

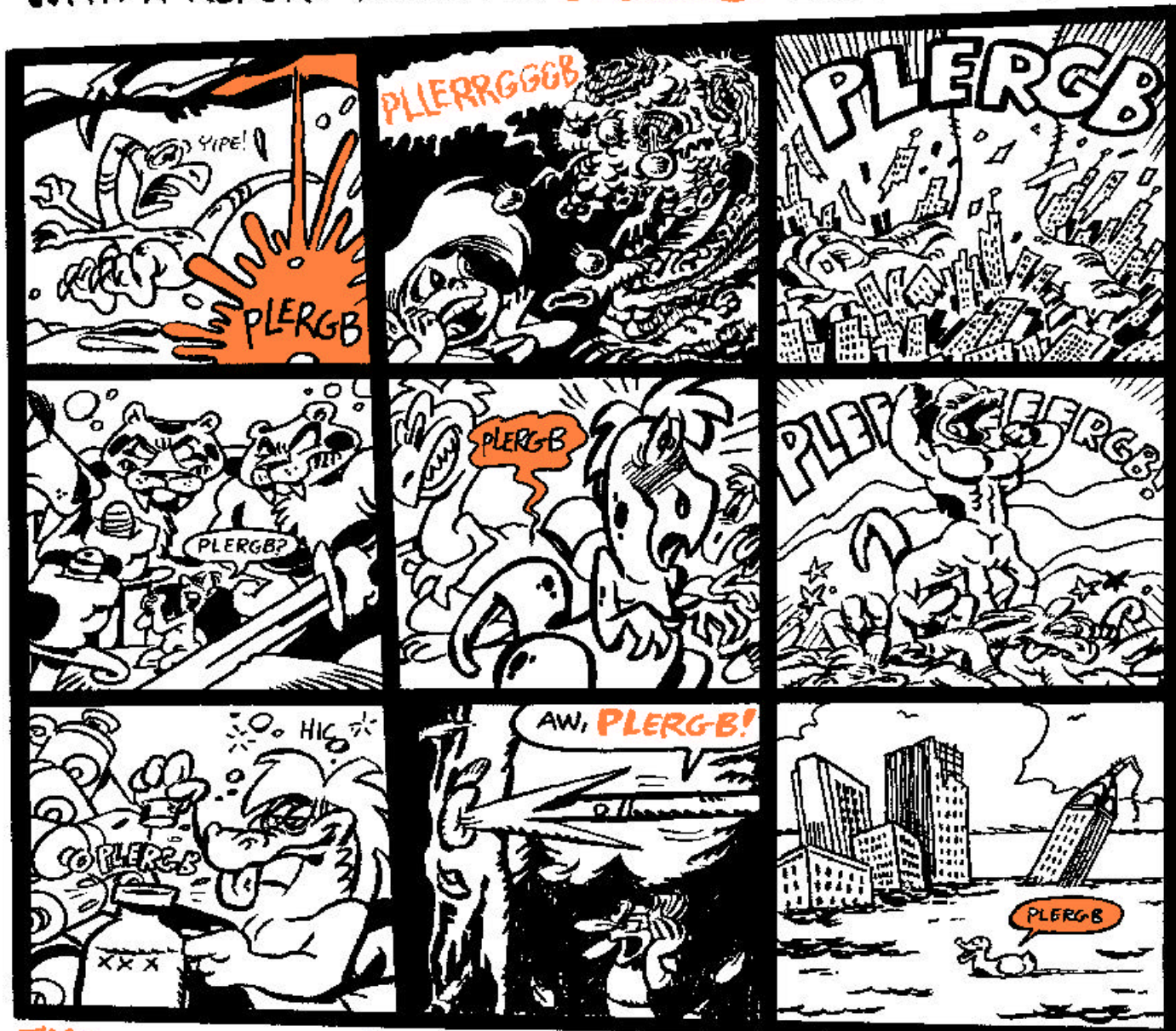
ITS MARTY CANTOR'S

NO AWARD

Number-

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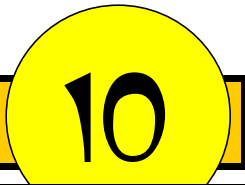
WITH A REPORT FROM THE **PLERGB** C.O.M.M.I.S.S.I.O.N.



4/12

SO, WUZIT MEAN?

2001



NO AWARD

A Fanzine
by
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voted fandom's Resident Curmudgeon
in a poll conducted in *Twink*

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Hoo Hah
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This fanzine is available as a download in a coloured PDF version at < www.efanzines.com >. A black and white edition will be distributed to those who prefer to receive it in the traditional paper manner.

This fanzine is available for the fannish usual (which I tend to translate as my own whim, but I do honour trades, locs, artwork, written articles, and other contributions). If all else fails, send me US\$5.00 and I will send you a copy. NO AWARD is not pubbed on any regular schedule (even though I want to get it out at least twice a year). Mostly, issues will be put out when material and money decide to get together in a meaningful way.

