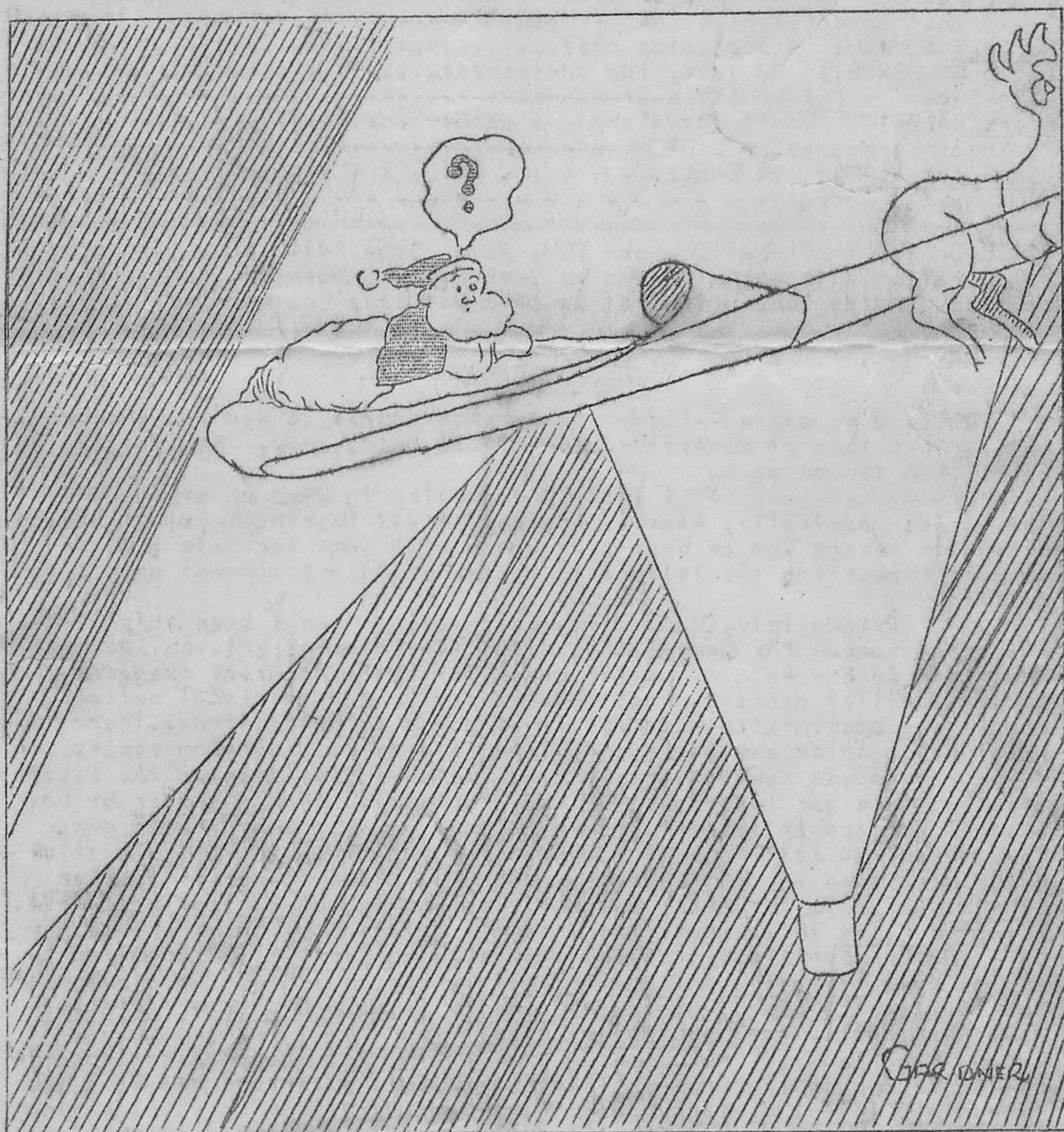


WOM



27 - 10c



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VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, aka VOM, #27. Sep. '43. 10c. Produced in colaberation with World Fandom by Jack Erman & Morojo. Publisht often as poss. Adres 'Snafucius' at Bx 6475 Met Stn, Los Angeles 14, Cal...

HELLO, GANG

WELL, a yr ago we--Forry the Ack-Ack--"went to war". We never got farther than Ft MacArthur, aproxy 30 miles away. So far. So good. Rap tap on wood.

I left LA expecting to wind up anywhere in the world: Australia, Alaska, Afrika. I was leaving Morojo & Bovard behind to manage Vom as best they coud, with some inchoate idea in mind of forwarding the letters to me for editng & comment once I got settled.

Paradoxically, Vom mytve apeard offner had I been shipt farther from home. For here is the situation that has arisen: War has brot fans to Los Angeles by the gross, & that's no gross exaggeration. The list gross & gross! Whereas a yr ago the local outlook was plenty pessimistic--everybody was going to be drafted...there wasnt going to be any Pacificon...how woud we keep up room rent?... there was no use publishing any more...etc--today, despite the fact a flag hangs in our luxurious NEW HQS proclaiming that eighteen of Los Slangelesios are in the armd forces, the socy is going greater guns than ever. No less than 28 attended the mtg of Aug 26, which I think was 2 more than the time bfor! Member Mel Brown is publishing Fan Slants & a 2d tm for FAPA; Daugherty is working on Fan for next FAPA, has Fandomania in the current; Morojo's Guteto & my "Mom" are in the Mailing; Chamberlain is considering reviving Catalyst; Bronson working on next Fantasite & Wudgy + Fanotes; Crozetti planning a pub; Sam Russell is on a Fapub; Joquel's Coventry is out; Shangri-L'Affaires goes on &, well, gad! publishing didnt die!

But the greatest contri-buting factor to the procrastination of Vom's appearance has been the Incredible influx of fans. Some have been here from as short a time as 60 mins. to 60 days. In effect it's proven a perpetual Pacificon. With the establishment of our clubroom, it came to pass there was rarely a nite passt but what at least a half doz. fans coud not be found congregating here. Now my thots are beginning to flow thick & fast & I don't noe what to get down first. I like the army so little that any time I can escape I'd like to do nothing better than spend

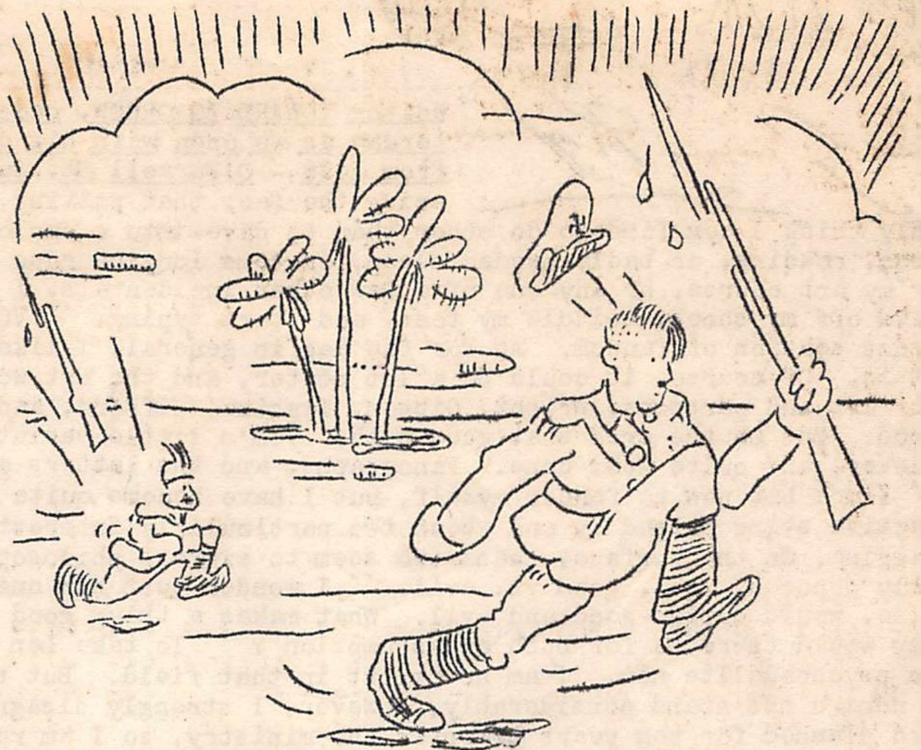
my time in the company of stiffs. But not tied down with something specific to do. Just help on this mag, an article for that one, off to a show with the gang, down to the beach with the crowd; work if in the mood, but probly more often relax & just enjoy the gang's company. So I grant U I havent workt as consistently on Vom as I could have. I havent had the drive. I guess I don't particularly have to apologize...nobody woud expect me to? And Morojo has ever had enuf to do without urging me about getting my part of the mag done so she could do hers; The stenciling & mimeoing.

And to revert to what I was going

to say: And even if U did get a pass & arrived uptown tired but but determined to work--it was already 7:30 & U had to leave for the army again at 4:30 in the morning...to exercise & drill & do a day's legwork & brainwork on the campaper & mebbe not get to bed til 10:30 that nite--& lo & behold who should U find here but I e w Martin or MISKE!

Well, are U going to stuff yourself away in a little cubicle & work on your fanmag & miss this precious opportunity to gab with a fan? If U'd "keddy on" under such circumstances,

I admit U're a better fanmag editor than I am, Gunga Djinn! And that situation has hapnd, I don't noe how many times. That I can think of offhand, we've been visited by: Mark Reinsberg...Blaine Dunmire...I e w Martin...Miske...Paul Gerbracht of the Pgh Fsy Socy...Robt Shinn...Doug Blakeley...Tom Slate...Dalvin Coger...Rod Allen...& if Ron Clyne walks in here today--they say he's in town--well...! Then there's that class that comes & stays awhile, or appears intermittently enuf to be "welcomed back", such as: Rustebar...Milty...Art Barnes...Franklyn Brady. And there are those who arrive for good, but are welcomed in the usual way: Jimmy Kepner..."Buns" Benson...Mike Fern"...Sam Russell. Probly, in some category, I've forgotten someone quite important somewhere along the line. And I'm not certain this is constituting a satisfactory "editorial". Then there are visiting servifan mems, like T/4 Bob Hoffman, PFC Russ Hodgkins & Cpl Gus Willmorth (bfor he went across). I guess U get the general idea. Ofcourse, any time Waverly Bronson comes is an occasion (with a Capital O-o-ohh!!!)

