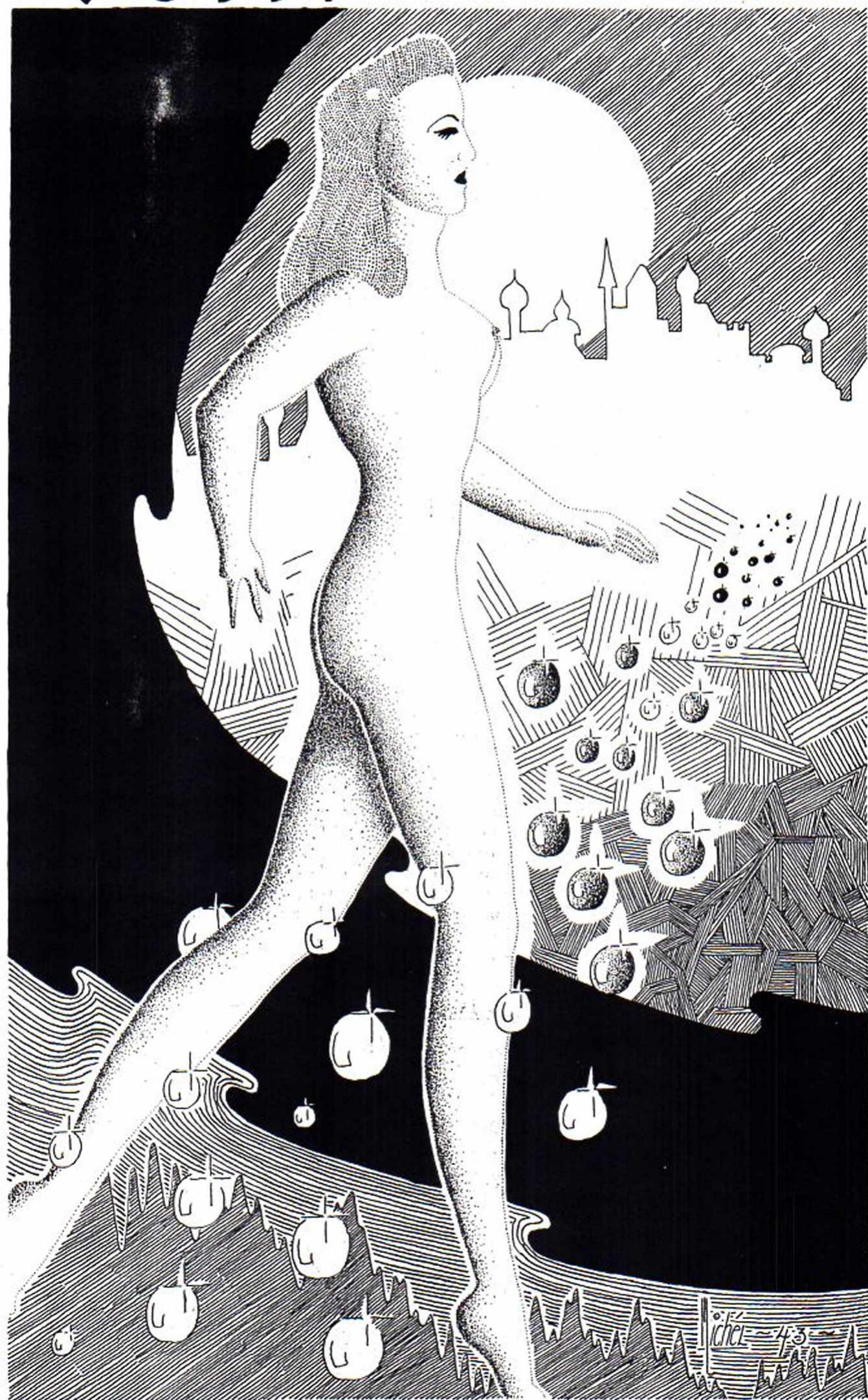


Vom

28-104



COVER-----	SANDRA MICHEL
Dennis TUCKER: Idiots' Delite.....	3
'License Plate for They Beyond the Gate' - Wortmania-----	3
T Bruce YERKE: Idiots Savant?.....	3
'On the Carpet' - PFC Art GATES-----	4
Edwin MACDONALD: Leaving stage. Must've been an actor?.....	4
Jack SPEER: Proves fans are He-less workers?.....	5
RAYM: Washt in the blood of the Raym.....	5
Edwin MACDONALD: SIFE & sound.....	6
'Bubble Trouble'-----	6
MILTY: What's the world coming to?.....	7
'Head Man' - Cpl Gizmo-----	7
Lora CROZETTI: Never the Twain shall meet (hot dog!).....	7
Ottiver Kane SMITH: Tillie's Pongfured Romance.....	7
Phil BRONSON: Live & Loren.....	8
Mrs Agnes BEACHY: O, Henry!.....	8
MILTY: The scientifichild.....	8
'Wings Over the World' - Phil BRONSON-----	9
Ray KARDEN: And his Kardenat points.....	9
Harry HONIG: Behind the Hate Ball.....	10
Jas KEPNER Jr: New fanmag for children? INFANTILE.....	10
BOB TUCKER: What the well-breast Vomaiden will wear.....	11
Illustration for Tucker letter - T/S Zeke Zekley-----	11
E Frank PARKER: Or shoud it be "Plen for Slen"--are we not fen?..	11
Harry WARNER Jr: Corntoons.....	11
PLANS for SLANS: Art & Ruth WIDNER.	12

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, aka VOM, #28. Nov. '43. 10c. Produced in colaboration with World Fandom by Jack Erman & Morojo. Publisht often as poss. Adres 'Snafucius' at Bx 6475 Met Stn, Los Angeles 14, Calif.

6TH

WELL, wutchanoet Another Anniversary has snuck up on us! We started this ish, unconscious of the fact it probly woud apear in Nov, our celebration month. So this number hasnt been done up with any special xtras, but tis a fairly large ish--in fact, now that we check, same size as our 5th Ann, with the exception of a Supplement, & Larry Shaw was sposed to supply that, but it hasnt come thru at the time of distribution.

Errata, Chattah, etc: Plity poor Harry Warner, cut off in the prime of his letter. It will be concluded nexttime, however...In errors of omission, Forry pleads guilty to forgetting to stencil the word "for" on the PLANS-for-SLANS superdoodle...Speaking of superdoodles, we introduce this ish a discovery of Mel Brown's, Dick Wortman. Yep, he doodled it--all them lil oddments thruout the ish...To Carroll Wymack, our thanx for the \$5 donation which sponsord our lithold cover...To Lora Crozetti, appreciation for stenciling of Zeke's chic, the safangel. Also, note carefully Crozetti's backpage ad, created & stencild by herself--her first work for the mimeo...We have lithoworthy illustrations on hand by or anticipated from Joe Gibson, Sandra Michel, Lorraine Kelbur & Ron Clyne. Angel contributions not declined.....

FORRY & MOROJO,
Box 6475,
Metropolitan
Station,
Los Angeles, (14)
California.

