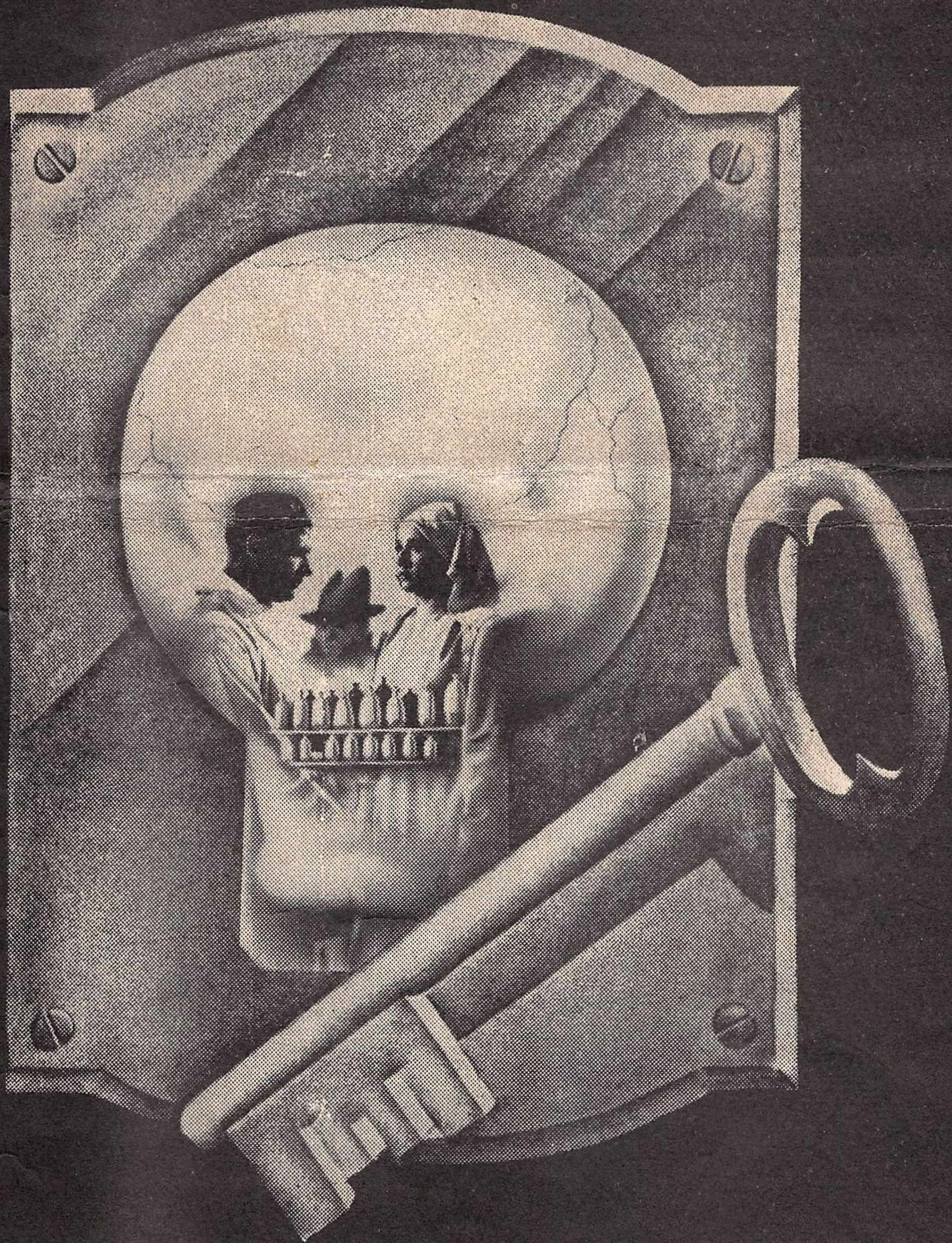


15 p

Clam...

# VOM

#33





# BABEL of CONTENTS

COVER: "DONOVAN'S BRAIN"--Courtesy Republic Pictures' production "The Monster & the Lady", based on the novel by Curtis Siodmak, only 85c from Slanshack Bookshop, 25 Poplar, Battle Creek, Mich (U can also join the Nat'l Fantasy Fans Fed'n at this adres--request free dope).....	
"Gretchen": A sulfuric etchin', including remarks by Labbe, Laney & "Mischa" Gauer.....	3
RAYM: Woud relish the hellish in the company of stfans.....	4
A Devil of a Picture by CLYNE-----	4
Glen DANIELS: Snubs nudes; a very snubborn fellow! .....	5
'Floralorelei' by Lora CROZETTI-----	6
Len MOFFATT: 'X'ian marks the spot.....	6
Presumably Leslie Crouch, by LeM-----	6
PFC John CUNNINGHAM: Gives us a pain in our dummy.....	7
CPL Dick WILSON: A letter from the extinguisht author of "Escape to Gafia".....	7
CPL Mill ROTHMAN: Well, well, just lousy with corporals this ish. In fact, we're lousy without 'em.....	7
MRS Jessie WALKER: Advocates sowing seeds of understanding for Victory Garden.....	8
Chas MC/NUTT: Lay that epistle down, boy! .....	8
PVT Joe GIBSON: #3.2! Grin & beer it! .....	9
Robt BLOCH: Signific-ance in his pans.....	9
Doodles thruout by Dick WORTMAN (Wortmania)~~~~~	

