As I start to type this, should I let myself be "in denial" concerning the news I just recently heard about Meade Frierson III dying? I don't think I am up to discussing the passing of a unique friend. I have always lived in a world, whether I knew it or not (pre-1972) in which that unique, generous, talented man lived.

in which that unique, generous, talented man lived.

I could distract myself by Valking about World War III.

Did God decide, with World War III here, that he needed

MF III with him for company? Only so many IIIs in the world.

See how incoherent, stupid, and unfocused my writing is here?

On 9-11-01 or soon thereafter I told Gary Tesser on the phone that no one had reported where O. J. Simpson was that day. Jokes aren't going over well. Wonder why? The crazy Afghan guy who used a fast bicycle and helium balloons to attack Pamela Andersony will not be dwelled on; when you attack a city of millions and only kill a few thousands well, should we mention the word INCOMPETENT IDIOTS? (That!s TWO words-see I am very distracted.) The Pentagon was attacked but the plane imvolved bounced off the ground first so only a fraction of the target was damaged. One flight the terrorists forgot where they were supposed to crash the plane:: Camp David, the House of Representatives and/or the Senate, the White House, CNN in Atlanta....they took a vote of the American passengers who voted to beat the crap out of the highjackers and the plane crashed into a cow in rural Pennsy; vania. INCOMPETENT MORONS! IMBECILES! Usama Bin Ladin (known to his friends as Usama Ben Cartwright due to his love of Lake Taho@ and his fight for justice as he sees it) was in a convoy to the nearest tv station in Afrhanistan to proclaim victory. He got a flat tire on all his vehicles, having forgotten to plant land minds off the BACK of the trucks. He and his entourage (not including any enjenues as these are celebrate men, celebrated for the celibracy) headed on foot toward the tv station, got lost, and have been adopted and eaten by the obscure Heckarwee tribe of the Afghan tundra. Yes, there is tundra in Afghanistan. 300 square miles of it was dropped in one controlled operation by the Soviets in 1987. Confusing the word tundra with "tuna" the Afghans considered it Manna from Heaven and praised their God (as they conceive him to be at the local Alcoholic Anonymous chapters) for the delicious food, before dying of toe-maine (pronounced "ptomaine") poisoning, frozen food syndrome, etc. So har, har, the Afghans, or at least the terrorists thereof, and from elsewhere of the same ill ilk, are STUPID, MORONIC, Idiotic, MORONS.... Har har har.

Wait a minute. They're MURDERERS. Forget what I said above.

(This page was written under STRAIN.)

Background music BILLY J. KRAMER and the Dakotas "At Abby Road"—imported CD. Includes some lesser known songs written by Lennon and Macartney. (John and Paul; not Ben and Usama.) Goody music. Great tracks...Keep you satisfied indeed.

COMMENTS AT RANDOM:

to NED BROOKS: The cover of Newport News 198 looks like a recruiting poster with the Campfire Girls of Afghanistan.

// Hard vacuums DO have a refractive index of 1.00. It's the SOFT VACUUMS, and the handheld 'dust busters' that cause the problem. Try sucking air out a hard vacuum. That's "out of A hard vacuum..." you think I can'ertyppe!!!!

Now try sucking air out of soft one, a handheld, a refridgerator, and a toaster. The toaster really burns your lips if it has just been used, right? Yeah, happens to be me all the time. // Now stick your foot into a hard vacuum. Not bad, right? Now stick it into a barrell of peanut butter. It'll get back to you later on this; give you time to measure your results.

Madame Curie knew her work had made her ill, allright? And I myself often get sick of thinking about it. Madame, get your chicken picking hands OFF the Americium (you tramp).

your chicken picking hands OFF the Americium (you tramp).

Coyotes Make know to be vegetarians at most of the finest restaurants in the Bay Area of California. The problem is the ones who go to restaurants in the Los Angeles area; fighting over who get the best table. Several maitre d's have had their ankles gnawed by coyotes and also starlets trying to get a table near Mark Damon and Ben (Ladin) Affleck.

