

Lymurworm

This is ZYMURWORM 22 1, May 1975. (It's the March issue in disguise)
From Bob Vardeman and Dick Patten- 2908 El Corto SW, Albuquerque, NM 87105
This is the third in a series of almost colaborations between us.

It is available for Trade, an article, loc, artwork, or the absolutely
ridiculous price of \$1 (bet you can tell we don't expect subs).

If this is marked yo must do one of the above to continue on the list.
And I'll be damned if I'll tell you exactly which list.
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unknown.

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typed like that)

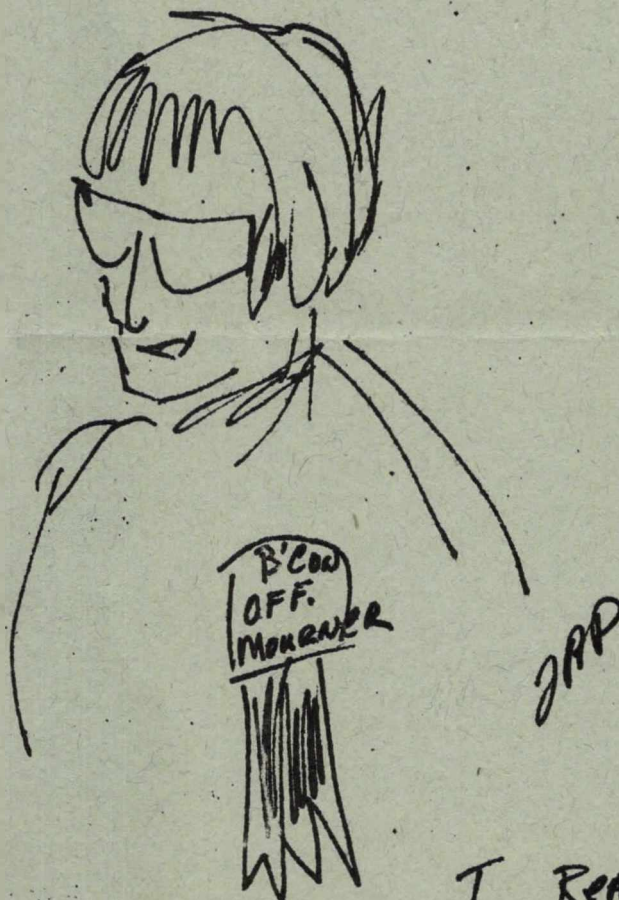
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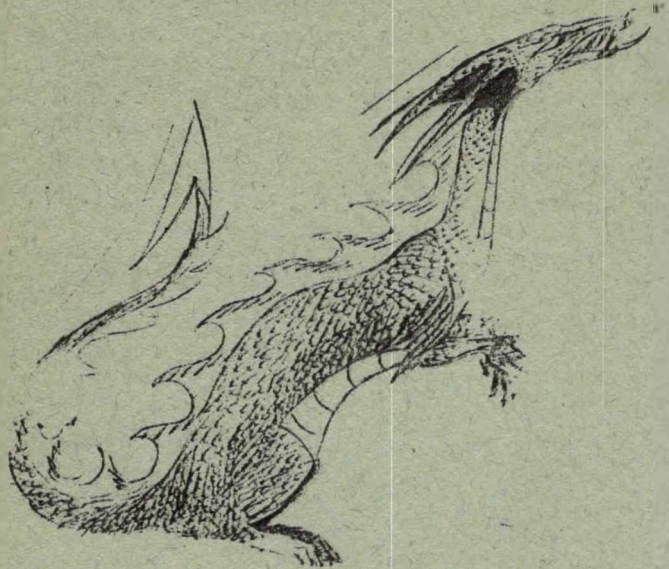
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COVER BY HARRY MORRIS



I Really
think Pornography
is a Valid Alternative
To Fandom.



Hi, gang! This is another frolicking bit of madness from the gold-dust twins, Patten & Vardeman. He's Patten, I'm Vardeman. I think.

Anyway, he's unemployed. Hmmm, for that matter, so am I but I'm sure there are other differences you can readily pinpoint. Like, I'm 3" taller. My left hand has a pinky that is shorter than it should be. And I write all the time and get nothing done on my fanzine whereas Dick writes nothing and is getting most of this done.

There is nothing about this fanzine that makes the least bit of sense so don't try to explain it. We can't.

My problems are obvious. The unobvious ones are the large numbers of cons I've been attending and/or planning.

Tkae Lepercon, for instance. I really looked forward to that one, mostly because of the name. Any group that could name a con after a disease (Hansen's Syndrome is the cognomen, I think...not to be confused

with Murchison's disease which afflicts only chickens). The con was pleasant and I met a couple interesting people and bunches of others were there whom I had not considered seeing in cold, snowy Phoenix. Like the Elder Ghodess. Twas surprising the number of Denver fen that made the long hegira all the way down south to the blizzardy desert. I might add that I drove through 141 miles of blizzard getting there, all in Arizona. I seemed to end up being most of the panel discussions for some reasons. Mostly, I was available, I suppose

The one panel I chaired was the Sex in/& SF. Why they chose me, I have no idea. A writer gets mighty lonely behind a typer. Perhaps my warped fantasies deluded them into thinking I knew what I was talking about.

Lepercon was a con that had to be experienced. Nothing remarkable happened to set it off from any other con. One thing I did notice was the undercurrent of uneasiness between the three Phoenix fan factions. Gott in Himmel, Albq has problems enough with one group, there's no way we could cope with 3.

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Joan of Arc is alive and medium well in Argentia...

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Another con, perish the thot. Solarcon in El Paso. Windy El Paso. I got my windshield sandblasted going to this con. Have any vague idea what the windshield costs on a Mercedes? Neither do I and I'm hesitant to find out.

But this con was more of a delight than Lepercon. For personal reasons, mostly, but also because there was a complete confusion to what was happening. No body knew anything about the programming scheduels and yet everything happened exactly on time, according to the program book. It was a neat idea using vanishing ink in the PBook, I have to admit.

Mostly films which kept the majority of the non-sf fans away from me. I truly enjoyed Phil Farmer and just wished I'd had more opportunity to talk with him. The banquet's only redeeming social value was Farmer.

I still shudder thinking of the food; it was worse than most banquets which puts it on a par with the Sunday brunch at Auschwitz. Green chili enchilada, hamburger, chicken and things so odd I'm fearful to summon up my powers of description. I might revolt someone. Still, I didn't have to pay for it so it wasn't a complete waste...one of the advantages of being a fan GoH. If you call eating food that would make a jackal retch an advantage.

Mostly, I enjoyed this con more than Lepercon. Neater people and I'd lived in El Paso enough years to avoid getting knifed everytime we went out. Also, I can swear for thrity solid minutes in Spanish without repeating myself (make that 35 now that I learned the word for "duck" in Spanish). Just registering at the hotel, 15 minutes of my vocabulary was needed. But it was still fun. Mundanes don't make cons, fans do. And El Paso actually

has three or four. Willie (the con chairman) has promise of developing into a fan. For a first effort, Solarcon came off better than I would have expected. The choice of having most of the stuff in an old theatre was both good and bad. That particular theatre has memories for me which are unique in anyone's existence; I'm not so pleased with staying in the flea trap Plaza Hotel. Anyone flushing a toilet above you or on either side made a sleeper want to leap up and start building an ark.