*Joyce Labbe*

- who sends a paper dollar we can call our  
own, in subscribing for a yr says: I EN-  
JOY VOM IMMENSELY, AND ANYWAY, I WANTED TO  
FINISH THE "FORRY STORY". TELL ME, DOESN'T  
ANYBODY SAY ANYTHING GOOD ABOUT VOM? PRACT-

ICALLY EVERY LETTER BEGINS WITH "I THINK THE NUDES ARE FILTHY, LOUSY, DEGRADING, ET  
CETERA". PERSONALLY, I PREFER A NUDE TO THE COVER ON NUMBER 32. IF THAT'S A SAMPLE OF  
THE FUTURE...

So we're fetchin' "Gretchen" back, & here's the conclusion of her At  
Ack:

The more you yell about nudes, and the more you indulge in discussions about  
sex the more I am impressed with how little you know about it and how terribly the un-  
knowable (as yet) factor gets your reasoning all tangled up makes you disproportion-  
ately interested in its least sophisticated aspect, the 2 dimnsional nude. You would  
agree with me that the man who went mad with delight over pictures of chocolate can-  
dy, and into raptures on sniffing the stuff and handling it and possibly licking its  
smooth surfaces ecstatically was indeed denying himself the exquisite pleasure of eat-  
ing the damn things because of some peculiar maladjustment in his makeup. Come, come.  
What insurmountable object makes the ascetic life so appealing. In conclusion, I  
can't see any improvement in your mag, contents that is, no fresh ideas, nothing cre-  
ative, nothing with a future to it. Are you going to devote your life to it just so  
as you can tell your grandchildren (adopted no doubt) that your parents disapproved  
and so you stuck to it like a man. You looked so glamorous and dramatic and stuff  
on your mag cover (#29). It's a kind of a lie, isn't it. You probably would very  
much like realheartfelt approval but you haven't found out yet that one doesn't get it  
by advertising oneself. I am taking the liberty of saying these things because I  
like you well enough to risk your not liking me for saying them. And considering what  
I have said that is a great risk indeed. #

Declared Fran Laney after reading sin-  
stalment #1 of the forry-going. "I warn you you're in for a blasting for publishing  
this. Despite any feuds, I myself would never have published anything about you one-  
half as strong as this thing seems to be. Don't tell me you are a masochist?" Phys-  
iology forbid! I'm allergic to pain, on either the physical or mental plane. In  
fact, in the immortal words of that wolf-flower Harold Gauer (the howling success):  
"Pain causes me more agony than any other form of discomfort."

In the meantime, as a  
postscript to her acid-dipt dis-sex-ion, Gretchen advises: "Have been harsly criti-  
cized by all who know for having told you off in such cursory fashion. I grant you it  
was rough, but whatever withstands such a barrage must be fine metal and so my ef-  
forts were not in vain. Anyway that's the theory."

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, aka VOM, #33. Issued under the Sign of  
Taurus (yes, the Bull) by Hooker Crook Publications, FJ Ackerman-Gen'l  
Fanager, Bx 6475 Met Stn, Los Angeles 14, Cal. 15c per copy, 7/5.

Last minute note: Yed expects to have a furlo in the near future  
--praps the next number of Vom will not be so long in coming out....

"Read Vom, and be Vommiscient"

Ray - the science fiction Oakolyte of Live Oak, Fla, doth rite from 117 Hamilton St, commenting firstly on #30: The pictures this time were better than those in recent issues; they are all well-drawn and do not take up very much space. Outside of the girl struggling in the treey embrace ("Tree's a Crowd"--I was forest to do it!) on page 13, I like best the damsel reclining at the bottom of page 5. I would like to see discussions on the "topix Jimmy suggests". Larry's letter is worth the space it occupies. However, it does not preserve a continual unity of tone. But I agree with most of it. As for the part I don't agree with: so "calling fans slans is moronic"? The conclusions reached by Lynn Bridges and I at the Second World Conference at Live Oak tend toward supporting this claim, but I still believe that a science fiction fan is something more than an average person with a leaning toward Flash Gordon. It is very hard to divide "fans" from "non-fans", that is, intellectually speaking, and not bringing up whether the non-fan collects or corresponds. I believe that all of the fans exhibit certain mental traits or tendencies, or still better, attitudes. One of the best editorials I have ever read in my years as a stf addict was Hornig's "In Tune With the Infinite" which I believe appeared in an early Science Fiction. That editorial certainly crystallized some sort of differentiation between the science-fiction reader, and the ordinary Joe who cares not for such things. (Heinlein said in his Denvention speech: "Science fiction fans differ from most of the rest of the race by thinking in terms of racial magnitudes." And: "I hope to be a fan of science fiction for at least another 50 years.") Also to be praised is Donald Wollheim's fine comments on the Cosmian League, sponsored a few years ago by Stirring Science Stories (or was it COSMIC STORIES?) (the latter). Anyway, if any of the indox-minded people want to look up these two editorials, they'll get a better idea of what I think constitutes a fan. ((THE COSMIAN LEAGUE was introduced with such statements as: It will serve as a bond banding together in fraternity those hundreds of persons who feel the throb of the

