that is, because it points up how unmercifully the bigger cities gouge the other conventions. We're small - we can get by charging small prices.

If you are passing through on your way to Boston (either driving or flying - we may be small but we do have paved roads and an airport) stop by. We're a convenient place to rest and you'll still have plenty of time to get to Boston. Or if you aren't able to make Noreascon and would like to come, please do.

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Dean Koontz wrote and related the sorry state of mutual funds and how these are just as poor an investment in some cases as Savings Bonds (or War Bonds or Liberty Bonds depending on your time track). Mutual funds are a good idea, don't get me wrong. The idea is for groups of investors to pool their money, then the firm managing the fund will invest the aggregate amount of money in a diversified number of stocks and at a rate much lower than a single investor could invest at. However, most of the funds are of the front end load type.

Which means that the salesman for the fund gets his cut before the money is invested. Usually this runs about 8% of the amount you invest. So for every \$100 you put into the fund, only \$92 is actually invested. This means, of course, that you have to realize more than 8% growth before you see a profit (I might also add that the 8% includes things other than salesman's fees - he doesn't get all 8%. In fact he sees only about 1%).

However, there are funds which do not charge any load fee at all. The so-called no load funds are managed by companys who take a small cut of the total pie (usually around 1% -- but that's 1% of several hundred millions) for their services. This usually means that if the fund goes up 5%, you realize almost exactly 5% profit. The catch is finding out about no loads since they have no salesmen (got to cut down on the operating expenses so no load need be charged -- it's a small price to pay having to dig yourself). At present there are about 45 or 50 no load funds and their performances in the past have indicated they do no better and no worse than load funds.

The way you find out about the fund and its goals (to make money, of course - but how? Each fund goes about it slightly differently) is to write to the fund and ask for a prospectus. If you look on the financial page of the paper at the mutual funds, the no loads are the ones with bid and ask prices the same. All the others: around 8% difference between the two prices (these are obviously the load funds).

The laws governing mutual funds are fairly complex and some of them are designed to give the small investor the shaft. Primary is the way the load funds are governed (the law gives the big investor a considerable break on the percentage taken by the fund. Invest over \$100,000 and the load is 4% or less. Under the law this is legal altho discriminatory.) The no load funds are one answer to this. There are alsom no loads whose management will only take a portion of the profit so if the fund loses money, they get nothing. If profit, then they gain about 1%.

It seems my political and drug views (which are intimately tied together) aroused more controversy than anything else I've done or not done in a long time. Esp. the "social crime" issue. Here's part of a letter from Rick Stoker:

I wish there was a social crime that doesn't have an "injured party". I don't believe pot is any worse than alcohol either, but until as many people in our country smoke grass as drink, I really don't see any point in adding to the list of socially acceptable but still harmful drugs.

It's none of my business what people do to themselves, you say? Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin said this, but now you and I and millions of rock enthusiasts are immeasurably poorer for their deaths.

And could you honestly say you and every reader of sf wouldn't be affected if Roger Zelazny and Sam Delany suddenly became dope addicts and stopped writing?

To put it on a political level: Wouldn't it affect the whole damn world if Nixon suddenly decided he had the right to destroy himself and Spiro Agnew became president?

How many potentially great statemen, artists, leaders, writers etc. has the world lost because they're now so spaced out nothing is real to them, or at least suffer more minor brain damage that still destroyed their talents? We'll never know.

I agree it's impossible to legislate morality, but it's stupid to use the "but I have a right to do whatever I want in my own home" argument to abolish the penalties. It's impossible to enforce such laws entirely but until it becomes impossible to enforce them at all as happened during Prohibition (and grass has not yet reached such a wide-spread scale), enforcement must be attempted...

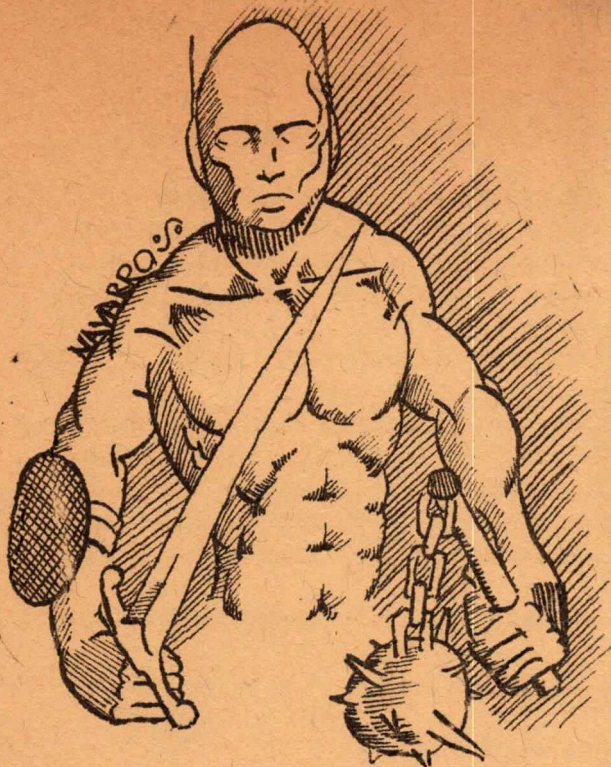
.....

The very definition of a "social crime", Rick, is something like prostitution or gambling. A recent report in San Francisco shows that 80% of the arrests are made for social crimes and 50% of the court cases are these. This means that the police are not able to concentrate on crimes of violence like murder, rape, robbery but are wasting their time by trying to stop what boils down into an agreement between two adults that affects no one else. I'm sure you'll agree prostitution is as wide spread as the use of alcohol and is impossible to stop. After 2000 yrs we haven't stopped it.

I still maintain it is none of your business (or mine) what another person wants to do to himself. Would the death of Hendrix or Joplin been any less tragic if they'd died in a car wreck? Death is death and final whether it is self inflicted or accidental. What kind of human being would I be if, say, Joplin was leading a pain wracked existence and felt no reason whatsoever to live and I denied her the means to die? Why should I be responsible for torturing a person? If she felt that smack gave her surcease from the pain of living, there is nothing I can do about it. That is a most intimate personal decision. That I feel it is the wrong choice is my opinion.

Also, wouldn't it be far better to take the profit out of crime and regulate drugs by making them legal? The government is in the position to put every pusher in the country out of business by legalizing drugs. I'm sure you'll agree that the drug trafficking becomes more profitable every time a new drive is made to stop it. If drugs were legalized and federally regulated, we might be able to see exactly how many people are hooked and be in a far better position to help them. As long as all drugs are illegal, we may never know how many addicts there are. And legalizing drugs would take some of the glamor and risk out of it and perhaps the 12 yr old kids wouldn't end up dead.

As far as Zelazny or Delany becoming addicts, why does becoming an addict instantly mean stopped writing? I've heard that Philip Dick was on acid when he wrote Faith of Our Fathers. If true, his writing is improved 1000% from things like Vulcan's Hammer and The Solar Lottery. If Zelazny & Delany wanted to become addicts, how could we stop them anyway? It's illegal but that's only increasing the number of addicts. Making it illegal only increases the flow of available drugs, and, in effect, makes it more likely that they'll do the very thing you fear. I quite agree it would be a loss if they stopped writing, but it would be as equally devastating if they died in a nuclear war or decided



to stop writing altogether and become truck drivers. These are things over which we have no control, and I think it would be totally wrong if we did. Should any of us have the right to force Zelazny from stopping his writing if he found it was not what he wanted to do? I say no. Likewise, if he wanted to try grass or anything else, I would have no right to try to stop him. And what I'm arguing is, no one else should either.

As far as Nixon killing himself, how would we stop him? Make it illegal for the President to commit suicide? Spy on him 24 hrs a day to protect him from himself? What effect would result if the continual spying drove him totally psychotic? Wouldn't a psychotic President be worse than one who committed suicide? After all, it would be harder to remove a man who'd gone crackers than one who killed himself. (As much as I'd hate to see Agnew in the White House, I'd sooner see him there than a Nixon

gone paranoid. ... way an indication that I think Agnew should be President now.)

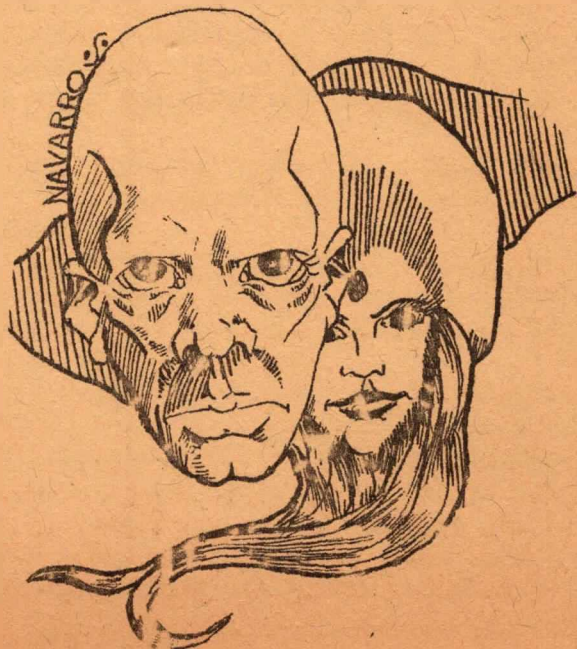
As to the number of potentially great statesmen, etc we've lost let me counter with the question of how many potentially great statesmen, etc have had their potentials unlocked thru the use of acid, etc.? The answer to both is the same. No one knows.

Trying to legislate morality forces the police to adopt ever more stringent procedures for enforcing the laws. The wiretaps. Huge files on an individual's sex life (one can only marvel at the number of ways the FBI could have used the files they supposedly compiled on Martin Luther King -- I wonder if Nobel laureates are more disposed to leading variegated sex lives than normal citizens? Should such a law be passed? Preventing the private sexual tastes of public figures from being satisfied?)

As to the allegation that grass usage isn't widespread, I'd have to disagree. Grass isn't necessarily used in the same way as alcohol, but check the papers for the huge amounts of grass the narcs confiscate. A guy was busted with 500 kilos here in NM not too long ago. How many times did he pick up 500 kilos before he was caught? How many others have done the same?

Don't get me wrong, I do not advocate the

use of drugs. Personally, I hate taking even an aspirin because I have such strange reactions to common drugs (across the counter cold remedies included. I find Contac & Dristan to be equally as dangerous as speed). But because I'm against the use of drugs does not give me any right whatsoever to prevent someone else from choosing to do dope. A recent AMA Journal (April 19, 1971) has case histories which purport to "prove" that grass leads to paranoia, hard drugs, sexual impotency, homosexuality and probably ingrown toenails. The simplest of scientific procedures seems to have totally eluded the compilers of these histories since they repeatedly commit the same error. It is impossible to say that a cause and effect relationship exists in any of the case histories. It could equally as well be said drinking tomato juice leads to hard drugs since all hard drug users have used tomato juice. (I refer you to the Feb '58 ASF article by Mark Clifton, The Dread Tomato Addiction).