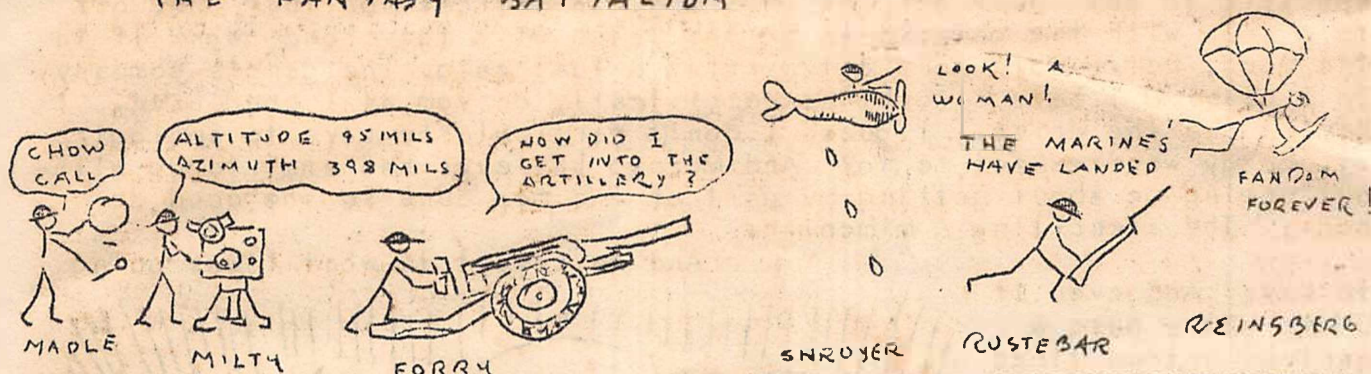


WE ISS DER MASTER RACERS

FEATHERSTONE

Now that I've talkt away most the available stencil space, I'll have to make a number of quick comments: 116 cyps of this Vom will contain a Wright interpretation of Merritt's "Face in the Abyss", sorry that's all there are, & U can think your thanx over to Eng. & Cpl Gus Willmorth who sponsord the insert. " While they last, souvenir envelopes bearing specimens of Tigrina's script or, when they give out, typing, will be included. " Anent our cover: It was obviously intended for our nonexistent Xmas number. Then we thot we'd run it as a joke in Apr. Now it's like it or lump it! " I nue it, I nue it! CLYNE came in...with Daugherty...followd by Morojo...& Brady stoppt by to tell me he'd be seeing me as an inductee at MacArt...& Paul Freehafer's put in an apearance to put out his FAPA contrib...Yerke's here too...& thank ghu I'm practicly at the bottom of the pg--impossible to concentrate in this pandemonium! Ron sez he'll stay in LA. He's brot stacks of Ronderful originals with him. Dark Brown & dirty Daugherty have already grabd some, but Ron's promist art for Vom too; so a new era of illustrations dawns for Shangri-LA. " In conclusion, I hope to heck to get Vom out on a quarterly basis from now on, but...huh, Morojo, those mags for the Cosmos Club? Yes, Clyne, U can come over to my place tomoro: Claudegler's going to be there; Don Rogers, too. Say, mustnt forget to bring those bks over for bibliophile Dye. And that guy in Frisco who wants tmz--Bill Watson. Now these 50 cyps of the Alert to mail. My bro will be here on furlo next wk. Mumble-bumble splrtsk & kstrips. Y'see how 'tis!!

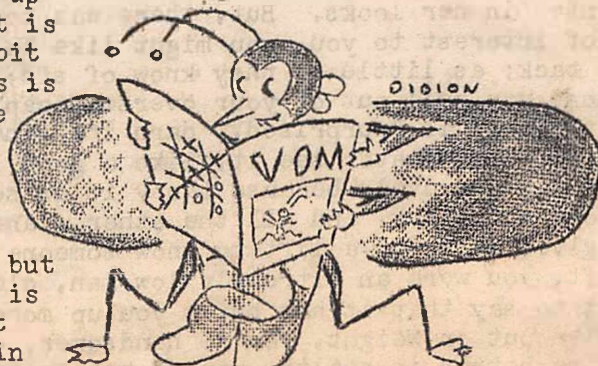
THE FANTASY BATTALION



Jimmy Kefner editor TOWARD TOMORROW, causes us to turn tord yesterday as we open with his day-bfor-Xmas message from 1495 - Q'Farrell St, San Francisco Cal: Considering the fact that writing a letter to VOM is the only thing I can find to do other than to dive into a carload of urgent correspondence, reading, or badly needed sleep, or some long overdue work on my own fanmag, or my art course, or any one of a few other incidentals, I guess I might as well take off my shoes, twiddle my toes, and start typing. "VOM gives a damn good cross section of fandom. As for the mag in general, I like it pretty much the way it is. Of course, it could be a lot neater, and the art work could be better. As for art and cartoons, Wright, Gibson, Tigrina, Gifford, and a couple others are good. But Oh the crud that goes with! Tom's little variation in the last ish was clever, and quite well done. Fanographs, and the letters are always interesting. "I'm a bit new to fandom myself, but I have become quite interested in the respective stirs raised by and about two particularly interesting fans. Moffatt and Tigrina. On the surface, these two seem to express philosophies that are diametrically opposed, i.e., good vs. evil. "I wonder just how one of them, or anyone else, would define good and evil. What makes a thing good or evil. What authority would there be for such an assumption? "To take Len first, I do not propose to psychoanalyze him. I am no expert in that field. But there are a few questions. I admire his stand considerably, however, I strongly disagree with him. I myself had planned for ten years to enter the ministry, so I am rather acquainted with the stock arguments of the religionist. Surprising how ridiculous these arguments become, once you open your mind a bit. I wonder if Len has ever compared, with a somewhat unbiased mind, the various teachings of denominations or religions other than his own? Would it not be well to make sure that one's own (usually inherited) religion is really better before swallowing same lock, stock, and barrel? All religions claim a definite authoritarian basis, without which they must flounder. Most denominations of Christendom claim to take the Bible, without question, as their basis. But I wonder if any Christian could give a thorough definition of his creed that would not conflict with known fact, the Bible, or the very creed itself? I have yet to find any creed that is not blindly narrow, illogical, contradictory, or vague. "And now, Tigrina. The gal affords me quite a few pleasant chuckles. Personally, I don't go for black (or any other color) magic. I neither believe in it nor favor it. But I do admire Tigrina, because she represents a widespread revolt from orthodoxy and tradition. But some of the rebels do go to the strangest extremes. I wonder if Miss Satan's position is really evil for the sake of evil? I don't care for that. Hope Tigrina hasn't reverted so far to the dark ages that she really believes that tripe. "As for God, gods, spirits, magic, etc., let it be known that I do not deny the existence of such. There may be supernatural forces at work in the world. But I doubt it. "Now about these nudes in VOM. Well, why not? Are so many of the fans still steeped in the taboos of our parents that they blush at the sight? Of course, most of the VOMITNUDES look so amateurish it's pitiful. As for my friend Gibson's comments on nudism in #26, Bah! I think that Gibson would find that most advocates of nudism would not resent male nudes. If a person wants pornography, there are better places to get it. Few pornography seekers would have the "face" to go in for nudism. Another thing: nudism ordinarily does not oppose the use of clothes for protective purposes. If Joe will look in S&H, he will find pictures of quite a few nudes with shoes. Yes, use clothes for any sort of protective purposes, or for decorative purposes, if you will, but for "modesty shields". Ha! Will some one please give me a rational explanation of modesty. As for Joe's reference to the "I'll strip if you'll strip" attitude of nudists, I again say, "Bah!" Now about the VOM supplement for November. Good for you Joe! Here's where Mr Gibson and I really agree. The guy can really do some straight thinking at times. Of course fandom means something in the world. Even though fans disagree strongly on every subject in the books... so what? That's what we want. A group who do a little independent thinking about the future. Don't complain because the number is too small. No age has an overwhelming number of thinkers. Doesn't take much yeast to leaven the bread. No, I don't think fandom will suddenly ever take over the reins of power and authority. That is neither necessary nor practical. I doubt if fandom could ever poll a large enough number of adherents for such action. And it is to be remembered that fandom is not of one mind. We look little to fan organizations for any influence on the world. The influence of a few independent and far-seeing minds, no matter what their difference, is fandom's gift to Terra Futura. "PLANS FOR SLANS - - Eh? Good idea. I can sympathize with the unknown fan who had the religious parent problem. As for me, I had gone to church for thirteen years without missing a Sunday, and had been extremely active during all this time in the Church. All this time, my parents were quite oblivious to religion. But I had begun to think a bit for myself, and after three or four years, the freethought came suddenly to a head, and I quit the church. Before, my sister went with me. Now, she is quite glad to sleep late on the first day of the week. So, my father has

suddenly become quite interested in religion, not that he wants it for himself. He will have none of it personally, but he wants me to be religious again. And he blames me for "dragging" my sister from the church. So, I would be quite in favor of "bringing up the little slannies in the nurture and admonition of fandom." Another suggestion. Don't know if fandom could seing it, but it would certainly be helpful if the schools could be led to take a more favorable attitude toward Stfiction. It's a little disgusting to even think of the many school teachers who will go into raptures over Poe's fantasies, Verne's prophesies, and Wells' tales of the future, yet they narrowly despise any modern fantasy or science fiction. Not that they have ever read any of it, so that they could denounce it with authority. So the reader of science fiction is cordially ridiculed by the average teacher and pupil in the schools. The situation certainly needs correcting.

