

Hey, Kiddie, what's wrong? 'Fraid of a little bug? Oooo, I'm soooo scared.

It's October and fittingly enough, our topic is scary stuff. Fear is what it's all about isn't it? I think it's the cynic in me, but sometimes I'm inclined to the behaviorist theory that the prime motivating factor in human existence is fear. It used to seem to me that the only motivating factors in my life were fear and anger, but these are better times and I don't quite feel that way anymore.

This is the first Vagrant's meeting we've had since Karl Kreder moved out of town. He's got some scary stuff of his own to write about, I'm sure. A new city, a new job. A new life. That's scary. Good luck, Karl. Write us soon.

Most people know what's been going on in my life lately. All sorts of good, but scary, stuff. A relationship, for one. Then a live-in relationship. Then imminent parenthood. Jeez, that's scary. I think I prefer the innocent horrors of childhood to the all too real fears and responsibilities of adulthood. Not that I don't like the perquisites of being a grown up, like sex and drugs and late hours and the *frisson* of sophisticated humor, but give me zombies and vampires any day over being a parent.

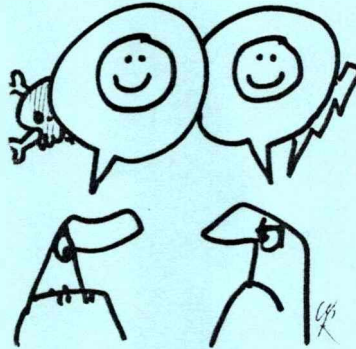
If you don't suspect, sometimes, that all behavior is motivated by fear, take an inventory of fear in the world and you'll find a lot of different kinds. There's fear of success, and fear of failure, which may be the same thing, but there's no way to tell, which is a scary thought. There's fear of growing old, fear of dying, fear of disease, fear of the number 13, fear of heights, claustrophobia, fear of cats and fear of fear (phobophobia), arachnophobia, photophobia and fear of dogs with hydrophobia. A popular psychiatric bromide holds that male homosexuality is rooted in fear of women. Men who fear women and love men but are afraid to show it may evi-

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dence exaggerated homophobia, just to show that they aint askeered of no homa-sexshuls. What about organized religion in general, and Christianity in particular? God's love may be the reward, but it's Fear of a Pissed-Off God that keeps people in line.

I'm afraid that I'm running out of steam with this piece and that everyone will heap scorn upon me for writing something bad. That's an unfounded fear, but unfounded or not, it still feels real to me, just the same way that the fear that commies or the

Bavarian Illuminati or the Trilateral commision or the UFO aliens are going to take over the world is real to those poor, deluded bastards who believe that kind of stuff. And if you're open minded, you might give pause for a moment and wonder if those poor, deluded bastards could be right, and that's a scary thought too.



Convictions cause convicts: What you believe in imprisons you.

"All we have to fear is fear itself." Easy for FDR to say. Fear kills people, man. Just ask any witch doctor. I've worked in haunted houses a couple of times, and I've seen what happens to people even when they know they're going to be frightened.

In truth, I think that one can choose one's motivations, just as people can choose to be afraid or not to be afraid of abstract possibilities. If the Bavarians are really running the world, who cares? If you don't have any control of a situation, what's the point in fear? Anyway, that's my screed for this time, although I'm afraid it's not really a screed.

JoHn: re #7 : the fanzine for, by, and about JoHn. This is for APA-V number 12. Questions and comments to JoHn 1733 Yellow Rose Street LV NV 89108