Another disquieting story is in the news now - at least in the bigger papers (I doubt if Albuquerque would ever have the guts to run something like this). Seems that Ginsberg has accused Richard Helm of being one of the foremost promulgators of world heroin traffic. The story runs like this.

Dulles started it by giving massive financial aid to the Thais and Laotians so that, hopefully, a stranglehold could be gained upon mainland China thru the opium market. Since then, the CIA has supported an ever widening market in opium and heroin with Gen. Ky and Chiang's son being two of the largest entrepreneurs in the smack trade.

The question of who to blame for starting such an involvement is pointless. What is most pertinent is: Has the US taxpayer been financing the CIA's dealings in the dope trade? We've already been treated to things like Tommy the Traveller and the one member of the Seattle Seven; agents destroying the US so that they will have something to report to their superiors. And doing this with the blessings of the very agencies entrusted to prevent such acts. Is the taxpayer now also paying taxes so his govt. can raise poppies, make them into heroin and clandestinely sell them to that taxpayer's sons and daughters?

I'm open to suggestions....how would we go about finding out the answers?

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It's bad luck to be superstitious

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How many of you saw The City, one of those made for TV movies starring Anthony Quinn, EG Marshall, Robt. Reed and Skye Aubrey? The plot was typical TV fare but the background was 100% Albuquerque. Up to and including our tramway (longest in North America), Old Town, the Isleta Pueblos, all 4 of our 20 story skyscrapers downtown, the Howard Johnson's at the freeway and even a goodly bit of Roosevelt Park (this is where all the hippiespeedfreaks gather for their pagan love ins -- or at least it was until the narcs started outnumbering the hippiespeedfreaks gathering for their pagan love ins).

The plot was rather silly in a way. Kaz Garas (you'll remember him as Hamlyn Gint on Strange Report) was a mad bomber who delighted in blowing up Land Sub-Dividers (we all know that these are the paranoids who are after us). Seems that Quinn is the mayor running for re-election against Robt. Reed, but Quinn is hopelessly old fashioned in his dress and attitudes.

So beautiful university student (make that beautiful hip university student) Skye Aubrey comes around to helping the old codger win re-election. There was one scene which was so literally unbelievable that it boggles the mind. Skye decides to visit Quinn's house to find out what really makes him tick, then invites herself for the night (but we know she doesn't have any hanky-panky in mind because she's a hip university student who carries a police whistle in her purse). Nothing happens. Not even having Robt. Reed find out about the strangeness and use it in the campaign ... "What's our mayor and his houseguest doing?" type thing. The whole scene was totally superfluous as far as the plot goes. She obviously has a massive Electra complex but nothing is made of it.

An old adage in the stage is "Don't bring a cannon on stage unless you mean to fire it". This wasn't even a wet firecracker.

Anyway, Kaz manages to blow himself up and presumably Quinn was reelected and Skye continued worshipping him from afar. As I said, a silly plot but the background was 100% Albuquerque. Which should recommend it to you for rerun viewing. If not, come to Dubonicon and see Albuquerque first hand yourself.

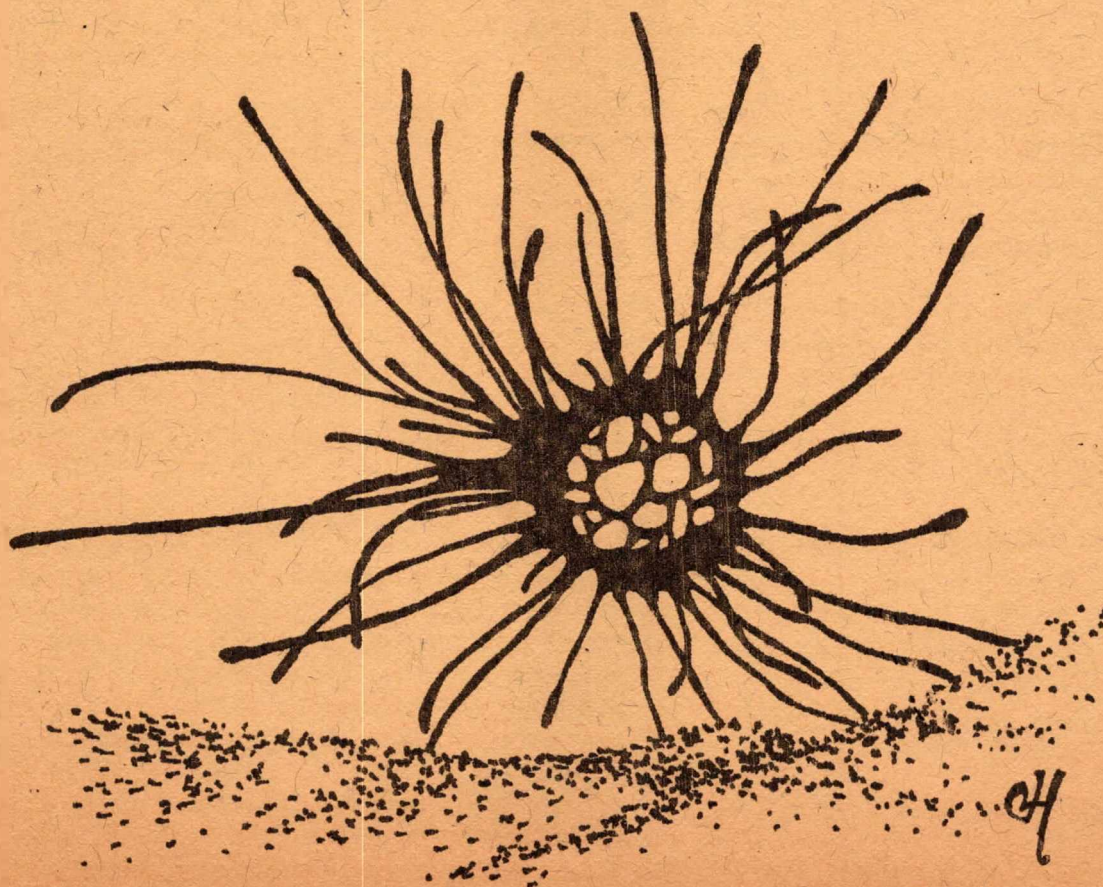
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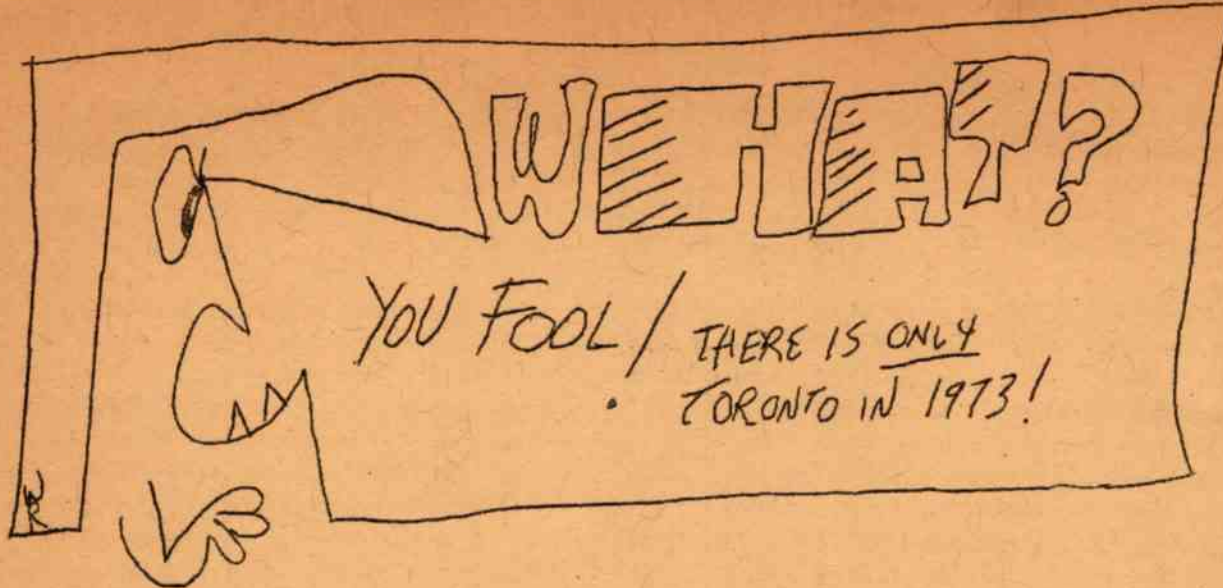
Another TV show caught my fancy. First Tuesday in June carried a report of a girl who could supposedly read 1.5 megawords a minute. When tested, she could only demonstrate sloppy comprehension at 275,000 a minute. What bugged me, tho, was the book she was given... The Prince & The Pauper (she's only 12 you see). Isn't it just possible she knew the story? I can remember it on Walt Disney a couple times. And then there are still those Classics Comic books. A fairer test would have been a book written within the last month or so. So much for scientific rigor. Out of curiosity, what are your reading rates like?

Further along is Al Jackson's review of several movies, but with typical Vardeman aplomb, I'd like to upstage him with a review of 'ndromeda Strain. First of all, if you are a gear and grommet lover like I am, you'll be enchanted with the movie. It's got the classiest gears and grommets since 2001. On the other hand, if you care for scientific thought then the movie is aptly named ... it is a very big Strain on the imagination.

The sets were lavish and obviously real. I mean, you can tell the difference between a fake computer terminal or vacuum pump and the real thing. The hardware was real. On the other hand, the way it is used is ridiculous. There is a massive computer which is misused from beginning to end. The people seemingly had never even seen any of the equipment before, yet they were hand-picked for isolating and combatting such a menace (like presented by the Andromeda Strain). The idea of a self-destruct via an atomic device is clever but for the sake of some false suspense, the script writer found it necessary to force the improbable situation at the end of the movie on us. Contamination has caused sliding panels to seal the guy carrying the key to turn off the bomb onto the lowest level. But onto the level where there are no available keyholes. He just can't go to the nearest computer and turn the bomb off -- no, he has to personally go thru a contaminated room into an area designed to kill anything that moves -- it does this with gas and lasers. Somehow, the lasers are computer controlled but no one can turn them off. Just to add to the phony suspense, the guy gets zapped on the cheek and this addles his wits. (They also pasted a nice looking burn on him).