We--4e--are frantlicly trying to get this thru in time to take copys with us to distribute at the Michicon, which, Mel Brown sez, will be noen, if Cpl Ack-Ack makes it, as the Michicorn. And he don't mean likker. Sgt Howard Funk's call on me this morn didnt help matters. (Not that it matters--naturally, I was delited to make the acquaintance of this former Chlian.) And what the heck shoud hapn here at the clubroom earlier today but I glance up from stenciling...& there of all unexpected persons in the world stood Bill Crawford of Baton Rouge...& a moment later Margaret, the Mrs, walkt in! And Del-der has come back to LA & will illustrate for us again. While this news rytly belongs in Shangri-L'Affaires, we're give U spot ilash news.

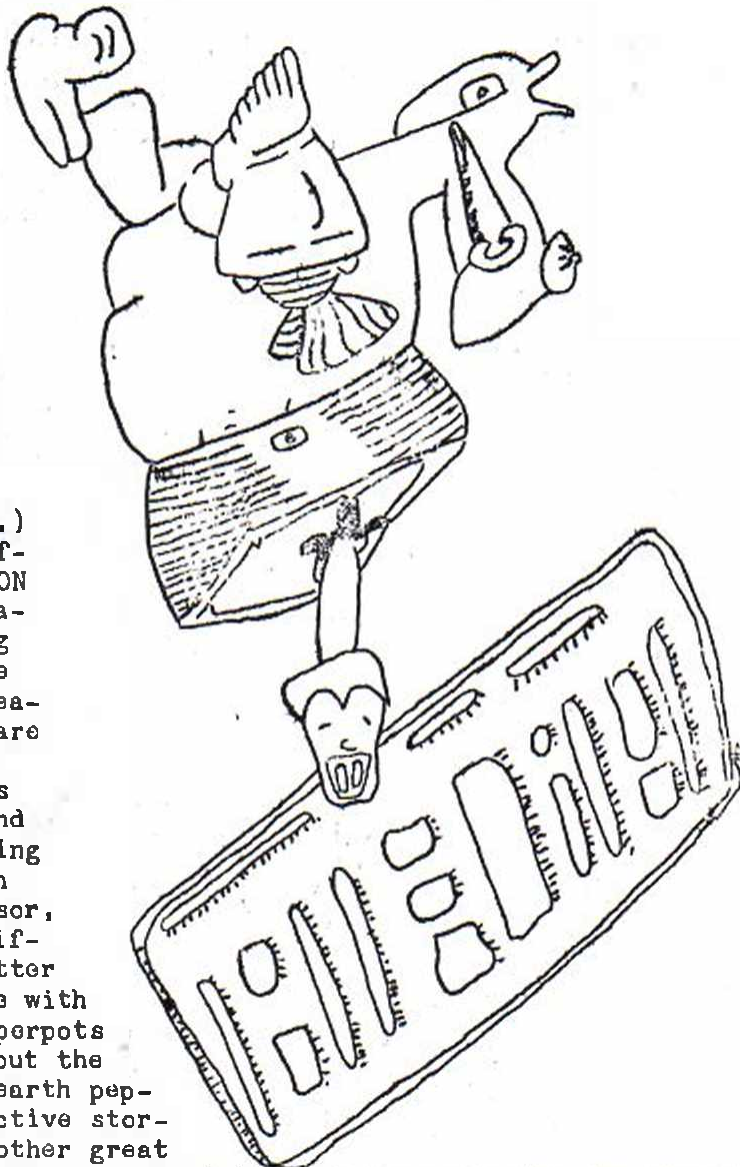
Dennis TUCKER,
 "Wicklow", 87 Oakridge Rd, High
 Wycombe, Bucks, Eng, trucks into
 our Vom-shelter with: Usually, on
 receiving VoM, --and providing that
 I have the evening free, -- I relax
 and read the whole thing thoroughly,
 beginning to end, absorbing and di-
 gesting every tasty morsel from the
 poor idiots who have a hobby called
 "science-fiction". (Omit to men-
 tion that I'm one of them !).

"It seems to me, from careful study
 of recent issues, that American fan-
 dom on the whole is doing a lot more
 serious thinking than they used to
 at one time. (At least, if letters
 in old VoM's were anything of a
 cross-section of American fandom then.)
 I suppose the war has made all the dif-
 ference ? " I enjoyed "SOME NOTES ON
 THE BLACK ARTS" immensely. Congratula-
 tions, Alojo! (Hallo, Joe !!) Having
 read some other stuff dealing with the
 same subjects, mostly by William B. Sea-
 brook, I found it interesting to compare
 Alojo's ideas with WBS's. I
 whole-heartedly agree with the remarks
 about Aleister Crowley. " The second
 Supplement, "QUEST IN TIME", was amusing
 most of the way; of course, there can
 be no comparison between its predecessor,
 touching as they do, on subjects so dif-
 ferent. " John K. Aiken's first letter
 (#25) was interesting, and provided me with
 more than one laugh.-- Nudes and pepperpots
 should be equally distributed throughout the
 pages of VoM, should they ? Why on earth pep-
 perpots ? Why not, for example, detective stor-
 ies featuring Shylock Bones, or some other great
 sleuth..? "

Closing now, with special congratulations to you, Morojo, for contin-
 uing the good work. I realise what an effort it needs, and you should get a medal
 for perseverance, -- really you should !! P.S. Who is this insignificant American
 guy, "Tucker," who insists on entering and leaving fandom with such rapidity? (The
 Pong is the lowest form of humor.) PPS. Heinlein still stinks. (We don't agree,
 but that preceding pun sure does!)

with the peculiar Qwerkean his
 1223 N Gordon, Hollywood 38:

While in 4F I imagined until
 draft exempt. Now, Ackerman,
 you publish everything, don't
 this letter was drafted from me, by accident-- ally dropping some obliterate over
 the preceding line. " I understand that I am expected to make some pertinent and
 allegedly intelligent remarks re the 27th issue of VOM. It just occurred to me that
 I never have had a missive in your rag. Familiarity breeds contempt, you know, (Of
 count, as you might say; I'll just save you the trouble of making up that pun.)
 (I'll be court-eous & laff since I'm court with my puns down. --Ack-Ack.) Now, what
 would I say about VOM if I had never met you and were still living in my home town of
 Great Falls, Montana, assuming that I was an active fan and follower of your publica-
 tion? " No matter WHERE I might be from Tierra del Whatchamacallit to Juneau, Al-
 aska, I would chuckle madly over the Kepner and Moffatt letters. Usually religious
 arguments are something I stay clear of; after all, one does not waste serious efforts
 endeavoring to convince a three-year-old that the world is round and not flat. Once
 assumes that he will eventually grow up and realise the obvious. However, Moffatt has
 a tender place in my poetic heart as the author of the immemorial "soul that had to
 go, that has to Heaven went." " In my off moments, i.e., my non-fan moments I more
 or less profess to be a serious student of "human" psychology, having had college and
 seminar courses in various psych subjects: normal, abnormal, criminal sexual varia-
 tions, child, and Semantics. I am still at a loss to explain the phenomenon of re-
 ligious persons of Moffatt's type. There is a sizeable group of these
 people in this day and age who are neither fanatics nor sectarianites,
 whose behaviours mores are perfectly rational with the single exception
 that they are batty over dear old Jesus. I have know several of these
 savoir faire religeux, whose company on a whole was very enjoyable;
 one in fact, would drink an occasional glass of beer with me, and the
 others smoked but condemned drinking. I well understand the fan-
 atic whose entire mental outlook is warped by a driving religious paranoia, but this
 sort of oomplacent creature who claims to want human progress, may even be a Social-
 ist or Y.C.L. for that matter, but still believes implicitly that the baby Jesus
 could come out a virginal vagina without having a skull fracture from the hymen and
 being a voritable human needle from other well-known structural poculiarities of this
 interesting passageway. " This type of religeous is perfectly unobtrusive save



