Living organisms move. They act. Their actions may be inimical to man's best interests. They inspire fear, dread, even terror. From time immemorial, humans have viewed with alarm, nay, with horror, the evil that lurks inside living consciousness.

I have now assembled the vocabulary of fear as it relates to life, and am releasing it to an unsuspecting world in this article. Those of faint heart are warned to turn immediately to other pages of Word Ways!

Inevitably, error has crept into the literature enumerating these fears. Sisson's Word and Expression Locator, by A. F. Sisson (Parker Publishing Company, West Nyack, New York, 1966), lists the term AILEUROPHOBIA for fear of cats. That spelling is etymologically indefensible and must be dismissed as a typographical error, possibly for AILOUROPHOBIA. The Dunlop Book of Facts, edited by Norris and Ross McWhirter (Dreghorn Publications, London, 1964), gives BATRACHOPHOBIA as the fear of reptiles. The term is derived from the Greek word BATRACHOS which means "frog", so that the listing in Dunlop is clearly an error.

I have deemed it expedient to divide known fears into three groups. The first and largest group is comprised of fears revolving around animals and animal parts or products.

Object or Situation Feared: Names of Phobias

Animal fur: doraphobia
Animals: zoophobia
Animal skins: doraphobia
Animal spirits: zoophobia
Animal teeth: odontophobia
Ants: myrmecophobia
Bees: apiophobia, apiphobia, melissophobia
Bee stings: apiphobia
Being clawed by animals: amychophobia
Being scratched by animals: amychophobia
Birds: ornithophobia
Bulls: taurophobia
Cats: aelurophobia, ailurophobia, allurophobia, elurophobia, felinophobia, galeophobia, gatophobia
Dogs: cynophobia, kynophobia
Feathers: pteronophobia
Felines: aelurophobia, ailurophobia, felinophobia
Fish: ichthyophobia
Frogs: batrachophobia
Harboring tapeworms: taeniolatry
Horses: hippophobia
Insects: entomophobia
Lice: pediculophobia, phthirophobia
Meat diets: carnophobia
Mice: muraphobia, musophobia
mites: acarophobia, entomophobia
People: anthropophobia
Reptiles: herpetophobia, ophidiophobia
Spiders: arachnophobia, arachnochiliphobia
Stinging insects: melissophobia
Stings: cnidophobia
Ticks: entomophobia
Toads: batrachophobia
Wasps: melissophobia
Worms: acarophobia, helminthophobia, verminophobia, scoleciphobia
Zoomorphized entities: zoophobia

The second, much smaller, group is comprised of fears revolving around plants and plant products. Evidently, plants are regarded as much more docile than animals.

Object or Situation Feared: Names of Phobias
Big trees: dendrophobia
Flowers: anthophobia, botanophobia
Forests: hylophobia
Plants: botanophobia
Trees: dendrophobia
Vegetables: lachanophobia
Woods: hylophobia

The third and smallest group consists of fears revolving about microscopic and parasitic organisms, viewing these organisms as harbingers of disease and death.

Object or Situation Feared: Names of Phobias
Bacilli: bacillophobia
Bacteria: bacteriophobia, microbiophobia
Germs: bacteriophobia, microbiophobia, microphobia, spermato-phobia, spermophobia

Microbes: bacillophobia, bacteriophobia, microbiophobia, anthophobia, myriaphobia, scabiesphobia, spiriliphobia, spermaphobia, tetanophobia

As always represented are a drawing board, a scale, all instruments.
Microbes: bacilliphobia, bacillophobia, microbiophobia, microphobia
Microorganisms: bacteriophobia, microbiophobia, microphobia
Parasites: acarophobia, helminthophobia, parasitophobia, pediculophobia

As always, the exact sources of the terms and definitions just presented are available on request. Further flocks of phobias are on the drawing boards, for the benefit of those waiting on pins and needles to get acquainted with them.

MALEDICTA

This is the name of a new journal specializing in the study of words used as instruments of aggression. Quoting from the inside front cover of the first (Summer 1977) issue, it specializes in

"verbal aggression, pejoration, derogation, scurrility, vituperation, obfuration & dysphemism - swearwords, insults & terms of abuse - threats - curses - blasphemy - scatology - cynicism, sarcasm, satire & irony - derogatory proverbs, sayings, similes, comparisons & metaphors - negatively valued nouns, verbs, adjectives & adverbs - expletives, exclamations, offensive ejaculations & other emotive and affective utterances . . . "

This issue contains articles such as "Malas Palabras: Talking Dirty in Cuban Spanish", "The Origin of Our Strongest Taboo-Word" (Shipley thinks it comes from the middle English firk), "Malediction and Psycho-Semantic Theory: The Case of Yiddish" and "Belaboring the Obvious: Sarcastic Interrogative Affirmatives and Negatives" (is water wet? is Billy Graham Catholic?). Not all articles are soberly academic; there is a leavening of humor as well, as exemplified by Stinky Pinkies (rhyming adjective-noun pairs, as the synonym for "one dollar intercourse"). Since verbal aggression employs many sexual and scatological terms, the journal is definitely X-rated -- vulgar and obscene words are frequently and explicitly displayed in the various articles. Those interested should send ten dollars by check or money order for a year's subscription (three or four issues totalling 300 pages) to Dr. Reinhold Aman, 331 South Greenfield Avenue, Waukesha, Wisconsin 53186. If chicken-hearted, send him a postcard asking for an examination copy (returnable by fourth class book mail for 35 cents if not satisfied).