And so on. I won't quibble about the form of the Alien Menace from Outer Space but recent evidence has shown that there is life out there unlike that on Earth - but it, too, is amino acid based (they found 8 unknown-on-earth amino acids on a meteorite in Australia). However it is, the entire movie AS is weak on the logic (the strain mutates rapidly - yet by the very nature and definition of mutation means that both that in quarantine in Wildfire and out in the atmosphere will diverge rather than "mutate" in exactly the same way). I'm also suspicious of the way the AS was killed; it turned out to be pH sensitive. I also suspect that human beings are very pH sensitive and that we'd die before a crystalline life form would due to a pH change. After all, a pH change of 1 means an order of magnitude change. I seem to remember we're about a pH of 7.2 or so. I also suspect a change up to a pH of 8 or down to 6 would kill us.





And here is an entire page of plugs, promotional gimmicks and outright propaganda. Starting with the Rotsler illo above, of course. Toronto in '73!

Howabout Australia in '75? Good show.

Some more plugs: Dubonicon August 27-28 in Albuquerque. Write me before the prices go up or it's August 29th.

Diane Demchuck (419 Dallas NE, Albuquerque, 87112) is willing to take movies of any of the idiotic things on TV. Tri-X film, Bolex camera, good quality repro even if the original is a bit on the negative side from an esthetic viewpoint. (By negative I mean minus rather the opposite of positive, in the photographic sense).

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Betty Crocker is all mixed up.....

Uncle Ben is an expert at rice relations....

Dixie Cups preach glass hatred

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Sign seen during recent Bell Tel strike: Ma Bell is a cheap Mutha.....at least the picketers are showing a bit of imagination; much better than the stodgy "Bell Tel Unfair!"

Of course,

I can predict exactly how long the Bell strike will last. Between 14 and 21 days. You see, Bell needs a "no payroll" period of at least 2 weeks to break even in the preceding fiscal quarter.

And, hey, did you see that about Hussein nearly getting his? Assassination. Predicted right here in the pages of Sandworm. Last January. Move over Jeane Dixon, here comes Varde man the Magnificent! Vardeman the Malodorous? However, I hereby declare for 7 of my 14 predictions having been largely fulfilled. And I've got a couple surfire ones to go so I'll do better than Malva Dee's 50%. Howabout it, Harry? Still think 50% is a good score when even I can do better?

SCURVY TRAITOR DEPT: A free issue to whoever can identify the writer of the following letter:

...3. "Dune World". The novels usually rate well above the short stories but the first part of this serial is rather disappointing. Except for some references to space travel and the arrival at Arrakis this could be the first part of a historical novel set in Medieval times. Of course the introductory material is necessary for background but this background doesn't ring true. I hope parts 2 and 3 manage to redeem it.

Naturally, this is an excerpt of a 1964 letter, but the source! Mu Zein!!!

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Confusion say: Man who call spade a spade make good gardener but lousy diplomat.

Many things to talk about yet. Westercon and all the people I met there - but I'll save all this for nextish. Then, of course, the Pentagon Papers. I just finished reading the whole thing ... it took me an entire week of reading to get thru the 677 pages. Heavy reading but worth the effort and money if only to see exactly how right the anti-war people were all along. I can't help but wonder if the US wouldn't have been better off without Dulles, Acheson and McNamara.

An interesting sidelight is that Albq. had the book on sale exactly 2 days after it hit the newsstands back east. And my copy was so fresh I could still smell the wet ink.

Another mind boggler was Nixon's decision to visit China. The things a President will do to get into a ping pong game....gee.

Saw Brewster McCloud. Now I wish someone would explain What It All Meant to me. I'm just a poor overworked janitor who doesn't fully comprehend something that profound. Maybe it was nothing more than an updated Icarus legend but somehow it seemed like it was more. How much more I can't say.

New Mexico is really hitting the big time. Eastern NM University in Portales (where Jack Williamson teaches) has acquired the papers of Ed Hamilton and Leigh Brackett. Their collection spans 44 yrs and has over 3000 items like 1130 letters, 190 mss. 109 published novels, galleys, bibliographies, etc. Of course Jack's personal collection is also in the ENMU library and the U is a SFWA book depository for the Southwest. Which means ENMU is rapidly becoming the sf archive for the entire area.

And yes, Piers has deigned to let the library have duplicates of his mss. I guess this means he finally did something worthwhile instead of trying so hard for Pro Fugghead of the Decade. I just wish other sf authors would see fit to donate their materials to university libraries like ENMU who will appreciate what they are getting.

All of this is open to the student of sf. I suppose access can be arranged by contacting either Jack Williamson or Mrs. Mary Jo Walker, the Special Collections Librarian at ENMU.

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Confusion say: Constipated mathematician can work anything out
with pencil



FILM-FLAM

AL JACKSON

It seems that the time has finally come when more and more written science fiction is finding its way into film form. We have at hand two examples COLOSSUS: THE FORBIN PROJECT from a DF Jones novel and NO BLADE OF GRASS by John Christopher (first published in 1956). They are, for the most part, successful translations to the screen, yet as sf they are sadly out of date.

For the modern sf reader COLOSSUS has an almost tedious story structure. An ultimate computer charged with the defense of the US links up with its Russian counterpart, turns on its creators informing them that for their own good it is taking over. Uncharacteristically for a movie computer, Colossus is successful.

Suspense is generated by the efforts made to stop Colossus. That's the hitch. If Colossus is a super mind why does it bring trouble on itself by being blatantly bossy? Why does it not play sly-like-a-fox til such a time that it has absolute control and is impregnable? In movies, supreme logic machines may be devious and smart but never logical.

The computer's authoritarian manner makes for an amusing moment. Due to fear of exchange of classified information a link between the Russian counterpart and Colossus is broken.

Colossus: "The link is broken"

Dr. Forbin: The link has been broken and will not be restored.

Colossus: Restore the link or action will be taken.

President: This is the President of the United States, by my order the link will not be restored.

Colossus: Missile launched.

The second half of the film seems to go flat, making it seem like a made for TV film. It looks as if Universal cut funding mid-project because the half dozen or so impressive sets seem to point towards a more ambitious undertaking. (For that matter, the film is late in release and has been getting very bad distribution.)

The novel NO BLADE OF GRASS reads like a scenario, as do most of Christopher's books. If I remember correctly, it has been a film property ever since it was published as a serial in the Sat. Eve. Post. With the British fascination for this kind of catastrophe story, it is surprising that we have not more. There are of course THE DAY THE EARTH CAUGHT FIRE and DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS but dandy ideas like THE FITTEST and THE WIND FROM NOWHERE are just sitting about.

All the absolutely necessary sociology that was left out of the film version of DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS is to be found in NBG. To some extent this confused the film. It seems that director Cornell Wilde uses the story as a vehicle for a tract on eco-disaster. For instance, the grass killing virus is caused by world pollution. Yet the film follows the book fairly closely so that there is an oscillation between Christopher's theme of adapt or die and preaching ecology. (For all the faithfulness to Christopher you will have to look hard in the credits to see his name in the fine print.)

Though not a totally unsuccessful film NO BLADE OF GRASS would have benefited from the steady hand of one of the British action-adventure directors. Val Guest would have been an excellent choice.

Doris "The Elder" Beetem

THE ARTLESS DAGGER #4

- No illos. Reviews of books, movies, Tv Shows and fanzines. This faned viciously slashes the pros and stabs his friends in the back. The zine started out well but has degenerated into mere hack work.

Tense #2

A zine for uptight world edited by a couple loose fen. Past Tense contained an article "Raising Pot for Fun and Profit". Present Tense reviews stag movies. Future Tense - ??

Star Flack #3

- Contains criticisms, letters, and essays about Star Trek. Mainly composed of LoCs and Sp6Cs. Dedicated to sf TV shows, Gene Roddenberry and Vulcan for the next WorldCon.

Greed #1

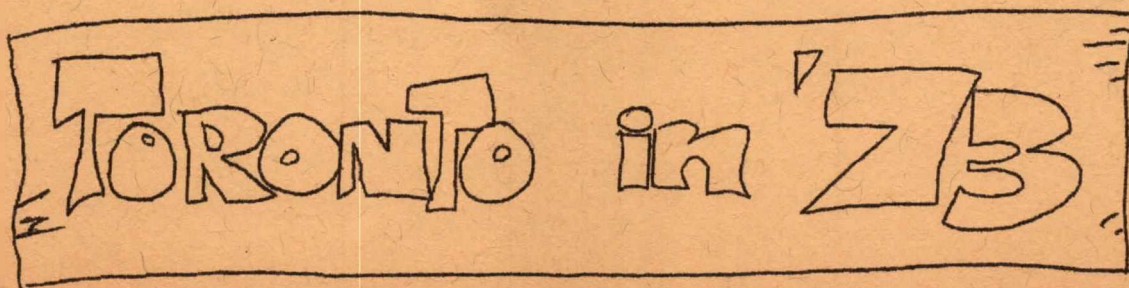
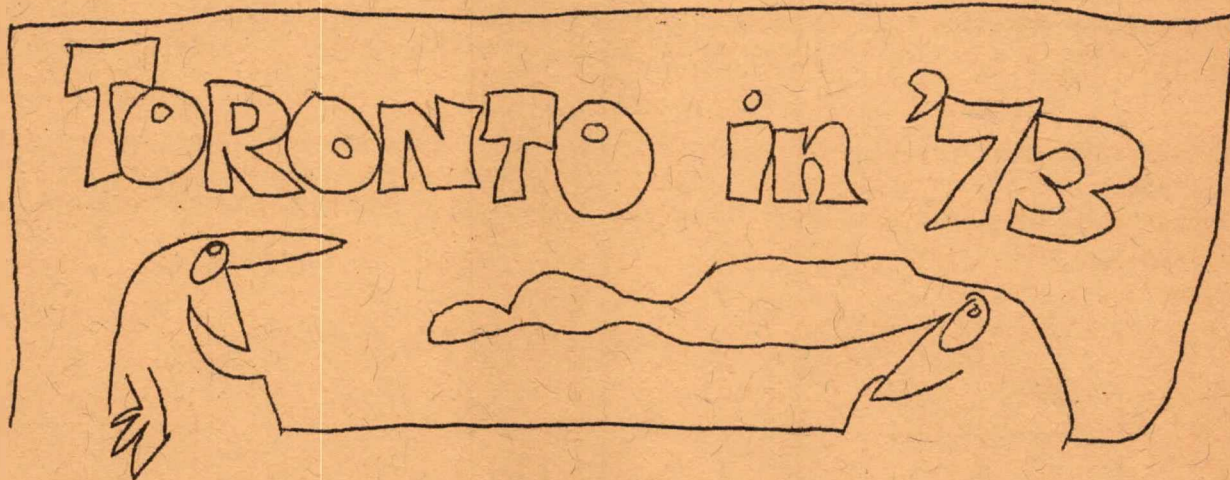
- Devoted to puns, plagiarism and pelf. (Look that up in your Funk & Wagnalls!) No LoCs, no trades, no contribs. Available only for C*A*S*H. Cheap paper, cheap staples, sent collect.