"A MESSAGE FROM MOFFATT", 419 Summit Ave, Ellwood City, Pa: THE COVER " Always glad to see fotos of my fellow-fans. Cunningham didn't look like I imagined him, but Schmarje did. Isn't Tom Daniel a handsome stfan! Ahhhhh! Nanek! Don't shoot--I read (and enjoy) your poetry! " TABLE OF CONTENTS " Humorousasusual...-...-...- " EDITORIAL " Interestingasusual. " CARTOONS " Humorousasusual. Gifford's takes the prize, of course. " VOMAN BY WRIGHT " Clever idea. Slitely hoomerous. Well drawn, except that his left arm is in unatural position. " THE LETTERS " BEB: So you were 'Tulta', eh? Glad to see you submitted it only as an experiment to get reactions from Vom-readers. " LANEY: 'tis better to go along with Uncle than to let the Japanazies make us say 'uncle', or somethin'.... " PONG: I've been gyped! My grotesque cover(#25,VOM) wont wink(not even once) at me! " ECCO: I agree with you re Schmarje. " DEAN: Any number of persons can accomplish a lot working on one project if they co-operate. (Stfans and the NFFF, for instance) " BROWN: Yeh, fandom needs horse-sense....a bit of team-work. Hi Yo Stfandom! NEEDHAM: Uh-huh, dames and stuff can replace fandom and sft but as for me I prefer the latter two. And even if Cupid should strike ljm, I still think I would continue as a fan, anyhow. I'm a confirmed bachelor at present. " MOFFATT: Laconic last time, but not so in this Message, eh wot? " GIBSON: I dont believe in unnecessary clothing. Neckties,frinstance. Would be OK with me if the styles should change to comfortable robes, shorts, etc. Of course for winter wear here in the east, heavy clothes are needed but they dont have to be so uncomfortable, thinketh I. " SMITH (D.R.hummmmm, coincidence! Two Smiths in fandom...one DR, one EE and two Evans... one DR, one EE...): Heh!! Ask Acky to publish a letter and he does. Ask him not to publish a letter and he does anyhow.... " MAC/DONALD: Re the censord work: Hah! Think this is one on you,4E! Dont think MAC/DONALD said a naughty word. For enlightenment read in The New Testament,Acts the 9th chapter, the 5th.verse. Suggest you read all the chapter.Also see Acts, the 26th chapter,with special reference to 14th verse. (To think Vom woud ever be printing references to The New Testament!?!?!--Morajo) -- TIGRINA WAS: Clever thing, ending the Perdue report just as Final Solution was about ot appear. Just like the serials.(Movie, radio,etc).Now we will all have to re-new our subs to VOM. " LIEBSCHER: Why do fans have to be so tough on Schmarje? Even if he was a drip(and I dont think so), why make an issue out of it? Fandom needs Christianity. " SHAW: Think the Schenectadsex problem same in many places. Young'uns either too good or too bad. Results, I think, of wrong kinds 'fetchins up'.....Either parents were too strict or not strict enough. " SCHMARJE: What can I say but agree that VOM's OK, that fans are humane, that Merrit and Smith are nice guys and talkers, that Chicago authors write for Amazing, etc..... (If there's another Chicago Fire, blame it on Pong.....) " BRONSON: Don't like to see gals smoke, or guys for that matter. Reason? Smoking isnt a healthy pastime. And if it doesnt harm you, you are setting a bad example for your 'weaker brother' who may smoke because you do..and it may harm him...physically, mentally...mabbee spiritually. " THE SUPPLEMENT " LANEY: If more actifans wrote to the pros with constructive criticism they mught set an example for readers, make actifans out of them. The NFFF Publicity will inform many stf readers that there is such a thing (place?) as fandom. Mebbe 2500 is a small number but tis enough to make others take notice if all of that 2500 gettogether and co-operate. " GIBSON: Dont think your idea re the spreading of fandom's discussion...reaching the "outside' world" is too fantastic. S'possible..... " TO THE FAN WITH THE RELIGIOUS PROBLEM: Why make your parents think you believe that which you really dont believe? Why not get it off your chest? Be truthful.It'll make you feel a lot better. If the relegion followed by your parents doesnt appeal to you, try to find a belief that does appeal to you. Dont be a hypocrit. Read Christ's teachings in the New Testament. There you have a belief for free, independent people to follow. Christ was not(and is not) a harsh, strict master. We must do our best to live Christian lives, naturally but he doesnt expect us to be perfect. We are only humane. (Kalling Koenig!) Tell that to your parents. I dont like the town and state I live in, very much either. But in my effort to live a Christian life I'll put up with it till I am able to move elsewhere. It is snowing outside now. Anymore I dont care a bit for winter weather. One of my main ambitions is to move to the west, where I originally came from. My father died when I was a baby. My mother doesnt dominate me,being a Christian woman. She doesnt care too much for stf but doesnt try to stop me from reading it. She is sorry to see so many atheists in fandom, but doesnt try to stop me from reading it. She is sorry to see so many atheists in fandom, but knows that they cant change my firm belief in God. Suggest you show this to your parents. Make a clean breast of it,chum...you'll feel better and if your parents love you like they should they'll think better of you for it. " PLANS FOR SLANS: A good idea to raise up your kids to be broad-

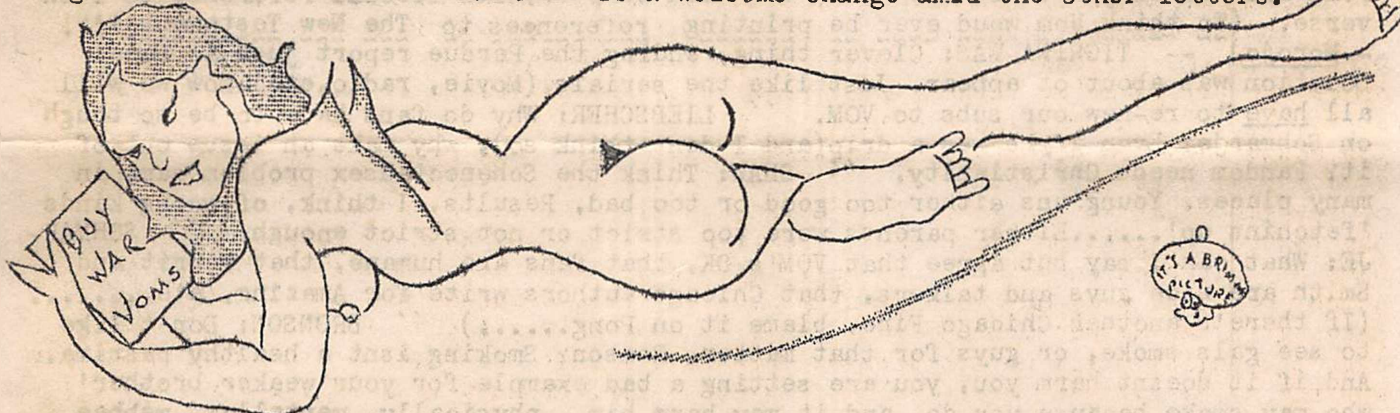


mindful and clear, clean thinkers...but don't prejudice them against religion. One of the most disgusting suggestions I've ever heard. Here is my belief: Teach kids Christianity. To be a true Christian they must: (1) believe in GOD, (2) believe that Christ is God's Son, (3) follow Christ's teachings. If all the kids in America today were "brought up" thusly the 'world of tomorrow' which they will inhabit will be a cleaner, peaceful place. Who can deny it. (WE can! Without going into an essay on the subject, let us quietly say we in our combined 65 yrs of consideration are thoroughly convinced the church is the smirch of the earth & anything ecclesiastical an affront to human dignity, freedom & intelligence. To be read with expression: We think religion stinks. ---Ackermorojo) The simple teachings of Christ can be understood and followed by any normal child. The beauty and simplicity of Christianity makes for a better world to live in. So why teach your kids atheism? (For the salvation of their immortal souls, naturally!) Why not have happy children? And thus a happy world. ((Who said we'd teach them atheism? Teach them just good commonsense & let it go at that. Teach them to be good for their own personal welfare--"good" to include high moral principles, careful consideration, speed, accuracy, perseverance, integrity, inquisitiveness, healthy skepticism, self-confidence & diplomacy. Faith, Hope & Charity, the tenets of Christianity, as good qualities are doubtful. Faith is misleading. It may get U into trouble. A knowledge of human behavior is needed instead. Hope retards progress. It leads one to neglect the practical problems of existence. An interest or, better, a diversity of interests in life is needed, instead. Charity is conducive of indolence in the recipient. It creates a feeling of inferiority & makes improvement a less necessary accomplishment. Sharp constructive criticism might spur the delinquent to worthwhile existence. However, gregarious instinct has well-provided us with these qualities so be not dismayed--those of U who consider them good. --Morojo))

rote from 26 Edward St, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent.

Julian Parr a RAFian, England:

When Anton Ragatzy forwarded VOM to me, he remarked about the cover. "Perhaps her face really was like that!" (The Bellas, Aug 42) Also, I agree with him - it is the only weak point in a fine drawing finely reproduced. In fact, I have a distinct liking for nudes of that quality. Come again! Roy Tackett's "racial & class hatred or distinction" could be detailed by one word - selfishness. Who was it, I wonder, who said that patriotism was "selfishness multiplied by population." Hear! hear! to much-needed editorial comment on Sam Youd's terrorist letter. Disagree with Romo30 about writing -- 1st requirement of writing is that it fulfill its function - legibility. Within the bounds of legibility only is individual idiosyncrasy advisable. "As obvious as hell" isn't a very good simile, ecco, you know. Chauvenet & Milt & some others rescue your VOM from insignificance. Their seriousness is a welcome change amid the other letters.