Speaking of Typewriters at yahoogroups.com, there's a new group I may join called "DucksInSpace@yahoogroups.com" for people on serious listservs and discussion groups who want to x unwind and take a break and just talk of the unimportant escapist things they have done lately. It is not founded by science fiction fans AT ALL; nor fans of Sci. Fic. tv shows.

to: ALLIE COPELAND : I am Waaaay behind in returning commen ${\mathcal L}$ to you concerning Dawn on BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER. Wasn't that some (confusing as heck) zine we did with my emails to and from various sentient beings like yourself? I myself kkm thought that Michelle Trachentburg (Mister Potatoe-head to her friends) did a grand job of portraying the kind of m potmentially annoying younger sister. Are you sure you weren'ty just turned off by THE KIND OF CHARACTER SHE WAS PLAYING? Well, I doubt it. You strike me as too smart and discerning for that. Now to discuss the *******SPOILER ALERT ON 9/24/01 episode of ANGEL SEASON PREMIERE OF ANGEL--9/24/01******* I thoughtwe were finished with a REKE certain character in this series! The pregnancy bit was interesting in its potential but I would have preferred Cordy, Gunn, Wwesley, or even Fred to be pregnant than the character whose name I refuse to type (MRS. Potatoe-head to her friends, all of whom are dead and gone or on LAW AND ORDER). Okay, there was a foreshadowing that this pregnancy could have happened, but only now when we think of it. I mean, who has Angel been in bed with beside Refield and a pack of his spiders ??????? Mrs. Potatoe-head, I mean the character in mind, she's no friend of mine will make a rotten mother. I just hope Nicole Kidman or Rosie O'Donnell adopts the kid.

(page 3) DRAWING BY GEORGE H. WELLS OF A WEREWOLF WITH FLEAS, ABOUT TO BACK INTO A TREE TO RUB HIS BACK AND USE A FORK AND A PITCHFORK ON HIS FRONT, BEING TOO STUPID TO REALIZE THAT HE COULD _TURN AROUND_ AFTER RUBBING HIS BACK ON THE TREE AND RUB HIS _FRONT_ ON THE TREE!! George H (not for Wells 'Hoss') Wells 2001 for Stimited History-PA.

to RICHARD DENGROVE: Sorry you found The Zine With No Title to be a disappointment. Too coherenT??? I wonder how many people even read it. It lacked mailing comments as far as I recall, but then my brain is scrambled today. //That was AWFULLY GREAT to have a meal with you at Johnny Rockets with you, Jill, Pennie Frierson, and Jessica. And thanks for the rest of your time in giving us good company. Sorry you did not get the chance to see THE MUMMY RETURNS with Penny, Jessica, and me.

The Phantom--the ghost who walks. The Bantom, the light weighing fighter who walks. The Dantom: a dentist who really never learned to spell and pronounce his profession. the Rantom: a person who, walks while talking too much. the Tantom: the ghost who walks and is one R short of

a Tantrum.

YOUR "WANTOM" is better than the above, so you win.

Yes, Mary Ramsey IS a good palindrome. Now if you could just hear her sing. Of the 10,000 Maniac albums she's only lead singer on the last two: EARTH PRESSED FLAT,

and RUINS FROM THE ASHES (that may not be the correct +itle). Victory Garden and Weedkiller's Daughter are, right now the two "John and Mary" CDs--out of print. Let me know if you want copies of these. Mary Ramsey does not have as "smokey" a voice as the former lead singer Natalie Merchant.

The British movie "xxxx Years to Earth?" was also called Quatermass and the Pit. (The original, you see, xxx costarred Ingrid Pit). It has the famous line by a British intellectual scientist: "I refuse to accept that I owe my intelligence to the INTERFERENCE OF INSECTS!!!!!" To which, in the original, Ingrid Pitt replied: "Don't worry; xxxx we don't think you HAVE any intelligence."

A Japanese

as I went to work. Still a LOT of requests for the new hot author Lisa Gardner, author of the THIRD VICTIM which I even read (only in paperback) and its new hardcover SEQUEL "The Next Accident." Comparisons are being made to James Patterson. Some readers have even been comparing the authors' FEET.

* LOVE IN THE RUINS?