LEGALESE: This fanzine is copyright © 2001 by Marty Cantor. One-time rights only have been acquired from signed contributors. Please consider that any other legal-type stuff is really here even if you cannot see it. So there!

This zine was almost complete on the day when The War Against Civilisation burst against our shores with crashing horror. It is now one week after that catastrophe - and I send this out with a heavy heart but with firm resolve that They Shall Not Win. - *Marty Cantor*

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NOTICE

There are several recipients of the paper version of this zine who have not responded to it in any way. Some of you will continue to receive it because I think you should always get it. Others, well, should respond or they will be dropped from the mailing list. This statement is purposely ambiguous.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

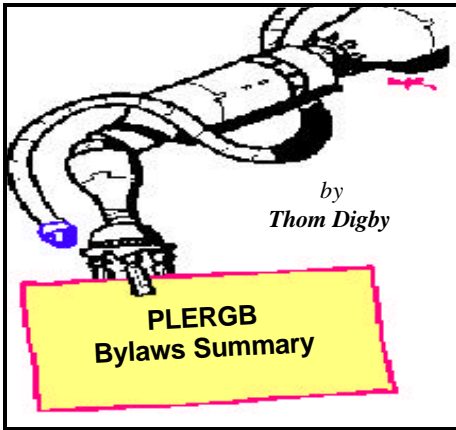
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- Ray Nelson - pg. 31

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- Joe Mayhew - 10, 21
- Ray Capella - 12, 22
- Bill Rotsler & Alexis Gilliland - 18
- Julie Morgan-Scott - 25





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History of the word "Plergb"

by Thom Digby

Here's what I recall or can reconstruct about the early history of the word Plergb:

I've long had a thing of coming up with what some might call nonsense words: Words like "glogr" or "bloomtothrage" or "pulubrian". Sometimes such a word will just pop into my head. If nobody else is nearby I may say the word softly, but whatever part of my mind comes up with these words seems to know not to speak them aloud in earshot of others who may not be in the mood to hear them.

Most of these words are eventually forgotten, although some end up as names of fictional characters and such.

Sometime in the early 1970's, when I was working at the tape recorder factory, I noticed that I would frequently say "Plergb" when plugging something in (the word "Plergb" is similar in sound to "plug", so that may be where my subconscious got it).

Since I worked in the engineering lab, I did a lot of plugging and unplugging of stuff, so I found myself saying "Plergb" fairly often. And since it was a lab where I tested electronic stuff, the things being plugged in might or might not work. So in a sense the first definition of "Plergb" may have been as a sort of prayer or mantra for good luck when plugging things in.

The first appearance in APAL was probably a reference to the "Dread Drug Plergb" that did weird things like making people disappear if they got into a hot tub or swimming pool or other water after taking it. You wouldn't be dead or anything like that, but all of a sudden you and your friends would look and notice that you weren't there any more. You would, like the Clarinchi, be in a state where you didn't exist but were aware of your nonexistence.

Somebody commented back on this, referring to the Dread Drug Plergb as just Plergb. I replied that the name of the drug was "Dread Drug Plergb" and that the word "Plergb" by itself could have other

meanings. The rest of the mythos then developed, probably over the next few months.

I don't have my pre-computer zine files handy, but a search for the word Plergb in the files I do have on disk turned up this from 1985 (APAL 1131): "...while the first references to the word Plergb showed up in spring and summer of 1974, after Comet Kohoutek and during debate on creating a LASFS flag. I think the first printing of the official rules and bylaws of the word Plergb appeared later that summer but I don't seem to have it in my zine file. Maybe I'll hunt it up later. "

At some point after this someone (Matthew Tepper?) started a campaign (probably somewhat tongue-in-cheek) to abolish things that had the same initials as other things. Since "Plergb Commission" and "Personal Computer" both had the initials "PC," they became obvious targets. That was when I decided that "P.L.E. R.G.B. C.O.M.M.I.S.S.I.O.N." was itself an acronym so there would be no conflict with the Personal Computer.

I'm not sure when the Plergb Certificates and such were first printed up, but I suspect it may have been in connection with some kind of special occasion, either a convention or some kind of special APAL disty, perhaps a Hoax Disty.

There may be more, but I think this is it for now.

SUMMARY of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Plergb Commission and of the word Plergb as of Feb. 21, 1995.

Background

The Plergb Language Entropy Regulatory Governing Bureaucratic Commission Overseeing Multiple Managerial Issues Surrounding Singular Instances Of Nomenclature ("P.L.E.R.G.B.C.O.M.M.I.S.S.I.O.N." or "Plergb Commission" for short) (Hereafter referred to as the Commission) is the body which oversees and administers the use of the word Plergb and its authorized variants.

Uses of the word Plergb

The word Plergb may be used in many ways, some of which have not been discovered yet.