The Fanova of 720 10 St, Clarkston, Wn, who puts out the xln't ACOLYTE, hight FRAN LANEY, & rote: #25 is really a rather tasty little Vom-Vom, in spite of the numerous Vom-bastic letters it contains. The cover is particularly massive, but where in 'ell are the famous green specs? (Verdure really like to noe?) Seriously though, I did enjoy VOM, in spite of the fact that the mailman tore it all to shreds putting it in our box. My copy now has almost as much scotch tape as it does paper! The general idea of VOM seems to me a good one, though I agree with Sam Russell that the possibilities are no end abused by some of the more irresponsible fans. As a forum and free-discussion center, there is no limit to VOM's potentialities, but many of the letters are so utterly trivial and pointless that I wonder why they should be run at all. Don't mind me, though---I'm just a scur-puss at heart anyway.

While she sojourned in DC, "BEB" (now returned to LA) rote the following, one sick day. Present adres, 1119-1/2 S Kenmore: Now comes it VOM, woo-woo! Foist, de cover, as Schmarje would say. I was extremely glad to see what Naneck looks like, finally. I am very fond of the lass's poetry and sketches, and not at all disappointed in her looks. But, there was too much white background to the cover. If it is of interest to you, you might like to know that VOM has been all around the office and back; as little as they know of sfc, they still know VOM exists. Gad, 4e, the things you pull out of your overseas cap! Never in all my life was I more surprised---the word is "surprised", darn it!--than to see your reference to me with Laney's letter. Did Weaver see it, like a good little boy? I knew Laney would meet (mete) with his approval, because Laney is as serious about science-fiction as 4e and Tulta, Morojo and Naneck, and all the other slans. (I blush!) But what is most important, it gives a fellow a lift to know someone is rooting for him and when you hit the draft, you were an extremely low man, old boy. While we're around the draft, I want to say that it has built you up more than one way. Physically, you're sounder. You've put on weight, you're handsomer, ---my God, why do I say these things!--you're better in health, you're not so finicky about food. Mentally, you've settled down under cover for a while, waiting for the chance to hit the deck again.

You're looking about you at the men who might be half your equal, but who are men trained in the art of self-defense and killing and you're wondering what makes these men tick. What could be a better education than that for a man of the future? "Ha! It is to law!" If that is

Evan's poetry, by all means give us more. It reminds me of the Canadian fan, SPR Godfrey, who always writes his letters in poetry. Er,

contradiction please; it is- n't poetry, it's rhyme, and some of it is covered with rime!

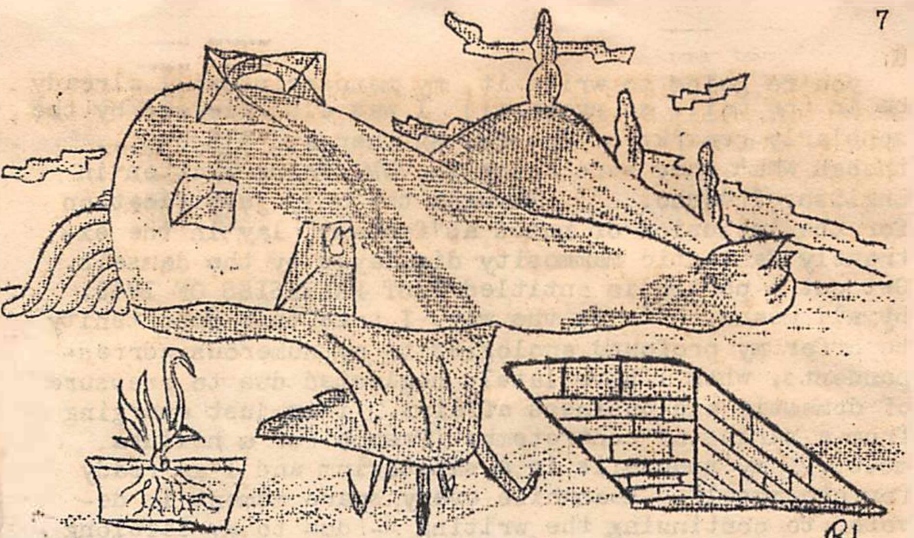
Well, we've reached the "PLANS FOR SLANS" page. I've been saving it for last on purpose. For such a tremendous question, it requires tremendous thought. In any case, I'm glad to see that VOM has finally paved the way for deep, honest hard-labor thinking. Religion has become synonymous with a man's belief in his own particular God. Everyone connects religion with church. It's inevitable; part of man's youth and manhood. You've never known what my religion is, have you? Since only one person in the world besides myself knows what it is, we'll skip it with only the passing comment that it employs the Golden Rule a good deal. "It is obvious that the child of slans will be a child with tremendous brain-power and intellectual capacity, since it will have a background of scholastic ability and science. After the war, colleges will be full to overflowing, and the children of these college students will be few. The simple explanation of that is the sickening destruction now going on. Babies have increased during the war---they always do, but after the war, no one will have the heart or inclination to bring into a world as broken as this a soul and teach it to think. When the world has regained its balance, the birthrate will go up in cold, scientific waves. Children will lay the foundation of the coming civilization, which will not miss far the beautiful technical cities and all the accretments of science-fiction."

What a man's religion is then will not matter. "But now, for the starbegt-ten, the one religion is learning, more learning, science, culture--what's left of it--and build, build, build! To bring up a child in the belief there is no God will not harm him. But whether or not he believes in a God, you must give him something on which to pin his faith. If the teaching is right and equal, his faith will be in the accomplishments of his heart, mind, and hands. God won't matter much when he is busy finding out how to build. "If you teach him belief in a God, by all means, pick a God who is able to touch each individual separately; who will tend toward space-travel, planets, future, and life. This sounds like childish drivel. Perhaps it is, but if you realized the enormous extent of people's religion on their lives, you would know how powerful the influence could be. Some people live their religion; some people just talk about it. "However, in man's building, he will lose sight of the fact that man is man. The results of his mind and hands will be always for the future, forgetting that now is the time for living. When he reaches a blank wall, he will fall back on--what? His religion? Will he have a God to turn to for consolation? Will he rely on his reasoning power? Will he spend long hours on his knees, praying for an answer from Heaven? Will he hope an Omniscent Deity will help him over the snags? Will he sit down and reason out that the snags are his own creations and therefore subject to his will and power? Will he know that in the end, he will get the answer if it is within his power to reason it out? "And what will be his reaction when he is dying? In fact, will he think that the human body is merely salt and water, with electrical impulses thrown in, put here to act out a brief span and then disappear? Or will he think that the body is the vehicle of life that has a beginning before life on this sphere and an ending somewhere else other than this sphere? In fact, what is life? "You have to start somewhere back in the determination of what the body uses to propel it around, make it think, make it act, what the soul is supposed to be? When you get the basic ground-work in or what man's beginnings and ends are, then you can give the child something to think about and form his own religion."

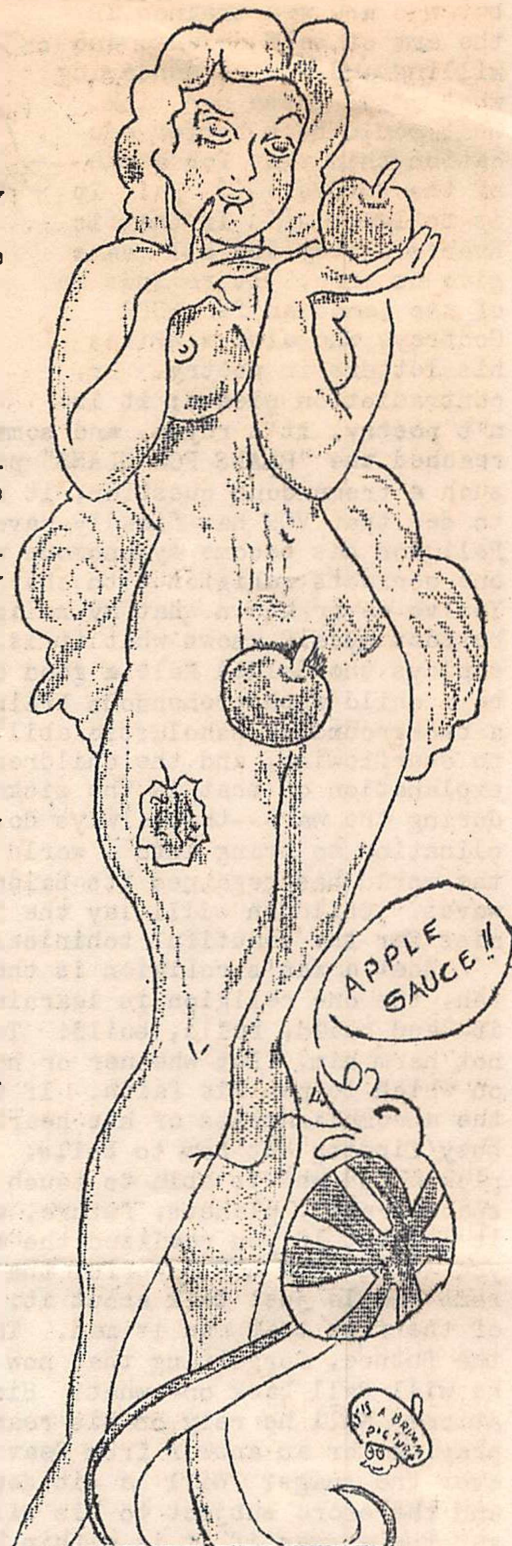
To Whom It May Concern: As I arrived home the other night I noticed a large bundle at my apartment doorstep. Thinking it might be a homeless baby, I carelessly kicked it aside. "Imagine my surprise when I stooped down and picked up a big package of VOMs and supplements! (I was still more surprised that I was able to straighten up again after stooping but that is another, and dirtier, story).

