

VOM

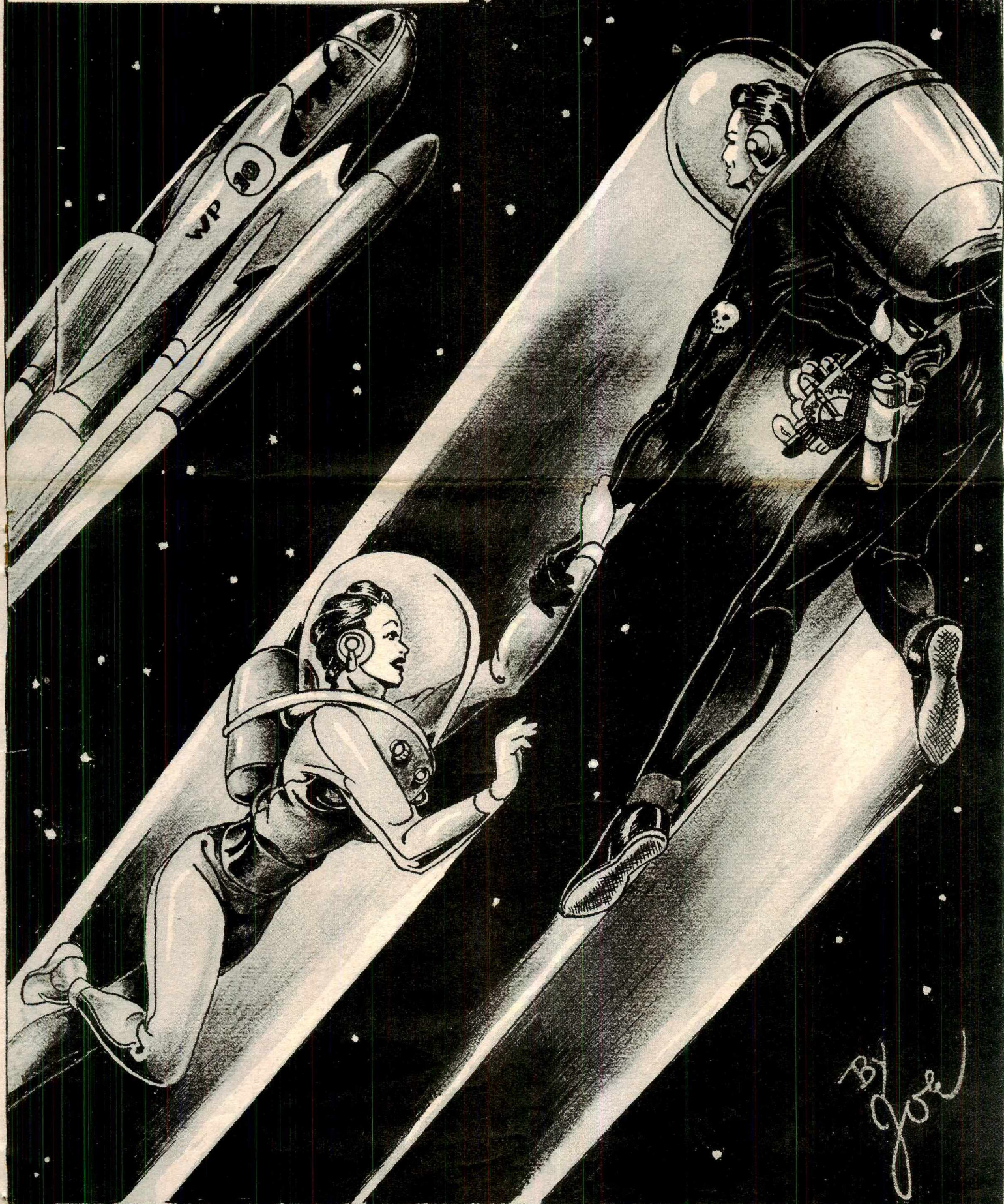


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Editorialette: While we cannot engage in refunding nickels to casual customers sending for a sample copy, any regular subscriber to Vom entitled to 2 issues or more will receive the July, Aug & Sep nos. for 30c rather'n 45c; a reduction of 5c per copy; 3 for the price of 2. Beginning in October we hope to be able to get out larger issues again.