Joe is a freak, pure and simple. And one of the more enjoyable people I've come across. A true cosmic cowboy, it that reference means anything to y'all. Listening to him try to persuade room service to send up some clean glasses for a party was a real thrill. We never got the glasses but did have a fine time imagining what was being said on the oppositeside of the line.

Roxanne is doing a master's thesis on Fritz Leiber and had gotten roped into being the con's secretary. A job mostly work and nothing else. Luckily, I think she escaped the routine for a while at least. Listening to her stories about Juarez convinced me the place hasn't changed since I lived in EP. I never quite got up the nerve to go Over There. I envisioned myself landing in the drunk tank.

Most notable of the films was Metropolis and the soundtrack. It was recorded cold and played with the flick without preview. When the Pink Floyd cut, Careful With That Ax, Eugene hit, it was perfect.

I might also add that the Sons of Mordor triumphed and we won the trivia bowl. Or is that trivia boll as in weevil?

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Capt Nemo's pet seal's name was Esmeralda. We didn't get that one right.

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My writing has been taking up a lot of time. Negotiating contracts is a hassle and one of the publishers stupid enough to take my rotten stuff is undergoing a massive upheaval of personnel. I'm skating on thin ice since I'm more or less at the bottom of the heap and could get iced over with little trouble. And another publisher told me I was writing too high class stuff and to tone it down. "Write down to our readers." Exact quote.

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Contrary to popular belief, Wheat Germ is not contagious

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Been keeping up with Vietnam and Cambodia? They appear to be excellent examples of how we refuse to learn from history. Vic had a nice analogy when Walt Rostow trotted out his new domino theory and said we shouldn't turn our backs on friends and allies and desert those stinking cowards in VN. Vic's comment was "That sounds like we should continue filling a gas tank with a hole in it just to prove that the gas that leaked out wasn't ignored."

John Hart of one of the networks deserves to be given an M-16 and dumped in Vietnam. If that son of a bitch really thinks the fathers, mothers and brothers of the men that died there during the JFK-LBJ-RMN years would consider it an affront to get out, let him go over there. My position is different. The parents and family of those killed over there would probably not want other sons and fathers slaughtered in a pointless war. It is painfully obvious that the S. Vietnamese refuse to fight for their freedom. The only group willing to fight and die are the Northerners. That they are communists is a pity but determination will win them the country sooner or later. Let's cut our losses, stop= throwing good money after bad and not have another single American killed in that sinking pesthole.

And Rostow is so incredibly naive it is frightening. He says this will hurt detente since Russia and China's relative power positions will be altered. Since we've shown we are helpless, China will feel less hospitable towards us since Vietnam is more Moscow oriented. Great. Let's drive a wedge between China and Russia. Let's see how far we can use the loss of Vietnam in promulgating a war between them. Let's stop fighting and make them do it for a while.

What worries me more than Vietnam is Mexico aligning with Cuba. Mexico is the leader of the Latin American countries. What have we done for Mexico, SA, lately? Let's look around and see who could help us rather than pull us down in a quagmire that'll continue to wreck our economy. Mexico's a good bet. How about better relations with Canda? Or the Eastern European communist block (bloc, if you prefer) countries? Guns won't win us what we want. Let's use our economic abilities and see if that won't work. It can't hurt.

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Let me address myself to a couple comments in the lettercol since Dick's going to be doing it and I won't have the chance to personally comment back of the bus. Buck Coulson brings up the valid point about hamburger economics. Namely, what goes into that "15 Billion" figure. The freebies are, indeed, counted. I asked Ronald MacDonald himself via a hotline at one of the stands. (He had to stay inside in an office that day because of inclement weather...it was so cold Ronald McDonald froze his buns off). But giving away freebies stimulates other areas of the economy.

The pepto-bismal and alka seltzer companies, for instance. Crown Zee and Northern toilet tissues for another. In some cases, kaopetate (add the "c" please, my corflu is dried up and the last smear of McDonald's ketchup is gone). Hence, the number is what counts, not so much whether it was sold or given away.

In a larger sense, and this is something I'll have to talk with my broker and/or Ronald again about, the total sales might reflect the world economy. Is that "15 billion" a worldwide figure? Is McDonald's acing out all the Wimpy grills? What could this do to the economy of Britain or Sweden or France?

Alas, I missed out on getting some Ronald McDonald stationery. I did get a balloon, however. It was cruelly ripped from my hand by the gusty winds we've been having in fair Albq.

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Shakespeare married an Avon lady

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the store that exchanges stamps, pens & new gifts, 722-2454.
INFORMATION Needed concerning the sexual confrontation of a 28 yr. old girl with a dog in a field in Plymouth last June, to aid in releasing the wrongly identified & prosecuted man. Call 920-8333 or 544-6191 in confidence.
ATTRACTIVE LADIES
Single gentlemen we have many single, available, attractive ladies who can make your life a beautiful experience. 24-hour answer.

/?/

That clipping intrigues me, to say the least. One can only ponder the ramifications of what must have happened....

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Insecurity is better than no security at all

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or the variant:

My inferiority complex is bigger and better than any one else's

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Those clods, Vic Milan and Jeff Slaten had convinced me to go thru with a Westercon bid. We've been formulating plans like you wouldn't believe and actually have come up with an idea or two which are different from past Westercons. Inddæd, I can't quite remember this idea being used before. Warning: It will not appeal to Trekkies or comics collections types (aka vile comics hucksters...and that is not necessarily hucksters of vile comics, either) or SCA. Albq has the facilities for a big convention. We have certain advantages no other city is likely to have that would be bidding. If nothing else we're a pleasant change of scenery from the West Coast. And we can do better than the Boise Westercon...we have more experienced people, better facilities, the nerve to try an innovation or two (if they flop, so be it...we think most fans will get off on what we'll be trying). Right now, we're making arrangements, conducting negotiations and lining up our GoHs. Look for our ads in the near future.

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"There is a pleasure in being mad,

Which none but madmen know." x

Dryden (which doesn't mean his wit, necessarily)

Another comment from the lettercol: Jim Young protests about the Mote In God's Eye. I disagree with your contention the book is poorly written. It was a showcase for the alien culture. If the humans came through any more strongly, it would detract from the brilliance of the depicted Moties. Also, I mentioned that the hero/heroine are not the strong human characters. Look in the background...that's where the strong characterization is done and nicely, in my opinion. Also, I defy you to find any book in any genre that does not have clumsy sentences hither and yon. How blatant they are and how often they occur should be the criterion for "good" writing if you fefer solely to grammar. A perfect book in the sense you mean is impossible to write without hundreds of rewrites. And I would still bet one or two things would sneak through.