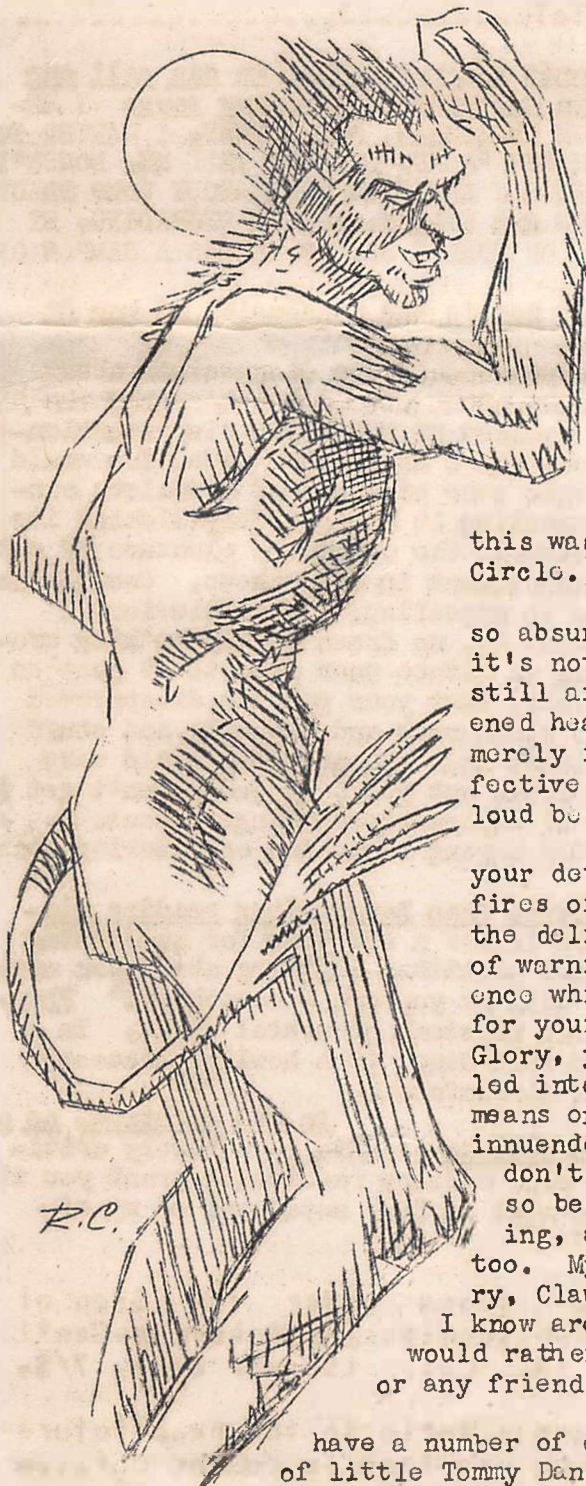
cosmos in their blood, whose minds soar with the concepts of the worlds to come, with the urge to see and know, to do or to help to do all those things which will bring about the construction of that future that can only be identified as "Cosmian"...A Cosmian is one who feels that he is by right of the cosmos, that he is not bound to one planet or one plane, that he is by right free to traverse the universe, to conquer worlds, to master forces, to change and alter the stars to suit himself. A Cosmian feels no barriers, he acknowledges no boundaries to what is possible and what is impossible...We are those whom HG Wells termed "Star-Begotten", we are the forerunners of those men of the future who will call no planet home but all planets theirs...And so, in similar vein. Italix are Vom's. And remember, this was professionally printed, several yrs BC--Before Circle.))

As for this Professor, his writing style is so absurd and outmoded that I am inclined to wonder if it's not a hoax. Surely, any intelligent Victorian still around would realize that such cliches as "hardened heart" and "manly breast" went out long ago, are merely ridiculous now, and are, in short, simply ineffective. His eloquent warning to Ackerman draws only a loud bellow of laughter from me . . .

"Someday when on your detahbed you lie, your earthly body ravished by the fires of disease brought on by your lavish indulgence in the delights of sensualism, you will remember my words of warning, and wish that you had led a different existence while on this earth of God's. And as you stand before your maker, naked in the Blinding Light of His Glory, you will remember the myriads of young people you led into the realms of sexual debauchery through the means of the printed word, the drawn line, the subtle innuendo." Well, Prof, I hope you're not right. I

don't believe you're right; but if you are, I will also be stricken for my atheism and general free thinking, and must standing there in the Blinding Light too. My only hope will then be that there will be Forry, Claude, Larry, Jenkins, Gilbert, and some other fans I know around to burn with me; for, my dear Professor, I would rather go to hell with stfans than with any relative or any friend or associate outside of fandom.