I was always wondering what had happened to the Rothchilds, or Rothchildren, as they say in the original Dutch. // Edgar Rice Burroughs (Mr. Potato-head to his friends) called the earth's core, that is the hollow inside of the Earth, PELLUCIDAR. As you know Pellucid means deep or dark or Irish or something and DAR just sounded like a romantic suffix than MORE THAN "burg" or "ville" or "town." Pellucidville would hardly sell copies to an Edgar Rice Burroughs fan--maybe a William Thackery fan or a Sinclair Lewis fan. The latter, afterall, wrote Elmer Gantry Among the Eskimos, an obscure failure of a sequel to Elmer Gantry. Thackery's laugfhable attempt at science-fiction: The Moon is a Vanity Fair, even made Tobias Smollett vomit onto his manuscript of Vomitting Venusian Vampires at /Sea in Pirate Ships Campbell wanting people to think, and expecting them to think like he did. Why an intelligent fellow like himself did not realize there were other CULTURES than his, even if only in petri dishes, confounds me. // Millard Fillmore was President when Admiral Perry opened up Japan. Not bad. While he later ran, when an ex-president, for election for President on the American Party (Know-Nothing) ticket, at the time he was sending his daughters to Catholic school(s) and touring Europe and visiting the Pope. And the Know-Nothing Party's members in Louisiana were fairly heavily Catholic in faith. // So there. // WAIT A MINUTE: you have taken up weight-lifting? Did I know this? Darn, my brain is like a sieve, whatever THAT is. Time to restate your physical regimine for me if you would. I know you walk a lot. // It is amazing to think that an awful lot of time has gone by since I saw William Shatner act. I think Al Pacino, through over-exposure and lack of variety in his roles, has become no better than what Shatner's detractors think of Shatner. DeNiro still has variety --- such as Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle. Edward Norton always seems different buthis accent is always the same and his posture has only so many forms. I will have to see American History X someday. Has anyone seen The Score, with Norton, DeNiro, and Marlon Brando? I think the people who wrote the ending were damned proud of themselves. Maybe they should have been. Ending could have been worse. But THE SIXTH SENSE's ending was taken already; A. I.'s was not appropriate (or was it?); and what movie has had an unexpected ending besides those, the other Bruce Willis film (Unblemised? Unbroken? Unbreakable? "Id give it a 95 but it's hard to dance to"?)--an ending that spun the film into a cultural ghetto most people

(6)

don't know----tho' thousand know it so well. Can something be so brilliant in its ending, but so obscure, that NOBODY gets it? Will film critics wake up some morning twenty years hend and cry, "Eureka! The ending of ATTACK OF THE CRAB MONSTERS was brilliant!" REPTILICUS might turn out to be the new Hamlet; Plan Nine from Outer Space may be the MOST SUBTLE of all Othello themed movies.....(("You stupid Earthlings, do you not bleed," cries the Merchant of Venice disguised as Thua Number Four in THE CHINESE CONNECTION. Ralph Kramden, not David Duchovny, may be the true "American Heathcliff."

You say you are an oldtime liberal. I can't remember what that IS anymore. I cannot think about any successful member of that breed except maybe FDR, and he was a moderationizing, popularizer of Norman Thomas's platform. // There was John Lindsey in New York City but I hear he doesn't come out well in detailed retrospect.

to TONI WEISSKOPF: Why would Reinhardt not see Shrek, but Hank Davis would? I haven't seen it myself. I saw some Nero Wolfe A&E movies—some are out on video. VERY true to the originals. Amazingly so. While the Jim Hutton version of Ellery Queen was perfect except that the "mysteries" were too simple; TIM HUTTON's Archie Goodwin and NERO WOLFE use the original plots. Incredible.// I discovered that halfway the poorly reviewed but perfectly better than average TO ME, thriller SWTCHBACK had five minutes of Merle Kennedy acting in it as a clerk in a general store.

I'd like to see what she could do with some of Winona Ryder's roles, or Juliette Lewis's, etc. // Forget about contempoary music from SHREK (or don't forget); Try Grey Eye Glances and Mary Ramsey in 10 Thous. Maniacs and John and Mary.'

Charlotte Proctor's description, review, etc. of A PAINTED HOUSE by Grisham finally tells me what it's about. James Patterson has a DIFFERENT--not-his-regular-style novel out called Suzanne's Diary to Nicholas and the word of mouth has been tremendous. We didn't buy the extra copies, at first, as we do with his thrillers.

Too late to type more today. g w