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, aka VOM, #45. Aug '45. 15c, 7/\$. FJAckerman, Ed
6475 Met Stn, Los Angeles 55

Stefnews' Editor SPEER, 5229 Univ. Way, Seattle 5, Wash, concludes his letter from #44: "Tigrina's remarks, and Forry's interpolations in the Walker letter, are amusing in the light of later phenomena. (The light fan-tastic, as it were.) About the children of famous fathers inheriting their genius, I can refer to studies that have been made of such families as the Edwards, who in addition to producing one of the two greatest intellects in American literature (Jonathan Edwards), gave us scores of lesser luminaries. It's not in the immediate children only that superior heredity shows itself. Her question "As long as /4e/ is happy the way he is, why change him?" suggests the immediate retort, Has he sounded happy lately ("lately" refering to June & earlier).

It might be a good idea to keep in touch with Emile E Greenleaf Jr. in order to follow the development of those who have fallen for the Lemurian hoax, see whether they get disillusioned, etc.

I have looked thru Interglossa, but didn't read it enuf for the repelling strangeness to wear off. Lancelot Hogben has some swell ideas on the teaching of languages, as well as language-planning, but I don't think Interglossa is likely to attract much attention.

Willmorth has an interesting phrase "where advancement ends and degeneration begins". I don't think you can draw such a line any place in the hierarchy of stefnistic activities. Rather it must be decided in the case of each person on the quality of his work in a particular line.

It would be interesting to know in what passages of Fancyclopedia the fine hands of Ackerman and others are quite apparent to Willmorth.

Laney: "my snide remarks ... generally are snide simply because there is an uncomfortable modicum of truth beneath them". It must be nice to be certain of one's infallibility.

That at last brings us to the latest Vom with the ugh cover ("Deirdre"). I'll be glad to cooperate on the vomthology project, tho summat handicapped by having only 2-1/2 years of Vom here. I trust with this many judges taking part it'll be unnecessary to nominate oneself's contributions. And I presume articles as well as letters are to be considered. Oh oh, I see they're to be handled separately.

The race between Milty and myself this ish (for quantity letter-contributor to Vom) was thrilling, but I find now that since he had a letter in #42, which wasn't included in the tabulation, I never drew even with him. Take it that in the tabulation, Tucker's many postcards regarding his retirement from fandom (which should certainly be included in the Vomthology, in similar manner as they originally appeared, with an introductory note on the circumstance of Chauvenet's declared resignation among others) were not counted one by one. Iron-ic, is it not, that the Dictator of the spwsstfm (Socy for the Prevention of Wire Staples in STF Mags) should become a four-staple man?

Laney's notice of fen's improving tastes is probably true, but it is not quite a linear phenomenon. In 1940, when the study began, we were in the grip of a reaction toward thepros, which produced such things as Ad Astra, a Palmer sounding-board, which involved also an influx of new toddlers, the survivors of whom have now become civilized. Another reaction might produce the same result.

"Afrikaan" is a misnomer, as it refers only to the opposite end of Africa from mine. (But gosh, Juffus, I thot U were always on the opposite end of anything African!) No, I more or less antipated you on the "Black" Speer pun, telling Mike Fern that Afro-FAPAdom would back his actions in the spring crisis. #

Don Thompson declares from 705 Scott St, Alexandria 2, Ia: Ever since VOM #43 arrived, I've been trying to write a letter for "The Mir-

ror of Fandom," worthy of the high traditions of a "4-stapler," but the results have been disheartening. Louisiana in July is neither the place nor the time for literary efforts, however insignificant. Hence, this brief note.

Laney's "critical History...." is excellent; and, rather incredibly, considering our divergent views on many subjects, I find myself agreeing very closely with Fran. Of course, that may be the result of the Louisiana climate in July.

