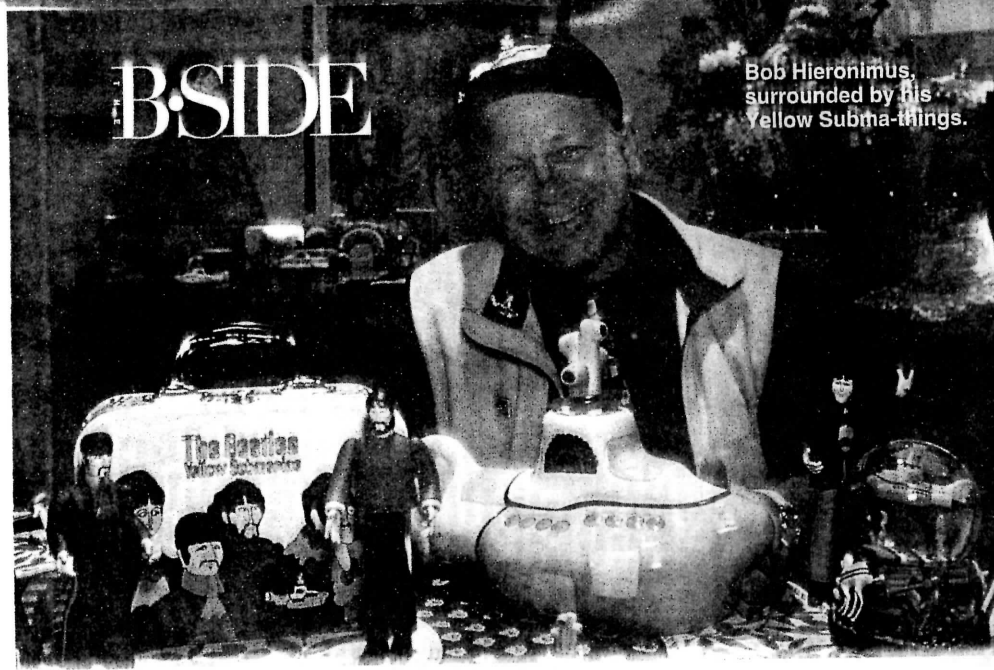


BATMAN VS. ROBIN: WHY BELL AND O'MALLEY SPLIT

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THE B.SIDE

Bob Hieronimus, surrounded by his Yellow Subma-things.

yellow fever

Your initial reaction to the Beatles' *Yellow Submarine* probably went something like this: "Oh, wow, look at the pretty colors..." But for local radio host, muralist, and UFO-watcher Bob Hieronimus, the 1968 animated classic—just remastered and re-released digitally—instantly struck him as a symbol-filled retelling of Joseph Campbell's heroic myth. (How did we miss that?) "When I saw *Yellow Submarine*, I saw all these different levels of symbolism," Hieronimus says from his Owings Mills home. "I thought the Beatles were smarter than anybody on the planet."

But wasn't that just the drugs talking, Bob?

Hieronimus insists not. In fact, not only was he not on mind-altering substances the first time he saw the film (we can't vouch for the other 199 times), he says the filmmakers weren't either.

"While some of the lower-tier colorists were taking every drug they could find," Hieronimus admits, "the overseeing art directors didn't do anything heavier than Jack Daniel's."

Hey, the man is an expert. A real expert. It has taken Hieronimus 25 years to craft his yet-to-be-published 250-page book on the making of the movie, *It Was All In the Mind: The Co-Creation of Yellow Submarine*.

As of press date, Hieronimus cagily refuses to name the "two or three" publishers considering the book, but he expects his magnum opus to hit the shelves in the first half of year 2000.

The book, which goes behind the scenes of the making of the film, also includes chapters on *Yellow Sub*'s "monomythic" underpinnings, utopian vision, and—in true Dr. Bob fashion—UFO references.

So far, the film has not been linked to any JFK conspiracy theories.

• HANNAH FELDMAN