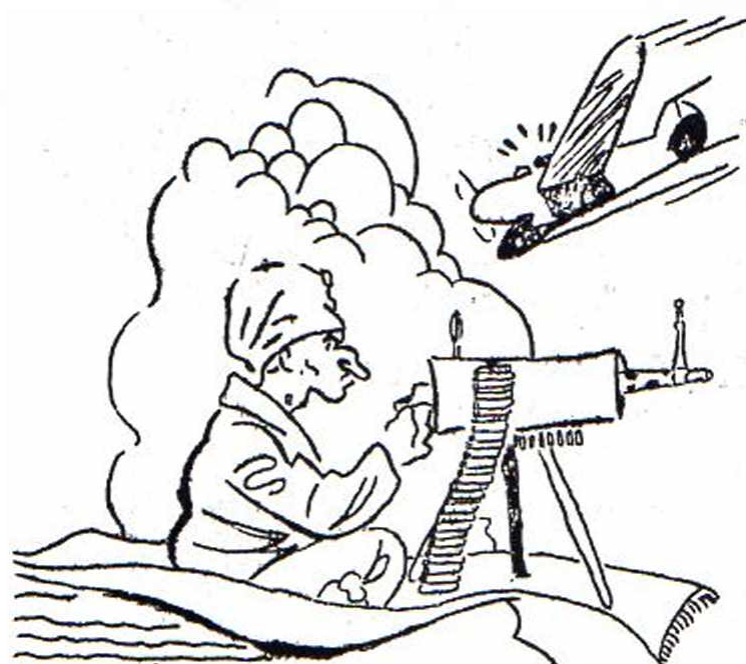
the eminent psycholeric
 brain, foo-losifies from
 TO THE VOMBARDIERS:

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 obscure this fact, that

dropping some obliterate over
 the preceding line. " I understand that I am expected to make some pertinent and
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 being a voritable human needle from other well-known structural poculiarities of this
 interesting passageway. " This type of religeous is perfectly unobtrusive save

omy, medicine, and the usual bitterly-debated contrary concepts, he will suddenly shift from logical reasoning to: "Of Course, when Jesus was at Potwash-on-the-Jordan he said such and such," much as if this were a quote from Kraft-Ebing or Forel. A few more words and: "Well, all that is explained in SatEve Post, 7/9/43, when the Human Torso was cured by dust from St. SatEve's beret." "I think that this peculiar warp from the otherwise logical is a kind of schizophrenia, or else a terrific Semantic confusion between what he is saying and what he is meaning. And perhaps most of these people are idiot savants. I wish that I could obtain some reliable case histories of this type of character." Your slogan: "Anything ecclesiastical is an affront to human dignity" is one of the best such banners that I have seen in the Free Humanity from Religious Slavery movement. I hope to see it used internationally before my time is up. Other topics in VOM are up to their usual standard. Incidentally, as the originator of the locally famous slogan, "Read Vom and Vomit," I want you to know that I think we should have a mag called VOMIT, with the slogan: "Read VOMIT and Vom." "Havn't you VOMed yet? It's more damn fun. It consists of acting and talking in an irrational and erratic manner somewhat reminiscent of Ackerman. Ackerman, incidentally, started this all off by VOMing the other night in the local drug store. The fountain girl, a neighbourhood dweller who was curious as to the doings in the little room in the big apartment house asked the fatal question of the intrepid Corporal." Ackerman started VOMing in both English and Esperanto until the poor girl had a nervous fit. She served three malts two customers in coffee cups, ordered a "wheat on rye" sandwich from the kitchen, mixed up three cokes with pure syrup instead of adding carbonated water, and was finally escorted off the floor by the manager. She didn't return for several days." I close now with the famous misprint which byt the time this is published, should be famous all over fandom. "HAVE AT THEE, KNAVES!" Four offer yours.



See, Joe —
I told you this was
ARABIA!

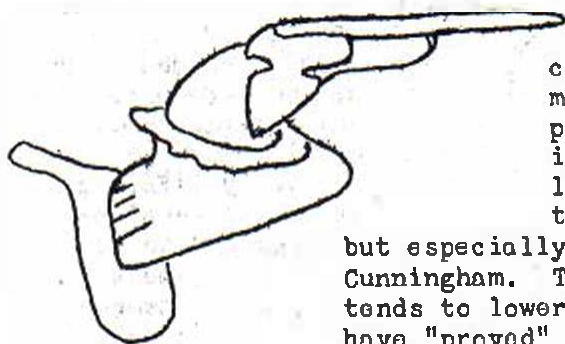
PFC
ART
GATES

Edwin Macdonald of

25 Lochfour Dr, Inverness, Scotland, sings "Old Macdonald has a beef, E-I-E-I-O!" I hasten to retrieve my good name from the gutter through which you have so mercilessly drawn it. But I might forgive you if the incident earns me fame. Firstly, I'm glad that you did not take too strong a moaning from the word "bitch". Secondly, if you would read less pornography & more of the Bible, you would know that "to kick against the pricks" (-you can uncensor it now, to the delight of all the femme fans) is a highly respectable phrase, to be found in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 9, Verse 5. (Now what would respectable persons like us be doing reading such disreputable printed matter?) The phrase is even, I discover, in my dictionary, & means "to offer an ineffectual resistance". I did not use it very well, but don't you blush at your ignorance? What's this pic: "Ack-Ack"? Looks "like a moose under a bowull", to use a local expression, if you get what I mean (in other words, "reminiscent of a mus musculus situated beneath a hemispherical receptacle". Catch on?) Miske looks like a zombie all