I'm sorry that I won't be able to serve on your "panel of experts." I have only a few issues of VOM with me, for one thing, and for another, I'm unwilling, if not unable, to spend my limited free time on the research which would be required, although, given plenty of time, I would enjoy the assignment. Thanks for implying that I'm qualified for the job, anyway.

Rogers' cover is remarkably good, and conveys the idea perfectly. The letters are good, but suggest nothing in the way of comment.

As a "4-stapler," I really should try to say something intelligent, even in a note, if only to prove that mass-production and quality are not necessarily mutually exclusive--but it is still July in Louisiana. Besides, Milt and Speer have already taken care of that point. #

Last yr's Annish cut up with BOB GIBSON at last--"Somewhere in Europe"--causing this Canadian to comment: Beaumont cover, with figures in a geometric pattern, slightly suggesting some of the AMAZING QUARTERLY title page decorations by Wesso, and strongly a Finlay Cover on FANTASTIC NOVEL (tinted up from a story heading in FFM.) ("The Blind Spot") The ink work is painstaking and effective.

I've been to one British fan meeting, never to any others. The Liebscher letter makes a U.S. one sound like an experience to regret having missed. Added a couple of titles to my booklist, regretting that the authors were not mentioned.

Lot of sense in the Laney letter. Especially the last two paragraphs. So far the problem of filing fanmags has not arisen for me--it probably never will to an extreme degree--I had none before the war. I visualise a box of card folders. Then boxes, and a stack not unlike a filing cabinet.

Can think of things a lot more interesting than black magic for an over-suppressed child to turn to. Unless it had been too specifically forbidden. But the current Tigri-na, as I think I said before, seems more mature.

With all the lists of names the Brewer/Speer letters started somebody should try Friedrick A. Hayek. His book "The Road to Serfdom" is one Planners should note, read and inwardly digest. Anyone else would find it interesting. Might even make them think.

Wonder if there should be a lesson for Searles in the case of Walt Dunkelberger's persecutrix? I've read and appreciate quite a few NUZ FRUM HOME issues, and feel that the meddler should have been bound over to keep the peace, like a neighborhood scold.

"For Sale at Criminal Prices!" aptly titled. I have sixteen of the items listed at a net saving of \$35.10, not counting exchange.

The gentleman on the back cover is gracefully poised, and seems a more distinct personality than his companion. Did he raise the saprophytic vegetation under which she shelters on the front of #38?

Capt. Donn Brazier has something when he asks "When are all those new movies supposed to be sent overseas?" We were under the impression that the U.S. Forces got them. We don't--if they don't, who does?

Anent Wilmoth's bit on bibliography - from what I've seen it looks as though everybody's list has a few titles no-one he contacts has down. J.M. Rosenblum has as many books as he had titles when disillusioned. And Michael has plenty to look for. My list is four or more times the size of my collection, and I haven't been able to check over a comprehensive U.S. list. Time prevented perusal of one Michael had.

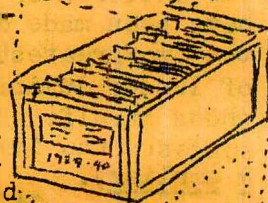
Laney's "Some Sociological Aspects of Fandom" is the best and clearest article on the subject I have seen. On his showing I am definitely a fan, with perhaps a touch of actifan, but distinctly not a stefnist. Probably never will be.

