

TARGET: FAPA!

OPERATION
CRIFANAC
LXXVI

It's Eney's fault

I have been driven out of the barracks.

It isn't a matter of ostracism, simply of space. A new policy has come down from XVI corps permitting only one overnight pass a week to enlisted men below the grade of Master Sergeant, and everybody who normally sleeps in an establishment of the type I described in Marching Fire has had to slough off his mistress and move back into the barracks. I didn't know there were this many people in the 8165th!

REVOLTIN' DEVELOPMENT: Somebody figured out the cost of a hi-fi system (\$599.55) on the back of this. You, Mart? You, Burb?

HORIZONS: Sometimes I'm sorry I exist, old boy, but I do wish you wouldn't act so hurt about it. You make me feel somehow guilty.

STEFANTASY: Your problem is solved by another "colloquial" meaning of "stud" (which Century was doubtless too prudish to include); "an ostentatiously virile person". That should answer your question...or didn't you read Ah, Sweet Idiocy? ** Or maybe it's the realization of Irene Baron's suggested fannish invention: a spaceship propelled by sex drive. ** Yep, regular mail takes about 40 days to cross the Pacific.

BIRDSMITH: "Sensible men do not make good Communist leaders"? Then how the hell did Communism come so close to taking over the world? If you're using the word as equivalent to "reasonable," you're right, unfortunately, but the synonymy of the two words has become very obsolete indeed. ** If our economy is permanently crippled there sure as hell won't be "little alteration in our way of life." Ghodsake, man, didn't you ever study economics? The crimp put in it now -- I mean the powerful military establishment and UMT that the present war have imposed -- has altered it noticeably; can you imagine our way of life will be unchanged if such radical alterations are imposed for two generations? (Tch, stencilcomposing catches me again; I mean any radical changes, not specifically a strong military and UMT.) ** I beg to differ: freedom to be ignorant is not a part of freedom to be informed on the subjects one learns in grade school. I'm not hurting anybody by not knowing how to run a metalworking lathe or how to type; by not knowing how to read and write and count and having some idea of the history and culture of the rest of the country and world I'm making myself unfit to have a voice in US affairs...but I have that voice even though unqualified to use it. Read that speech to the politicians in "Blowups Happen"! ** And furthermore...here, here! Stop, Eney! STOP!

EGAD!: The Romme calendar, sir! Encore Neuf Thermidor! (For the benefit of the unliberated in our midst 9 Thermidor -- 27 July -- was when Robespierre, chief of the powerful and inquisitorial Committee of Public Safety, was sent to the guillotine. Policy forbids naming the chief of an inquisitorial committee I'd love to see starring in a repeat performance.) ** If people are no damn good, who'll run your benevolent dictatorship -- Arisians? Even if you exaggerate, we're far better off not having to have a revolution every time we get a chief of state who is no damn good.

LARK'S APPENDIX: Now is the time for Man to come to the aid of one (1) good good party. ** Sorry, Bill, but "shoot first" is not the policy of the American military establishment. In each of our nine major wars the other side has shot first...though in the attack on Mexico it was because we'd sent an armed party to seize disputed ground outright.

LIGHT: Lamb's phrase "rewarded by the heroine's hand and other choice portions of her anatomy" fractured me. Or I should say I busted a blood vessel laughing at it. (I got a nosebleed trying to keep from howling hyenalike — an expression of glee unsuited to barracks.) ** There's a very good reason for your irritation, sir; Americans did land on all the beaches in France and the Pacific. Only in the East Indies did the Commonwealth's troops have a major hand in the proceedings. ** Ah, Whang Pu!

TRFAP!: You slept in classes at Pendleton? And here I thought the Marines were strict as hell! Didn't they even use our remedy (giving sleepers weekend KP)?

AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WILLIAM CLYDE: It sounds horribly logical, somehow.

FANTASIA: Your war with NAPA concerns us only vaguely, doesn't it?

