

The following is a quotation from a letter written by Raymond Washington, Jr., to Donald A. Wollheim, Oct. 21, 1944:

"A great deal of my thought and letters in the past month or so have been directed at one Francis T. Laney. I had not replied to his attacks on me personally until recently; what lit the fuse was his reference to me in the August Shangri-LA'ffaires as a very young, immature fan. ("Unworthy of a place in any first-class fanzine", was one of the comments he made.) He had been digging me this way for a long time. I exploded and wrote a bitterly caustic letter to him, and after I had finished it I was so angry that I sent it to Morojo with instruction that it was to be an open letter for the entire LASFS to read if they so desired. Laney condescended to reply, conceit and superiority fairly leaking out of each sentence. We have exchanged several hostile letters, he finally admitting that he attacked me as "immature" again and again so that the catchword would become subconsciously implanted in the mind of Fandom (a favorite Hitler trick). He did not try to press on me any argument to back up his theory of my alleged immaturity; he admitted frankly that it was a dirty tactic he felt justified for the purpose of undermining the CC. Now he tells me that, since the CC is dead, he will have no further reason for attacking me, provided I behave myself. He states fur-

ther that he intends to publish in the next FAPA mailing an explanation of why he attacked me, and why his attacks will now cease--this isn't due to his good nature; he merely wants to beat me to the punch. It would be easier for him to expose himself than for me to expose him. To descend to provincial dialect, I hate his guts."

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"This letter, ... must not be published either in whole or in part."

Raymond Washington, Jr.

"Never let your sense of morals prevent you from doing what is right."

Isaac Asimov

LET'S LYNCH LANEY!

Larry Shaw

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