This end of the war looks to be on its last legs, and the the news of conferences in action seem to foreshadow the tragic end of all other such conferences. A bunch of tight groups, each of which is determined to build its own plan into a rigid system for the world. A rigid system requires enforcement, which necessitates an enforcer, and breed opposition. What is wanted in the plan for the future is flexibility, better fluidity. But try and get a planner to see it. #

British servifan JULIAN PARR: 38--Cover Excellent craftsmanship, vivid imagination, but rather juvenile in its man-like robots, Buck-Rogers style futuremen (I've always hoped future-clothes to be more loose than they are today - eventually skirts, or at least, tennis-shorts, & shirts: = Things to Come film-costumes very good, tho' criticised, I find, as 'cissified' = 'pansy-boys' = etc = all this cuts no ice with me)

So much care was obviously taken on cover detail that, for perfection, the central nude should have had her gams /dont accept this - showing off his knowledge of US slang./ wholly stippled (as those better nudes above) = the 6 o'clock scene was excellent, the nudes were good but unconvincing (a fault? darned if I know!) - full marks for the whole when I consider the cartoon on contents page - big!

Rooster= his Slanvention ^a/c has a coupla points wherein I feel my separateness



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 incidental with fairly good taste & love of non-violence, I support such a practice up to the hilt - tho' I'm not dogmatic, & need the other point of view. Esp when I read Dunkelberger's tale of interference & open opposition--this is the problem--"What methods of reform are justifiable?" My suggestion - only such that leave the situation - on the whole - improved. naive, isn't it!

Dunkelberger speaks of Freedoms in Fandom, after objecting to the 'worst side' that fans seem to present: tho' I think the word Freedom covers a multitude of sins: complete freedom would mean, eventually, the survival of the least sensitive--for freedom (absolute) would apply to any fan (man) who need not subscribe to the respect for the freedom of others. No, freedom is really only a relative word.

Bloch is unbeatable.

McPherson

son is very very poor - in all aspects.

Bloch's appeal for an Ackermate leads me forthwith to suggest a little propaganda for the artificial insonation method - tho' that brings into the picture the problem of the 'parental' influence 4sq should have over the Ackerspawn. It seems unreal to consider his direct influence over them all possible (or even desirable--we need a little variety). Apart from a Bargain Sale whereby his young could be had by swapping for pro-mags or nudes, each fan having one kid (at least) to rear---I can suggest nothing myself...

Gus Willmorth's amateurish & insincere attempts to justify the spiritualist variety of religious experience is very poor -- these words "the gods" "the infinite" "the infinity of the eternal creator" "vibrations" - are meaningless to myself & to Willmorth. There has been nothing to show that the series of "successful reachings for the gods" has given any results which are in tune with each other -- so how "in tune with the infinite"? (How I hate those expressions!) (But whoa! I'd better apologize for "egoism" and "isolationist" -- revolting words I know, but unavoidable)

And in his attempt at excusing the dirty social record of many religions is nonsense, for the churches have never considered themselves morally or ethically submissive to human law, but to divine law: therefore, whatever contemporary fashions in morality, the churches should have followed their own.....

Bob Mastell, the most pathetic, poignant, memory-jerking, & amusing letter in the issue.

Roy Johnson is well-meaning, but I'm sure many slen already enjoy 'music and jive' as he puts it, without his prompting. And I'm also sure that the pleasure a musician derives from following the score (from interest in technique or methods apart from meaning or results) is of less value than the pleasure derived from the music itself (partly 'cos so detached from main current of humanity's life, partly 'cos it depends on arbitrary traditions or 'fashions' in musical conventions or rules which are not fundamental to man's makeup (as is the general appreciation of music itself) partly 'cos it discourages appreciation of alien types of music (oriental, or native, or atonal, or polyrhythmic --if it doesn't resemble the conventional western classical traditional type) ----

The pleasure derived from the music itself needs only patient & open & repeated hearings for appreciation - the philosophical aspect, Roy calls it.

However much I am sceptical about his "Escape" concerto - I am willing to wait.... #

HARRIS M. LIEBSCHER, JR. Author-Columbine-Cricket inquires Dear Fan Ackermaney: How much are a sub to your stolling fmzine - VOMOLYTE

WALT DUNKELBERGER, Fanews' publisher of 1443 - 4 Ave S, Fargo, N Dak, states: In VOM #43 I noted a couple of letters by the gentleman known as Jack Speer. One of these went into a great deal of legal phraseology agreeing with my original statements concerning this "censorship" discussion. I am very happy to note that Speer and I now agree on the situation. True, Jack has only talked himself around until we're now on the same side, but I refuse to change sides "just for the sake of an argument". Welcome to my side of the fence, Jack. Jack mentions the difference between Army & Postal "censors" and asks a question concerning the situation. Jack, the question is yours to answer---you can have it. As you brought up the question of Army censorship I think it only fair to let you have it. The entire discussion had been confined to regular censorship by Postal Authorities until you injected the Military angle.