The book contains none of the manglings of words so common on Malzberg's writing. Both Niven and Pournelle are craftsmen, each to his own specialty and they blended those well. While I think Heinlein's praise is a bit overboard, I must agree that Mote is a remarkable book and easily one of the best written in the past twenty years. Dune is still my favorite, but even that has some nasty lapses of logic. I can't get too uptight over them, however, because of the way Herbert engrossed me in what was happening. Niven and Pournelle did the same thing in Mote...they made me want to finish the book.

Alas and alack, I cannot say that about Dhalgren. That book frankly is boring. I find this doubly depressing because I have enjoyed Delany's previous works. This reads like 879 pgs of self indulgence, in jokes and private observations that mean nothing to anyone except Samuel Delany. I'm sure it will be hailed as great literature and will survive like all such books hailed as great literature. Ten years from now no one will remember it...as they search through the wire racks for a copy of Tarzan.

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Chaste makes waste

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training and that have proven paternity.
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(answering service), or write: The
GENETIC REGISTRY 2233 North
Caroline Avenue, Roseville, Minn 55113.

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The Post Office is being run like nobody's business

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Bubonicon! Hey, yeah, that's this year. And have we ever got a lineup for you! A special mystery Guest of Honor. We'd reveal his name, except that he's asked us not to. He's overly tired of being asked for autographs and the like (and no, it isn't Kilgore Trout...) Besides, it sort of tickles our fancy to run this on a "Come See - and take your chances basis"

As with last yr's con, we're keeping this one informal as possible and as relaxed as we can make it. Programming is going to be mingling around a lot. The movies are still being negotiated for (a couple minor-major flicks, but, I'm sorry to report, not The Torture Chamber of Dr. Sadism). Mike Kring is the sec/treas again. You might write right away and get on our mailing list and we'll send you all sorts of fun things to read about Bubonicon 7.

Mike Kring, secretary/treasurer Bubonicon 7
PSC #1 Box 3147
Kirtland AFB, NM 87115

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Now all I have to do is quick like a rabbit get Mike some flyers...

The composition of ZWorm might distress you. It's all letters and editorial. I was going to do some book reviews but I didn't know if you wanted to see reviews of some of the books I've been reading. Family Sin, Teenage Sex Slave, Room Service Sex, The Spider #3 and #4, Venus on the Halfshell (again), The Decline & Fall of Practically Everybody, Whom the Gods Would Destroy, Spacehawk Inc, 3 Avenger books, Galactic Rejects (this was already reviewed in Psychology Today along with Chains of the Sea and a Silverberg anthol), The Chinese Agent, a couple Charlie Chan books, 3 Solar Bons books and lots of snickering at Norman's Imaginative Sex book.

Norman writes the Gor atrocities (not to be confused with the Callisto atrocities or the atrocities committed in the name of tetrahydrozoline). And his idea of imaginative sex is mostly bondage/dominance or b/d as the underground papers are wont to call it. The "raped in a cave by a monster" fantasy is interesting. Esp if he got the idea from "Crash Cameron and the Slime Beast". For a \$1.95 don't buy this turkey (I got mine for free and I still feel a bit cheated...I could have picked up another book for the same price) but it is interesting to thumb thru at the news stand and guffaw at the b/d gimmicks. As far as imaginative sex goes, this ain't it. Not really. How about a real life happening?

A sociology prof dangled his naked wife out the 2nd story window of their house with a rope tied around her ankle. Unfortunately the rope slipped and she was killed. Prof would have been up on charges except the newsboy had seen them do this several times before and could establish it was an accidental death. Now, doesn't that pique your sense of wonder? How could they do it, with her dangling by a rope tied around her ankle? Needless to say, I know of a porn book in which this very act is mentioned twice. The publication date of the book (indeed, the very title) is still to be determined...

That's what's known as a teaser.

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To all the virgins out there: Thanks for nothing

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To alleviate the sorry state of no articles by others, I'm hereby soliciting work from y'all. Don't bother with fan fiction; I detest it unless it's got a pun for an ending (a Feghoot, in other words) or is a true shaggy dog story. Remind me to tell you about Red and Fred, sometime, when I have track shoes on. Articles should be humorous since I tend to snipe at sercon stuff unless I happen to like it (I'm running for office soon...either that or the border). Artwork will always be appreciated and dammit, one of these days I'm going to find that cover of Grant Canfield's I have lurking around my apt. Kring saw it once. I have a receipt for getting it printed. But 200 copies have been swallowed up by the baseboards. At least they have good taste, it was a nice cover. But artwork and articles, plus keeping those cards and letters rolling in!

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If the opposite of pro is con, what's the opposite of progress?

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I hear rumors of the JStarship on tour again. Any info will be appreciated, esp if they come within Denver/El Paso/Phoenix/even Dallas nearness to Albq. Also, Renaissance is reputedly on tour. Any word on them?

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Let me plug MileHiCon. Ted Peak, 1556 Detroit #1, Denver Colorado 80236 is the con chairman. Late October, Joanna Russ is pro GoH, yhos the FGoH. I have asked for a food sampler and the request has been granted. I'll be the one in chain mail carrying a big stick.

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Dammit, Goldstein, get your zine in gear and publish again! Just because you got ink all over your fingers is no excuse to stop printing. Unless, of course, the paranoids are after you.

They're after me. I know. I hear them breathing.

/*/

Time to turn this over to Dick's gentle touches...my writing is too frantic with too many deadlines to meet to do much else. Hopefully I'll be doing more nextish. Hasty lumbago,

Bob

BID FOR THE '77 World CON

NORTH VIETNAM IN '77



Vote for the Red Star

CITY: Unlike most bidders we feel that wonderous and famous HANOI can and does make a tremendous difference. Glorious rockets and other remarkable semblances to the SPACE AGE. Free bus shuttles run to and from the city, giving fans free tours of actual aircraft fuselage on display. At At evenings, the HANOI HILTON offers clean, air conditioned comfort, and lots of excitement evenings, too.

COMMITTEE: Upon disembarking at the modern and rustic HANOI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT which is , officials say modeled after the cratered moon surface especially for the con to give visitors an "authentic, out-of-this-world lunar atmosphere," fans will be greeted by Chow Tien Fiend Poe Smith,

Chairman of the COMMITTEE. Many well-known North Vietnamese fans will be present. The TREASURER, Ch'en Miou Rock, is the direct relative of noted American, Zeno Ladrogel, of New York, a POW who chose to remain at the HILTON back in '72, in time for the '77 World Con. Zeno asks that you help him out by voting for '77.

Why: North Vietnam is an ideal scene for a world convention. Unlike other locals, North Vietnam is utterly free from fan quarrels and science fiction politics. Well-known NV sf writer, Hiphong Zims, author of I WAS A TEENAGE JESUS FREAK, says that "there are absolutely no politics in North Vietnamese fandom today." NV guarantees a fresh, unbiased convention to all.

SO VOTE HANOI IN '77

Zeno awates you. You want to help Zeno out, don't you?