GEMZINE: If, by "really enlighten (me) on what's with McCarthy," you mean convert me to your views, you would need Mr Carr -- and a couple of other McCarthyists, too. ** The name of the flu germ indicates that it loves the Red coloring matter in blood. Still claim yours were Republicans? ** This stuff on transmigration is vaguely silly -- more so than your usual theological stuff, I mean; if you really must write about things like this, let's see you try to prove there is a soul. ** I know you're proud of your outspoken comments -- like Laney -- but don't you think your remarks on Fantasia rather violent even so? There's very little foundation for the myth that vulgarity lends emphasis. ** "How gullible about McCarthyism can you get"? You're asking me? ** If you really had any understanding of what I was trying to say, you'd realize that my basic premiss is that if you can't prove a man did it, you've no business even trying to cause him to be punished. The whole core of McCarthyism is that it tries to punish without trial, and your claim that it doesn't is so much Joespiel tailored for the fugghead trade. Joespiel (JO-speel), N., McCarthyist equivalent of the Party Line. / Of course a man can live down slander; but the process is much too long and unpleasant to be passed off as a sacrifice any citizen should be prepared to make. Yourself points out the existence of "'group pressure' -- i.e. the moral judgment of the group." A Senator who can't prove a crime against an enemy tries to punish him by turning group pressure against him. A Ku Klux Klansman who can't prove a crime against an enemy tries to punish him by raising a mob to tar and feather him. In what essential do the two differ? ** No, I don't mean the fact that your right of self-defense allows you to spread tension-apprehension-and-dissentation in the mob with whatever weapon comes closest to hand, while the Senator's immunity makes him untouchable. ** "And it is for this very reason that the hue and cry against McCarthy is so violent. He is arousing the conscience of the hitherto silent people and arousing in them the latent moral judgment against treason to the group." Yes, and arousing at last, I hope, the awareness whose lack very nearly lost us this war -- the awareness that intolerants must be met with intolerance. To stigmatize as a Party-Line-following egghead anyone who criticizes McCarthy and his methods is a frightening indication of just how far gone you are. I didn't offer the slightest defense of Communism or the exclusion of Communist secret agents from government and education; merely said that Joe's cure was scarcely less dangerous than the disease. For the color of an extremist is a secondary consideration; extremism per se is the enemy of freedom in

that it will not permit the dissention liberty implies, and McCarthy is showing us a much neglected point -- that come they from the infrasocialist or ultraconservative end of the political spectrum, extremists are not part of but invaders of our body politic, and when they drive for power it is not a matter of reasonable differences, but "me or thee, and god defend the right!"

TITM~~phse~~: You're turning out "friction"? What's that, literature with Freudian implications? ** Yeah, the only eclipse observable in DC for years, and where is DC fan Eney? In Japan!

CHAPTER PLAY: Hey, you never met me, did you? ** I thought Monster Midway was a novel when I saw it in the library. Thanks for the recommendation; I read and enjoyed it.

MAELSTROM: I compose in longhand, then type it out when I can get to a typer. Currently I have my eye on a nice little portable in the PX downstairs.

GRUE: As a lab technician -- and therefore an assistant at autopsies -- I can say from experience that a bottle of embalming fluid is pretty funny, if you have a sense of humor tickled by the incongruity of cigarette-style advertising on the label. (No Kidding.)

WASTEBASKET: Draw back the cocking piece, align the sights with each other and the target, and squeeze the trigger, don't jerk.

SHADOWLAND: Reprehensible as it may be to put a noted here, I can't think of a thing to say, though I enjoyed this far too much to ignore it.

SKYHOOK: The main drawback, Redd, is that the mystic does know; he isn't informed. If we "Knew as (they) did" we'd be in as lamentable shape; no matter how much you may deplore rationalism, it has the virtue of being amenable to properly delivered argument; mysticism isn't. ** Isn't it just possible that Poul Anderson (and Boucher-and-McComas) doesn't have the dead serious attitude toward Literature exhibited by Atheling? I imagine WAJr would be shocked speechless by the idea of somebody writing just for kicks in the fannish manner; Poul, Boucher, & company have proved they aren't.