So once again I say -- Welcome to my side of the Fence, Jack! We are in complete accord, apparently. #

HARRIS M. LIEBSCHER, JR. Author-Concubine-Critical asks How much are a sub to your sterling fmzine - LE VOMBIE ?

E E GREENLEAF JR, 1303 Mystery St, New Orleans 19, La, puts us on the trail of Cthulhu as he writes: It might interest you slanish ones to know that I know of a place where you could get Lovecraft's "Outsider and Others and Beyond the Wall of Sleep" -- \$60.00 for the two. Right here in good ole New Orleans. At the Coronet Book Shop, to be exact. 622 St. Peter Street, Right in the Vyukes Carry. (Hey! I know a place--ryt here in Hollywood--where U can get the same deal for \$50! Ryt in the Dweller's Garage. 236-1/2 N New Hampshire. Ask for FJLovecraft.)

Frankly, I feel half-tompted to start a fight with Rothman, but on second thought I find that I don't feel like going to the trouble of noticing his ravings.

Ye gods and ye young fish-hooks! Another S-N-9 row over something! This time over postal & military censorship

or some such stuff! Just so the Vomaidens can get by, what'n th' hell's the difference? Now I'm all mixed up. Ackerman, Speer, and Dunk, if this stuff gives me a nervous breakdown, you guys are going to pay the psychiatrist that straightens me out. Catch. But, for the time being, call me Napoleon. Yippee!

Where are all the nudes that Vom is supposed to be packed with? (U mean that were "so round, so firm, so fully packed"? I'm afraid they're all to be found, now, illustrating that fleshy fantasy, "Sinister Derriere" by Eric Frank Rustle-Bustle.)

A pat on the back to Rogers for the cover. Man-oh-man! There are a couple of girls in my neighborhood who could have posed for the girl on the cover (which one, the one made of honey or the one made of metal? In other words, are they bee-girls or girls with iron constitutions?), but they don't go around dressed like that--damn it!

I have invented a new Lovecraftian deity or rather, entity---Kaa-Jhahn, the Demon of the Bayous. #

HARRIS M. LIEBSCHER, JR. Udder - Cockerel - Crissum wants to know Dear Fan Liebackerman: How much are a sub to your swirling fmzine - VOMICLEER ?

From Casablanca CPL. GUS WILLMORTH rises to the ~~editorial~~ clarion call for correspondence: So VoM is in need of someone to write a letter to her? Preferably an intelligent one, I presume, but then we all cannot be intellectual can we? At least that is what your correspondents keep telling us, and who am we to argue with the holy fan's bible? Surely we cannot write a letter blossoming with flowery phrases and tinkling with little tinkles of wit, but never let it be said that VoM was failed in a crisis like this, so we will add our little drip to the flood that will undoubtedly pile up around the doors of Metropolitan Station when fankind discovers that its mirror is lacking in stuff and junk to reflect.

Well, first things first, so we'll make a comment upon the V-43 that shows its face (in the last stages of jaundice) here before us. Sadly, I lack a file of VoMs from which to choose the best letters or articles of the last six-seven years or the most lurid nudes, but if you'd like an opinion for the cover of the annie VoM I recommend that litho gatefold (Butterfly Girl by Paule, 'way back in #14). Should we start lobbying for our choices directly to the judges or are they going to be allowed to make a completely unbiased selection all by themselves? Horrible thought. Now we shall have to reread letters by Rothman, Speer, DRSmith, DREvans, Tucker, Perdue, Lowndes, Liebscher, Thompson, Warner, and/or Widner. Well, I hope those guys with so many letters to choose from amongst their repertoire will get a headache trying to decide which bucket of blood was the reddest.