right! "That Texas windbag", as Beb so cutely describes him, is a surprisingly passable looking chap. Erik Needham's epistle (#26) raises an interesting point. He says that he no longer has any great interest in science fiction, & is finding how little he knows about music, art & so on. I can say that it is through science fiction that I have come to be interested in music, art, religions, psychology, good literature, politics: this as a result of getting into contact with fans having those interests. Praise be to the beneficial influence of Second Fandom! Don't mistake me, however; as yet, I know really nothing of these subjects & am only at the point of emerging from the science fiction stage. But I am emerging. What's this you have placed opposite your article & my letter? A man performing his most intimate functions! Really! That's what it looks like, anyway, though if you'd turned the gent around & removed the bushes, we might see better what 'tis meant to be. With regard to my missive, I suppose the usual reaction for a fan is to imagine that some of the better bits of his letter have been left out. I favour Laney's views regarding the influence of science fiction on the world rather than Gibson's, as most intelligent people would. I feel precisely as you do, Forrest, about that anonymous fan's religious situation. I daresay the situation is fairly widespread among fans, though generally on a much less serious scale. In your plans for slans, you seem to forget that there are other things besides science fiction. Certainly encourage your slans in this direction, but don't stuff them with all the fantastic trash available! And you are going to be just as bad as, or worse than, the parents who cram their offspring with religious dogma, if you are going to terrify the progeny away from even considering the possibility of the existence of God. A suggestion which I heard from Doug in Aberdeen seems to me the only reasonable solution of the religious problem. Keep the kids away from the influence of priests & preachers until

they reach the age of 18, or 21, & then let them choose their own religion, by using Reason. However, teach religion in schools, but not as a preacher would: "Such & such is fact"; but as an objective investigator would: "This religion says that such & such is fact." Instruction to be given in the main religions, & facilities for studying any, however obscure, offered. Larry Shaw brings up sex. The reason for British fans writing more about sex, I think, is not that they are more childish than the American, but that they are more broad-minded, & get a great kick out of poking fun at Convention. (That's me, anyway!)



The day before Xmas last JUFFUS gave us a jingle on the jangle-jimcrack & said: The latest fanografi-cover on VoM (#26) seemed untastefully arranged: mayhap the variety of sizes of fotos makes it impossible to do much with them. Andrew Lenard dope interesting; I hope we can hear from him after the lites go on again. Cunningham's was the most interesting pic on the page; interesting in itself,

but especially so when contrasted with what you already know of Cunningham. The Youd foto is one I've seen before somewhere; it tends to lower my opinion of him. I know psychological tests have "proved" that you can't judge character at all from facial

appearance; but I don't think it's denied that some judgment can be made from seeing a face in motion, so why not from a still? It's interesting to note that the majority of the fellows in the pictures are wearing shirts that don't require neckties. What does this prove? Sid Dean's point about organization being necessary to win a war does not advance his argument, the analogy to fandom being too incomplete. Also, I would amend the statement that fans are people who are trying to express their ideas in public, to include another important thing, that they are forming their ideas, and the ideas are influenced by others' statements of their own beliefs. What in the world can Mel Brown be referring to, that I said? Only thing I can think of is my statement that fandom as an organized group cannot directly put across sociological reforms, but can only act by influencing the individual fans, who might then advance reforms by their non-fan activities. But this doesn't seem foundation for Mel's attributing to me that "fans cannot accomplish anything without help from the outside". I am strongly opposed to "unity & singleness of purpose" in fandom, unless the "purpose" be very broad; certainly nothing as definite as to advance a socialist world state, desirable tho that be. Oh, yes, lots of sects believe in Bible literally. The New England Puritans were supposed to have; in the present day we have Jehovah's Witnesses, for example; and fundamentalist churches of many of the well known denominations take it that way. Edwin must mean "Excelsior!" rather than "Excalibur", which was Arthur's sword. The Plans for Slans article looks to me like the beginning of a new type of fan literature. I know I'd be glad to join in the discussion if I were qualified. There should be more and more of this as time goes on, and by the time I am ready to put it into practice, some useful conclusions should have been reached. I realize that my condemnation of smoking girls (or girls smoking, if you insist) probably hit Phil (Bronson) in a tender spot, if someone he likes has to lite up every so often. The "word from Speer" takes care of that pretty well. But I question his way of assuming that girls may smoke simply because they enjoy it. Once they've gotten the habit, they may disenjoy going without smoking, but how did they get started? When we were kids, we used to smoke vine, coffee, etc, because it was rather forbidden, and made us feel like we were imitating grown-ups. When I first came to Washington I smoked a little at parties to avoid conspicuous refusal. But I've never smoked because I enjoyed the taste, smell, feel, or sight of it.

Oak, Fla: RELIGION & RAYM DEPT: I was brought up in a environment, my parents never thinking, of course, to dis-
ligion. Science fiction and my fan acquaintances definite-
me away from the Unquestioned Faith and after many a serious
decided that Christianity was just another religion, and that
special characteristics of it was that it was the accepted
so many millions of people. In fine: The idea of a Supreme Being ruling all Cre-
ation beuz he created it just doesn't take with Raym. He beliefs in an infinity of
Beings higher than we, whether or not any have direct dominion over
us. The Christian God may be mankind's warpt conception of a Viton
that controls us. But if so the Viton is no more the Supreme
Being than Hitler. While it goes "goddling about" on Earth,
it must be the ignorant pawn of a force of nature in some
still higher "world". If we have a God, it is as high above
us as we the earthworm--but it can't imagine Infinity. NOTHING
could either measure or create Infinity. Were Infinity to have
a Creator, that would imply the Universe is limited, which he
also cannot accept. Raym concludes: I've had strong ideas
and imaginings for months that Forry expressed in "Plans
for Slans." This is definitely interesting and worth-
while. So I close with the 3,458th saying of Raym:

"Zines may come and zines may go, but Vom goes on forever.

P.S. I am afraid I will look like Liebscher in about five years--There is one picture on the cover (#26) that repelled me, but I don't live by my emotions and prejudice, and the offender shall go unnamed.

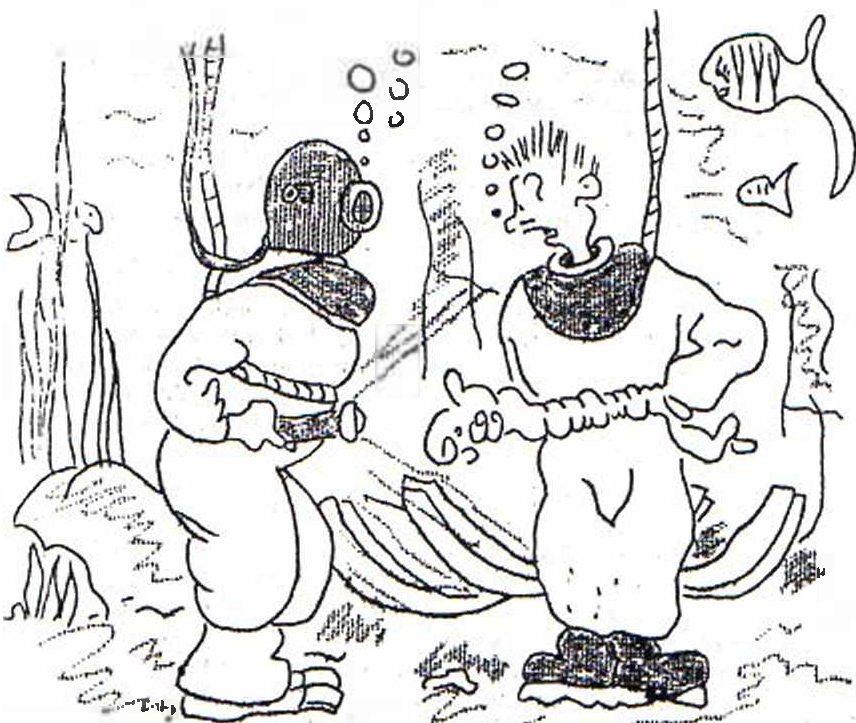
rites from Live
semi-Christian
pute their re-