-Jon Inouye-

What one company uses as much electrical energy as Pittsburg, Boston, Washington and San Francisco combined? The answer: McDonald's.

According to University of Illinois Professor Bruce Hannon, the packaging of Big Macs, french fries, shakes and the rest of McDonald's products requires 3 billion kilowatt-hours of elcetricity per year. That's the energy equilivant of 12.7 million tons of coal--or 2.1 tons of coal per customer.

Professor Hannon computes that in papers and packaging alone, McDonald's uses up roughly 315 square miles of forest a year.

From Zodiac News Service sent in by Neal Wilgus

Boston, Mass. (LEAK)--Federal troops suffered a severe defeat today at the hands of twelve-year-old Ronnis Robinson's youthful army of guerrillas who now claim that the Boston area is under their control. More than a thousand battled hardened troops

HERE were reported killed and many times that number wounded when the Micro-Bopper army opened fire with laser beam guns during a battle for control of strategic highway 90

THEY

COME

Billy Batson, press secretary of the M-B army, reported no casualties.

The success of the M-B rebellion in Massachusetts and elsewhere has thrown the country into a state of national emergency and President Babbitt has called all reserve units to active duty. In most states

In Boston m-b rebels by captured local radio and television facilities and have been giving live coverage of their campaigns, altho Washington officials hold that much of their broadcast- ing should be considered propaganda. M-B announcers report that their technicians are in control of hospitals, power stations and other utilities in and around Boston and that they have taken city officials and military authorities into custody. According to the reports, the M-B army will be marching southward to liberate their fellows in New York, Philadelphia and Washington within a matter of days.

Neal Wilgus

All persons under fifteen years are required to carry identification papers when not accompanied by adults

has been declared and state troopers are assisting local police and sheriffs deputies in enforcing curfew regulations.

Washington officials are at a loss to explain the M-B use of laser guns and other sophisticated scientific weapons which appear to be improvements on those used by federal troops. One high government figure cautioned citizens not to believe rumors that the M-B rebels were able to develop the weapons on their own. "They're obviously being used by subversive forces ultimately responsible to another world power," the anonymous official said. "And once again Americans are waking up too late to the fact that when parental control and religious training falls short, serious social dislocation occurs in the form of youthful crime, or, as in this case, rebellion."

LEAK

END

The true idealist pursues what his heart says is right in a way his head says will work

Richard Nixon

#How about that@

Here's all you have to do to insure the fall of America:

TOO MUCH TOO SOON or THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE PRICE RISE OF Z-WORM
by
Mike Kring

Well, besides Mr. Vardeman being greedier than all get-out.

There is a for-real reason why the price of ZWorm rose so drastically since the last issue. We can all recall with wonderous fondness the prices of the old Sandworm and the old Zymurgy with ease. Mr. Vardeman's zine was at one time 25¢, and Mr. Patten's zine was around 35¢, I think. Anyway, that was before Mr. Robert Coulson stepped into the act.

I understand that Mr. Coulson actually likes our resident Dirty Old Man, Roy Tackett. I can understand why, for Mr. Tackett is a wonderfull, kind, gentle, ex-Marine First Sergeant. Sure and the angels of heaven eat dead baybies on Sundays, too. Actually, Roytac is a mean, vicious, nasty, dirty-old-man who wreaks havoc on all the meetings of the Albq. SF Society he attends. He screams at all of us, and makes us march around in circles, and dig trenches with our fingernails. He screams at us, "The Jerries are coming to get you, you filthy %@#&#@!!" It is pretty thrilling to all concerned, since he has an old M-1 he carries around, fully loaded.

We loose a lot of new fans that way.

But I digress.

(I understand the inspiration for this is not Mr. Tackett, but his own reasons.

Mr. Coulson has taken a liken to Mr. Tackett for his own reasons.

(I understand their personalities are so alike many neo-fans confuse the two at conventions, which has made me think about all the rumours about the many cons the two are supposed to have attended. I don't know the real truth behind this matter, but I suspect that only one of them attends a con during the year, usually in January, and the event traumatizes all concerned, and they continue to see him at various and sundry cons during the year. Then the next year, the other attends one con, and the cycle begins all over again. This is all rumour, and is not intended to be truthfull, but...one never really knows about fans.) Mr. Tackett happens to put out this fmz called DYNATRON. (He told me it had to be in all caps. Who am I to argue with a man with a loaded M-1??) And Mr. Coulson has leaped lavish and much praise upon said zine.

Now, we come to the crux and formentation of the matter. Mr. Vardeman admitted to help in the co-founding of the ASFS, along with Mr. Tackett. The two of them seem to get along quite well, though the spike in Mr. Vardeman's neck, and the scars on his wrists and forehead tend to put many people off. Mr. Vardeman decided to putout his own zine and he called it SANDWORM, after a particularly gruesome creature from Frank Herbert's celebrated and praised (and rightly so) novel DUNE. That goes to show you where Mr. Vardeman's head is at. Lo and behold, as soon as Mr. Coulson learns of this new zine from Albq. he heaps praise upon the young and pointed head of Mr. Vardeman.

And verily, it came to pass a man named Patten heard the calling on the radio and harkened to the voice buzzing in his ear. And joined the ASFS. He was soon influenced by Mr. Vardeman, and after only two years in fandom, put out his own zine and titled it ZYMURGY, which shows you where Mr. Patten's head is at

In the meantime, Mr. Coulson (who, as we all know, is the true and only SMOF in the entire known Universe) continued to heap praise and foul words upon the heads of all fans publishing genzines from Albq. There happened to be only three: Mr. Tackett, Mr. Vardeman, and Mr. Patten.

The plot thickens.

Mr. Vardeman then became involved in a worthwhile pursuit (one of the few in his lifetime of debauchery) and dropped his award-winning zine to write porno books. He snickered at all who laughed at him, for he was making money on the things. A year went by, and Mr. Patten suggested to Mr. Vardeman they combine their zines. They would continue to get their tradezines, and they wouldn't have to work nearly as hard to do it.

The plot thickens even more.

Mr. Coulson then decides to put out a zine that was nothing more than fmz reviews. It was called Develin's Review (for what reason I don't rightly know, but then I'm merely a local diety and not a Universal one) and he praised them highly, DYNATRON and the appropriately re-named ZYMURWORM. Within three minutes of finding this out, Mr. Vardeman talks Mr. Patten into the outrageous price-hike now on the contents page of the aforementioned zine.

All the local fans were aghast at the news, but Mr. Vardeman merely laughed and demanded we pay up and shut-up, in that order. Mr. Tackett marched us all around, laughing mysteriously and waving his M-1 around dangerously.