Vom 31 seems to have a number of distinctly individualized letters. The tragedy of little Tommy Daniel's 6-month exile from free thought saddened me and caused me to mumble a few mental curses. For, you see, I am in complete agreement with the "Plans for Slans" theories, and only wish that they had been applied in my case. I was a born fan, and recognized stf and fantasy as my natural element when I found it; but I lived for twelve or thirteen years before I discovered it.



((In an editorial condensation of his next paragraph, Raym realizes it's good logic to soft-pedal fandom's anti-Xianity when trying to gain converts or introduce the public to stf. While the Circleaders are atheistfans, he urged Dero to tone down presentation of the Program. We continue, in full, with Raym's explanation of his relation to the Cosmic Circle.))

In the first place, I never did completely approve of any of Claude's CC publications, and mostly I didn't approve of them a bit. You read my refutation of these publications in FFF. Before the big fight started, I was expecting setbacks, criticisms, and merciless satires, and wrote Claude that we would have to modify our program and accept compromises as time went by. Then he went to Schnectady and New York and Los Angeles, and the vicious circle of propaganda-barrage and counter-propaganda barrage began. Those early Commentators were published without my knowledge or consent, and I found myself in the queer position of almost always agreeing with the criticisms, both constructive and destructive, that were launched by so many fans. It did not require a genius to acknowledge incredibly bad writing, as well as confused typing and grammar and mis-spelling. It did not require the twin minds of an Edmond to perceive the childishness-presented program. In looking back, my principle distress is engendered by the fact that such a wonderful opportunity came—and went. Properly handled, I believe that the Cosmic Circle could have accomplished wonders. As Lynn Bridges said (when he was here recently), a number of fans disliked the manner in which Claude presented the program, rather than the program itself.

Anyway, as I said, I found myself in the peanut gallery agreeing with the critics. I considered Yerke's "Report" very sane and surprisingly fair. So I wrote Degler many times that I didn't agree with him. The barrage of CC zines did not let up. Attack, counter-attack, mud-slinging: I got heartily sick of it all. Claude said that he was, too, but what could he do as long as they kept attacking him? He was always sincere to me, and admitted his mistakes. Then, too, he publicly referred to me as his best friend, in Fandom or out, and I would be several varieties of stinker to have deserted him and gained the security of joining mob opinion. And some of the critiques were too harsh.

For a long time, Degler promised to do better. He still is. Nothing concrete has come of his promises. For months I have been Administrative Editor, but have not stenciled a single CC publication. He seems to be in a continual state of overwork answering the supposedly huge batches of CC mail. It is only recently that he has begun issuing semi-acceptable publications. Meanwhile, he continues to assure me that sometime soon I will receive a large mass of material, complete information, etc, that I have been vainly requesting for over half a year. Nothing is accomplished. There is no immediate prospect of anything being accomplished, any more than there was last Christmas. In the meantime, Degler issues publications from time to time, which I have nothing to do with. This does not mean that all his statements are false; it merely means that I did not write them and was not notified, usually, that they were to be made.

((Raym concludes with the belief that "there is still hope." We conclude with the remainder of his remarks on #31.))

Crutch's letter amused me very much; his crude, forceful logic is wonderfully lucid. ("None But Lucidfer") Los is perhaps the most ungeniuslike of the fans, with perhaps the exception of Honig. This isn't a slam, understand; Los is my friend; we carried on a goodly correspondence at one time, during which my respect for his individual philosophy of life increased.

Bloch seems to be much more

stfanish than Heinlein.

Robert

align myself with Forry and stf and fandom. May I come a G.I. Joe, or some-fandom's superminds,

I agree with Warner that fandom is an infinitely small portion of the cosmos, but that small portion gives me satisfaction and the opportunity to produce creative material for minds similar to my own, so why should I desert it for other, wider spheres where I am a nobody, where few people think as I do, and where I do not feel that what talents I have are appreciated? For cases of arrested development, speaking on a broader sense, look at the human race, its vague, semi-pious, hypocritical devotion to religion, with the tremendous majority of the people really engrossed only in strictly local affairs, local gossip, and personal success, with no thought of contributing to posterity. Then appraise the sound cultural background of fandom, the interest in music, art, philosophy, science, etc, and tell me just who needs to grow out of an immature state of race prejudices, religious prejudices, oh, all sorts of prejudices, misconceptions, and narrow-minded perspectives. #

Firsttimer GLEN DANIELS, editor Visionary, types in the LASFS clubroom: Number 32--excellent, so far--I'm writing this while I am reading it, makes it more interesting that way--except of course, I do not understand the cover. To a laymen like myself, and not being too well versed(in at or on) the minds of 'fans' and their

neurotic meanderings, the picture--drawing, what you will, leaves me out in space wondering just how I got there.

The pic. of you, 4e, is quite nice. Who got you to take off your glasses? (Why, U Daugherty dog! Identifooing that Bokreature by Walt as me!)