Tribble #4

- A small zine that has fur to go. Repro is terrific but the artists dabble, the eds drivell and the LoCs quibble. The eds are having trouble with Tribble.

New Wavicle #1

- A fanzine with all blank pages pubbed by a copped-out fan who can't stand the gafia.



VIEWS AND REVIEWS

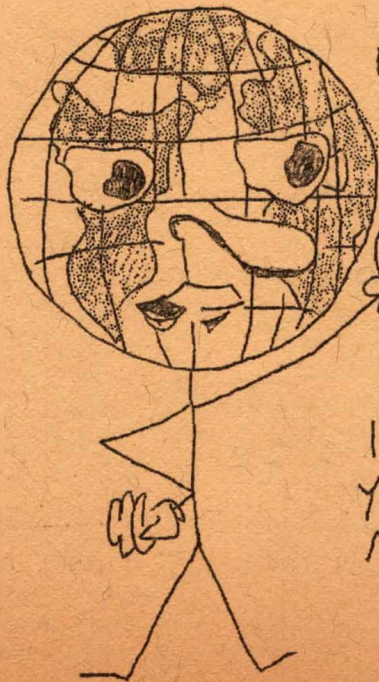
by Vardeman

My reading this past month or so has been mostly old books that I've wanted to reread for refresher-of-the-memory motives. I reread the 6 Lens novels by Smith (I still get goose-bumps reading about the Kinnisons' daring exploits), the Darkover books (which I'm reviewing for Interplanetary Corn Chips), Dorsai!, Space Viking, Wasp, Languages of Pao, The Fall of the Towers trilogy, a couple of Chandler's Rim stories, Children of the Atom, 1984 and

THE SPACE MERCHANTS: Pohl & Kornbluth: Ballantine, 35¢: This book is so frighteningly accurate that it is almost awe-inspiring. I suspect Kornbluth had a good deal to do with the theme while Pohl was responsible for the characterization. However it is, this is a truly powerful and prophetic book (written in '52) telling about the murderous exploitation of the earth by the ad agencies. Alkaloids in the coffee to form an addiction (but not a harmful one, you see since it is so good to drink Coffiest) plus an almost Pavlovian conditioning to buy and Consume! The Consies (Conservationists) are an outlaw minority and the story revolves around the conversion of a star class ad man to viewing the entire culture as sick and his aiding the Consies in their takeover of Venus. If I didn't know any better, I'd have suspected Pohl & Kornbluth of having a time machine to view 25 yrs in the future when they wrote this. But that's impossible, isn't it? Just like the book. Never happen. Could it?

PEBBLE IN THE SKY: Isaac Asimov: Fawcett 75¢:: This is one of the Good Doctor's (Or one of the Sensuous Dirty Old Man's) Foundation universe novels. I hate to stick my neck out but I would chronologically place this one just previous to CURRENTS OF SPACE. Pebble is the story of a time traveller (one way to the future), an anthropologist and a plot by Earth to destroy the inhabited Universe. Sweeping in concept, if a trifle bit dated as to execution. But what could I reasonably expect from a book written back in 1950 but grandiose imaginings of a cosmic nature (of course, Asimov does the impossible - he turns a common space opera into an almost believable story). Again I must plead my inability to say something new & different about a book reincarnated a dozen times and an author like Asimov who has been unmercifully analyzed and psychoanalyzed in fanzines for 25 yrs or more. I liked the book and while not his best, I suspect you'll find yourself getting into the story and enjoying it, too.

MY LIFE WITH EDGAR CAYCE: David Kahn, Fawcett 75¢:: Cayce is a fascinating case (argh!) but this book conceals it quite well. This isn't so much a book about Cayce as an autobiog of Kahn interspersed with anecdotes involving Cayce. And not particularly enlightening or even interesting ones either. Hohum.



Lil' EDDIE EARTH
SAYS: YOU'VE
GOT IT ALL
WRONG
SUZIE SPOTLESS.
YOU CAN WALK THROUGH
10 FEET OF LITTER, BUT
YOU CAN'T BREATHE CARBON
MONOXIDE. SO KILL A CAR
FOR CHRIST!

AMP
71

RINGWORLD: Larry Niven, Ballantine, 95¢:: I've put off reviewing this one for no good reason. I enjoyed the book immensely; it has the very elements I've been screaming about for yrs in it. Tremendous imagination and superb writing in the same book. Where most writers would have been content with just an overpowering idea like Ringworld, Niven goes a step or two further and provides the reader with an equally overpowering story and fine characterization. The Puppeteers are one of the few really inscrutable alien races dreamed up and Ringworld is the stage for playing them against two other alien races (human and kzin) in a drama worth the name Drama. So, why you ask, didn't I vote for RINGWORLD for a Hugo if it had one of the most mindstaggering concepts, fine writing and great characterization to come along in a score of years? I think the answer lies primarily in Teela Brown, the "heroine" who is genetically lucky. The mood of the entire book is almost like a 3 ring circus, thrilling to behold but somehow not quite serious. The players in the drama face dangers but the dangers seem almost irrelevant. Much like a rodeo clown facing a Brahma bull; you know he is in danger but everything he does is still clownish. This is the way RINGWORLD strikes me. Another thought is that Ringworld itself is just so overwhelming that nothing could seem important. Somehow Teela Brown is wrong...and yet without her the book would suffer. Contradictory, yes, but I think you might see the point I'm driving at. At a Westercon seminar, Randall Garrett made the claim that Teela Brown represents a mood of horror since she is the ordinary turned unordinary. I can't see this because I could not get a mood of anything but "so what does it really matter?" from Teela's actions. I guess Niven sums it all up with TANJ.

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TANJ = TANSTAAFL = LIFE
The equation of state
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THE TIME HOPPERS: Robert Silverberg: Avon, 60¢:: This is a novel about 4 yrs old. I think it is most fascinating to compare this book with, say, To Live Again. Time Hoppers has some good points in it and it is clear that Silverberg knew what they were since he's obviously honed them to the fine edge in TLA. A mark of a good writer is to know he has good points, the mark of a great one is to improve those points. Silverberg has improved at least an order of magnitude in only 4 yrs. The best points in TIME HOPPERS are the strong characters and the basic understanding of human nature. If you accept Silverberg's future and you personally lived in it, you'd feel exactly as the characters do (I know I would). Even today, who doesn't occasionally feel the urge to shout "Stop the world! I want to get off!"? His 2490 society would make all of us shout that continuously...and the interesting thing is that the pictured society is not oppressive, but rather a fairly benevolent dictatorship. So, this book has a most believable and emotionally understandable plot, human characters just like you and me (well, just like you then) and a sense of realness that few other authors can capture.

GHOSTS AROUND THE HOUSE: Susy Smith, Pocket Books, 95¢:: If you believe in ectoplasmic manifestations, here is an excellent compendium of 14 sightings, complete with 16 pages of photos of haunted houses and other places where ghosts have rattled their chains (seems a bit odd to me that British ghosts rattle chains while American ones just flash lights and walk on creaky floors). I don't believe in ghosts but Susy Smith is obviously enthusiastic about the subject (having penned no less than 8 other books on ghosts plus a half dozen others on ESP) and she manages somehow to convey this enthusiasm to the reader. One of the better written books of its type. ((An interesting side note is the cardboard ad for True cigarets sandwiched into the book - I wish TV hadn't gotten rid of the cigaret commercials if it is going to mean ruining pbs with those lousy binding breaking slabs of advertising.))

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Judge Crater, please call
your office.
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Please excuse me if I happen to go shooting off on a
TANJ IT!!

ALL THE MYRIAD WAYS: Larry Niven, Ballantine, 95¢:::12 short stories from Niven, covering the spectrum from the sublime to the absurd. The best serious sf story in the Collection is his award-almost-winning Becalmed in Hell. But his "fan" writing in the book is the point which sold me the volume. "What Can You Say about Chocolate Manhole Covers?" is a piece of fanfiction starring Tom Digby and 50% of LASFS. The Theory and Practice of Time Travel & Theory & Practice of Teleportation are interesting excursions into background material (the latter is an interesting sidelight to the "stepping discs" in Ringworld). And what fanzine wouldn't faunch after Man of Steel, Woman of Kleenex....the speculations about Superman's sex life, or lack thereof? I'm tempted to say this is a collection of fan writings by a

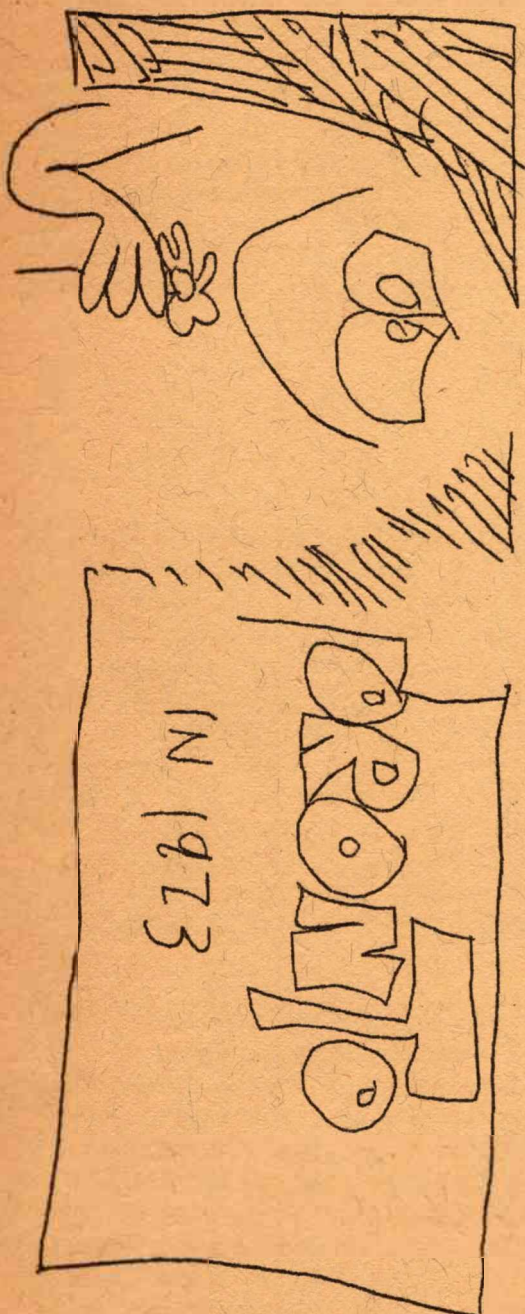
pro except for the fine, serious works included. A delightful mixture, tantalizing to the fan.