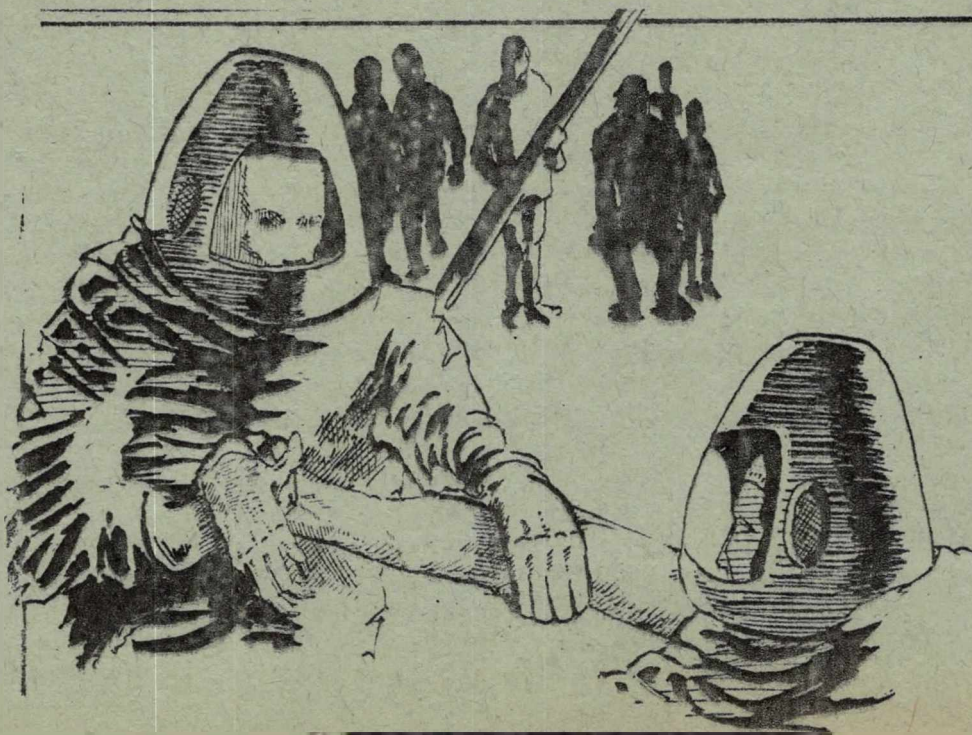
The real truth about the price rise of ZWorm is now revealed for all to see and understand. It is nothing more than the grandiose schemes of Mr. Vardeman combined with the rabid, manical cacklings of Mr. Tackett and the drunken delirium of Mr. Patten.

And just wait for the price hike of DYNATRON. It will truly astound you.

Only, now I'm afraid to attend the next meeting of the ASFS. If you don't hear from me soon, you'll know the M-1 got me.---MKK

#Mike asked me to apologize to all the people whose zines he hasn't located yet. He should be able to type again real soon. dp#

**Would you
risk your life
for a total
stranger?**





This is the local. It doesn't have a title because I couldn't think of one. It's probably going to be a long one. Any comments I have will be marked thusly #...dp# so you'll know what to skip. The first loc kind of sets the tone for the whole thing. dp

Ted Peak, 1556 Detriot #1, Denver C080206

As much as I've been into zines lately, I really do feel I should make some response (My Ghod, do you realize that I have actually gotten fanzines with the box marked? Well I'm sorry, but I have just gotten out of fanzine writting. More into putting on cons and fighting with hard sticks.) So here's my response:

I refuse to get involved.

Ted Peak

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Robert Bloch, 2111 Sunset Crest Drive, Los Angeles, CA 90046

Like Bob Vardeman I too keep an eye on the progress of McDonald's hamburgers as an economic index. But even though I lay myself open to a charge of Communism, there are time I question whether or not they have actually sold 15,000,000,000 of the damn things. I mean who's counting? On the other hand, if indeed they have, that means-judging from the sample I've eaten- that they must have used up close to 50 pounds of meat.

Robert Bloch

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Buck Coulson, Route 3, Hartford City, IN 47348

Ah, yes, MacDonalds sales. But, in line with quibbles about what is a fanzine, may I enter one on What Constitutes a hamburger "sols"? Were those 15 million burgers all sold, or were some given away? Since Bob is using the sales as a prosperity index, this is vital. I'm inquiring because we jst had a story in the local papers. Seems that the MacDonald's in Bloomington, Indiana, offered a free meal of burger, fries and a Coke to anyone holding a ticket stub for a game in which Indiana University basketball team held its opponents to less than 50 points. Indiana just walloped Iowa 102-49, with 17,000 people in the stands (The Iowa coach was quoted as saying he couldn't understand the poor sportsmanship shown by the crowd which booed his team every time it scored; presumably someone explained matters gently to him). So, counting a few people who lost their stubs and others who wouldn't even eat a free meal at MacDonald's, that's about 15,000 burgers dispensed. Do they count as sales or not?

I have never met Barry Malzberg personally, but I have seen letters from him. I would now go several miles out of my way to avoid meeting him in person.

OUTWORLDS has an ad asking me if I want to crack the writer's market. I thought DeWeese and I had managed to put a permanent contusion into it already, with two pb publishers going bankrupt after accepting our works. And Juanita managed to sink Lancer and an overseas publisher. With Vardeman helping now, we might be able to destroy the market completely.

Buck Coulson

Ben Indick, 428 Sagmore Ave, Teaneck, NJ 07666

I picked up a bundle of remaindered SF books, incl. Sheekly, Anderson and my neighbor Barry Malzberg. The latter was "Beyond Apollo". The rear of the d/w had his photo. Now I can lurk at the corner of Garrison Ave. and Sagmore and watch for him! And-when I see him-I'll turn the other way!

The issue at hand, and even if I didn't give a damn about the rest of it, Golly gee dad! that cover! What would this world be like without guys like Harry Morris? He does such beautiful work. You're lucky to have it.

#You'r right. But as a guy who rides his lucky streak I pestered Harry for more. Actually the one on thish is, in my opinion anyway, the best he has done so far. dp#

Then again you have the incomparable Sheryl B working hard for you. Hell who cares to bother reading the text with all that artwork around?

However, read we must-and until Neil Wilgus' page, it didn't matter one way or the other, but his "Dr. Loomes" is a neat, tight, wiry little classic.

Ben Indick

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Police Deny This Threat

LONDON (UPI) — London police deny their men had anything to do with the traffic ticket found on a parked car. The ticket said the car was illegally parked but added, "No prosecution will follow this offense, but further infringement will cause the vehicle to be turned into a pumpkin."

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Tim Kyger, 702 E. Vista dell Cerro, Tempe AZ 85281

Malzburg, my own opinion of the man's writing is that his books should be on everyone's "to be burned" list. Sheesh, what a bad writer. One "Beyond Appollo" is enough, but 6 or more? Ack.

And speaking of fetishists (were we?) tell Bruce that Lhord Jhim Khenneddy is already putting out a zine for fetishits called IN COLD LEATHER. It's so bad you want to hide it.

Tim Kyger

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Bob Tucker, 34 Greenbriar Drive, Jacksonville, Ill. 62650

You have incorrectly spelled Mr. Wilkie's name on page fourteen.

This constructive criticism is costing me ten cents.