ly draw
struggle I
the only
religion of



MAC-
DONALD the Magnificent again, Precedent of the 'SOCIETY FOR INFLATING FANS' EGOS',
proclaims: I sit with a lurid copy of your magazine (#24) whereon a shameless female
displays the intimate parts of her body without blinking an eyelid. This cover draw-
ing is not bad, but I won't commit myself. In answer to Tackett's remarks on Douglas,
I may say that Doug doesn't exaggerate the importance of science fiction in the world

today by any puerile crusading, but see his article in the Sept. (42) "Spaceways" on the three classes of fandom in Britain: he says of Second Fandom, obviously meaning this to apply to himself, "It doesn't worry about what becomes of the S.F.A. or "Astounding", but it is concerned with where the world's going, & why & how better it could be steered on its way".... Tucker's letter is amusing. I wondered what the devil Robert was stuttering "etc." after every sentence for, until I realised, of course, that he was mimicking Cunning(?)ham. Good indeed.... More evidence of the dumbness of Tigrina - not that any is needed - in her own words: she refers to "VOM" as "a fantasy magazine"!!!... I see Dean will make an excellent member of my SIFE. (Society for Inflating Fans' Egos).



THE CHIEF'S GONNA GIMME HELL FOR
LOSIN' IT?

only thing which really matters. I am a Christian. The Old Testament is just so much legend & mythology with a sprinkling of history; the New Testament contains the story of the life of Jesus Christ & His Teachings, which must be read by all Christians bfor they can boom same. Of Moffatt he says in substance: I dislike LM with his anxiety to assure evryone he "loves" them--tis more or less a pose. Tho I'm a Christian, if I take an instinctive dislike to a fellow I don't deny it, I put it down as a weakness of humanature. Also it looks like M. bliev's in a personal being "Satan", which is ridiculous. And this nonsense about man being created in God's image. Quoting Huxley, "When man said that, he proved the converse true: He 'created' God in his own image." I can't get over the impression that I have always had, that Cunningham, somehow, is not a FAN! Anyone with some understanding of psychology & knowledge of Cunningham will know what I mean. A curious case. Moffatt would like him better the more he heard from him. Not that I have anything personal against JMC: he has always been very generous to me. I see he will make a suitable member of the SIFE, from joyful exclamations that he is 'gaining fame & followers'; the parcels I receive with stickers all over them proclaiming that JMC is a member of the Colorado Fantasy Society, & covered with the marks of rubber stamps informing the world that JMC is the Director of the British Science Fiction War Relief Society; & the notepaper having 'John M. Cunningham' in inch-high capitals at the head, declaring him to be the first extra-state member of Granny Goose's Goons, or some such.... You, Forry, will make an excellent SIFER too! . . . And Maurice Hanson, from the way he introduces the subject of "Horizon" into his epistle, letting us know how frightfully highbrow he is! . . . Likewise Forster, displaying his savvy of Esperanto. I don't know Esp. meself, but from my - ahem! - extensive knowledge of languages, & what I have picked up from Esp. propaganda leaflets, I was able to get the gist of it.

For Evans's information, Poe did not drink & praise alcohol; & he was never 'in-briated' in the ordinary sense of the word. He was forced on occasion, due to the social conventions of his time, to partake of a glass of wine; but that single glass caused a complete transformation in him, & he consequently had no control over himself. His death was the result of his unwilling imbibement of an excessive quantity of wine.

Alojo's Notes on the Black Arts was an interesting essay on mythology. Alojo's seriousness is amusing . . . And what's this, "most fans are fans... (a) want improve world... (b) know can't... (c) escape via stf."! Rawthah puttin' the cart before the horse. I should say: (a) have a peculiar liking for literature known as 'science fiction'; (b) have a desire to correspond with & meet, & mix with, others who have the same interest; (c) wish to improve world conditions, and they sure can do a little towards (c)!... Perhaps fandom as such can do nothing to better conditions, but evory fan can do his bit to see that we get a Government which will improve conditions after the Revolution!

It is not an opinion, but a fact that Tigrina is a badly brought-up, stupid dame. (!) Possibly everyone does a little thing showing immaturity in one respect occasionally, but generally speaking, Tigrina is immature . . . Now we come to Milty on religion: he sees, he was stuffed with usual Hebrew, with result religion now has no place in his mind. This is deplorable: he seems to realise that no interest in religion was a psychological probability after he had been "stuffed" with it in his youth, but is not attempting to do anything about it. He should see that he is not looking at the question objectively at all, & should investigate religion. "Oh! Ho! The biggest laugh in years is Ecco's assertion. "Some of



these British fans are not as psychologically mature as most Unistate Fans because they lack the insight to recognize the true potentialities of Science Fiction Fandom" (with a capital S.F. & F.)!!! And this directed particularly at Web, who is an infinity maturer than, say, E.E. Evans!

archy question, as so violently discussed by Sid Dean and Mel Brown. I don't recall anyone trying to say that five men could accomplish more separately than together. They are looking at the wrong part of the question. Nobody, so far, has stated specifically just what this is we are to accomplish with all our frantic joining and cooperation and projects. "Whether or not science fiction is escapist or not is beside the point. The big question -- one which I have been asking for many years, is: What is the purpose of fandom? What is all this activity intended for? What is its ultimate aim? At first I believed there was an answer to these questions. But after searching all these years I have failed to find one clearly defined. All I get is rhetoric. "What I'm driving at is this: If there is nothing to accomplish why worry about whether it can be done more efficiently separately or in unison? Now I am in favor of a general science fiction club, just for the sake of having an organized body to point at and say: here is organized fandom. Also to act as an official voice of fandom in case such is ever desired, to give conventions, and to perform various projects and publish various publications, such as the faded-into-thin-air-Fannual. But I have no illusions about great accomplishments to be accomplished. "When Sid Dean asks "What type of fiction is not escapist?" he is saying foolishness. Ever read "The Jungle," by Upton Sinclair. Such a book may take you away from your personal woes, but if it causes you to think of the world as a reality, then it is not escapist according to my way of thinking. Every science fiction story which causes you to think seriously about what kind of world is this we are coming to is a realistic and not an escapist work, despite its apparent fantasy. This providing the author is really serious and not just shooting off. "Ye Gods -- do I have to reprint "Science Fiction is escape literature" again? Lookit how the multitude of Dictator-in-the-future-vanquished-by-the-hero stories we have had since 1926 have conditioned our minds towards present doings.