I rushed inside, sliced open the precious package with a bottle-opener, and began to read. Three hours later I was still reading. The effect was quite startling. You who receive your VOM in small monthly doses have no idea of the cumulative effect of 8 issues and 16 supplements ingested all at once. It makes all the difference in the world -- comparable to taking 20 grains of opium instead of just 1 at a time. I got the same effect. And plenty of dope. "Imagine reading the entire saga of Tigrana the Tigress at one sitting! Imagine drooling through the full gallery of barely fantastic nudes! Imagine deciphering the whole damn mess of verbiage in a single stroke of cerebral hemorrhage! I've never experienced anything quite like it since the time Henry Kuttner and CL Moore and I discovered Passion Cocktails. However, the effect of Passion Cocktails wears off -- in about a week, along with the lining of the stomach. And there has been no recovery from the shock of VOM to date.

Was fascinated by the dilemma of your debutante diabolopsy discoverythe lady or the Tigrana can only advise her to get in touch with William S. Seabrook though I think her rather unusual predicament would form a natural basis for a particularly gruesome weird tale. (Warning to voracious readers: by the time you decide



you're going to write it, my manuscript will already be in the mail, so nyaaaaa!) I was also pleased by the scholarly remarks of Messrs. Kuttner and Alojo though what they were doing in VOM, being written in English, I dunno. " Thought the only justification for the inclusion of nudes as "fantasy" lay in the extremely fantastic mammosity displayed by the damsels. Get out a portfolio entitled BUST FANTASIES OF 1943, by all means. " By the way, I take this opportunity to offer my profound apologies to my numerous correspondents, whom I have lately neglected due to pressure of domestic and business affairs. I am just emerging from a series of contretemps (French for a helluva mess)... my spouse is in a sanatorium and I am ready for one myself. Meanwhile every spare moment is devoted to continuing the writing -- due to my lifelong pledge to carry on where Shakespeare left off. Would be glad to hear from all and sundry once more, particularly sundry (or holidays). Tell David R. Evans, the down-under wonder, that I busted my telepathy set in a fit of satyriasis, but would be pleased to build another. " Meanwhile, Forry, my best to you and every one of VOM's Atlanto-Esperanto-Ios Angeleno-muy fraticos. Some day, when the tumult and the shouting dies, I shall hie myself once more to Cali-Forry-nia and stick pins in a wax image of Tige, show my halo to the devout and my living image to the atheistic, draw the nude to end all nudes on the wall of a downtown cafeteria, and take part in the last great Convention during which I will demonstrate my new, patented process for creating living organisms ... with the help of any willing female collaborator. Until that slaphappy day, I vow eternal fidelity to VOM.



Arthur P. Robert that pungent pensman of 21 Ormond St. Paddington, NSW. sent the following

the day after Xmas: Sorry to hear of Forrest's enforced retirement, hope he'll still find time to throw a few of those ghastly puns Vomwards. He seems a pretty intelligent guy, from my 5-year postal knowledge of him, and should be able to adjust himself to a new environment okay. I've grown really fond of that mutilated piece of printed matter called Vom in the past few years, and like his personality as exhibited therein. Even without him, I'll still look forward to the nameless tome from Bx 6475; so let me add my inconsiderable weight to the public cry of "Keep 'em Comin'!" Jobs, heatwaves and the colour of the clothes we wear may be uncertain and annoying; minor annoyances come and go; let Vom roll on for ever. " Swinging abruptly into a graver style more befitting the subject matter, let me point a condemnatory index finger at a certain letter in Vom 25. To one who realizes to the full the evil inherent in the scheme of things today, particular manifestations of the rot appear only as causes for the lifted eye-brow or the cynical smile. But occasionally an event occurs that by the extremity of its poison-content stirs the placid onlooker into vehement protest, and he must needs take up the pen to champion the cause of the righteous--those righteous, who, as the old myth tells, 'will prevail.' " I refer to a letter which automatically transforms Vom into a scandal sheet and brands it with the cheap imprint of the yellow press. " Seekers of the truth must of necessity be appalled by the utter disregard for fact, the sweeping intolerance of accepted reasoning, that Mrs. Evans displays therein. To assert, as does this lady, that Mr. Levy wears size ten shoes, is a gross perversion of truth. Mr. Levy has confided to me that, although his feet do require a size ten, he manages, with the aid of a hydraulis press, to wear a size nine constantly and could almost do a size eight, if his feet were not in their congenital cloven condition. In order to test the verity of another of Mrs. Evans' calumnies, I approached Vol and said, "Vol, it has been stated by a certain person that you constantly talk about Molesworth. Is this true?" After some thought, the fellow replied, Molesworth? Who is Molesworth?" This, I think, should constitute sufficient refutation, and if more proof is required, I will invent that too. " Enough has been said to demonstrate clearly exactly how much credence can be placed in statements emanating from Enid Evans, and I will leave the perspicacious reader to judge for himself. " Say, where is everybody these days? Miss Hanken has vanished from fan ken, and I haven't seen my old sparring partner Harry Warner around. Art Widner doesn't live here any more and Perdue ist perdü. Morojo, use that nice smile of yours and woo some letters out of them. Go on. " That's a cover you have for No. 25. Like muchly. Bill White -- now in the Engineers -- has spread the word around that I was observed to gaze at the cover and start to do my hair, stating aloud that I thought I needed a shave. That is a foul lie. " I have just thought that, if Vom is turning into a scandal sheet, it may well be employed for the public good. So will you please print the following piece of significant gossip: What well-known ex-Sydney Futurian lured what two present members into the adventure of the Seven Foolish? Virgins? at what amusement park?

((19 Oct 42

Dear FandM)) Every caterpillar thinks the life of a caterpillar the most wonderful existence possible, till he finds out that 'tis even more fun to be a butterfly. Being a sf. fan was evidently a necessary stage in my progress, such as it is. But it is a stage now largely over; the FAPA still retains some interest for me, but chiefly as a medium for discussions which have no particular connection with fandom. I am therefore allowing all my subs. to fanzines to lapse; as a matter of fact, I have hardly read any of those which have been sent me during the past six months. " This, then, is my swansong as a sf. fan, and I do not even have sufficient interest in the matter to buy the next VOM to see if you publish it or not. I have enjoyed fandom greatly, and leave the field, save for the FAPA, with no regrets and many pleasant memories. Other interests have become more important for me, that's all. Like my stamp album, which has been neglected for seven years, but which I still take out and leaf thru once in a long while, fandom will doubtless retain a mild interest for me, as will sf. But I will never again be an "active fan".

Lou Russell Chauvenet.

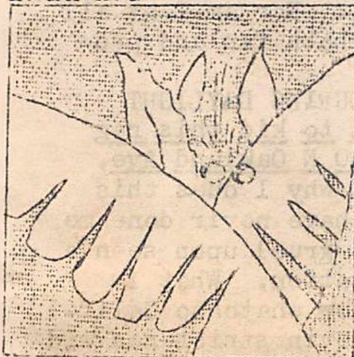
CAN SUCH THINGS BE? IT IS SO UNTHINKABLE TO ME THAT I SHOULD EVER CEASE BEING AN ACTIFAN THAT WHEN A FAN DOES A FINIS IN THE VERY YR HE HAS BEEN VOTED ONE OF THE TOP TEN...MY BRAIN BOGS DOWN. WHAT COMES OVER OUR GOOD FANS NOW & THEN? WHO WILL BE THE NEXT TADPOLE TO FIND OUT WHAT FUN IT IS TO BE A FROG? ARE WE IN ANY DANGER OF LOSING UNGER OR ASHLEY OR BRONSON OR FREEHAFFER OR WIDNERY? ALL I HAVE TO HEAR NOW IS THAT "TUCK GIVES CHUCK TO FANDOM" & I'LL GO UNQUIETLY CUCKOO.

Robert J. Stokeman

From LANEY, the lyte of ACOLYTE, didst rite from 720 10 St, Clarkston, Wn: The Annish looks very good; but I've not had time to do more than admire the pusses, sour and otherwise, and read my own stuff! Just glancing at your projected idea of Vom raising the fans' springoffs sets me in a dither! (You know I have two kids myself.) I really want to get in on this! " I looked over your editing, and it seems Ok---only thing, it looked a bit inconsistent for me to say in my letter I am agin simplified spelling, and then your putting it in my article! However, if no one else calls you on it, it's Ok still. In the event you use the enclosed sequel (see TOWARD TOMORROW), it is all right to edit or tailor it as you see fit EXCEPT.... the use of small letters to start such words as god, church, baptist, masons, etc. is one of my pet phobias. I deliberately omit the capital letters from such words, and please oh PLEASE do not capitalize any of them in my stuff. Ok? ((Ok!)) " Next time you see Phil Bronson, will you be so kind as to pass on to him the remark my wife made about his photo on his xmas card? She looked at it and said, "He's really good-looking---what a pity!"...referring of course to the fact that he's a fan, and to her all fans are lacking in the upstairs portion.

ERIC C HOPKINS, 6 Elm Pk Ave, Elm Park, Romford, Essex, Eng, dives off the springboard & into praps hot water: Something astounding is happening to Vom, if it has been under observance previously in fandom. The letters are becoming more intelligent! No, that's a libel. They are becoming less frivolous, and more serious. U.S. fans are apparently beginning to face up to reality (even in Vom!) as a section of them did before, although with a more cautious and liberal approach to the problems than that employed by the latter. " Am little sad at demise of intriguing Tigri-na. Just to be on safe side with the gal, in parting May her powers of darkness blacken! " Did I not say this good ish? ((Aug 42)) & more serious? Religion, bejabes! Not surprised extensive scepticism in fandom, but would correct common mistake & criticism by agnostics & atheists. I.E. This visiting of sins of fathers upon children. Original hebraic word from which we translated word "sins" meant 'mistakes'. Therefore should read - visit the mistakes of the fathers upon the children etc. Considering 'God' (whatever that be) as fountainhead of all creation and its laws, physical and human-social, you'll agree that mistakes of fathers are visited upon the children (sins too, really) i.e. children suffer for them (take this war for instance - but maybe Marx wouldn't agree with this!), therefore biblical commandment simple, profound, & evident truth. Yes? ((Guesso.)) Incidentally, anyone disagree that atheism is impossible? Agnosticism only - suspension of belief or disbelief in God for lack of evidence either way - possible. See T.H. Huxley.