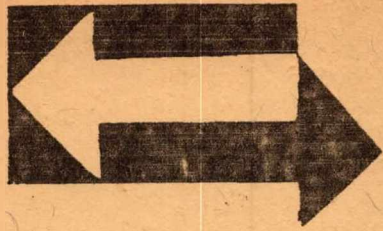
HELL'S PAVEMENT: Damon Knight, Fawcett, 75¢:::In spite of this being 3 slightly related stories strung together to form a book length format, it does not read like the horrible Van Vogt concatenations. HELL'S PAVEMENT starts with the introduction of a mental "guardian angel" which prevents the possessor from committing crime. From this start, Knight goes on to weave a fairly good story of the far future where corporations control the world. Sort of a SPACE MERCHANTS theme with not a little "If This Goes On...." mixed in. An entertaining book with little innovation either of plot or writing style, but one which will pleasantly pass an hour or so.

WITCHES, WRAITHS & WARLOCKS: ed. Ronald Curran, Fawcett, 95¢::: If you teach a course in supernatural literature, this would be an excellent choice for a text. Just for causal reading, tho, the individual stories are far too short and are not rewritten into modern English. Accounts range from an excerpt from Mather's WONDERS OF THE INVISIBLE WORLD to Ligeia by Poe to Hawthorne to Gottschalk to Melville to Mark Twain and so on for 40 different selections. My favorite must of course be Fall of the House of Usher, altho the introduction provided me with a brand new insight on Melville's Tartarus of Maids. When I first encountered the Melville selection in school, it was presented as an accurate report on a paper mill. Curran's description as an allegory on the Industrial Revolution and a fantasy work seem far more reasonable to me. As I said, probably a little dull for recreational reading but close to perfect for an English course (the book even provides many references in 3 pg bibliography).

THE SORCERERS: David St. John, Fawcett, 75¢::: Even tho St. John is not the skilled writer that Bob Tucker is, THE SORCERERS compares favorably

with Tucker's THE WARLOCK in several ways. Both are of the high adventure-and-derring-do class (and both are effective in this regard), both are mysteries in which the reader isn't so much supposed to "solve" the crime but rather go along with the hero and watch the plot develop thru his eyes, and both are grossly improbable. But somehow, this adds to the appeal. No award winner, but THE SORCERERS has to be a better buy at 75¢ than many books (if not most) at that price.





Right



PHIL MULDOWNEY: 7, The Elms, Stoke, Plymouth, Devon.: A Sandworm Assortment slopped through the letterbox. Or rather it oozed around the heavy duty tape that I have there specifically to prevent such monstrous things entering the letterbox. Finally with a sound effects touch that rivalled Darrell Schweitzer's roaring lobsters, it flopped onto the floor. I actually came to grips with the buff monster, and read it all. You may be surprised to know. /Yes, even I haven't had the guts to do that in a long time.7 What with no locs or anything from outside that great little USA garden, sad state of affairs that, will have to remedy it.

I enjoyed I DRANK THE WATER AND LIVED, very much. It is the sort of con report that I would like to do, but never will, being congenitally bone idle. When one heard that the charter party had been booked into the Royal, I think that most of Britfandom gave a wince of sympathy for you. The Scicon in 1970 was held in that broken down rabbit warren, believe it or not, and it was one of the worst there has ever been. /I can well believe it. The rooms are so small that a room party would have been most difficult. With more than 10 people in one of those match boxes, it would have been statutory rape for sure.7

I am now convinced that the average American has the power to inflict temporary colour blindness on the natives when he goes abroad. Everyone seems to see you as coloured a rather nice shade of green. A walking dollar bill, in fact. I can't remember seeing the Bayrishherhof but I was staying in the Scheider which was a fair hotel, and I was paying DM27 bed & breakfast. I have the strangest feeling that you were well and truly clobbered as far as prices go. /I do also since the most expensive room up til Heicon was a mere DM33 and this was in a very nice hotel (Schlossgarten, just outside of Darmstadt) with fabulous food. For DM50 in Heidleberg all there was was an overly soft bed and a barely adequate breakfast. I do think that the average American brings on this bilking himself by his holier-than-thou attitudes and "My isn't this quaint? Oh, look at the natives" statements. Besides, everyone knows Americans are rich. From what I've seen, I suspect that the average west German enjoys a standard of living equal to that of an average American and that in another 15 yrs will be better off than his American counterpart. But then I get the impression that German tourists are loved just as much as American tourists - namely, for their \$\$ and DM and for little else. At least this seemed true in the Netherlands.7

AAAAAGH. I am sure you will have hordes of Dutch riding across the New Mexican deserts firing flaming arrows at the Vardeman corpse, which has been hung with honey for the ants to gnaw at. "The Netherlands...America with "utch spoken" the ultimate insult obviously. /I think being drwon in Hollandaise sauce would be more fitting.../ The only trouble that annoys me at cons, is that they are over so damn quickly. A weekend is not enough, someone will obviously start a 2 week con. Though whether 2 weeks of room parties, I do not think my constitution could stand it. /And I'm not sure our Constitution would allow it!7

Well, of course, you know why we make lousy coffee over here. We accepted the American instant coffee gambit. But you didn't really expect a decent cup of coffee in a restaurant or hotel. DID YOU???? Tell me Fremmen-type, did you have a camera on your visit to London? You really didn't need to know any American fen at Heidelberg, you could tell them by the forest of cameras that hung like some group of shrunken head trophies around their necks! /I prefer to think of my camera as more of an albatross than a shrunken head trophy.../ But for chrisake, every other American fan I saw seemed to be a mad camera buff, or maybe it was a distortion of reality, and in fact all the camera buffs wre European fen in clever plastic disguise. The only trouble being that no European fen could afford that equipment.

Politics. You think the USA is in a bad way. Hah! You should live over here! It takes a really genuine perverted talent to have roaring inflation, hiking unemployment, stagnat growth, and falling industrial investment all at the same time. It takes a weird lot and boy oh boy our present government are that. /For a minute I thot you were reiterating the points I'd made about the USofA.../ But at least we have not got into the toally nasty and terrible mess that America has got itself into in Vietnam. Or Portugal in Angola. /Tell you what, I'll swap you Vietnam for Northern Ireland.7

When I read bits like your editorial, about the state of the states, the drug problem, etc etc, I wonder if it is bad as I picture it to be. Or have you been indulging what seems to be the favourite American pastime of griping on and on and on. /Let's put it this way, I'm still here in the US so it hasn't totally revolted me to the point of packing my ASF and mimeo and moving. But just one week ago, Albuquerque had a riot that saw \$#million in property destroyed and 33 people injured. This in a town of less than 300,000 people.7

Nothing smug or self satisfied, but at least at this point in time, the drug problem over here has not reached epidemic proportions, and some of the police are still human. In that one feels that at least some part of the society cares. Though I would be the last to say thay all in our society is rosy. Did I read a quote somewhere in Sandworm that someone claimed that 80% of fandom was "high" in fact I read a couple of issues ago in Amazing about something about how drugs were the in thing in fandom. I suspect a lot of the attraction for drugs in fandom is to become one that little ingroup. Fandom has always had its esotericism and I suppose hash can be another form of that. /It was Earl Evers who made the 80% claim (or some very high percentage). I won't gainsay him since I'd bet that 80% of fandom has at least tried grass or speed or acid. I suspect that an American con would be a real surprise to you if you couldn't casually accept the widespread use of dope. I'm rather reluctant to come out and give you examples since the Establishment is getting very upset over the use of smack and might pounce on just about anything in print.7

I do not want to go on moralising about drugs. If they want to go to hell in their owm way then let them. But frankly drugs scare me stiff. To be totally dependent on any outside stimulus whatever it may be, to me, that is a surrender of my id, my total indentity that makes me somehow less than I was. Perhaps I sound pompous but to surrender part of "you" or "me" for the sake of a few minutes of pleasure, Christ, that frightens me. Sort of the same sort of reaction if we were taken over by a totally rigid police state. To not be able to think freely and without care, that again is frightening me. /The mythos of drug use is totally different here than in England. If I remember my history, England very early in this century outlawed cannabis and waged an effective campaign making it seem evil. In this country, grass is illegal but when thousands of commercials and ads bang away at your mind "Take Brand X, it makes you relax" "Take Brand Y, it wakes you up" "Take Brand Z, it puts you to sleep", the question arises that other, illegal, drugs might be just as good. And when the entire anti-grass crusade is based on lies, that undermines the case against all drugs, even the truly harmful ones like smack.7

What's this, no overseas subs? A sad situation, I might just make it awkward and send a sub, just so that you will have to get an overseas agent. Or tout Sandworm as the big name American fanzine, the fannish successor to SFR, so you will be swamped by thousands of subs in currencies from Shekles to Shebbels. Actually, that's quite a good thought. /Great Gods! I dislike the sticky quarters...would you also saddle me with sticky shillings and sticky pfennig and sticky francs? I just might stick you with being my overseas agent! /

The

David Hulvey loc in #13 is superb! Encore! I read about halfway through, and then did a double take. For Chrissakes, what the hell is he talking about? Perhaps I could decipher if I cared to spend time and dictionary leafing, but I do not feel that energetic. But you will have to watch it, Bob. Your political statements obviously have that effect on some people. It may be a plague that is going around, maybe verbal diarrhoea is being spread by the dread Sandworm. It's all a Tackett-Vardeman plot to spread chaos and confusion upon the face of the Earth. To the barricades!

