

VOMBOZINE

TABLE OF CONTENTS _____

<u>Harold</u> CHENEY Jr: Wherein, if nothing else, a plot against Ye Ed is uncovered.....	#1
<u>Milton</u> ROTHMAN: "...and <u>live</u> to see such big regrets".....	#2
<u>Ed</u> WHITEHEAD: Voice of the Rumi-nation (does that make him a Rumanian?)	#3
<u>Mari-Jane</u> NUTTALL: "Nuttall is gold that glitters" (ah, right in my element!)	#4
<u>Insert</u> -----Tomaiden by Wright-----	
<u>TIGRINA</u> : When Buddha tires of his bride, Buddha pest!	#5
<u>Festus</u> PRAGNELL: How Pelagravating!	#6
" <u>Kaymar</u> " CARLSON: Who's afraid of an atomickey finish?	#7

* * *

Ack's-planation

VOM, short for VOICE of the IMAGI-NATION, is one of the oldest going fanmags (est. 1937). Its 49th number will be found on sale at the Pacificon. Its aim: To be the mirror of fandom, publishing---Unedited---letters of commendation, criticism or condemnation; opinions on the future, fantasyarns, politics, religion, ethics, sex, the unknown, semantics, universalanguage, education, philosophy, &c, &c.

Winter, Spring, Summer & Atom, Vom expects to go on until the BOMB.

No five year subscriptions accepted.

(If the world is blown up while your subscription is running, no refund can be guaranteed.)

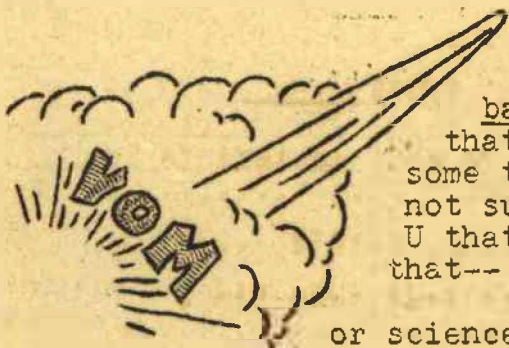
--Forrest J Ackerman

PACIFICON SPECIAL: LAST 8 ISSUES OF VOM FOR \$1

NEXT 7 NUMBERS \$1

The blank space below is provided for the autographs of A. Merritt, HP Lovecraft, Geo. Allan England, Edgar Allen Poe, Homer Eon Flint, Austin Hall, Chas. Fort, T. O'Connor Sloane, Jules Verne, Lon Chaney, Earl Shogton & Raymond Amazing Palmer....

(Vomimeographing this Issue
courtesy E Everett Evans.)



HAROLD W CHINIY JR of 584 F
Monroe St, Little Falls, NY, opens with a
bang: As Francis T. Laney has assured me
 that VOM has not had a nude on the cover for
 some time, I feel that I'm missing something by
 not suscribing to VOM. ((What?! Did Laney tell
 U that?! Why, that subscription killer, that--
 that-- suboteur!))

Which do you prefer, fantasy
 or science-fiction? Or to phrase it this way, do
 you prefer Astounding or FFM. I personally like
 FFM. In fact I place it at the top of the pro
 field. On the contrary, although Astounding carries many, many fine
 stories, I rank it third. One of the reasons for it being there is
 that all through the war, AST was the only monthly. That naturally
 gave it many more stories a year therefor a higher amount of good
 ones. ((Your editor personly prefers scientifiction, fantasy &
 weird, in that order; Astounding, FFM & Weird Tales.)) #

MILTY ROTHMAN, Vom's prolificcontributor, wrote while a sc
in Paris: A bone to drag around a bit is Tucker's remark concerning
 how little the public has to do with policy-~~making~~-making, world
 building, etc, and how it's the big men with the push buttons who
 decide whats going to happen. Involved in this little item is the
 whole philosophy of history.

Methinks its closer to the truth to
 say that there is an interplay between the little man en-masse and
 the big men. Each influences the other. The big man is ineffectual
 without the proper mental attitudes of the little men, and while he
 tries to influence them by his means of propaganda, they can't be
 influenced completely unless they are ready for it. Conversely,
 public attitudes give ideas to the big men and enable them to per-
 form. For example, fascism was made possible by the psychological
 state of Europe after the last war. Unions are an example of how
 many little men can get together to pull against the few big men.
 True, in a union a strong man gets to be the leader, but a good un-
 ion is run democratically, and the union leader seems closer to you
 than the president of the company.