Speer's article is saying exactly what I want to say but don't know how to.

remarks on religion is WHY? Why all

there?-- sure, its an interesting subject to presuppose. I'm just as willing to argue the Bible--as a statement of fact to be adhered to like Car ter's liver Pills as the next one, but I don't think the guy that does believe in it should be censored. At times I wish that I could find something to believe in--at times this world gets awfully big. Probably the thing that keeps me from believing more than intelligence is my own innane bull-headedness.

As far as any criticisms--Lorraine (and child?) were nice, but not necessary--and Vom was such a good mag too, until page 6! So the feminine nude is nice--heck fire! Most of us are over 21--honest! (Honest? Howbout Watson, Shaw, Raym, Bronson, Moffatt, Cunningham, Kennedy, Kepnor, Ebey, Anderson, Dye, Sinn, Honig & many others? All these must be thoroly corrupted bfor they reach 21! Robt Bloch is our most recalcitrant customer, in this respect. To pen, Crozet! Produce a piece of pulchritudo, these young men's resistance bfor it is too late!))#

to undermine

Sorvifan LEN MOFFATT, the poor fan's Julie Unger when it comes to atrocious handriting, pens 8 pgs which he hopes can be deciphered.

The Christian Stfan returns. Nudes as Art are O.K., but as pornography should be kept in their place, which is not in VOM. Cartoons all very "hoomerus" especially the one about the Angel protesting that he's an atheist. I don't doubt that many atheists live as Christian

a life as those who believe in God and profess Christianity.

Don't like the title "PLANS FOR SLANS" but the idea is good! Also I liked many of Art & Ruth Widner's Plans for Pete - Lots of Christian ideas there-in.

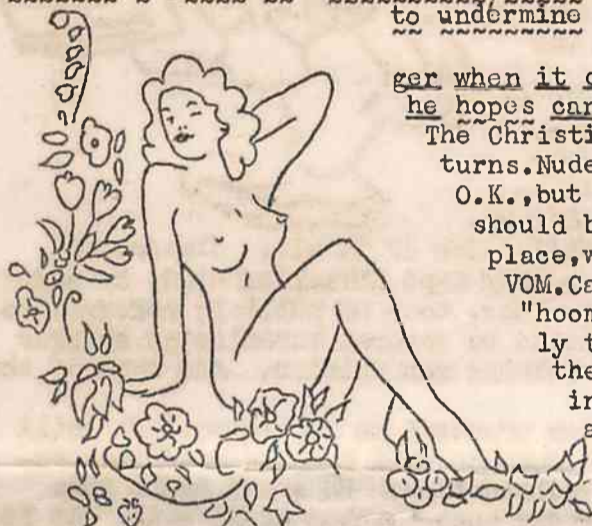
Yerke: Happy to hear that "T.B." enjoyed my "ungrammatical poetry!" (Haw!) - Evolution, atomic theory, astronomy, medicine etc. are not necessarily contrary concepts to Christianity, in my opinion. Like Macdonald I am a reader and follower of the New Testament. Just how God caused the universe to be, I dunno. Evolution sounds like a logical enough way to me. I'm more interested in the Future than the past however. Man has risen a little above the other animals - but without Christianity he cannot progress very far. When Yerke mentioned "medicine" I presume he was referring to the "miracles" worked by Christ. (By the way, "The Robo" by Douglas, explains how some of these miracles could have been worked - logically too!) Many unexplained phenomena has occurred, other than the miracles in the New Testament. (ask the Fortean Society, of which I am not a member) Being in the Navy Hospital Corps I kinda like the use of "medicine" to cure diseases of mankind. They help, no end. But then maybe an "idiot saint" wouldn't know about things like that----

Macdonald: ((Says U misunderstand; by "loving everyone" he merely meant having a fond regard for his fellow men. Like Will Rogers, he has found something in each person that he likes, tho not necessarily enuf to make him love them like, for instance, his Best Friend, his mother--"God bless her!" He even admits to having hated certain persons from time to time enuf to want to kill them; but 'twas a passing hate, resultant from a terrific temper--fortunately slow to rise --combined with a blue mood.))

Mrs. Beachy's letter was not only untactful (Haw!) but a little unChristian, in my opinion. Perhaps it's not her fault though. Evidently she thinks fandom is a "heaven" for drunkerds, sex fiends, etc. and could very easily gotten this opinion from hastily scanning VOM, LEZ, etc (and from listening to Sinn) without looking into the matter fully.

Honig: Sorry that my "holy talk" sickens you, friend. I speak only what I believe, what is, in my opinion, the truth. I know I am a stfan because I enjoy reading fantasy & stfiction, I enjoy being an actifan, I'm all out for progress, a better future, etc. etc. At the same time I do my best to live a Christian life. Could I live a better Christian life if I quit fandom? I doubt it? In fandom I've found something that interests, entertains and educates me. (Likewise in Christianity, of course). If I would quit fandom I would certainly miss it and I'd have a harder time being a good, true Christian, I assure you. Still dumbfounded?