Fran Laney carries VoM through another month on its back. This is getting to be a regular occurrence nowadays. We owe a lot to Laney. Someday we'll pay him back. Heheheheheh. This is progressively worse. How can even VoM print such trash? (I mean my letter of course; the fact that werewolf Laney was the subject of this paragraph before is a matter of infinite disregard.) Like Laney. Incidentally, on this poll that was held, Fran, did Tucker get into the four staple bracket on the strength of that series of postals he wrote quitting fandom???? Here I quibble.

So those guys are going to get copies of VoM with four staples in 'em, eh? Well, no one can do things to me like that. I've got a stapler of my own, and by golly, my VoM's are going to have FIVE staples in, so there! ! How do you like that, my friends? Four staples, indeed! Me and Ike, that's what. Right in there with those old five, yessiree... (Gus can't be talking about his 5 senses, as he seems to have taken leave of them!)

I see by Rothman that I had a letter in VoM. Also Widner gives me a comment in the NFFan. I would like to see this letter myself. It must have been edited something terrifically. It weren't like that when I took it out of the typer. Why, the paper wasn't even brown around the edges. Nor the paint broiling off the typer. All I want to know is, who did the rewrite, so we can get together on a basic percentage for doing all of my stuff over.

I burn with Jealousy over Rothman and Bridges and Cunningham getting into Paris. For two years a resident of England and never once did I clap an eye on gay Parcoe. One quick trip over Normandy in a B-17 is the closest I got to the continent. This is the sort of thing that hurts me in this sightseeing tour I'm taking. Never do I get to go to all the places I didn't even get to see all the fans in England let alone those many who were serving in armies elsewhere. I weep.

To Speer: Sure, I give you my word I said howdy to the Berbers for you, but as yet I cannot savvy what he said about it. Very strange people, berbs. It is a source of wonder to me how they get some of those noises to sound intelligible. A'a, indeed.

Well, I see that VoM is suffering from a durth of original ideas again. We just had an original idea a few months ago and look what it did to the amount of letters being recieved. That is the trouble with people. Everyone talks until someone says something original and interesting and then they all stop to listen. Guess everyone is listening now. Hey, MOM!

But you needn't go looking in this direction. I'M not going to pull any original ideas out of the hat. Someone might think that I'm not able to do any better than what I did if I did it and maybe it wouldn't be such a good idea, and people wouldn't think so much of me anymore. That is to say, if they ever think of me at any time anyway. Ol' Confucius had the right idea anyway: A wise man remains silent and is thought a fool, whereas a fool opens his mouth and removes all doubt. That's me, OK, always with the mouth open. #

FRAN LANEY, our Augean Staple man: In #42, Raym's "Case History of a Fan" turned out to be extremely interesting. While I deplore his all-inclusive idealism, which I consider to be ill-founded and likely to lead him to extremely bitter disillusionment sooner or later, the sincere candor with which he discussed his fan experiences resulted in a revealing human document, and one which for some cause or another left me with a mingled emotion of sympathy and admiration. No matter how wrong I feel Washington is in some of the basic points of his philosophy, I must perforce admire the soul-searching which has led him not only to develop a personal philosophy but to evolve along with it. If he is able to continue his evolving and does not become side tracked and stagnated too soon, another decade or so should see him a man in several thousand so far as his personal development is concerned.

In passing I should like to ask Raym the criteria upon which he will choose the "classics of literature" to which he intends to devote the bulk of his reading time. I believe the value of a large proportion of the so-called "classics" is open to question. Far too many of these works are too hopelessly dated--in writing style, in science, in religious viewpoint, in social outlook, and a score of other ways--to be of much value other than as literary curiosa. This is not to say that certain of these works should not be part of the content of the well-rounded mentality, nor to imply that the only reading matter worthy of attention is that published in the past few decades. It is reasonably obvious that a work must have certain intrinsic merit in order to survive; on the other hand, one must not overlook the sad fact that a sizeable portion of the "classics of literature" are still in print because they are "public domain" and thus can be published cheaper than if some author were getting royalties and because such a huge number of copies are absorbed each year by poseurs who wish to give the impression that they are "cultured, my deah".