Didn't we once discuss the ques-
 tion of whether great geniuses lead world thought or are an out-
 growth of the age they live in?

P.S. I'll say this, tho---that in
 the case of atomic bomb politics---there has rarely if ever been a
 case where a few men could make such big decisions and live to see
 such big regrets. The opinions of the scientists who have been try-
 ing to get the right thing done by atomic energy bring up in sharp
 contrast the clear, logical, simple way of government that would be
 had if men were reasonable as opposed to the muddled, selfish, de-
 vious actions that must be taken because of the fouled-up situation
 that exists. #

T/SGT EDWIN WHITEHEAD airmaild from England: Comes
 now rumbles and ruminations from ye new and as yet unknown fan
 Whitehead. If I should forget my poise and blow my top as some of
 Vom's other correspondents seem to do, pay me no mind. I'll be just
 another VoManiac. Tch-tch, so young 2!

Got Vom's 44-46 and the

IMAGINATION

portfolio of VoMaidens---yum-yum. It's a good thing I wrote for the folio, for imagine my shocked and shattered expectations to receive three (3-count em) imperial-size VoMs and then discover NO VoMaidens. Oh lack-a-day! But came the dawn a few days farther on when came the reinforcements in the form of your 2nd mailing and the beautiful maid herself in all her varied forms.

I'll cut loose with a bit of criticism now and get it over with. A couple of the femmes were Bags with a kapital B. However, the majority (including that delicious creature with the butterflies----tell me 4sJ if I live a Ghu'd life is that my reward in the hereafter?) ((Well, that's Foo'd for thot!))

Great Ghu! I did forget the covering print sent with the three Vom's! Humble apologies for forgetting the interpretation of Deidre, it was A-No.1 hokay!

The discussions on racial discrimination interest me greatly. I'm a Southerner (Dallas, Texas), but view with shame the Negro situation as it stands today. I had thought Texas was bad enough, but after meeting some of the fanatical anti-Negro Southerners in the Army I realize just how serious it all is. Hearing such statements as "some people want to treat Negroes just like human beings," gets me riled plenty. My idea is a program of education and not social upheaval, which would cause nothing but bloodshed. It's in our schools that the twisted prejudices taught children in their own homes by the ignorant and bigoted can be corrected. When shown a careful study of the subject children will be gradually brought onto the road of common-sense and not blind fanaticism. Such a program calls for courage on the part of educational authorities.

Another sore spot is the Nisei (Japanese-American second-generation) question on the Pacific Coast. I have read of a Japanese-American soldier invalidated out of the service who was refused service in a West-coast shop because of his ancestry. Such an occurrence is enough to embitter anyone and if repeated might cause him to become an enemy of society---a society he had fought and bled for---if need be, died for. The combat record of our comrades-in-arms of Japanese ancestry is without a stain. It should be held up to the people of the world as a shining example of the loyalty that the United States engenders in its citizens. Yet how can such loyalty remain when these same men who gave his every effort¹⁹ his country and was wounded, perhaps a wound that will handicap him all his life, is refused the privileges of any free citizen?

There I go--blowing off as I at first feared I would. Still, I have long wanted to get them there words off my chest.

You'd's letter had plenty of sense behind it. It's a very delicate problem, the handling of the Atombomb. I'm not at all certain that the U.S. should keep the secret clutched in its grimy paw and hold it over the rest of the world like some sort of super bludgeon. Such a scheme smacks of a good beginning to the facism You'd looks for. He has hit the right chord on England. I have observed the beginnings here and the latest news of the British Government's complete control of British commercial aviation and communication services is a big step in that direction.

All in all, though, I don't exactly see a war between Britain and the U.S. With Russia perhaps. Whatever the

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION

Soviet government decides to do, the people will follow blindly.

I agree with Kepner that the ordinary American citizen will have very little to say. It'll all come before he even has time to form an intelligent opinion, and once in the only thing to do is ride the tiger to the bitter end.