Dear Editors: I find myself much in the position of Mark Twain, who, when captured by the Indians, refused to eat their roast dog until he was so hungry he felt that even it would be welcome, and found that there was nothing left but the paws. He had pawed too long. When I first started to write this letter, I had a few fairly good ideas floating around in what perches on my shoulders, but in the usual manner, I have put off writing it until my ideas are slightly scrambled. In the first place, writing in the bedlamish atmosphere of the LASFS of a Saturday night, is like trying to cultivate roses in Antarctica. In one corner we have the battle of the something or other, and in the other corner Mel Brown at the mimeograph (spelling courtesy of Ed. Chamberlain) in the middle of the floor a pile of Argosy mags, and some 12 or a dozen fans all talking at once. So... anyhow, I shall try. In the past 24 years, I have been reading stf and fantasy. I am unique in so much as I did not start reading it at six months, like most of you, but waited until I was 6 years old. Even so, I am in a much better position than most of you, for while you first generation fans were brought up in a family circle who stared at you and wondered what type of monster your parents had sired, I am a second generation fan & read stf and fan-always around, and no one looked at me with a face long enough to lap cider the weather, I never tried to do anything about it, until this spring, when I became a member of the LASFS in a manner so strange that even Amazing Stories wouldn't believe or publish it. Since then, I have thrown myself whole-heartedly into the business of being a fan, and hope to do something big, like cleaning up the clubroom, or some such equally Herculean task. I shall, in the not so near future, put out a mag, and probably, fandom shall in turn, put me out. Anyhow, fandom, be careful, tread softly, and stuff, or I shall be here to stay. ((The sigel immediately preceding is not another Wortmania but is the Sign of the Crozetti--Lora Ruth--whose ad & ad-res appear on our back pg. Next, Oliver Kane Smith adrest to:)) a very serious & sadning announcement from THE FRIENDS OF BOB TUCKER: It becomes my sad duty to inform you that on the 31st day of September, Bob Tucker picked up a .45 calibre pistol and blew his brains all over the bathroom wall. "It is thought that he became enraged when the toilet tissue roller refused to work. "His parents have been notified and have sent a V-mail letter from their home in Saskatoon to claim the body. Burial will be in Roselawn. "He leaves behind several debtors. ((Another theory, advanced by Earl Doubleton, authority on pseudocides, suggests Tucker may have taken his life to find surcease from the torture of his crippled feet. He wore size 12 shoes & when he stepped into the former #1 Face's he found they were 4-E's!))





Bronson puts his best foot forward from 1710 Arizona Ave, Sta Monica Cal. I am prompted to make a few comments on the letter by H. Loren Sinn. Sinn, it would seem, has a most critical mind, as evidenced by his opinions expressed in VoM and elsewhere. However, his criticism is far from being constructive. I wouldn't even go so far as to call it criticism. He states that the only interesting letter in the preceding VoM was by Larry Shaw. He has spoken. He decries fandom as being composed of a group of 14-year-old "jerks". He states (in Fantasite #11) that he would much rather read an army gag magazine than a science-fiction publication. To top it off, he remarks that he is not a fan, never was a fan, and never will be one. Now this is a most complicated and confusing situation!

Sinn reads the fan and pro science-fiction magazines, writes letters to them, has been associated with a fan publication (remember Space Tales!), and yet proclaims that he is not a fan. And for what reason does he thrust his unwelcome personality on fandom? Why, because he reads science-fiction for relaxation and enjoyment, naturally! Sinn, old thing, I would like to suggest that you cease to read these juvenile efforts of ours. Surely there are enough of the sports and army gag magazines to keep you thoroughly preoccupied in your spare moments. Thus you will be accomplishing a double good deed--sparing yourself the further discomfort of having to read science-fiction trash, and ridding fandom of one of its juvenile-minded participants. "I'm anticipating the Widner 'Plans for Slans'. However, this idea of fan-parents bringing up their offspring to be fans doesn't sound too good to me. I still maintain that 'fans are born'. Suppose the children in question do not possess the inclinations which would eventually bring them into our select group? And, it seems to me, if a person is going to become a fan, he will enter the field despite any obstacles that might confront him, sooner or later. I thought the article by Festus Pragnell was a bit childish, in particular the closing line. Of course, this may have been the result of the condensation, but an article of this type deserves a lot of thought in composition anyway.

Mrs. Agnes Beachy a Minnesota mama, apparently would like to have the Minneapolis police on us. As witness: I was so glad to read what dear Mr Sinn had to say in his last letter to your awful magazine. It is high time somebody told you devils where to get off. I think Mr. Sinn was far too sweet to say what he really wanted to say. Children of your age should be out either going to school, or doing some honest work instead of roustabouting nights and sending awful magazines like yours through the mail. My son Henry was a good boy until he got in with that wild Bronson bunch and I could never get him to do a lick of work after that. All he cared about was sitting around nights and reading those wild Amazing and Astounding magazines. You will undoubtedly all go to jail or drink yourself to death before your thirty and hard as that is, I cannot bring myself to forgive you for the sweet boys like Mr. Sinn that you are dragging down to ruin.

A missile from CPL MILTY's mortar: Tremendously excited and exhilarated by the new VoM, which is 100% on the ball. "Discussion on raising young 'uns very topical and also important. It's a complicated business. You can plan just so far -- beyond that point the kid himself has something to say about it. How many lives have been ruined by parents who made plans disregarding the child's abilities or interests?" For instance -- I'd like my kids to be musicians, but I'd give them a Seashore Musical Aptitude Test before commencing their study. "Training the kids to be rationalists and materialists is fine. Only they are going to have plenty of heartbreaks about it until they get old enough to take it. For we don't live in a vacuum. Our lives interact with the lives and modes of living of others." The kid starts going to school. You take him for the first day, and you answer questions and fill out forms. They ask: "Religion." You say, "none." Eyebrows go up, but they say nothing if they are civilized. "The kid goes to school and they read the bible there, and learns all the old stories, and he wonders what the hell is going on. He starts asking questions. He sees other kids going to church. Why doesn't he go? Why do the others go? Maybe the other kids will discover that he has no religion and will make fun of him. At the least, he will not be a part of of any social groups which center around religious groups. If he is lucky, he will fall into a clique which does not base its ideas upon religion." If you've done your job right and the kid has a rational mind, he won't care about these things, for he will understand. But in the process of learning to understand he will suffer incredible tortures. For to an adolescent learning to think logically and rationally, the world about him is a whirling madhouse of illogical and irrational people performing meaningless acts without benefit of thought processes. At the age of 19 he will be at his lowest depths. Then, if all goes well, he will snap out of it. "But there, in brief, is a picture of the biggest problem in raising a scientific child: his relations with the outside world. It will be the old struggle of an original mind against established customs. Compromises will have to be made. You can't be too different, unless you want to be an eccentric. You must set a standard of honesty. Up to a certain point you will be rational. Beyond that you will follow society. For instance, up to the present I've been saying that I'm Jewish whenever I've been specifically asked the question. It has no meaning. I don't believe in the religion, and the race has no existence. It degenerates to a social group. With my children it would be more completely meaningless. One of these days I must stop answering the question." Despite the turmoil it will cause in their minds, though, my kids are going to learn to think straight. Ghu knows -- I went through the mill myself. I can't tell whether I think straight, myself, for that is impossible to tell. But I know how to look for reasons, and test opinions for the validity of their postulates. I don't think that most people know how to