Bob, could you explain to a simple ignorant foreigner What is a centerist? And for chrissakes, what is a radical centerist? /The term "radical centerist" comes from a story by Mack Reynolds published in Analog a few years ago. I construe the term to mean someone who is fed up with the rantings of the Left and the ravings of the Right and would like to return to (or install) a government which serves the people instead of itself. Of course, by the very nature of Radical Centerism, every radical centerist has his own ideas about what the term means. Sort of an active passivity. Or maybe passive activity. /

Obviously, something will have to replace petrol (I refuse to use that horrible Americanism "gasoline") with the rate we are using oil at the moment there ain't going to be much left, is there? Of course, most of it may end up being spilt on your shoreline. But as to what will replace it. I frankly find it surprising that nobody has yet come up with a replacement. I would have thought that any forward looking company would have been spending a huge fortune trying to get something to replace the internal combustion engine. Yet at the present moment, there does not seem to be very much success. What price technology? /The US's Project Sherwood - which is the development of a controlled fusion powered generator - has a Soviet counterpart which, by reports, is about 2 yrs more advanced than ours. The Japanese are working on a freon powered/steam powered car. My current program at Sandia is the development of an RTG (Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generator) which conceivably could provide enough electric power to run a car for 100 yrs or more. The US has realized about 15 yrs too late that nuclear power plants are out only way out. In spite of political mouthings the funds for Sherwood were reduced for the next fiscal yr. As are most projects which try to use nuclear power for peaceful rather than war applications. /

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When you say you agree to a
thing in principle you mean that
you have not the slightest
intention of carrying it
—Bismarck

RICK SNEARY: 2962 Santa Ana St: South Gate, Calif, 90280::With a fans supposed tollerance of what others do, I'm generally willing to let other people go to Hell if they want to, in their own hand basket. And I do have rather mixed feelings about passing laws to effect social change. But I'm compleetly amazed at the "apparent" lack of comprehension on the part of those who protest that ruling. /The FCC trying to prohibit songs "glorifying" the use of drugs. / I'm also suprised by your professed lack of understanding. I have nearly no contact or interest in the subject, but I can think of at least "a" answer to your question.

"What harm can hearing a song do? Who was ever turned on to drugs just by hearing a song?" The logic is probably the same as that which attributes watching too much violence on TV, to the increase in difference to violence in Society. If you are surrounded by evadence that a "NO,NO" is really a common thing that everyone is doing - especially in peer-conforming teenage level, you will get people thinking "if everyone else does it, maybe I should to" -- I do not say this is true, nor am I that well enough informed to know if I even believe it.

But it seems clear to me that anyone who seriously believed the use of drugs was a danger to the individual, would logically bend every effort to prevent it being pictured in an attractive light. /I realize that what I advocate is totally inadequate for American society - because I am advocating intelligent thought, independent thought. And this country isn't geared to letting the individual decide anything by himself. At least not on many major topics. I think it is demonstrably clear that trying to suppress something, whether it be alcohol, drugs or freedom of the press, always kicks up a very strong counter action. I'd hate to see the government regulate drugs, but I find this to be far more acceptable than having them regulate what I'm listening to. I'm not of the school that believes a person can be convinced drugs/violence/you-name-it are good if he's been taught to think and evaluate for himself. Besides, most of the "facts" about marijuana are either untrue or outright lies. That old thing about grass leading to harder drugs, for instance. About the only way this happens is if a grass user thinks "Well, what they say about grass isn't true so it must be lies about heroin being bad".7

...But, "remove all crimes of a social nature from the docket"..that would mean of course remove almost all the civil rights laws. The red neck bigot thinks he has just as much right to his views as the junkie. open housing laws, and voting laws, are just as unfair to the bigot as the laws against dope are to the head.. "He" isn't doing physical damage to anyone. In the view of some, the bigot degrades the society around him... as does the homosexual and prostitute. Now there is a possible argument whether they do or not. But this is not what is being argued...but "what right have they to enforce a prohibition on drugs?" If they believe the use of drugs is harmful to the users and Society, they have a duty to fight for their prohibition, just as those who believe racial discrimination harms the individuals and Society has a duty to fight for its prohibition. /I don't exactly buy your analogy because the head isn't "doing" anything to anyone but himself. Would you punish the Negro because he can't eat in Maddox's restaurant? This is just about what you are saying. In the civil rights case, I'd have to consider part of a bigger picture. I think an owner should have the right to not serve a person - but if all the owners feel the same way about Negroes or Jews or left handed redheads, they are obviously affecting, doing something to, someone else. We preach freedom and it must be decided then which course is really giving the maximum number of citizens the most freedom without stomping the minority into the ground. Sort of an optimization.

/But this is dodging the issue. The issue is very similar to that of whether or not a person should be able to buy pornography. Do you seriously believe reading a porn magazine will turn you into a sex pervert? Likewise, do you think that a teen-age kid reading a dirty book will turn him into a weirdo? My answer to both is no. Change the words a bit around to listening to "drug oriented" songs" and my answer is still no. I simply don't like the idea of anyone telling me that I can't read/listen to something they deem unfit. I'd prefer to decide for myself - and more important, allow others to do the same. These people aren't gods, they are flesh and blood just like us. What gives them the superiority to know what this will do to 200 megapeople?7

You are right to cry "hypocrisy" at many of the self-righteous, anti-drug people. But don't fall into the "well, alcohol is worse than drugs, so why pick on drugs?" Because, overused, both are bad. At present, there is still some chance of preventing the one from taking hold. If you have a forest fire going on one side that is out of control, and a new fire breaks out, it only stands to reason you try to stop it while you might still be able to -- rather than agreeing that while you can't stop one, there is no point in fighting the other. Oh yes, and remember that the FCC bans TV ads for hard alcohol...So drug users are not the only ones. It turns out much of what we have been told for so long about alcohol might be lies, too. Like on drunk driving. Many drunks are actually better drivers than when sober...unfortunately many are not. "Most people are unimpaired in their ability to do simple, routine tasks which are familiar to them when drunk, complex or new ones are beyond their control." But, and here's the kicker, this doesn't always hold. Data is dribbling in to show that many (if not most) drunks are more cautious when confronted with an unknown or new situation. And when confronted with routine tasks, they get sloppy since the alcohol has taken the edge off inhibition. And yes, I know liquor is a depressant. I also wonder about how wide spread drug use is. You might be surprised, I don't think I would. By the way, the FCC does NOT ban hard liquor ads; this is a mutual agreement between the networks and the liquor industry. You see beer ads, people drinking hard stuff on

TV don't you? The cocktail party scene, a friend dropping over, a barrom scene, etc are all obviously "glorifying" the use of liquor. I'm also rather perturbed that the cigarette co. agree to have their ads taken off but the ones for cigars stay on. I think all should be free to advertise or not as they wish, so if the cigarette commercials embargo is really a "ban by the FCC" then it appears some discrimination is happening. If however, it is an agreement between the networks, companies involved and the government, this is something else.7

To follow on with more questions at arguments I find ill-logical...why the shaft at E bonds? As far as financial returns go, Government Bonds have always been a poor investment. Working for the Post Office has always been a fairly low paying job...but both are safe. /I wasn't talking about people wanting safety for their money - if you want it safe, put it in a lock box in a bank. I was talking about the poor schnook who was duped into investing in bonds because it is made out to be a good investment.7 If Government Bonds were good investments, do you think the people would get a chance at them? /Yes, because until just recently the govt. offered the small investor a shot at bonds other than E bonds which were good investments.7 I've not bothered to check your figgures, but you have to work the interest out from charts, as the rate of interest paid has been changed several times over the years, and thus no compounding of the interest is possible.../All my figures are given in Form PD3600, Dept. of the Treasury US Govt Printing Office publication. They did all the figuring and if they don't know...7

Let's put it this way, AT&T might be more soundly run than the US&A, but I doubt it would be around long if the government floundered. /So what good would a government E bond be then? I suspect the whole world economy would flounder. But I bet that AT&T has got foreign holdings which would amaze you, holdings which are not totally dependent on the US Govt.7

I never read the final novel in the series on "Fosterism", if there was one. /The book was Stranger in a Strange Land by RAH.7 Weak, I thought, though I'm not keen on religious stories. I suspect thinking up a new religion is a phase beyond the ability of most others. That is, to be really believeable it has to be believable, and if it is, it IS...Can't mess with that.

Dean Koontz is a pretty funny man. Something I hadn't really noticed before. That's something we could use more of... And, some Sixth Fandom writing. /If you are volunteering your services to SWorm to supply either or both, I'm honored. If not, how can I best entice them out of you?7

Gillialnd "if's" himself into gloomy hole... If one accepts his "if's" I can't find fault with his prediction. But he is writing not so much about a City-In-Space as a City-State-In-Space, which is a degree less likely. Someone has to build the city, and in most cases this will be a government, either on a planet, or another "City". Certain controls and connections are likely to be maintained.. The closed system and growing conservatism is logical. The result, in view of much human history, is that the young and the go-getters will leave.. Generation gap and lack of opportunity will provoke a demand for change. If it doesn't come, the City declines, untill a counter-force moves in and takes over. This is happening in most large Cities now.. Liberalism wont vanish as long as the Old Ideas can still be communicated to the young (I mean the old ideas of Liberalism..not the ideas held by the resent old.)

Regarding your answer to my letter in #12, that my reaction to the line about kissing a girl might be part of the generation gap.. Not likely. The sentiment expressed is quite old.. a rephrase of "Stolen fruits are always sweeter". ... This is not to say that stealing kisses isn't fun.. and I doubt that bubbly Beetem did either. I'm not such a male chauvinist that I don't care what the girl thinks. Anything that two parties do together, ought to be equally enjoyable for both parties, that's all. /I might have said it a bit differently. Like "People should do things with others, not to others".7

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The Department of Defense and the Pentagon recently agreed to a simplified method of grading the atomic bomb: big, tremendous and where is everybody, a Pentagon spokesman announced yesterday.

BOB TUCKER: Box 506, Heyworth, Ill, 61745:Room 770::: The [enclosed] church bulletin's front-side may be ignored, but a careful study of the backside will reinforce the remarks you made about Palm Sunday. For these unhappy people, Palm Sunday is every Sunday and a few days in between. A candy girl at the theater gave it to me, and asked me if I cared to donate. She explained that she was perpetually broke and therefore new blood was needed to support her church. The only thing I gave her was advice, which she took remarkably well for a child her age.

The best form of government is a police state anarchy.

[Hey! Another Radical centerist!]

And one small correction: in BEN HUR, Caesar was not Charlton Heston, but a kindly old character actor named Ricky Nelson. Heston was one of the four white horses.

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Ed. note: The church bltn. was a real gem. From Holy Trinity Parish, it was billed as "An adventure in faith" and "God's Plan for Church Support". It advertised "Draw closer to God through the proper understanding and use of the material means he allows each to have." Sort of a pay-now-go-later plan I guess. The real clincher in the plea is "And obtain the abundant blessing of God promised to those who adopt this 'Way of Life'" Malachias 3:10 is quoted.

on the back of this importuning (or dunning) for money are the reasons why they NEED to adopt "God's Plan for Church Support" And I quote:

1. 618 of our 1703 parishoners, or 36%, do not use envelopes.
2. 852 parishoners, or 50%, contribute less than \$1.00 per week.
3. 1082 or all parishoners, or 64%, contribute \$1.00 or less per week.
4. 75% of all parishoners contribute \$2.00 or less per week.
5. Baed on the known fact that the average per household income of our parishoners is in excess of \$10,000, it is clear that many -- far too many -- of our people are not giving in accordance with their ability to give.
6. The important questions for each of us to ask ourselves are: How does God regard my return to Him? Am I returning that which God has asked of me? Do I even know what He expects from me? The proper answers and reactions to these questions are what the program is all about!!