It seems to me that Raym's twin desires to "gain as much knowledge as possible...about just what had gone before, and what is happening in the present" and reading "the classics of literature" are rather incompatible. While such works as Pepys' DIARY or Cellini's AUTOBIOGRAPHY will do their bit towards gratifying both aims together, I cannot see the point of reading "classic" American history by Washington Irving or George Bancroft in preference to the modern works of such historians as the Beards, nor the need of wading through the theology of Milton or the musty tediousness of Pope when one can read George Sterling. Or why bother with the chauvinism and archaic social viewpoints of Kipling when there are books around like STRANGE FRUIT, or ULYSSES, or the Studs Lonigan stuff? Mankind is bound to change, one way or the other, and too many fictional works reflect a momentary state of society that is either gone or on the way out. And in fields such as economics, sociology, history, psychology, and the sciences generally, few books more than a decade old are valid. Classics or no, 99% of the books on the three first subjects are wholly worthless, because they were written in ignorance of modern psychology and technology and were based chiefly on a mixture of medieval theology and blind prejudice. The only exceptions to this (except of course for the slowly growing handful of works written very recently and based on the scientific method) are unedited diaries and autobiographies and similar source material. These can be read by the modern and interpreted in the light of present-day knowledge.

So step warily in that library, Raym! #

ERNIE MESLE JR of The Advertising Clinic, 2313-1/2 Stone St, Saginaw, Mich, asks: What in the hell's a stefnist? Am I right in assuming that tem refers to a fan who eats, drinks, breathes, and lives stf. to the exclusion of all else? I like the term.

The stefnist feels unequal, and in the pursuit of anything and anybody that wears a space-ship, he finds a psuedo-equality in a psuedo-society into which he presumably fits. It is my opinion that stef enthusiasts are predominantly of an intellectual type; their main fault lies, however, in the fact that they are intellectually untutored and mentally undisciplined. "Tutored?" Yes--in some technical field--any fan can spiel off a few names and some data concerning the macrocosm, which puts him in a supposedly "higher" bracket than the average person. Sure! That's right! But - the average person doesn't give a damn about a planet he'll never reach (or will he?)

Stef-mechanics cannot be well expressed in technical accuracy except by a technician or a body of technicians---but the Stef theory itself: the abstractions which bind, attract, and cause Stefdom: that is where the bulk of the fans come in. Once Blow Fan catches the lingo and acquires some familiarty with the (theoretical) Atlas-Gazeteer of fandom, he immediately declares himself a Stef-critic, which combines philosophy, psychology, sociology, geo-politics, political science, logic, metaphysics, semantics, and what have you but offers no technical standards by which to compare. Is it a new science? How to improve conditions everywhere (in five easy lessons)? Is it a new philosophy--From dream to reality (without the expenditure of effort)? Or is it perhaps a simple method of sounding intelligent and well-cultured when you really aren't? Lay it on boys, I love arguments!

(I am a married fan with a 5 month old Slan-ette.)

What in the blazes is wrong with occult discussions? I consider a belief in telepathy to be the prime mover of occult philosophy---how many fans disbelieve its possibility? Volumes of discussion on occult subjects can be written (not every occult volume is written by Blavatsky!) and given paragraph will prove more solidly sensible than the rocket-ship vs. Paris cognac tripe that typifies younger fandom. In fact, the occult is a very exacting field of study--try pursuing it without losing your "psychic balance" #

Skedded for Vom #46, soon to follow, are letters from LANEY...PARR...GIBSON...GALLET...ROSCO WRIGHT...and more MESLE.

Fantasticovers earnestly solicited! "30"