Bloch's additions to the fan census had me chuckling for quite a while.

As for Elsner's letter re STF, STFF, et al., must admit that it's very hazy in my mind. I am not a science-fiction fan, although I enjoy reading a good science yarn. UNKNOWN was the top mag on the market for my money, but since it's untimely demise I place ASTOUNDING on top of the heap. Have read ASTOUNDING for quite a few years and would miss it if it ever ended publication, but much of the more technical writing is completely over my head. I believe FANTAST is a good term for the lovers of UNKNOWN AND WIRD. As for an overall term I'm still waiting for someone else to suggest one. #

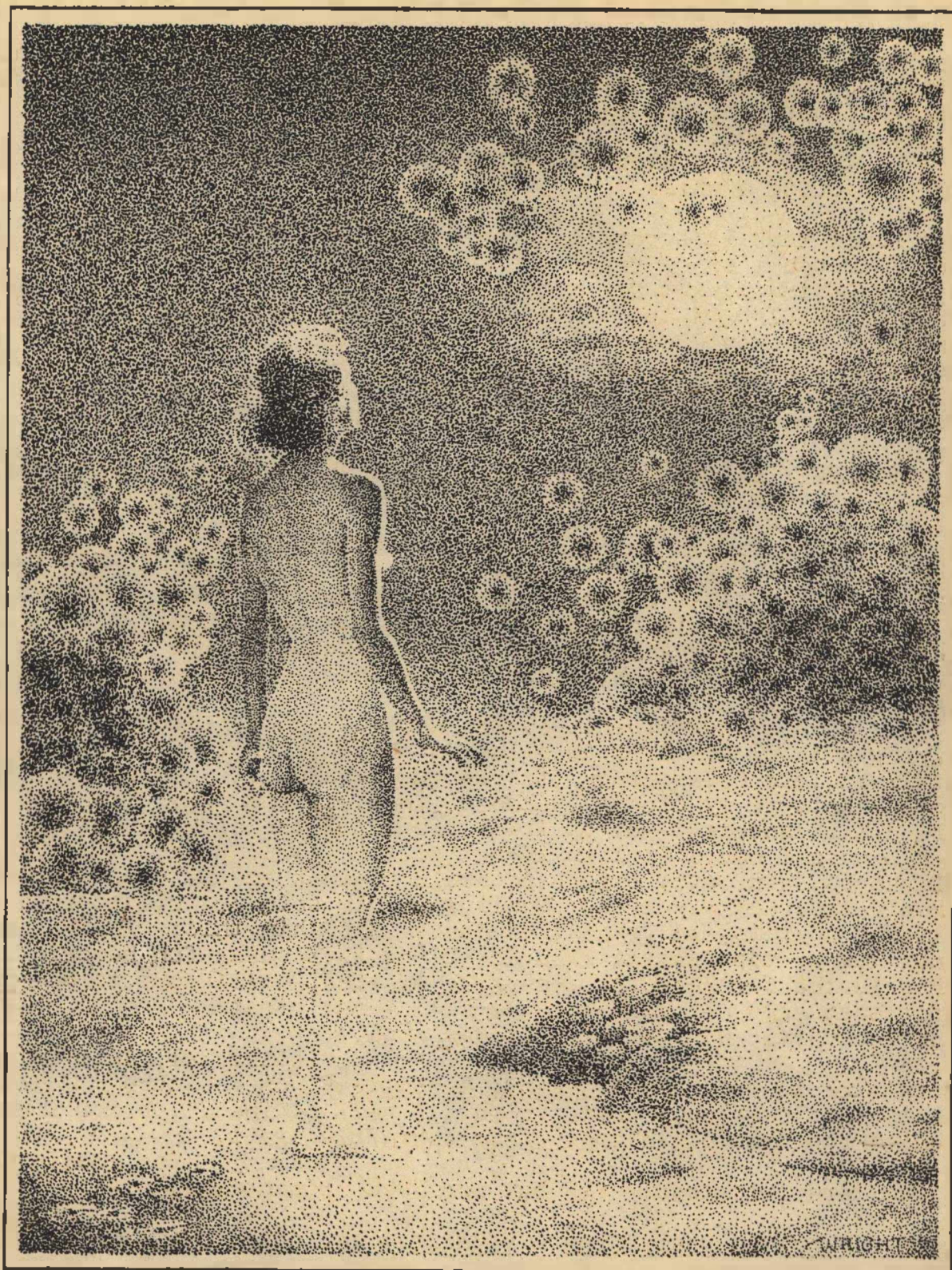
A breezy bit from MARI-JANE NUTTALL of San Diego Cal: That was some cover Goldstone dreamed up for the No. 48 Vom! One of the most attractive (in an eyeda sort of way) I've seen. That he was the guy who swore off fandom & fantasy via 'Bleerie ((fanmag diablerie)) last year. They always straggle back, no? ((I have a great pun with the word straggle. It's a great struggle to refrain from using it. But it concerns the train strike, & could easily date this. O, well. It goes like this: By the time of the Pacificon, I hope the train struggle be over! Oh-oh, I don't like that look in your eye--I better make tracks!))