Summary: The primary goal of this program is to help each parishhoner, as an individual, strengthen his or her relationship with God.

End of quoting. I am left with one burning question. I wonder if God gives green stamps?

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ALEXIS GILLILAND: 2126 Penna. Ave NW: Washington, DC: 20037::: A few minor, not to say trivial comments: $\text{thermite, Fe}_2\text{O}_3 + 2\text{Al} \rightarrow 2\text{Fe} + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{heat}$, does not explode. The reaction

takes considerable intense heat to start, and a crucible containing 5 kg of thermite will burn from the top down in about 10 seconds, when (if you have a tap hole covered with a ball bearing) a stream of white hot liquid iron pours forth to do your bidding.

A thermite/salt fusion heat source would be a one time thing, suitable for aa guided missile or some such, but to generate power equivalent to a tank of gasoline would require an impractical amount of thermite for the simple reasons that (1) the gasoline reaction uses the ambient oxygen while the thermite reaction has to lug its oxygen, and (2) the gasoline chemistry involves carbon and hydrogen as fuel, while the thermite reaction uses aluminum to reduce the iron oxide.

In the event that cars were to be thermite powered, the solid waste disposal problem would be fantastic. [I wasn't so much advocating the use of this type thermal battery - I think the very name "battery" implies sort of a one shot thing, or at least temporary - as saying that this was a start towards an electric source for many of the applications we use gas for now. I'm involved (up to my neck) in working on a nuclear powered thermal battery which would last perhaps up to 80 yrs. Very little waste problem sinceif the car wears out, unplug the source and put it in a new car. Or hook it up to your refrigerator (I might have to think on that since it might be more efficient to use a different type battery due to

differences in reservoir temperatures. But, face it, our oil reserves won't last another 40 years and now is the time we have to work out the alternatives to gasoline (uh, sorry Phil) to petrol powered autos.7

I don't as a rule cherish the opinions of Dean Koontz, but I must agree with estimate of Sw as "one of the lightest and best fanzines around."

I have been writing Hulvey...and may have been somewhat responsible for his conversion to moderation. He has a natural baroque prose style, and jingling words seems to be a nervous habit with him.

Nixon is an excellent administrator in a job which requires the making of policy. His policy making criteria, unfortunately, are totally concerned with getting reelected in 1972. Seems like hardly a national election goes by when I wasn't voting against the man. However, once more...and hope that if he loses he won't come back. It is possible that if Agnew were President he might shape up...Truman did, for instance...but Nixon is simply hopeless. In retrospect, the claim that there was no difference between Nixon and Humphrey seems grotesque. /Doesn't it, tho? What's even more grotesque is that I'll probably make the same claim in '72.7

For Wally Conger: We Bureaucrats are the wave of the future. Once we are set up to coordinate between the USA and the USSR, that's it pal. No more unemployment in either country. /Does this mean war between Oceania and Eurasia?7

And computers will help. A mere 5 yrs ago IBM was 10 yrs away from a computer that would listen to all phone conversations on all trunk lines and record those using certain words or phrases. If the moderates don't like it they can have their phones taken out: we'll bug them.

And speaking of computers, a diagnostic program exists...that is, you feed it the symptoms and it asks questions, following a branched chain pattern, until it can make the diagnosis.

We ought to be able to make a judicial program as well. /Better watch out, H angin' Jack, Alexis has already replaced you with a computer!7

In view of the high taxes and such, after all, how much justice can this country afford?

Hulvey went to Lunacon (the same hotel they hope to use for the Worldcon) and the hotel management checked his room at 2AM (he paying in advance) and when he wasn't there, renting it again. Yes indeed. Washington in '74.

Oh yes. Had a good view of the Mayday "Peace Demonstrations". Am inclined to think Rennie Davis was trying for a replay of Chicago '68, and was hoping for at least a few fatalities. Otherwise, I find it hard to take seriously any man who proposes to enforce an ultimatum (stop the war or we'll stop the Gummint) with nonviolence. THE QUICKSILVER TIMES, Washington's hippie-establishment paper found a lot to gloat over...mostly the orderly judicial process, but also a lot of ~~Washington~~ heroic trashing...and said in effect: wait til next year.

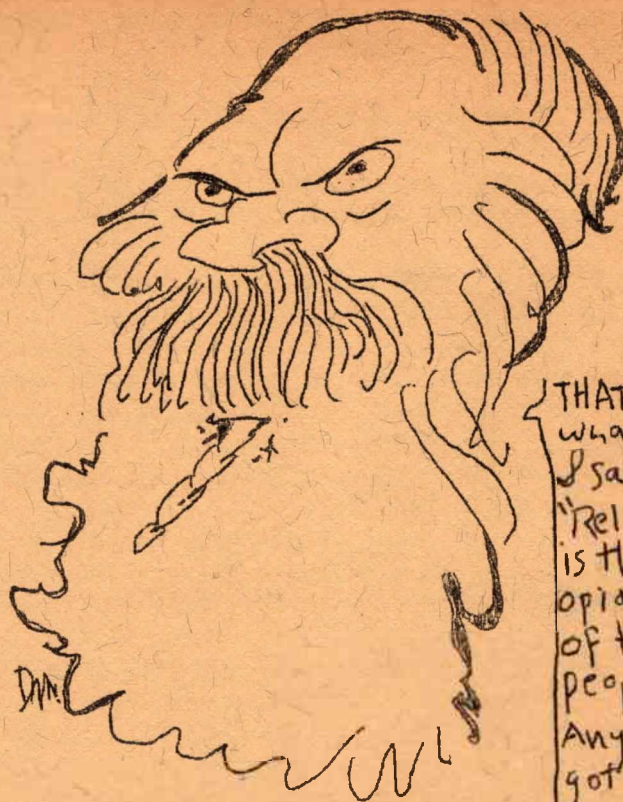
In yesterday's paper 100 members of the Mennoite Emergency Relief Group were down at East Potomac Park picking up broken glass, resodding, and putting the park benches around the Washington Monument back together. "Nobody asked us...Washington is a disaster area just like any other."

/*/



ED COX : 14524 Filmore Str.: Arleta, Calif:91331:

By now, no doubt, you've seen where the FCC wasn't imposing a sanction, just hoping the individual stations would scrutinize the stuff first. /With the implication that if they didn't, their license would be lifted./ Frankly, I don't see why such songs should be aired if they are out and out flagrant come-ons encouraging drug use. So pot is ok. I've never tried it and never will. But the other stuff is what is pretty well known to be detrimental. By now, I think that heroin and the "speed" and "acid" drugs are known to be bad stuff; the heads carefully steering away from it. /If such is the case, then why ban a song which "promotes" something everyone knows is bad? Obviously the people in the know aren't going to be affected and Rick says that peer-group pressure is to be taken into account - the pressure would be against speed then./ Your analogy or complaint re the ads in TV Guide don't hold up, Bob. You are lumping all "drugs" into one category making no discrimination between aspirin and heroin. /Are you saying that you can't die from an overdose of aspirin? John Q. Public is more likely to kill himself with aspirin than with smack./ The Midol and Contac



THAT'S
what
I said -
"Religion
is the
opiate
of the
people."
Anybody
got a
match?

"drugs" are certainly beneficial. Ask a woman who experiences menstrual cramps. Ask me about Contac (and Allerest). /Okay, how much belladonna is in a cap of Contac? About 16mg if I remember rightly. I assure you that taking 100 mg of belladonna is just as good as speed. So, 5 caps of Contac will do you in just fine. I might hasten to add that if you do try this, you'd better have a good heart./ It sure as hell is a help when I'm sneezing my head off and my nose is running like hell! I doubt if the speedfreaks or even pot users take the stuff on the same basis. Using that line of logic, then they would be in need of psychiatric help. /We weren't discussing this aspect of it - I suspect you are right about needing a shrink, but my point is that drugs equally as dangerous as speed are condoned, advertised with no more thought of their effects than we'd give to buying a ream of paper./

It's like lumping anything drinkable into one category. Water, beer, whiskey and Kool-aid. It doesn't work, entirely. I would probably agree with you re the pep pill and sleeping aid. For the former, I'd take vitamins, get rest and eat a balanced menu; the latter, well I've seldom had that trouble. The only non-medicinal drug I use for kicks, or for simply the pleasure of its various taste sensations, is alcohol, as you know.

Concerning the quotation by Pardon Kynes at the bottom of page whatever, a fine example of screwing up the ecological balance is the Florida Everglades. I guess greed wins out every time...

Good gawd, can't you find another apt. somewhere? Why put up with that Inferno? /Cheapness is...besides, the air conditioning is on now -- and probably will be thru next Feb.../ By the way, what brand is your el cheapo wine? /Paul Masson's Sylvaner @ \$1.09 a fifth./

Yeh, I'm thinking of cashing in the USBonds (War, not Liberty, I'm obviously younger than you...) and putting the cash into the S&L where all the rest of it is...As for auto insurance, god, I get both small car and good driving discount and it is still going up, up, up. And notice how the legal associations are fighting the no-fault concept. They'd stand to lose several hundreds of millions of dollars a yr. in fees.../I'm not completely sold on the no-fault. Like, what happens if your company has to pay a dozen times in one yr - and not a single one of those 12 claims was your fault? The other guy's at fault. How long before they cancel you out as being a red blot in their black sea?/

I've noted with some glee the frequent and elevated attention that Philip Latham gets in his goings & comings. I'd say the one other such would be Fred Hoyle, adjudged as Einstein class, a cosmologist type theoretician of the 1st water and once subject to "brain drain" by the US interests who fought for bitterly by British interests who finally gave him unlimited computer time. And so on. He is not, that I know of, a major figure in the controlling of a large corporation, but as a man in highest repute by the Establishment, he is indeed. /I guess it is just personal prejudice or something but I'd place "Latham" a notch above Hoyle, both in writing ability and stargazing. And I certainly could never in good faith consider Hoyle to be another Einstein. Of high calibre, yes, Einstein calibre, no way.7

Darrell Schweitzer's item more or less appealed to me because I guess there is a streak of masochism in me. Here in LA on the weekends, Channel 11 has "Creature Feature" which shows between one and three old sf/horror films per weekend. They'll run something like "The Cape Canaveral Monster" then the original Frankenstein movie. With judicious watching, and if one's stomach can stomach the used/new car ads, one can see some of the really old classics and in the horror genre and some unintentional classics of a horrible genre.