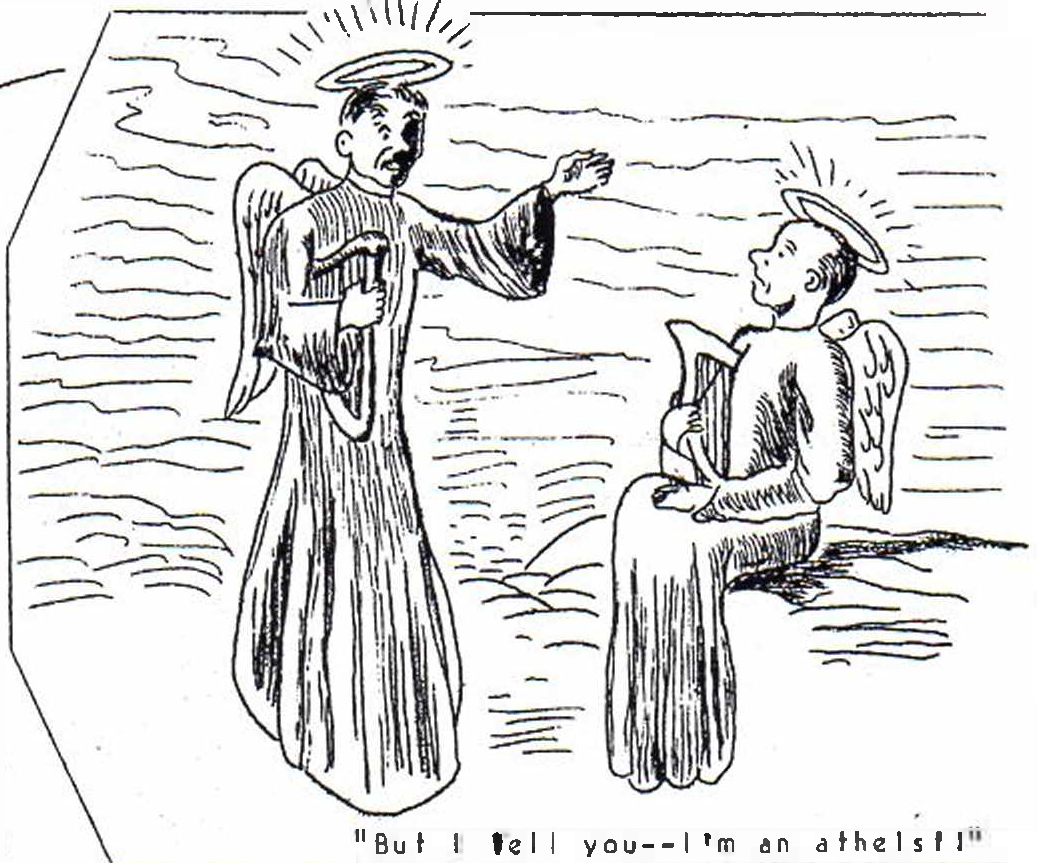
analyze thought and behavior rationally. Things would be different if they did. That's the kind of thought habit we must spread, and I think that science fiction has been doing it, for hasn't science fiction been preaching consciousness of logical thinking -- disguised as semantics, social psychology, etc?



You know, it always gives me a bit of a shock to discover that there are still people alive who don't believe in evolution. And more -- who still believe that the earth is 5704 years old, as per the date of Creation in the Bible. "I can't change his mind, either, for I can't break down his basic postulate: that the universe was created by God 5704 years ago. The very nature of the postulate makes it impossible to deny logically, for he can always say that God created all of the evidence for evolution at the same time. It's easy to see, though, if your mind isn't burdened by "faith", that the best system is not to accept any postulates unsupported by evidence. Therefore, although there is no evidence yes or no, I prefer not to believe in a creator in the absence of evidence proving the existence of same.

Ray

(RAY KARDEN) sends a bouquet from Cloquet, Minn, 409 - 12 St, to be exact: VOM is the best fanzine I have seen yet. At least in this issue (#27), there were a group of letters by fans who seemed to have something to say and say it well. As Bloch says, the effect is startling --even with one issue. The bitter arguments on nudism, God, the destiny of fandom, et al, make no sense, of course; but that is hardly necessary.



"But I tell you--I'm an atheist!"

This matter of nudism and nudes and so on: The only objection I could possibly see raised by me against it is simply from an artistic standpoint. Publishing a nude just because of the fact it is a nude makes no sense; and apparently, that's what you seem to be doing. The same thing in the flesh saspects of it. There are very few people who would look like anything stripped, and you can't convince me different. After all, clothes do serve to cover up some parts of the human body that don't have uniformly beautiful looks. This present business of clothes Esquire style is silly and prudish, but I would think a pair of shorts would be almost as comfortable to walk around whatever nudists walk around as your birthday suit--and much less discomfoting...yes, no matter what type of civilization of point of morals accepted then. " " " the destiny of fandom: Those letters expressing thoughts along the general line of the supremeness of fans are extremely interesting, but getting anywhere...? Most don't recognize that any minority group is dependent of the whims of those in power now. Fandom can do only so much as is possible in the matrix of society in which they are set. Take, for example, that communication from Australia about the virtual abolishment of fan publishing by that govt decree requiring permits for it.. What if fans were united there, in an organization designed to push the future so much nearer to now, or what they try to do. Then the abstract but very real "ruling class," whether under capitalism or socialism, technocracy, et al, decides to take a dislike to the "subversive, dangerous" activities of them. Blooeey. Even under our present wonderful system of free enterprise and democracy where nipetenths of the nation are satisfied and try to push it forward when they're not starving, publications--worthy publications--have been known to be muzzled. The weight rests on the side who gives out with the mostest propaganda. " The church, of course, would come in on the above and do its rightful part in putting down such horrible endeavors as trying to free the minds the poor deluded dopes so common now. Those whose religious connections have brought them in trouble with their parents when they take up fandom are unlucky, but I seem to have been spared that. My father's ideal is somewhat similar to part of stf's, but he takes most of his concrete plans from the I.W.W. We continually argue with each other on points that are essentially the same, because we can't accept the other's viewpoint without doing it. That seems to me that status s-f would be in if it started on that tack. People, even fairly intelligent people, each have their own conception of Utopia, Nirvana, etc., and don't want to change them. " It seems to me that s-fandom's main selling point on a campaign for the future would be its own conceit. Most fans turn to it because they subconsciously dislike the