Really enjoyed the news-flash on fandom. Am currently staying with my sis & brother-in-law until the navy finishes remodeling Japan into a democracy (to eventually end all democracies, no coot) & lets go my old man. The B. in L. is the type who hoots at S.F. & all concerned--or at least did until the atomic bomb blast - then - when I could explain in detail the atomic principles, possible influences, etc. etc. before he could read up on the world-shocker himself--respect was bred. Shall give him said article to read - he believes anything in print ((he does? Show him this: ACKERMAN is #1 fan. VOM is top fanmag. WEAVER WRIGHT is leading fan humorist. JACK ERMAN is the foremost..er..uh..give me time, it'll come to me--who threw that egg? It just came to me)) - and presto - Fandom shall have a new convert. No foolin' - it was good.

Letters all interesting - am tempted to read S&S ((Science & Sanity)) now - although I thought the theoretical (sp.) govt. in Null A well defined. Oh for a game-machine for this day'n'age. Exit corruptive govt.

The inside doodles of Vom were priceless. ((A bow for Jack Wiedenbeck.)) #

And now, another fanne is heard from - TIGRINA - who often favours Vom with a review of some sort. This time it's about a movie: The "Bride of Buddha", announced on the screen as a "Hoffberg Production, adapted from 'India Speaks'", is a series of travel pictures cleverly sequenced to give the effect of a feature-length film. Although most of the pictures are undoubtedly authentic, there is good reason to doubt the authenticity of some of the actual adventures depicted upon the screen. It is obvious that stock shots and other unrelated pictures



NOCTURNE

a moonlight fantasy

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION

have been surreptitiously inserted to lend more interest to the film. The encounter of the explorer with a vampire bat, for instance, was so plainly a "fake" as to be almost ludicrous.

The title, "Bride of Buddha", is rather misleading, as one might expect, for the actual sequence dealing with this is not shown until toward the conclusion of the film, and then the "wild adventures" are so obviously fabrications, artfully concocted from a carefully arranged selection of authentic scenes and stock shots, that it would not deceive any but the most gullible. However, even though the picture is a film editor's nightmare, for those who like travelogues of exotic eastern countries such as India and Tibet, and are none too squeamish about unusual sights, this film is a "must see".

Amidst the soft strains of Tschaikevski's "Danse Arabe" in the background, a narrator's voice is heard. The very choppy sound track in the beginning makes one wonder whether the narration is to be in English or Hindustani.

Several pictures of the most decrepit "holy" beggars were shown. One had remained in the same position for so long that his thumb nails had reached an amazing length and had grown through his ears. Another "religious" mendicant had vowed always to keep a roll of barbed wire on his face. Another continually stared at the blazing India sun. Most unique of all, however, was one who nonchalantly permitted his pet snake to wriggle up his nostrils. With a saucy flip of the tail, the adventurous reptile would vanish, only to reissue from the widely grinning mouth of his owner (gulp!).

As the film runs on, one realises more and more that these natives are a queer lot. For example, it is the last wish of a certain sect, when they feel death coming upon them, to gasp their last breaths while grasping the tail of a cow! ((Hm, does that make Durbee an Indian, because he'd like to die clutching a calf?)) Cows' lives are more valuable than those of humans in India, as the cows are considered sacred. Woman is held in such contempt in that country that the Hindus deny that she has a soul.