Parker: ((Agrees what U say about the churches "messing up" Xianity may be true



in England; is to a large, praps too large, extent in USA.))

Warner: ((Way he understands it, Christ was God in human form; called himself God's Son for identification purposes. Says next best thing to teaching offspring Xianity woud be Wid's idea for kids, letting 'em look over religions & decide for selves when old enuf.))

Now for the Jan. '44 VOM: X-LN'T cover, sez I. As always, too many nudes--- Well, well - if it isn't my old pal, "Doc" Dunmire! Still sick of "relegion", still plugging Wakefield, still the same old "Doc". Aha! Exposé! Dunmire reveals that Moffatt has theories on how to grind one's heel in the face of one's opponent. Careful "Doc" or people will get the wrong idea of your pal. Frankly, I don't recall much of the argument, except that Gilbert had some rather gruesome ideas on the subject.

Speer: Wasn't attempting to quote any version of the Bible when I used "think-eth I" t'was just my corny sense of humor exerting itself.

I rather enjoyed Laney's letter. His motto seems to be "Bo happy!" True, but if some of us have to have a purpose for the things we do to make us happy, what's wrong with it?

((He thanx Watson for his kind words, lafs over "the Robert Bloch poem".))

Cunningham: Because I dislike killing I volunteered for the Hospital Corps. Now I'm with the Fleet Marines and will carry a weapon too. If necessary I will use it. I do not believe that God will punish a person for being a humane being. #

PFC JOHN CUNNINGHAM re #32: Cover was exceptionally good. However, since you have done away with dummyming the quality of VOM has suffered trmendously. I can only hope in future U mite find some time to spend in dummyming. #



VOM NBR THREE ONE DTD APR FOUR FOUR COLON SUBMITTED IN COMPL WITH TACIT REQ FOR LTRS PD FORM IT DOES IN EXASPERATION WITH QUOTE ACKERMANESE QUOTE & WILL BE FAMILIAR TO THOSE EM WITH MOS TWO THREE SEVEN OR THOSE IN HQRS WHO HANDLE TELETYPES CMA OR TWXS CMA AS THEY ARE BETTER BUT INCORRECTLY KNOWN PD BUT ENOUGH OF THIS FASCINATING BUT UNDOUBTLESSLY INCOMPREHENSIBLE PAREN TO MUFTI PAREN ART FORM DASH BETTER I SHOULD RETURN LIKE so--to understandable English.

"MOBY"

Dick Wilson

"teletypes": CITE FOLWG COMMENTS THIS MSG TAKES

Sgt Loof, since my explanation of the to be obscene; but my friend, S/Sgt lady is the third daughter of a third each case the three daughters were a third mammary gland (as you so del-third leg is neither an extra right middle leg, with the big toe in the tle toes slantingly aligned on both walks in a manner similar to that of a taxis, as who wouldn't. Buck sergeant that she has only two arms. The third trophied thru non-use; we are consider-

I shall make no attempt to enter the contest of three-legged damsel would be found Yam Norom, thinks as follows: the daughter of a third daughter. In triplets and to facilitate nursing icately put it) evolved. The nor an extra left leg. It's a center of the foot and the lit-sidos of it. The subject pacing horse, tho she prefers Loof is in error when he says hangs down the back, but is a-ing amputation.



you Ackermaniacs planning to picket Bernadette"? (Certainly not! What U are picky-unish! Beside, our tastes are VOM is devoting too much space to relig-arguments, and to nudes. I agree with a banning from the mails, should staid-&-upright Mr Walker, the Esquire-hater, ever peek within your covers. But perhaps not. Obviously many VOMs which go overseas are subject to inspection by postal authorities in these parlous times, and you seem to have got by so far.

Tell me, are theaters showing "The Song of say amounts to suggesting we quite Catholic.)" I think ious (mostly anti-religious) Widner that you are risking

This west of yours has had me in its grip for more than a year now, and I am partially acclimatized, but I still am startled to find that things come in sacks instead of bags, that you can't get a drink in a cafe, that they call them stages and coaches instead of buses, that Spokane is not on the Pacific, that slot machines are practically legal, that mountains higher than those in the east are referred to as hills and that you're not supposed to cross a deserted street against a stop light. Quaint, ain't it? But it could be worse. I could be in Eng-land, drinking warm beer. #

Another Cpl, MILTY ROTHMAN, rites: The discussions on religion are dragging out too long without any new ideas.

against the nudes. They make it impossible for me to show VoM to anybody who might be interested in the discussions. I don't like to make the explanation that the editor has some sort of mania for nudes, and insists on publishing them without regard to their connection with the rest of the mag. Don't you see that its this kind of stubbornness which has caused the trouble in the LASFS? Count the letters for nudes and against nudes and draw some conclusions. (Better yet, let's count votes. Make 1 Aug the deadline, to give any intrested over-sensers the opportunity to be included. Nudes--Yes, or Nudes--No, is all U need indicate.) #

MRS J E WALKER, Bx 23, S Porcupine, Ont, CAN, recommends: If Slans want to do something for their country and civilization etc.etc. they will find



movements of this kind in their own locality that would welcome support. Personally, I think the co-operative movement has great possibilities. It has done much to change social conditions all over the world. For the last 3 or 4 years our Canadian Broadcasting system has been sponsoring the Farm Forum on Monday evenings. Aside from physical and monetary benefits derived by neighbourhood co-operation the farmers find that a new spirit of understanding has also arisen. Much as I deplore war as a waste of men and material, it has certainly broken down barriers that were almost insurmountable. The returning warrior will be cosmopolitan in his views, better able to understand the viewpoint and work of other nations, and, I hope, better equipped to meet life.