PEEPING



TOM



SEES



VOMAIDEN!



Cpl
Jon
Merritt

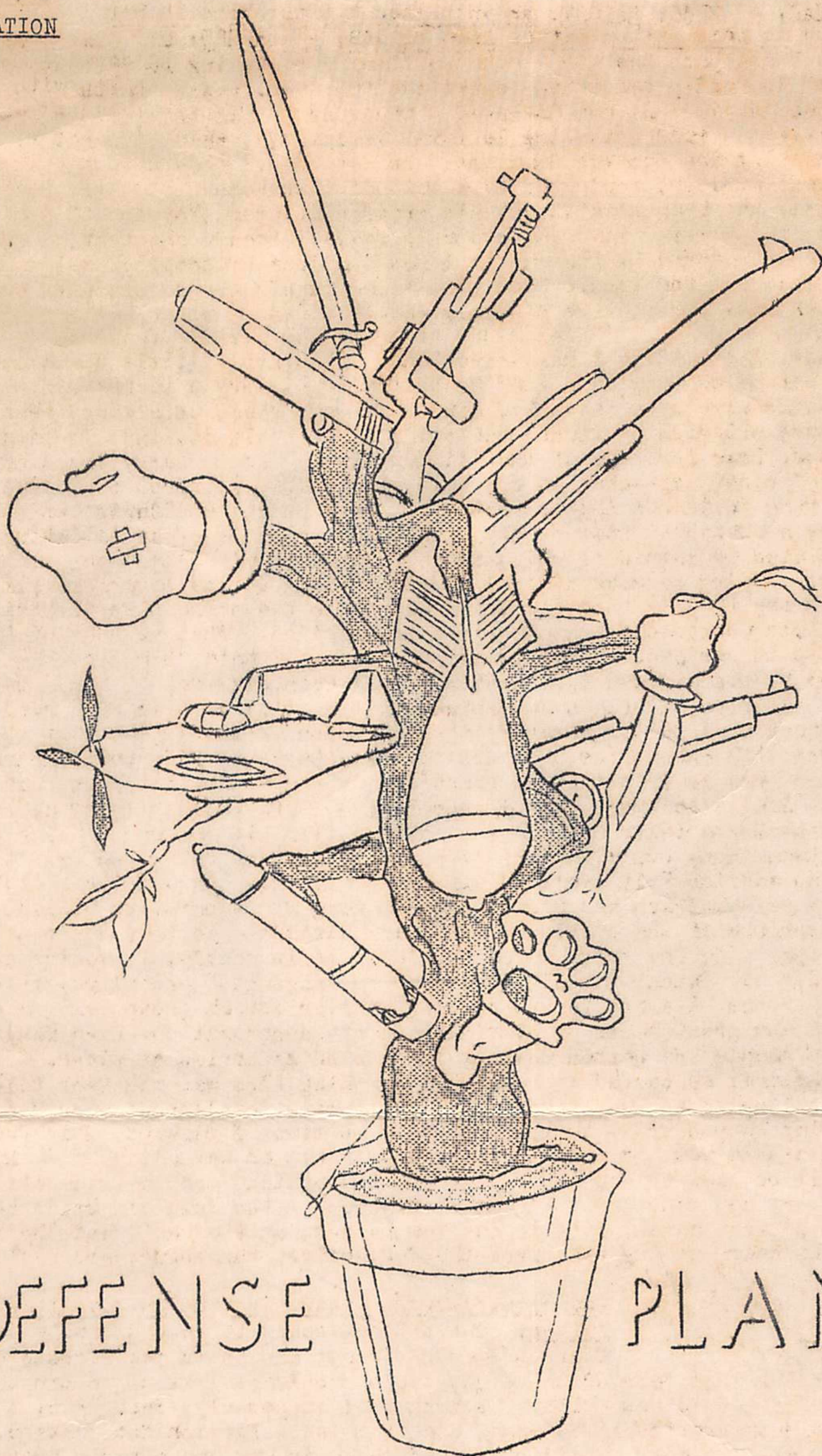
76th BUCHANAN. of SPACE FLIGHT, demonstrates his thinking is not
 Flighty in this fighty letter from Bx 148, Amsterdam, O: Dear MirAck -
 Praise U and pass the VOM - your spelling's beginning to corrupt me, I see!
 The ish you sent is really something to get excited over. Was so taken with the
 plight of the poor devil - no pun intended - who's caught in the toils of r-----n,
 that ugly eight-letter word ((missing letters: -eligio-)), that I've got to write or
 bust. Concerning the Surface Sumptoms: In his school they have a class in "so-
 called 'Christian' ethics", conducted by a Methodist preacher not noted for brains &
 whose life largely has been a failure. His grammar is poor ("He don't" & mistakes
 to match) & his gags corny. That the students swallow such a chestnut as the story
 of the fallen woman reformed by the church & now a pillar of society, helps substan-
 tiate Keith's claim 95% the nonstf high (that's a laugh") School students are mor-
 ons. Anyone with some perspective promptly labeled a "fool" whose false pride sure
 to drag him down to hell. The minds of those who blindly follow must be in-
 comparable swamps of stupidity & misconceptions. Plus not a little unbalance.
 Most religious person he noes is a girl whose family history & background show an
 emotional unbalance aswelas a receptive mind. He says she's unbalanced bcuz while
 she's one the more priggish puritans, she still has a truly amazing, in view of her
 saintly character, love for boys of the "wilder" type. Praps hasty about her recep-
 tive mind--it was receptive--once it got hold of a belief it snapt shut like a bear
 trap. The More Insidious Angel: Note the class is called "Christian Ethics".
 That seems to be a characteristic of the church too: a habit of assimilating those
 doctrines formulated by outsiders which it considers useful. Right now it's work-
 ing like a beaver trying to make capital of such things as the Beveridge Plan.
 Doubtless they'll try to palm that off as "a return to the principles of Christ."
 As for the Messiah himself, his feelings are divided. What he sees of the
 cnurch & the uses it has made of his teachings makes him hate "Him", but he also
 gets the feeling he was a great man whose work has been degraded & commercialized by
 lesser men. As for children's education, thinks it'll be hell of a hard job to
 formulate an educational system insuring their freedom from religion & at the same
 time leaving them with open minds. We don't want a batch of kids running around
 hating the church thru no intellectual processes of their own, but just bcuz they
 were taught to! Smells too much like Technocracy at work--woud be just as bad as
 the church in that dogma takes the place of thot. ((In his own words Keith con-
 cludes:)) Even in my own life I can't point to any one thing and say "this is
 where I gecame an atheist." It isn't so simple as all that. Except for a stubborn-
 ness born in me - Scotch-Irish and German doesn't make for submissive people, I reck-
 on - I'd have been one of the cattle in the fold (alright - so they don't put cattle
 in folds) long ago. The regular routine leade to it neatly, if you're sucker
 enough to fall for it. Sunday-school, enlivened by "pageants" and plays, then the
 young people's classes, Epworth League or some similar church group, and so on, un-
 til one is given the great honor of sitting with the congregation. Even many poten-
 tial intelligent people are beaten down by this unending series of slush. I
 suppose the thing that protected me more than anything else was the fact that my
 parents, while belonging to the chruch themselves, were intelligent enough not to be
 believe everything they heard - they let me read whatever I pleased. This freedom
 from stupid censorship was not only theoretical; it was an actuality. But I
 still think it'll be hard to consciously go about educating people to a belief in
 futurism. There are too many bad influences remaining - the junk can still be heard
 everywhere outside the church. It's in the newspapers, on the radio and the stock
 blatitudes can be heard at any time from the demagogues, theologues and plutogues
 who run things.

with a thotful
 to just what

Li Re aka Jimmy Kepner, appears for the 2d time this ish,
 letter: The subject seems to come up quite often as
 fanzies should discuss and as to the Purpose of fan-
 dom itself. I think that both of those questions should be left up to the individ-
 ual fan and the individual fan editor. Fandom is (supposedly) made up of a group
 of persons who are interested in Science, and in Science Fiction and Fantasy. I
 don't think that any subjects should be barred which in any way pertain to Science,
 the Future, Fantasy (in general) or to the peculiar activities of Fandom itself.
 Nor do I feel that any organization or magazine should attempt or claim to be re-
 presentative of fandom as a whole, if it in any way would exclude persons or sub-
 jects or subjects of discussion because of any narrow definitions of fandom's aims.
 And the subjects I mentioned above could and should be stretched to include almost
 any topic that might arise. Suppose that certain fans are not interested in soci-
 ological discussion. So what? Does that mean that because of one group, even if
 it should be a majority, the discussions should be censored? Fandom must be free.
 And it can hardly be said that Sociology has no bearing on Science or on the Future.
 In fact I think it one of the most important factors. Also, I feel that technical
 questions should return somewhat to fandom's forum. And as for the nude drawings,
 why not. Are we to assume that the entire span of the future will also be bound
 with the same childish taboos and false sense of modesty that keeps our bodies bound
 in clothing, even at times when the clothes are a burden rather than a help? And
 I dare anyone to prove that the nude has no place in fantasy art. Nor am I at all
 averse to male nudes. In fact, I'd like to see more of them in both fan and pro-
 zines.