Bob Tucker



John Carl, 3750 Green Lane, Butte, MT 59701

I haven't read HEROVIT'S WORLD, but I have a feeling that Bob's assessment of the situation and of Malzberg's faults as a writer are at least partially invalid. Malzberg's heros have never been meant to fit the classic definition of a hero; they are supposed to reflect imperfection, the ordinary everyday person on the street, and he shows us exactly what could happen if these traits were carried to their extremes, sometimes unsettlingly honestly and viciously. Hmm, I didn't say that very well, but I'm sure you can figure out what I mean.

If MOTE IN GOD'S EYE is better than THE DISPOSSESSED, the best novel I have ever read including DUNE, it must be a smasher. I have it on order at the SFBC.

#I could get into an argument with you about THE DISPOSSESSED being better than DUNE. Or for that matter even being in the same class as DUNE. MOTE IN GOD'S EYE is a little disappointing but not half as disappointing as the last chapter of THE DISPOSSESSED. dp#
Right arm about Castenada.

John Carl

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Jodie Offutt, Funny Farm, Haldeman, KY 40329

I haven't seen such a beautiful cover on a fanzine since...who knows? You did, indeed, give the thing some class...that's class.

The thing about Castenads's books that bothers me is that he spent all that time with Don Juan, wrote all that stuff and at the end he didn't seem to know more about what it was all about that when he started. Seemed an awful lot of effort not to have gained much understanding.

ZYMURWORM has a loose-endy feel about it. probably because you really adjusted to the double editing. It needs shaping up.

Jodie Offutt

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Harry Warner Jr., 423 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740

The front cover is stupendous. I can't figure out how it was done. It looks as if you'd used some special kind of screen whose pattern is affected by the pebbly surface of the paper. But I don't quite see how the graduations of hue were attained, unless you've gone out and bought yourselves a full color press.

#Here I am going to commit a sacrilege. I am going to cut a Harry Warner letter to explain about Harry Morris covers. Yes Harry does have a full color press. In fact it is a commercial press and is now sitting in my garage. (For those of you who don't know. Harry is about to publish his second book on the Silver Scarab Press. It's in the weird fiction line, I don't know who it is by but you might want to get in touch with Harry for info.) Harry's artwork differs from most in more ways than the obvious. He prints all his own covers himself. You see the collage (I don't know how to spell that and my cheap dictionary never heard of the word) is only part of the work the printing and paper is all chosen, by Harry, for the desired effect. First he makes a plate of the picture, then a blank plate the same size, then he picks the paper and runs the blank plate first. He mixes inks in the ink tray until he gets the shading he wants, then reruns the paper through with the other plate and black ink. what you see is the final result. Some of the stuff he throws away is grabbed by people like me for their own use. In fact that was how I got my first HM cover.
cont on next page.

#Still Patten talking. Don't worry Harry I'll get back to your loc. once I get started it's hard to stop. Ther's just one more thing I want to say. If any of you want Harry Morris to do a cover for you it would be nice fi you sent some filthy money. He has to shoot two plates and buy the paper and ink. But look at the bright side. You get the cover already printed and in as many copies as you want. dp#

My ability to enjoy poetry, which I mislaid somewhere in 1968, hasn't come back yet. But I found Neal Wilgus' trio superior to most poetry in fanzines. They are just the right length, and their language seems fresh and different without using rare words or impacted syntax.

I haven't read much Barry Malzberg. But surely the fact that he is blamed for writing the same basic story repeatedly hardly makes him different in prodom. Dick, Farmer, and Norton are just three writers who are in much the same habit.

Harry Warner, Jr.

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Mike Glicksohn, 141 High Park Ave, Toronto, Ont M6P 2S3

"Minneapolis in 73" indeed! How could you Bob? After all we've meant to each other. After all those nights of ecstasy out behind the Taco Bell in Alb. How can we hope to win without your support? Please come back to the fold: TORCON 2 Needs You!

"Where is Mike Glicksohn when you need him?" A telling question, yes indeed. I've been asking myself that for months, ever since six shimmering figures with bright shining faces, broad mental horizons, and propellers on their beanies carried him off into the night on a flat-bed mimeo drifting on a river of corflu. Following his instructions I threw his Hugo into a bowl of Blog at the next con party I was at (a tentacle rose to receive it) and have been sitting here guarding his drawer full of personalized notepaper ever since. He told me he'd be back when Fandom needed him, and from the sight of this issue of ZWurm, I'm expecting him any time now.

ZWurm certainly has a casual air about it, but not the sort of sustained surrealism that made SANDWORM such a totally individualistic and enjoyable fanzine. Dick provides a veneer of sanity to his sections (plus a plethora of typos) which brings things back down to Earth after Bob's flights of fancy. I've got a little wall hanging on the wall (I take direction well) above the desk I'm typing at that says "Love is perfect only when shared," While that may be true of Love, I tend to think it doesn't apply to fanzines...Sorry guys, that's just a personal opinion (the only kind I ever have.)

Ther's an article in the paper that tells me that in the seven years that MacDonalds has been operating in Canada, it has risen to being the biggest money-making food chain in the country. Only one province is free of the tarnish of this example of American know-how and business acumen (as Tom Lehrer used to say "They're doing wonders with plastics nowadays") but I don't think I'll tell you which one. The resultant influx of American immigrants might seriously injure the economic stability of the entire region.

Mike Glicksohn

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BLANK SPACE (f I didn't tell you how would you know)



Darroll Pardoe, 24 Othello Close Hartford, Huntington PE18 7SU England

That Harry Morris cover was really nice. I've always liked his multi-color montage covers.

So MacDonalds are up to 15 billion now, are they? When I was living in the US a few years back it was much less than that, and I noticed that the numbers displayed seemed to vary from one part of the country to another. Could they just be tardy about changing the number when the time came, or was there some significance to it?

I see you liked Harry Harrison's "Star Smashers"-a worthy followup to "Bill the Galactic Hero". Funny how some people don't like such parodies, though. When "Bored of The Rings" came out, I really enjoyed it. It was such a superb take-off both of "Lord of The Rings" and of US civilization. But the reaction from many people (especially members of the Tolkien Society-our British T. S. that is) was complete hostility.

Darroll Pardoe

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Darrell Schewitzer, 113 Deepdale Rd., Strafford, Pa 19087

Somehow ZWorm didn't click with me. There is definitely something lacking. I was looking forward to a new fmz from Vardebob, but SANDWORM this ain't. The magazine as a whole just couldn't hold my interest. Probably the major lack is simply that there isn't enough Vardeman material, and that what there is seems short and hastily done.

There are remarkably few comment hooks in your rather bland fanzine. I did like Bob's comments about McDonald's tho. The number of hamburgers sold should actually indicate a decline in the economy -- the more sold the more people who can't afford anything better. I work in an eastern equivalent of a McDonald's and we get lots of seamy old derelict types who eat three meals a day there. Many seem to have no teeth left, because a diet like that is so lacking in vitamin C that you get scurvy before long. You see, a restaurant of that sort isn't supposed to really keep anybody going. McDonald's fare must be supplemented occasionally by something more substantial-- like food.