I hope all this doesn't sound as if I am Old Soberides himself, in person. Quite the contrary. The sense of humor isn't lacking. I think the sanest characteristic one can have is the ability to laugh at one's self and with the other fellow. I often see the funny point where none was intended. I'm just an ordinary individual, with a wide range of interests. Have very definite ideas along certain lines, but am quite willing for the other fellow to have his own ideas too. I'm for anything that tends toward the brotherhood of man, think Esperanto and the Co-operative movement have a definite place in bringing this about. Stifans should be a help too if they can cultivate the universal viewpoint. #

Chas. McNutt - who terms himself a "Scientifantastist", signs off "Irreverently yours", adreses the "Vomorons" from 2721 - 16 St, Everett, Wash:

I sincerely hope this, my second epistle to you, doesn't end up in some other fan-mag. I don't know how in Hades such a thing happened, but if it is what I strongly suspect.....I'll simply state that I shall plead guilty to the most ungodly and heinous crime ever to be committed in the state of California.

((McNutt was the butt of much joshing over his nataletter to Vom which, as he so suspiciously suspects, was--shhh!--forwarded by us--under the free pranking privilege--to Lez, a crime to which we have never confest--& never will!))

VOM #32, tiny as it was, was quite good, both in body and in format, though it tended rather to discuss the after-effects of #31, which I didn't see and so could not fully understand. However, I gather that Ack-Ack vociferously aired his views on religion, denouncing with an oath all that is held alledgedly "Holy" by the Church-goers (a group to which I am not member)

To me, strict atheism is comparable to strict anti-Semitism, in that both are either Hereditarily or self-imposedly prejudiced. I think Les Croutch sums it up quite sensibly, and everyone must agree with him whole-heartedly. God and The Bible are, to me, like some story out of UNKNOWN; improbable, yes, but impossible? No, I'm very much inclined to think that there is something that originally was the foreman in the construction of civilization, something that oversaw the creating of the universe. (Maybe It overlookt the creating of this universe--maybe we are but the afterbirth!) But, as Les sez, it is preposterous --- downright stupid to accept the theory of the Church-goer. If their God was so infallible, then he would be immune to the silly goings on of such organizations as "The Roly Hollers" (For fear of suit), and the rest. Psalm-singing, knee-scurfing and hand waving, spiced up with a few hallalujahs would or rather should be considered feats of bribery or flattery, impervious to his Holiness. Huh uh, it just won't hold water, and sooner or later the public will wake up to this. I haven't the slightest doubt that "the Biblo God" is pure malarky, but these doubts waver at the many hints of a superior something that spring up around me.

None of us should believe in nothing at all ----- it isn't good for the digestion, and besides, UNKNOWN's yarns are just asfantastic, yet don't we all kinda wonder if they're not in origin true? Or could be?

Where would the world be if there were no Churches? Doubtless shooting a few games of pool or crap or perchance murdering a gink for some personal reason.....you see! There is some good in Christianity after all! (What inanity is this?! Rather humanity myt be sitting under a gingko tree, enjoying "The Moon Pool"!)

I disagree very much with "Gretchen" ---- I thought "The Grapefruit Girl" was very stunning, and certainly there was nothing 'filthy' about her. Let's say 'unrefined'. The photography was undoubtedly that of an expert craftsman, and in no means reminiscent of the two-bit "Post-Cards" obtainable at the nearest Opium-Den, as she implies. (U're ryt there: Study was made by one of Hollywood's highest payd still-fotografers, whose pictures have appeard in Life.)

Thorne Smith could have described the pic masterfully to thoseunfortunate enuf not to receive a copy. Of course he'd either drag in "Three partners" "An incongruous gentlemen with dull tweeds" or "A vixen obviously not lonesome for her long discarded scruples"

Roy Hunt's cover was good all right, but do ya mind if I do a little Sherlock Holmes work? Okay. I surmise that the picture has been recently printed from a drawing not originally planned for VOM, and picked up (both literally and figuratively) (only the latter) from Roy by either Ack or Morajo (Ack). Drawn conclusions: So, because the white paint in the designing spots for the Bantamweight monster's comb is chipped off in various places, this condition being caused by one or both of two things; mishandling and/or ago. Also the size is way off, and there is no lettering. Elementary, my dear Watson, elementary. (In the event that I'm wrong I was only kidding) (But you're remarkably very near ryt! Pic



was mailed me--4e--several yrs ago by Hunt, whether for a Vom cover or not I confess to've forgot. Later I had it litho'd for an ad in the ill-fated Fan-ual. Recently, reduced, reversed & relitho'd for the preceding cover.)