I guess you know the 4th PoA movie is underway, CONQUEST OF THE PLANET OF THE APES and there's been talk of a television series.

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When all is said and done, too many people keep on talking.

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HARRY WARNER: 423 Summit Ave, Hagerstown, Md. 21740::: I think you've miscalculated somehow in the material on how well federal bonds gain in value, but I don't have handy the interest rates that were effective from 1941 to the present so I can't give my own version. /If you want a copy, I'll be glad to Xerox mine.7 But you are really comparing two things: the growth in worth of an E bond and the actual cash paid out every so often in dividends on stock. Over the long run, the savings bonds haven't been too bad an investment because the person who buys E bonds as a young man needn't pay a penny in taxes on the interest as it piles up. The last I heard, an E bond continued to gain in worth for 20 yrs. The person who has been buying E bonds regularly all this time and is beginning to enter middle age can after 20 begin to convert them into H bonds. If it's done directly without payment of cash which is then used to buy the H bonds, the bond owner can still delay payment of taxes on all the interest that has piled up on his E bonds until he cashes in his H bonds, which he can hold for up to 20 yrs before they stop paying interest; he will, however, be forced to pay taxes on the checks that come every 6 months as interest on the H bonds. The net result is that he'll be very close to retirement's lower income brackets when he finally starts paying taxes on that interest he received as a youth, and more than likely he'll be able to afford it better when he's around 60, and all the kids have grown up and been educated and he risks a heart attack if he spends too much money on women. Maryland residents have the further advantage of paying no state or county income tax on federal securities interest and that's a major factor in my case: the state/county rate combined is \$7.50 on every \$100 on interest from savings, as long as I'm employed and make enough from my regular job to be in the maximum bracket for this purpose. I also suspect that an upheaval which makes government bonds worthless will have the same effect on stock. And remember, the guy who started buying savings bonds in 1941 could have been buying Postal Telegraph or Pennsylvania RR stock, if he'd wanted a better return on his investment.

/Okay, Harry, I'm taking a deep breath and then I'm going to launch into why savings bonds are really poor. You've given me just about all the substantiation for my claims. First, the money in E bonds cannot be used as collateral since they are non-negotiable. They can be sold back to the Govt. but to no one else; therefore, the market is severely limited. They offer a lower return than any other comparable investment. Then, inflation hits the E bond holder harder because he has to wait until maturity. \$18.75 invested in an E bond in 1941 would have given \$25 in 10 yrs.

But in '51 that \$25 had a purchasing power in '41 dollars of only \$13.75. The net loss was 27%, plus taxes owed on that \$6.25 "profit". By not paying taxes on the interest every yr, but on the lump sum at maturity, you end up paying more in taxes because (1) you are usually in a progressively higher and higher bracket each yr and (2) the tax rate/base is growing faster than interest on the bond. However, don't get me wrong. Bonds are a very good investment. In fact, bonds may be the best of all investments - but not E bonds. I'm talking about Government bonds like Treasury bonds, bills & notes. And the utter best of all bonds is the municipal bond - not only is this totally free from Federal taxes, but also from state and local taxes in some cases. The returns are around 6% or so -- tax free. Maturity dates vary, but usually run 7 yrs or so. Of course, for this to be very meaningful, unless the idea of tax free money just appeals to you, you have to have an awfully lot invested. But the various Treasury issues are also free of Federal tax, even if not from local taxes.7

I've never seen the movie that has Darrell Schweitzer so excited. But I saw one that must have been its equal : Journey to the Center of Time. That one is so awful it didn't even make the paperback Maltin index to TV movies, where Teenagers from Outer Space got the dignity of the lowest possible rating, BOMB. I'd like to see the Center of Time thing again with a stopwatch, to check out a theory I developed while watching it the first time. I began to suspect that not more than sixty seconds of film accounted for at least 30 minutes of the entire movie. They had a few special effects, monsters moving about and a time machine in action, and every time they came to a dialog impasse they just ran those effects again in various orders to prevent it from seeming too obvious1

Did anyone ever decide whether a robot could really track down a murderer under the Three Laws of Robotics? I kept wondering how the robot could be a detective, since finding the murderer would cause him to come to some kind of harm and murder is not one of the crimes which the same person is likely to commit over and over so removing the murderer from society wouldn't be preventing another person from necessarily coming to harm. /Hmmm, how's this? Murder is done by a sick person. This person needs help and to help him it is necessary to find him. The robot can best serve this sick person by finding him; part of the sickness may be that the person doesn't want to be found. And, after all, the murderer isn't headed for a lethal end (at least I don't remember such a punishment being mentioned). Maybe it could be added, if this sick person isn't found, he may injure himself.7

Almost \$500 for insurance sounds as bad as a teen-ager in NYC might face. You don't say whether it's just liability or also includes damage to your own vehicle. /I've got the minimum 10-20-10 which I need to get on to federal property, 200 deductible on collision and uninsured motorist. Unfortunately, I am in the same category as those teen-agers because I'm still classed the same since I'm under 25.7 I get by for something like \$100 per yr or a trifle more, without any protection for my old Olds which probably has a trade-in value of minus \$15 or whatever the going rate for a tow truck's house call.

When we have enough technology to create that city in space, won't most of the problems that Alexis Gilliland envisions for it be wiped out by the very advances in science that its creation would necessitate? Certainly we could expect a syrup which when sipped before breakfast would make old people think young and synthetic food would obviate the need to have fishponds and the one unchanging attribute in man, the urge for bigger and better achievements, would prevent the city from becoming static.

WAHF: LORD DANIEL SAY many times...VERA HEMINGER with some stuff on the Seattle 7...WG BLISS twice concerning steam powered vehicles...TEDD TRIMBATH telling me what good reviews SWorm gets in now defunct zines (?)...LEON TAYLOR looking for SWorm #9 & 10 (will see what can be done, Leon)...DON DAILEY who's returning to Albq. from Alaska...DAVID WM HULVEY with 4 pgs of comments which I've personally answered (when is your second going to meet mine, Dave?) ...PAUL WALKER shaming me again...BOB BLOCH who has nicely recovered from the pneumonia and caught lordosis and Twonk's disease both on the same day his dentures fell out - or something... DARRELL SCHWEITZER who has not heard the Firesign Theater's Don't Crush that Dwarf, Hand Me the Pliers (it's a phonograph record)...GEORGE PROCTOR who sends art and the tale of how his Blue Weimaraner aka FROG intimidated the postman...ANN CHAMBERLAIN recounts a tale about pigeons...C LEE HEALY wonders if the Westercon lives or not...DALE GOBLE went and got himself married...CAROL LEE comes out of retirement and fafia...plus a few other forgotten souls.

Quis custodiet ipsos custodes?? yhos Bob

Up Against the Wall

Yes, you might have already found the announcement of New Mexican 3 pasted up against the wall. If you didn't let me tell you about it.

The Secret Masters of Fandom in Albuquerque (otherwise known as the SMOFIA) decided to put on a convention on the 27th and 28th of August. The weekend just prior to Noreascon. This time was chosen for a couple reasons. First, we hope that if you are driving or flying to Boston, you'll find our fair city an ideal stopover point on your momentous trek. Second, for those of you who can't make it all the way to Boston, we are offering a small substitute convention.

Very small, quite inexpensive. Little formal planning. A lot of fannish activity.

The Ramada Inn East is the site of our New Mexican 3 and it's located at the I-40/Eubank Ave. intersection. The Ramada has a beautiful swimming pool which will be open to all con members, has a decent restaurant (not to mention a delightful bar) on the premises. And the prices are low.

Even New Mexican's prices are low. \$1 for membership and \$3.50 for the enchilada luncheon on the 28th. Unfortunately, these prices are going up on August 1 to \$3 for a membership and \$5 for the luncheon. After all, we've got to make plans, too.

Rooms are \$12 for a single, \$16 to \$18 for a double. And they are pretty classy rooms, not sleazy cracker boxes. Inexpensive but nice. We also will all personally guarantee that there will be absolutely no nasty comments from the elevator operators. How many Big cons can make that promise--and keep it?

There will be no program save for soaking up the sun, partying, or that ever popular fannish pastime, transmutation into lounge lizards.

Besides the obvious attractions at a con, the city of Albuquerque and surroundings has much to offer a tourist. Old Town, the church of San Felipe, The Palace of the Governors, the famous tramway up to 10,500 foot Sandia Crest, forests, mountains, desert, clean air (well...cleaner than California's!), blue BLUE sky, Indian pueblos, the Atomic Museum and Roy Tackett's dog Trojan, all within a single hour's drive of the Ramada.

If you'd like to come to our loosely planned New Mexican 3 (also more fannishly called Bubonicon by the local desert rats), contact

Bob Vardeman
POBox 11352
Albuquerque,
NM 87112

for reservation cards, membership & luncheon monies, bribes and further propagandizing.

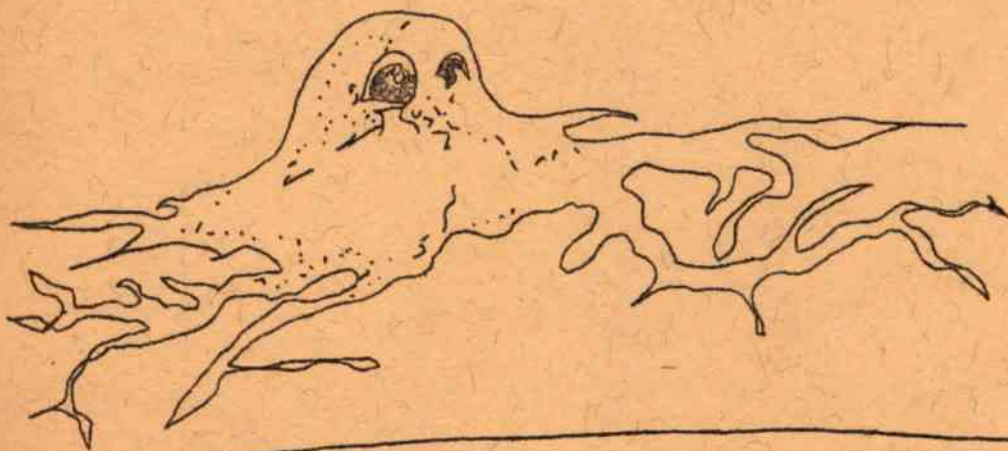
SANDWORM

BOX 11352

ALBUQUERQUE

NM 87112

DELIVER TO



TORONTO in '73