Neal Wilgus' poems are really neat. I dunno if dat's good poetry but I know what I like...

Darrell Schewitzer

//////////

Laurine White, 5408 Leader Ave, Sacramento, CA 95841

Gee, it's been so long since I've seen an issue of SANDWORM. Jim McLeod said last night it might have been better if you'd let it quietly fade away, like ICC. ZYMURWORM just isn't the same. Only those two pages with all the /*/ look like the old zine. You once sent an issue of ZYMURGY; it's still in the stack of fanzines to be read.

#Ah, isn't it wonderfull to be appreciated. dp#

The paper used for the cover is just too thick and ugly. I like the cover art, but it just doesn't look right on that paper. Nothing wrong with detesting Malzberg fiction. I read a novella by him under the name K.M. O'Donnell; "Final War" may have been the name of it. First thing I remember reading by him. Also the last except for a couple of short stories in Future City.

I enjoyed reading Al Jackson's article. Too bad so much paper was wasted by not using the backsides. Was that done to make ZWorm thicker?

#I refuse to answer that. If I did it could lead to all sorts of other questions. Like, how come the letter col is so long? dp#

Dave Locke's article was quite entertaining. I sure like his writing style.

Laurine White

Steven Utley, 1305 Walnut, Carrollton, TX 75006

It's been so long since I last wrote a letter of comment to a faned that I'm not sure that I recall how. But I'll try.

About Barry N. Malzberg. I rather liked Herovit's World, for all it's stylistic botches, and the pseudonymously published piece in Again, Dangerous Visions. But God alone knows how Robert Silverberg's Dying Inside lost a John W. Campbell Award for Best Novel to Beyond Apollo.

The Dispossessed is a fine book; I'm not going to be at all surprised when Ursula K. LeGuin wins Hugo and Nebula Awards for Best Novel of 1974. But I have to confess that my enjoyment of the novel was tinged with disappointment, because I'd read too many unqualified-rave reviews beforehand, and I was expecting the same sort of karate chop to the psyche's solar plexus which The Martian Chronicles gave me, and Childhood's End, and the aforementioned Silverboob book. The Dispossessed simply didn't move me quite as much as it seems to have moved all of those fellow SFWAs who nominated it for the Nebula. ("But you're an insensitive troglodyte!" snarls George R. R. Martin from the Peanut Gallery.) (And maybe GRRM is right: I still haven't figured out why LeGuin and Joanna Russ and Vonda McIntyre and certain others flipped over Suzy McKee Charnas' Walk to the Edge of the World, as dreadfull a Social-Consciousness-Raising a book as I've tried to read.)

Re Night of the Lepus and similar manifestations of MovieLand's great 'n' abiding interest in Sci & Fic: Robot Monster is still the hands-down favorite in the Worst SF Film Poll, with Plan 9 From Outer Space A decent second.

Steve Utley

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Jeff Slaten #I haven't the slightest idea what his addressis#

I must confess that having missed the last issue of ZWorm, I didn't get much out of this one. But the cover by Harry Morris was super.

#Don't worry about it Jeff. Some of the people who did get the last ish said the same thing. dp#

What I wanted to write about tho, is Bob's statements measuring things by the number of MacDonald's hamburgers sold. Well this is all very good and all, but I think you can get a better overall measure of the state of the world by how close Dumarest is to it.

Now all the comet-chasing freakos told us that Kahoutek signalled some incredible things with its appearance (more or less) in the skies. But what mere comet could equal in importance the Second Coming of Dumarest?! It is my prediction that when He lands, great things are going to happen to the Earth.

Jeff Slaten

//////////

#And with that revilation we come to the end of the local. We got some more good letters but I came to the conclusion that 6 pages were enough. Actually my fingers came to that conclusion. I take full responsibility for any spelling errors. I spell poorly enough at the best of times but this is my 8th hour straight at a typer so who knows what I've typed in the last 4.

WAHF Clifford R. Wind (you write good letters but they don't seem to lend themselves to being cut, thanks) Jim Young, Neal Wilgus, M. Dobson, and Sheryl Birkhead (I'LL be sending a card soon) Thank you all, & i hope I haven't forgotten anyone. If I have sorry. dp#



This is Patten with some pages of humble and abject apologies (and if you believe in the humble part I have a load of watches that you might be interested in).

In case you haven't noticed this issue is a little late, only two months or so. I could go on for pages about what delayed me but I don't think any of you would be interested. To tell the truth I'm not even interested. Suffice to say it's late and I'm sorry, not broken up, just sorry. I will not make the mistake of saying it won't happen again, but the next issue might come out on time.

The next thing is a little news item about Harry Morris. About three weeks ago his appendix decided it didn't like hanging around so it burst. For some reason Harry decided to ignore it for 24 hours or so. He ended up in the worst hospital I have ever seen, and I've seen some beauts. After he proved he wasn't a bum or something, by showing he could afford to pay, they decided to operate. He's OK now but I have the feeling that it is in spite of the hospital instead of because of it. After the operation they only made one small mistake. They forgot to turn on the IV bottle. Of course when they found out, after a couple of hours, and Harry was almost dehydrated, they naturally blamed

Harry for not telling them about it. That sort of thing always pisses me off. As I said before he is OK now but is still not in the best of shape.

On to nicer things. Notice the new typer. It cost the frightening price of \$7. Actually it didn't cost all of the \$7, I bought two for that price. It's about a 1950 Royal electric, and only took about 25 hours to get working right (would you believe almost working right?). I got them at that junk yard I mentioned before. He had a couple of mimeos and three or four ditto machines piled in with about 200 typers. That's what he had; I had \$8. Any way he sells by weight and the two royals came to 95¢ which costs \$7, so no repo machines to play with. The reason I bought two was to get enough parts so I would have one working. And believe it or not it worked. Of course there's not much left of the other machine and I couldn't quite get the linespacing working right but now I could put ZWorm out on my \$7 typer and \$5 mimeo. Somehow that seems appropriate. I didn't find out about the pile of typers until about a week after he got them (which is normal for me. I never find things out till after. Like the Alb. Westercon bid, but I'll talk about that later.). A friend of mine picked up 2, 15", selectrics for a total price of \$4. They were both working. I came close to stealing one but he wouldn't leave me alone in the room with them.

Now about the westercon bid. This should show you how close knit the ASFS is, and how close Bob and I work on ZWorm together. The first I knew of the Westercon bid was when I read it in Bob's editorial as I was putting this together. Amazing thing fanzines, learn all sorts of interesting things therein. Actually I'm rather amazed that there are enough fans in Alb. with the desire to put one of those huge things on. I mean I was "on the committee" for three Bubonicons and that almost killed me. Bubonicon would probably class as a small part of one of the minor events

on the program. I'm all for the bid. I mean it would be one of the few cons I could afford the transportation costs. Alb. is a nice city and has the hotels and all for the con. The only thing I didn't think Alb had was the fans who wanted to do that much work.