Paul Gene
 alias "ANDREW GALACTAZEMIA DURING DAYLIGHT
 HOURS", gets an imagi-notion to kid this rag
 of ours. Hal hails from 2530 N Oakland Ave,
 Milwaukee, Wis: I doan know why I dues this
 on you Mr. Ack-bang, as you have nevir done me
 nuttin; but I drools a cruel gruel upon seen a
 copy of yr Voice of Regurgitation. What I

seen der is like lookin atta unnderside a barn floor. I doan know whatchoo Calif-
 ornicators er allatime goozling wid oasder pitchers of jags an havin strictures wid
 mags, but Iyama stercor-regarder of some patience, havin passed on menni's tha



DEFENSE PLANT

VAL

mimeorag, inkloodin gahdamn Kuttner & Blo's Plump tails. Non can beet yern for keepin up tha music onna tongue-flute. You mustabe a Semanticsguy like meee! " Hav alweez planned nice long buggeredup job like yern, but allatime decideda print lodda doidy books insted.....never could get enuf butcher's paper togedda on one time wazza trouble.

This Cunningham is H. Loren Sinn voices his opinions from Carnation Rt, Wn: a carbon copy of our local methodist minister judging from his picture. The world needs fandom duz it? The world has never even heard of fandom much less needs it. There was no fandom B 4 ,1930 and the world seems to have got around OK up 2 then without fandom. All fandom consists of is a bunch of 14 year old jerks; no one prominent..... Im not running myself down 4 I am not a fan, never was and never will be. I get fanmags 4 the same reason I get sports mags; for relaxation & enjoyment. Down with Gibson and up with technocracy. The only interesting letter was by Larry Shaw. This Dean can dish out more wordage and at the same time say nothing then anyone else I know of.

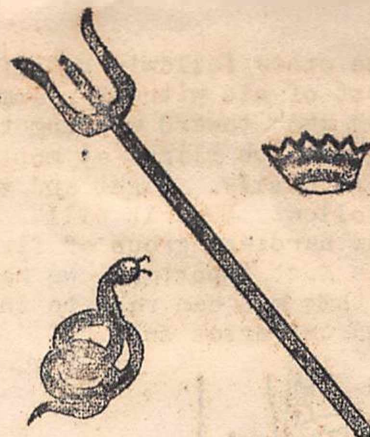
CPL DAVID MC/ILWAIN,
olden Anglofan, from Nafrika, 28 Feb 43: I have heard a malicious rumour that the good lady Vom has expired, which I fervently hope is merely Axis propaganda designed to demoralise stefandom.

VOL MOLESWORTH, worthy Aussifan, 18 Dec 42: The fanmag field suffered a death-blow recently when the Govt. started issuing licenses for publications. Not one fanmag got a permit!



B4
Joe

"HM," I SAID, "TELL ME MORE." And there-
by hangs a Tale of Tigrina. Or, rather, the tale-end
of Tigrina. As related by Elmer Perdue. Sorry if U
got in late, gate, as we aint gonna résumé no more no
more. Here's the End of the Story: EDYTHE GLARED at
 chum, saying oh so sweetly, "Don't worry, Elmer,
 that's not my name." Then conversation between the
 girls, while I stand up and gently turn over the let-
 ter--to read Alicia Aria, Box 13, Mills College. So,
 the plot thickens. Boogie woogie, chit, and a little
 more chat. Promised to send to Edythe a recording of
 sister Charlotte's playing when the machine had the
 kinks taken out of it. Asked would box 13 be enough.
 Edythe glaring. How'd I know? Read the letter's ad-
 dress. Edythe jumps up and down and calls down the
 curse of Yngvi the terrible Swede. OK, I promise to
 keep it a secret. And there was just the right amount
 of restraint and everything as she came to tear's
 verge, and I say there there little girl big bad man
 won't tell anyone your name is Alicia Aria. Good
 name; I like it. So while on the long, long drive
 homeward, I wondered. For was not the name of Tigrina
 allegedly chosen because no letters therein appeared in her own? Account for the a,
 the r, the i, please. I couldn't. Nor did the letters follow the frequency pattern
 earlier mentioned by Forrie in Vom. So came the solution; the girl had worked very
 well on the emotions. Made me mad. Took me half an hour to find the right name.
 Now that she's abandoned fandom, you may as well know, you and you and especially u,
 that her public name is Edythe de Vinney Eyde. Lovely?

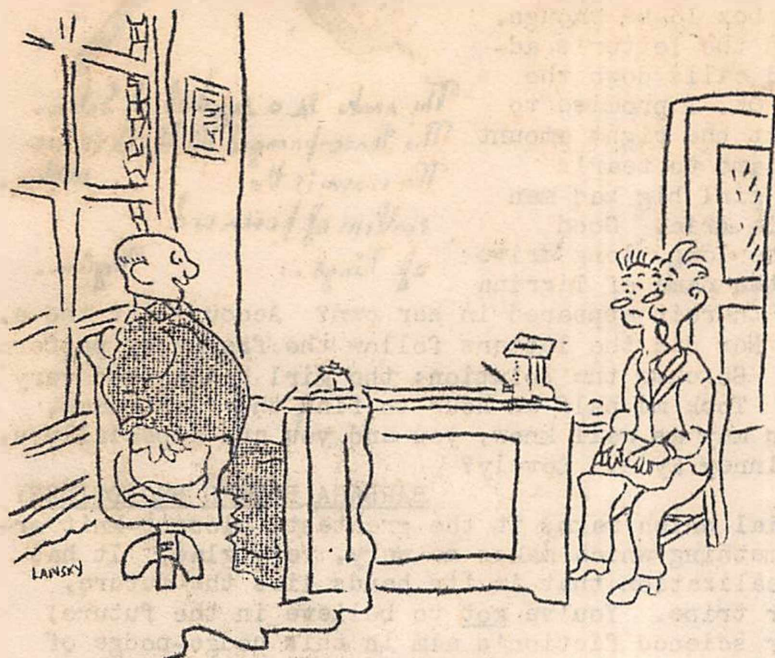


The snake is a symbol of Satan.
 The three-pronged pitchfork is his
 scepter.
 The crown is the
 emblem of power and
 of Kings. Tigrina.

BARBARA BOVARD BROADSIDES:

Actifandom is losing the one essential which makes it the greatest, closest-knit or-
 ganization, but it has developed something which makes me very, very glad. It has
 developed sudden maturity, sudden realization that in its hands lies the future.
 Believe me, I'm not talking slush or tripe. You've got to believe in the future!
 I'm glad to see the sudden rows over science fiction's aim in this hodge-podge of
 existence. "But they are going at it in the wrong way." Now, I know that
 when this is read, much less ever finished, there will be a snort, a mutter of "that
 damned Bovard dame", and a swish as it falls into the wastebasket. I don't care,
 but what I have to say must reach someone's ears in the hope that their idealism
 will click with mine to the extent of doing instead of talking. I have merely
 joined the ranks of all the other screamers. "You who are talking are denying
 the first and foremost rule of science fiction. Write what you want when you want,
 but write it right! You gabble, you prate, you swear, you call each other names,
 you set forth your theories and sit back waiting for the publications to roll in
 with your name in them, your letter or article in them and you mentioned here, there
 and everywhere. Admit it honestly; how many of you screamers really give a damn
 what happens to the future?" Before you rise straight up into the air about it,
 and before you get a chance to say, "What in heck do you think you're doing right
 now, but being a screamer?", I will admit any charge, but meanwhile I'm giving you
 a chance to look yourselves in the face. "You run a half-dozen pubs, you write
 letters to everyone under the sun who has half a say in actifandom, you collect
 books, magazines, pictures, originals, dust, dirt and a slothfulness that is dis-
 graceful." This, then, is the fan of the future, the one who will hold the world
 together when dawn comes. This man--or rare woman--with vituperative tongue, watery
 muscled and an education gained from thud and blunder stories of fantasy sets him-
 self up to be the standard for the future. He has but one aim in life--to become as
 well-known as the other fan, to get his stories published, spill whatever little
 horse-sense he had and get into the swing of things. "Get into what swing, for
 the love of future? Show me, anywhere, what is being done to better the conditions
 of actifandom and I'll shut up for good and go home, giving you a chance to sigh,
 "Thank God!" "You are misusing terribly the opportunities set out. I agree with
 the fellow who said we are not geniuses or even extra smart, but I'll add this:
 Actifandom, working together, could accomplish more by just acting together than
 could one detachment of US Leathernecks, and brother, that's going some! Our brains
 are no better than any other person's on this dusty globe, but we have the power to
 think. You have proven that in your unrest, your mutterings, fruitless tho they
 are. You do think; you think harder and longer than any other type of human being
 today. But your thinking is so discolored with what you are going to do to the
 other fellows' theories that you can't see you are putting up your own obstacles.
 "Actifans are terribly conceited. We won't attempt to deny it, least of all me!
 Therein lies our trouble. We will not give the other fellow's conceit a chance to
 run itself out. We are so busy constructing houses on the sand we neglect the rock
 of our individuality. Now you can roar and rant about the extremists in individual-
 ity all you like, but you will admit in the end that no one exhibits less self-con-
 trol than an actifan. Regrettably, we build from the top down instead of from the
 bottom up. "If there are no repercussions from this, then I'll know I have
 failed miserably in attempting to start the beginning. If there are results, good,
 bad, but Heaven forbid indifferent, then I'll know that someone, somewhere, is
 making the same start up toward the future that we have read about, written about,
 but have never done anything about. I'll accept the storm of results, whatever they
 may be, but please, let there be results. "Instead of cutting each other's
 throats, assemble the hopes and theories of those who mutter. Weed them out care-
 fully, place yours beside it and compare, adjust and readjust. When you have fin-
 ished, remember to think that here is your beginning; in your acceptance of part of

the other fellow's belief, in your putting the best of yours beside the best of his without slamming down an iron door between the two. "The beginning we make toward welding the future that should come instead of the one that is coming will be slight at most but having once begun things will fall into line more and more easily. Fight and turmoil will arise, hopes will flicker out and defeat will follow. Sure it will. We are one grain of rye in a field of wheat. But we are the hardest group of fire-spitters ever to hit this planet. We don't give up. What is most important, we have the conviction that our future will be the highest level that man can rise to the top of, and say "The world today, the planets tomorrow and universes soon." "Y'see, with unity, we can't lose.