Scenes of an orgy of "holy horrors" were shown, in which natives worked themselves into a religious frenzy and would submit to the most nerve-wracking tortures. Close ups were shown of one wild-eyed fellow, trembling in agony whilst a silver barb was thrust through his tongue. The audience shuddered as another native, with pincer-like devices attached by long pieces of twine to his bare back, would pull great weights, the living flesh meanwhile being strained to the utmost and literally torn from his back. These natives, according to the narrator, were constantly inventing new and more agonising tortures. The more horrible the agony suffered, the more enthusiastic the natives were. Small native children witness these gruesome scenes with amusement. Later in life, they too will be influenced by the religious frenzy and feel compelled to participate. Of odd significance is the fact that no blood is ever seen from the wounds inflicted during these cruel rites.

The film continues with some interesting pictures of large flocks of "vampire" bats. Natives believe that the souls of the wicked, upon death, become vampire bats. Several trees were heavy with these creatures, dormant in their characteristic upside down position--a macabre crop for trees to bear. Several pictures were also shown of thousands

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION

of these bats soaring through the air.

Several scenes of natives on the banks of the Ganges were flashed across the screen, including a burial ceremony. In India, when a man dies, an hour later he is ashes, as the hot climate does not warrant keeping a corpse too long. As these scenes unfold, showing natives washing, praying, and casting their refuse and their dead into the Ganges, and then crinking from the same scum-infested waters, one marvels that these people do not die from the poisonous filth that they take into their systems.

There are many other intriguing scenes depicted, too numerous to describe in detail in these pages; pictures of the famed Kashmiri valley, a lion hunt (including a ferocious battle between a lion and a tiger), a detailed account of a tribe of thieves and their customs and mode of living, and an adventurous sequence of a Mohammedan religious rite, to mention only a few.

Although "Bride of Buddha" is not a fantasy picture in the true sense, I find it quite fantastic that people, in the midst of civilisation, should still be existing in such ignorance and squalor. And although I am enthusiastic when I view the possibility of finding new mysteries and marvels on other planets, I sometimes wonder if we have exhausted our supply of the weird and unexplainable in this world. #

A couple interesting paragraphs by English author FESTUS PRAGNELL ("The Green Man of Graypec", &c) excerpted from a personal letter: I'm rather wondering what science fiction authors are going to write about now that so many of our prophecies are accomplished facts--radar, penicillin, acoustic torpedoes and mines, space-rockets, jet propulsion, synthetics and plastics, atomic power.

Looks as tho the scientific age is just dawning. The only trouble is, we have not yet learned to develop a scientific attitude to politics. To my mind Fascism in Italy and Communism in Russia should be regarded as scientific experiments, and conclusions reached from their results.

In my opinion, all this world hysteria we have just gone through is due to the fact that all humanity is suffering from Pellagra due to lack of the vitamins of the B group. (Thiamin, Lactoflavin, Pyridoxin, Nicotinamide, etc.) Some of us, of course, are worse than others. ((In case U rnt carrying an Unabridged dictionary on your hipocket, Webster defines Pellagra: "A chronic disease characterized by gastrointestinal disturbance & nervous symptoms." Webster, of course, does not use Ackermanese.)) #

And we let "KAYMAR" CARLSON of Moorhead, Minn. bring this Vomlet to a close with: Art Widner's letter was good and I agree with a lot of his ideas. Specially on Labor and Capital. I hope labor Unions stand firm for a show-down. Think back (if you can) to the time when the common laborer worked for a dollar a day. That's where Capital would like to have us again. Why are so many of our master-minds so pessimistic about the atomic power? Don't worry, controls and defences will be found for that too. It will still take a lot of atomic bombs to destroy the earth. The World of Mull-A certainly has created a lot of comment. Just about overshadows Rap's "Lemurian" tangle. Perhaps Van Vogt had more on the ball than we think. Vom is getting better and better. I'm getting so that I look forward to receiving it. ((U too may look forward to 7 issues for \$1 from FJ Ackerman, Box 6151 Metropolitan Station, Los Angeles 55, California.))#