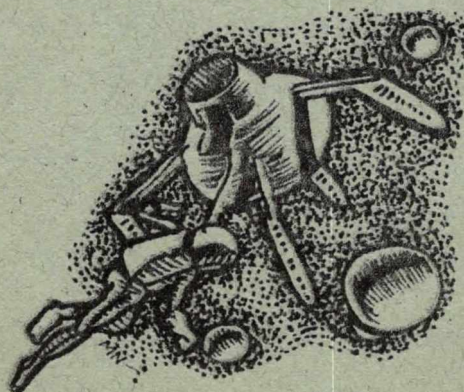
Roytac for TAFF

An interesting thing happened a few weeks ago. Well actually it started way back in 1973. A certian prozine gave a certian fanzine a good review which immediately resulted in some of the prozine's readers to send in their sticky quaters for the next issue of the fanzine. The fanzine was SANDWORM 19. The next issue was, that's right you guessed it, SANDWORM 20. Now comes the interesting part, there was no SANDWORM 20. What happened to the money, you ask? It sat in a closet in a large paper bag, I answer. In fact it sat in two or three closets as it was moved from place to place following the migration of the editor of SANDWORM. (Now we start to tighten up the plot.) As we all know the migrating editor was Bob Vardeman, who as we also know, is the co-editor of this thing (don't feel too sorry for him, we all have to survive a set-back or two). Ah, you say as you realize where this is heading. Yes, I say, you're right but I'm still going to finish the story. (I've still got at least a page to fill.)

Now, we finally get to what happened a few weeks ago. The brown paper bag was pulled from its resting place and delivered to the abode of one Dick Patten, bookkeeper of the famed ZWorm. As we all know there is no one in fandom who would ever take anything from another fan without delivering exactly what was expected. (GS where are you?). Therefore to all you people who sent sticky quaters (and after 2 years with tape on them you can't believe just how sticky) for the world renown SANDWORM will recieve, at no extra charge, the world unknown ZYMURWORM. Isn't that just wonderfull. By the way any of you who sent checks we will not cash them. I don't know about you but anyone who cashed a check of mine that I wrote in March 73 now would instantly move up to the top of my 'must kill' list.

Roytac for TAFF

We just had a long discussion about subliminals at the last meeting. At the speed you are reading this I'm sure my Roytac for Taff bits will act as subliminals. By the way Mike Kring and I have been looking real hard for the things that are supposed to be hidden in the ice cubes of ads. We heard theat there were all sorts of things therein. Naturally we can't find a damn thing. If any of you know of an ad with some goodies hidden in it would you please let us know. And because of the keenness of ovr powers of observation, please let us know exactly where in the ad it's hidden.



I'm tired. This whole issue, except for Bob's piece is being done in one day. After months of doing nothing on it I got to feeling ultra guilty so I took a day off and... For some reason I have the feeling that you will be able to tell. With any luck this won't happen again, but then again I'm not known as the luckiest person in the world.

A terrible thing just happened. A dreadful thing to a person my age. I just found out I can't count. If and when you turn the page you will find that it starts off with the information that it is the last page. You might wonder why I am telling you that. The more puzzle prone might have already figured that this is being written after that. I had all the pages counted and was preparing to run this off when I found out I was one short. I screamed and ranted and ripped my desk apart but no other stencils were to be found. (Typed stencils that is. It seems I always have blank stencils and paper waiting to be filled. Usually if not always late.) After the frantic search and while I was calmly sitting, with no more sign of my excitement than a small sigh now and then, that the solution came to me. I had figured the pages wrong. Now if this was a book with 200 or so pages or even if it was a fanzine of the proportions I seem to be getting now, that wouldn't have bothered me, much. But Z-Worm is a rather small zine. I mean all these years I thought I could handle numbers in the under thirty range. In fact at one time I even had the concite to think I could count as high as 100. Spelling I never could do but I thought I was at least compitent in math.

Bee Rates Rise

SYDNEY (AP) — The sting in the latest Australian budget: Postage for "bees in separate bags" will rise from 33 cents to 56 cents.

Wouldn't that give you a buzz.

Now it is time for the standard begging session. We are out of everything. This issue took the last of everyting ew had. We need art, articles, book reviews and what ever else you would like to send in. If you don't send anything the next issue willbe just bob and me. Just think of that, a 20 page two party personalzine. I don't think fandom is ready for that, and I know the world isn't. For that matter I don't think I'm ready for that.

I was going to start a fanzine review column this issue but decided against it. It's not that I have anything agains fanzine reviews it's just that I think that they should serve some purpose. They should be well thought out and contain some useful information. The trouble with me is that I don't think I could give anyone any usefull information. I read all the zines I get and enjoy them all. I have never yet put away a zine without reading every word in it. I like some a little more than others butI have absolutely no standards. So what could I say, I liked it, I enjoyed it, I read it, keep it up, wanna trade? There that is my fanzine review column. Just fill in the name of your zine and you have it.

Along the same lines, I have only read one book that I can say I didn't bother to finish, "The Sheep Look UP" by John Brunner. I read about half of it, put it down and never bothered to pick it up again. One time at the ASFS the topic of the meeting was supposed to be, The Worst Book You Have Ever seen. That was befor I tried The Sheep Look Up, so for the first and only time I sat through a meeting quietly. I didn' argue with anyone. Everyone there thought I was sick, and my system took such a shock that it took almost a week to recover. I've seen lists of "worst books" in other zines and I find that I have read, and enjoyed, most of them. Well so much for my taste.

My god its happened. I never thought I'd live to see it. The last page. With only 347 breaks for coffee. With only one break to play a small war game with Walter and friends(that only took 9 hours) I have typed this issue straight thru. And for someone who doesn't know how to type that's no small feat. All I have left is to paste in the electrostencils, run the thing off, collate and address the copys. All of a sudden I don't feel like I have most of the issue done.

What else to say. The weather is beautiful, warm and sunny, of course I hate sunlight and would much prefer crawling around at night. Kathy is outside planting tomatoes and watermelons and such. We have a nice little garden outside. Plant every year. Of course we have yet to harvest anything but why should that stop us. The birds, cyotes, rabbits and sundry other animals thank us every year for the snack. It's such a nice day that the kids are visiting with the other resident of our property. The biggest horned toad I have ever seen. He lives on the back corner of the lot. Of course coming from NY I don't know much about horned toads but I tend to think this one is a little different. First of all he (she?) could care less if we watch him. He just wanders around his domaine paying no attention to us at all. Then there's the dogs, we have two, they don't bother him at all. I've seen them do a job on other horned toads but not him. I wonder sometimes because of the way all other things stay away from him if we have the king toad living here. Or to put it another way, the hornest toad in the world.

Saw "A Boy And His Dog", great movie. Enjoyed every minute of it. Well worth the price. If you get a chance you should go see it.

Have fun,

dp

ZYMURWORM
Dick Patten
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TO: *Joel Siclari*
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Third Class