I think Paul would have liked this very much, had providence favored him. (He had seen, admired the original.) If that Bok is a Bok then I'm a rock sock, doc. (Nope, U're swingin' a strate gate, mate: "Bok" was merely an impression by Daugherty.)

Here's a point someone might take up-----socialism in fandom. Distribution according to contribution.....I won't say anymore, but I sure think it's a good idear. #

#### Gibs it now

PVT JOE GIBSON: Fandom has completed another cycle of purpose-seeking and is back to the matters of mags & maidens, fanews & fanudes, etc. So we should prattle now I suppose, huh! Nuts. Admittedly this #3.2 ish is a salvage sheet, but this will be one of those occasions we'll look back to in a postwar era of ease ahope ahope. The time when VoM sports only one nicely penned nude is a sad one. This ish was full of ...echoes...fandom leading mankind...nudes...religion. Fans must someday make for themselves a secret haven where they can escape from mankind into an environment of their liking...this desire for some ideal "dream world" seems to come spasmodically. Perhaps if we had some sort of resort, like a "Martian city" in the desert or an outpost of an intergalactic civilization in some isolated area, which we constructed in lieu of the real thing, we might have something. That might possibly be just the sort of mental institution we need, if you want to take it that way. Or maybe the essential idea of this is good, if it were only presented in a different aspect.

Nudes is art and nudes is nasty, and it even seems proper to speak vulgarly when mentioning them. A girl removes her dress, and when the last undergarment is laid aside also she is presented as an ultimate representative of sex. If she sinks back on a satin bedspread and beckons you with half-closed eyes, the expected has been fulfilled. If you step before an easel with a brush does sex vanish? I think not. Others don't seem to agree that man's curiosity is the only thing about him that isn't animal. Animalism isn't instinct alone. Oversex is, of course, degeneration. But there's a difference between the degenerate fen and the more immune, the more thoroughly "baptised" individual. It's a certain part of human nature that has some good Joes in every walk of life. If I couldn't bring myself to ask a nice girl for a date for fear of inducing her to prostitution I wouldn't think much of what there is of me, but when I marry a gem you can be damned sure I'm going to bed with her, no matter how much her bank account totals.

Curiosity...the constant yearning for what we call "knowledge", never appeased, reaching to the ends of the Universe. Religion ...heaven, a place of peace and rest eternally...hell, eternal burning...utopian complacency and the burning of the soul...the burning desire for what lies in the shadows, beyond...knowledge. Perhaps to be bound to the living as a ghost would be more preferable, or even hell. Heaven ain't what it used to be.

To become a Thing, as authors put it, and to haunt the living, molding lives as an art. A cold, immortal humor playing with living passion, the chill breeze on a lovely cheek, the shameful humor of warm, rounded breasts gasping at a ghostly touch--imagined?--and whispered laughter in the moonlight of a thousand ages, a million worlds, the patient craftsman of insanity for tyrants, and a queer sigh among the shadows of time. But six feet of good German soil or Chinese clay for ye poore devvils. To hell with the lot of us.

By the way, did you send Liebscher a mechanical kit?

on the sidewalks for my living... #

Thinking of drawing nudes

"Hey, out there!"  
calls to the imagi-nation: Far be it from me to spoil your publication by injecting a serious note. But as I sit here, pondering upon the fact that VOMaidens now have a "K" initialled upon a portion of their anatomy where I never have seen a "K" myself -- and believe me, I have a keen eye for detail ... uh ... the thought occurs and I must give it voice.

There is some talk about what books are suitable for SLANS. Why not a bibliography for adult fantasy followers...youse guys, f'rinstance?

The thought gains significance, to my mind, as I peruse the endless circumlocutions printed anent religion and sex. What the heck, boys and girls, there's a lot more to the world...and if you are at all serious about evolving a sort of fantasy-lover's philosophy or credo or code of ethics or slant or ideology -- then why not enlarge the field of discussion by considering the greater and more immediate problems that will plague mankind in A.D. 1960 ... or A.D. Here and Now, for that matter.

Now don't get me wrong. I like sex as well as the next fellow (pardon me, I just asked the next fellow and he says I like sex even MORE than he does) but the usual run-of-the-mill discussion gets you no place fast. But I do not wish to posit alternative topics of discussion myself. I am no crusader. I will not cry "Pyromaniacs of the world - ignite!" All I can do is make a few modest suggestions anent reading matter which should open up new vistas for fan discussion. #

AND THESE NEW VISTAS will be opened next ish, when Bloch lists & comments on 9 thot-provoking titles. Also skeded are: A Letter from Laney...One of the Rare & Inimitable Alan P Roberts communiqués...Dunkelberger's PLANS for SLANS...And a lithographic cover by ET "Intolerance" Beaumont.....