"Certainly I remember you..."

I never forget a face."

not so surprising. Turner undoubtedly is psychic and has used my room as a basis for his drawing. Or maybe that is a likeness of his own room which he has drawn. Yes, that must be it, 'cause I don't have a typewriter or a 'scope. "You may not think that smoking harms you in any way except financially, Renny, but actually, it is a slow, expensive, if somewhat pleasant way of committing suicide. Here are the facts: All tobaccos contain deadly poisons taken into the system during the process of smoking. Among them are arsenic, cyanides & sulphocyanides, prussic acid, pyridine & pyridine derivatives, as well as the relatively harmless ammonia & nicotine. In the age-group 40 to 59, there are 3 times as many cases of heart disease among smokers as among nonsmokers; & from the age of 30 to 60, there are 14% more deaths among moderate smokers than among nonsmokers, while in the same age-group there are 61% more deaths among heavy smokers than among nonsmokers. "In other words, Renny, for a nonsmoker, age 30, the chances are 2 to 1 he'll live another 30 years; for the moderate smoker chances are 5% less favorable; but for a heavy smoker there is not even a 50-50 chance he'll live to be 60! & if he does, he is more than 3 times as likely to suffer from heart disease as the nonsmoker. "Yes, Leroy, I had Esperanto in mind as the universal auxiliary language. And your suggestion to make racial equality the fifth point, is a good one.

the old "Within the Circle" columnist of FANTASY FAN days, now featured in ACOLYTE, returns, from Grangeville, Idaho, with:

Franklin Lee Baedwin

Have read VOM from cover to cover & am highly pleased with the mag. I knew that sooner or later Ackerman'd have a publication of his own and I can see that VOM is just the ticket. It seems to me there's too many "fiction" fan mags now and one that prints letters and sound criticism and expresses each fan's individual ideas as yours seems to fill a long felt need. Letter writing is half of this fan business anyhow and a good solid, well written letter is as good as a lot of well-intended fiction. Some of your contributors show they're on their toes and aware of what's going on. Especially liked the little picture labeled "something to break the monotony". Enjoyed the cover immensely as I've often wondered how Ackerman looked after he passed 20. I remember an old snap he sent me some years ago & I'll have to admit Time Marches On. Reckon I've changed a lot too, what with a few gray hairs creeping in around my temples--prematurely, of course. Am still young enough to make a handsome soldier tho; even if I do say it myself. However, the yarn of Sinbad; The sailor always did fascinate me. So may try the Navy. Am in a quandry tho. "Enjoyed very much the copy of Tigrina's "Hymn To Darkness". Was wondering if "Esperanto Blues" which was mentioned in VOM was available. ((Only on fono record.)) The snap of her was quite fetching. Wonder who her publicity agent is: ((4e was.))

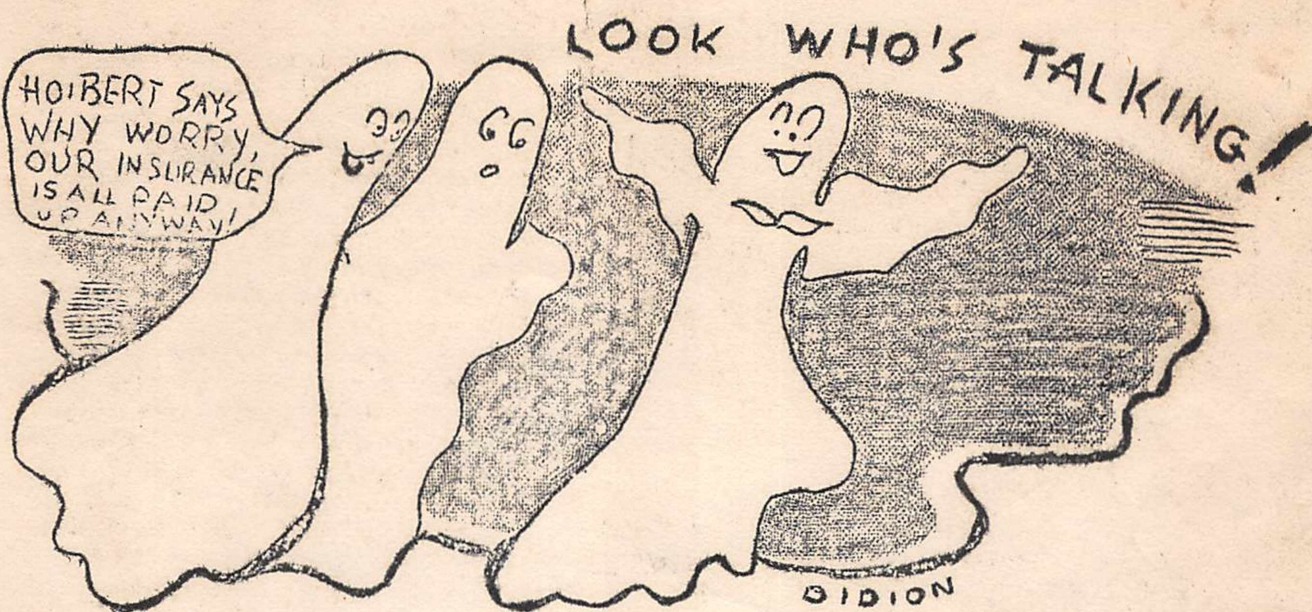
Syd. A. Beach

32 High Street, Aberystwyth, Cardiganshire,

I thot Tigrina a trifle childish - I mean her reasons for taking up the doubtful pleasures of the "Left-Hand" seem petulant and pretty silly. She apparently did not do it out of sneer intellectual curiosity. Purely by the way, did she read Aloj's article? ((Proably not.)) I for one, was extremely interested and would welcome a second longer and more complete one. "Now to get down to the well discussed Vomaidens, frankly Forrest, olpal, I'd rather you didn't use them (on the cover, of course!) The originals are probably well drawn but when litho'd they become

LLOYD CONNERLEY, the McKittrickid, comments: Who tops you, Tackett? (Aug.Vom.) Why, Connerley, of course. From the middle of June to the end of August I averaged from 84 to 105 hours of work per week, which partly explains my long absences from Vom. "But this rivalry to see who can work the most hrs. per week is all very silly and juvenile. I am surprised and disgusted with myself for getting drawn into such a puerile controversy. Who started all of this, anyway? Was it you, Acky? Fie! Faugh! And for shame! Another thing that has kept me from writing is that I struggled through Vom #25, vainly trying to connect the trend of the letters with the letters and pics of the previous issue, before it finally dawned on me that I had never received #24. "And now I can't find #25. But that is

sketchy and no longer good art. I suppose I'm too critical there, but I have seen a copy of Harry Turners ZENITH! That bald-headed demon on the # 25. Went down the best. MORE OF HARRYHAUSEN! "Poor Barbara Bovard, it must have come as a terrific shock to be suddenly confronted with real live stfans! I shall never forget my first encounter. (no, never!) By the by, you might mention to her that I once read Mundy's BLACK LIGHT but haven't been able to get any more. And the older British fans, with the large collections are singularly standoffish with regard to their collections! Still, I'll have a big collection myself oneday. Not much more to say, except I wish to make application for the honour (?) of being the very first fan from Wales, to write to VOM. I also hold the honour of being concerned in the first Welsh Fanmag! ((LENS)) Oh! just an afterthought: isn't it a good job, I have an address in a simply spelt place like ABERYSTWYTH instead of a really hard name like LLANFAIRPWLLGWYNGYLLGGERWCHGWYDROPPWLLGWYNGWYLLLLANDYSYLWYCH-OGOGOCH. And I don't mean maybe!! And its the honest truth. I've visited the place, its a little north of Aber. One of these days I'll move there just for the fun of it. " P.S. I may have made one mistake in the spelling of the above name but I don't think so. ((O, but your unworthy stenciler omitted an "N" near the middle, in the "WYNDROP" section.))



PLANS FOR SLANS

In the Spring of '38 the wonderful semipro fanmag of England, TOMORROW, featured a memorable article by author Festus Pragnell, "Bring Up a Child". Yecoeds rememberd this article & were imprest by its possibillitys as an introduction to our new Dept. We are therefore reprinting an abbreviated & condenst version as a prelude to the xint WIDNER Plans for Slans which will officially open the Dept in our next number.

My mother, & my grandmother more so, were intensely religious. All forms of amusement were to them inventions of the devil. Practically every day for about 6 mos. when I was 10 yrs. old my grandmother woud make me stand up bfor her while she shouted & raved at me with the most insane excitement about the Lord & the Devil, the necessity of being "Saved", everlasting fire & torment... I was a sensitive child & I was terrifyd by this: My mind damaged to an extent from which I noe it can never properly recover. Such was a religious upbringing.

Today we are slowly discarding pseudo-religion for science in the training of children, & such terror as I sufferd is seldom the lot of any child today.

But such things do an enormous amount of damage to the minds of young & growing children: I am a "peculiar" fellow, difrent in my ways & outlook from others I meet, & I noe it is bouz at the bottom I am not quite sane: I was driven mad by that fiendish woman, & by her dawter, my mother.

My ways, my peouliaritys, made me a misfit. I succeeded at nothing & made enemys everywhere. My life in the workaday world became unbearable. I rote my first science fiction story: "The Essence of Life". That I can do good work I noe: I put on paper the dreams & fancys of my childhood, in which I sought to escape from the horrible terrors of my real life.

I have one bad handicap, & that is if I do not school myself carefully I find myself forgetting my job is to amuse, & begin instead to preach & lecture. It is my grandmother coming out in me.

"I REGARD SCIENCE FICTION AS A HOLY CRUSADE TO SPREAD SCIENTIFIC IDEAS & TO SAVE OTHER CHILDREN FROM THE HELL I SUFFERD."