- The simplest use of the word Plergb is as a general-purpose noun, sort of like "doohickey" and "thingamabob." It may be dynamically redefined within a sentence if the context makes the meaning clear, as in the old saying "A rolling Plergb gathers no Plergb." It can also be used as a euphemism, as in "What the Plergb is this Plergb?!?!" The use of the word Plergb to maliciously hinder communication is strongly discouraged.
- Another simple use is to bring good luck by saying "Plergb" as you are plugging something in. The Commission makes no warranty covering such use.
- Whenever the word Plergb is used in a song, it may be defined as the entire remainder of the song. For example, singing "Oh,

say can you see by the Plergb?” lets you start the ball game that much sooner. When used in a song on radio or TV it may be defined as the rest of the broadcast day, allowing the staff to shut off the transmitter and go home without further ado or explanation. (CAUTION: Some advertisers consider this to be bad manners, especially if their commercials are affected.)

- The most sophisticated use of the word Plergb, however, is as an operator. Computer people may think of it as a sort of macro to be executed by one’s audience. For example, if you are composing something on a manual typewriter but wish to have a professional-appearing document, you may add at the bottom “Plergb, defined as justifying margins, correcting typos, and general cleanup.” It can also be defined as minus something you wish to cancel. For example, if you are running for office you might end all your speeches with “Plergb, defined as minus anything you didn’t want to hear.” The word Plergb can also be used to correct hyphenation at ends of lines, clean up politically incorrect language, cleanse erotica of anything the authorities might consider obscene, conditionally insert or delete paragraphs depending on the state of other variables, insert illustrations or other special effects that your Web software cannot handle, and so on.

Users of the word Plergb

The word Plergb may be used by any English-speaking person (rules for other languages may be forthcoming) regardless of race, color, religion (unless said religion forbids the use of the word Plergb), national origin, sex, sexual preferences, age, economic status, etc., etc., etc. Plergb is an Equal Opportunity Word.

Users of the word Plergb fall into three general classes: Authorized users, Renegades, and Yak Fat.

- Authorized users are those who have been authorized by the Commission to use the word Plergb and who agree to be bound by the rules thereof.
- Renegades are those who have been granted Renegade Status by the Commission. They may break the rules and otherwise misuse the word Plergb with impunity, but their actions do not set precedent. People who have heard of the word Plergb and wish to use it, but who are unsure of the rules and find it inconvenient to contact the Commission, may grant themselves provisional Renegade Status.
- The standard penalty for misuse of the word Plergb (by those not on Renegade Status) is dunking in rancid yak fat. Since the budget of the Commission does not allow for real yak fat or a yak fat vat to dunk people in they have been doing virtual dunkings instead. This consists of a certificate attesting to such dunking and advising all to stay at least ten feet (three meters) away because of the (virtual) smell.

The Commission issues certificates for all three of the status categories described above.

Orthography of the word Plergb

The word Plergb is always capitalized because it is the name of the word Plergb, which makes it a proper name. This is in contrast to words like “cat” and “shoehorn” and “episcotister” which have names like “Melvin” or “Herman” or “Murgatroyd” which nobody knows about because nobody has published a list of names of words. The word Plergb is named Plergb. The subject of names of names is beyond the scope of this article.

Authorized variants of the word Plergb include Pglergb, Plergdb, Pglorgdb, and Skeegl. There also exists the Medieval Spelling of Plyrrhghb for use by time travelers, people doing parodies of medieval writing, etc. All variants are pronounced exactly as they are spelled (no silent letters) except for the Medieval Spelling, which is pronounced “Pl” as in “platypus,” “yrh” as in “myrh,” “gh” as in “ghost,” and “b” as in “Bob.”

Miscellaneous

Plergb Commission Anthem

The Commission has an Official Anthem. The words of the latest version are:

*We are the stalwart people of the Plergb Commission:
We uphold the honor of the word Plergb all day long.
And when we’re not busy on our glorious mission
We just sit around and sing this stupid song.*

Official Question

The Official Question of the Plergb Commission and of the word Plergb is “Glorb g’dorpt-borpt?” The answer is “Plergb.”

Alcohol and other Drugs

Documented use of the word Plergb goes back to 1973, which makes it old enough to be used in places where alcohol is served, at least in California. Since laws vary from place to place and may change from time to time, check with local authorities before using the word Plergb in any potentially questionable situation.

Diminished capacity due to drunkenness or other forms of intoxication is generally not a defense in cases of misuse of the word Plergb. If you plan to use the word Plergb while under the influence, the safest course is to have Renegade Status.

Legal Disclaimer

Plergb, defined as whatever legal disclaimers about advice, warranties, etc., are needed to keep the Commission off the hook regardless of how local laws vary.

Document Cleanup

Plergb, defined as correcting any typos and misspellings in this document. **Plergb**, defined as minus any line noise or other technical problems with this document.

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