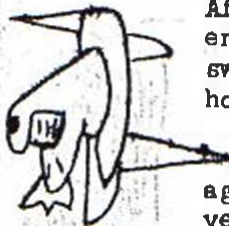
Those letters expressing thoughts along the general line of the supremeness of fans are extremely interesting, but getting anywhere...? Most don't recognize that any minority group is dependent of the whims of those in power now. Fandom can do only so much as is possible in the matrix of society in which they are set. Take, for example, that communication from Australia about the virtual abolishment of fan publishing by that govt decree requiring permits for it.. What if fans were united there, in an organization designed to push the future so much nearer to now, or what they try to do. Then the abstract but very real "ruling class," whether under capitalism or socialism, technocracy, et al, decides to take a dislike to the "subversive, dangerous" activities of them. Blooeey. Even under our present wonderful system of free enterprise and democracy where nipetenths of the nation are satisfied and try to push it forward when they're not starving, publications--worthy publications--have been known to be muzzled. The weight rests on the side who gives out with the mostest propaganda. " The church, of course, would come in on the above and do its rightful part in putting down such horrible endeavors as trying to free the minds the poor deluded dopes so common now. Those whose religious connections have brought them in trouble with their parents when they take up fandom are unlucky, but I seem to have been spared that. My father's ideal is somewhat similar to part of stf's, but he takes most of his concrete plans from the I.W.W. We continually argue with each other on points that are essentially the same, because we can't accept the other's viewpoint without doing it. That seems to me that status s-f would be in if it started on that tack. People, even fairly intelligent people, each have their own conception of Utopia, Nirvana, etc., and don't want to change them. " It seems to me that s-fandom's main selling point on a campaign for the future would be its own conceit. Most fans turn to it because they subconsciously dislike the

Hackneyed customs now permeating our world, all the same for ages. It makes them feel inferior, but definitely at least it did me--and my accidental discovery of s-f was a godsend. "So, to scientifiotion, and pity those crude rutted outsiders epitomized in the following bit of conversation published in the New Yorker: "Now, don't get me wrong--I'm in favor of the future..."

Harry Honig

Editor ARCANA, arcs from 256-26 Ave, Frisco 21, Cal: Hooooray at last something has jolted Harry Honig out of his eternal scilence! What can it

be has Has Unger sold the first Amazing for a nickle? NO! Has Ackerman's brain finally snapped No! (or has it?) Has Moscovitz been transformed into a Micholist? No! Has one of the FAPA members turned out a super 100 page fanzine with six litho covers! GAWD NO!----- but something more spectacular, more magnificent, more fantastic, more, more, oh hell I can't find words to describe it, but, HARRY SCHMARJE, the jerque, the critique, author, columnist, etc., etc., etc. has at last quit fandom!!! Yes, fandoms favorite son has left us at last, think of it, we won't have to read in the fanzines Why does Liebscher hate me? Why does Jenkins hate me? Why do FANS hate me? But all kidding aside Harry in a way I have a genuine feeling of friendliness for you and I'm sure that quite a few of the fans feel the same as I do and I'm really sorry to see you are quitting fandom. can make a new start if you try hard great and all the letters are really guy really sickens me with all his like to know is how can Len "Christ" a good true Christian? Hell, I'm an the other fans are either athiests or two. How can anybody be a stiffan and I'd wish Moffat would explain his ideas as I'm dounbfounde!!



After all you're still young and enough. VOM's covers are swell except Len Moffat's. That holy talk and what I'd really Moffat be a fan and yet be athiest and I'm certain all agnostics except maybe one or yet be a "godbeliever" is beyoun me

TOMORROW, borrows a stencil to say (from 628 S Bixel, LA): When I was in Frisco, there was some semblance of an excuse for writing you, but now it is quite obvious that my only reason is an infantile desire to see my name in print. First the artwork.

Editor TOWARD

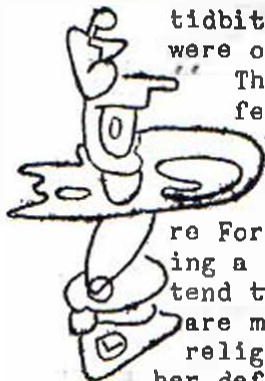
When I was in Frisco, there was some semblance of an excuse for writing you, but now it is quite obvious that my only reason is an infantile desire to see my name in print.

--Isaid artwork. Wright's inset was a different matter. And there was the lucious tidbit (tidbit, hell, that's a full meal) by Gibson. Of course, there were other illustrations and cortoons, but I'm talking about artwork now.

The feature letter -- ach! Verry goot! If only VOM will continue to feature this writer! (Kepner) Next is Moffatt. Comments on fan with religious problem rather indefinite & inappropriate, as Christian advice often is. Morajo's comments much more to the point -- that is agreed with my own viewpoint better. Beb's comment in re Forry being broadened by army associations is good. Maybe I'm wandering a bit from her point, but I could stand something myslef that would tend toward extroversion. Yet most of the ideas which I have for my future are more likely to make me more of an introvert. -- In re personal religion. Dunno jus how she wud define religion, but in all probability, her definition would seem to be closer to the proper definition of philosophy.

(Poddon my ocazunal symplifid speling -- praps I shud b cunsistnt, but huinel wnats to be?) So I can no longer claim to possess religion, therefore, philosophy takes its place. What is my philosophy? Can a person summarize his thoughts and reduce them to a few comprehensive black marks on white paper? The best I can do at any particular time is to recapture a few flitting thoughts that are more prominent in my mind at the moment. Perhaps I could list a few of the basic ideas. "I do not presume to deny or to affirm the existence of any sort of deity or supernature. In the absence of any possibility of evidence, I can only ignore all the fantastic, incoherent, and conflicting claims to special knowledge. I earnestly tried various forms of that religion which seems the better of the lot, and the results were negative. I prefer the theory of Natural Determinism, as the most logical explanation of natural phenomena. I also prefer the theory of infinity of time and space. I feel that mankind's hope lies in Science, nor do I see any recognizable and unsurmountable barriers to its advances. I see no reason to believe in immortality, so I feel that we should make the most of this life. I recognize no authoritarian standard of morality. I feel that the sensation of pleasure is an essential aim of each individual life, whether the pleasure is derived from intellectual, sensual, artistic, athletic, Baccantine, political, philanthropic, or other means. Giving the same pleasures to others is a prime part of this, in that it satisfies an individual's crusading or philanthropic nature, and raises the general standard. This is also a step toward the more universal purpose. That is good which tends to universal progress. However universal interpretation is not readily accessible to human minds at present (To say the least), as science has not even begun to reach the stage where the true universal trends may be predicted accurately. Nor are we sure whether nature follows a dual or a single path, or any at all, i.e., whether or not (from a universal viewpoint) there is any conflict in nature's aim, or whether nature has an aim. So nothing is evil that gives a balance of pleasure against pain, or that is progressive. However, I can visualize no infallible method of interpretation. In conclusion, I do not accept any portion of this credo as absolute."

But now, after this long break, I get back to Bovard. I notice she takes a rather utilitarian attitude toward religion in the future. Almost as if proposing freethought for the minds and a psychologically plotted dogma for the morons. Once in awhile, I almost come to feel that there is quite a bridge between the thinkers and the drones that compose the bulk of the race. At any rate, freedom must be assured to all who are capable of thought. -- Now to the Beb's second letter -- actually the best letter I have ever read in VOM. It stepped on every damned toe I have, but I love it, and it

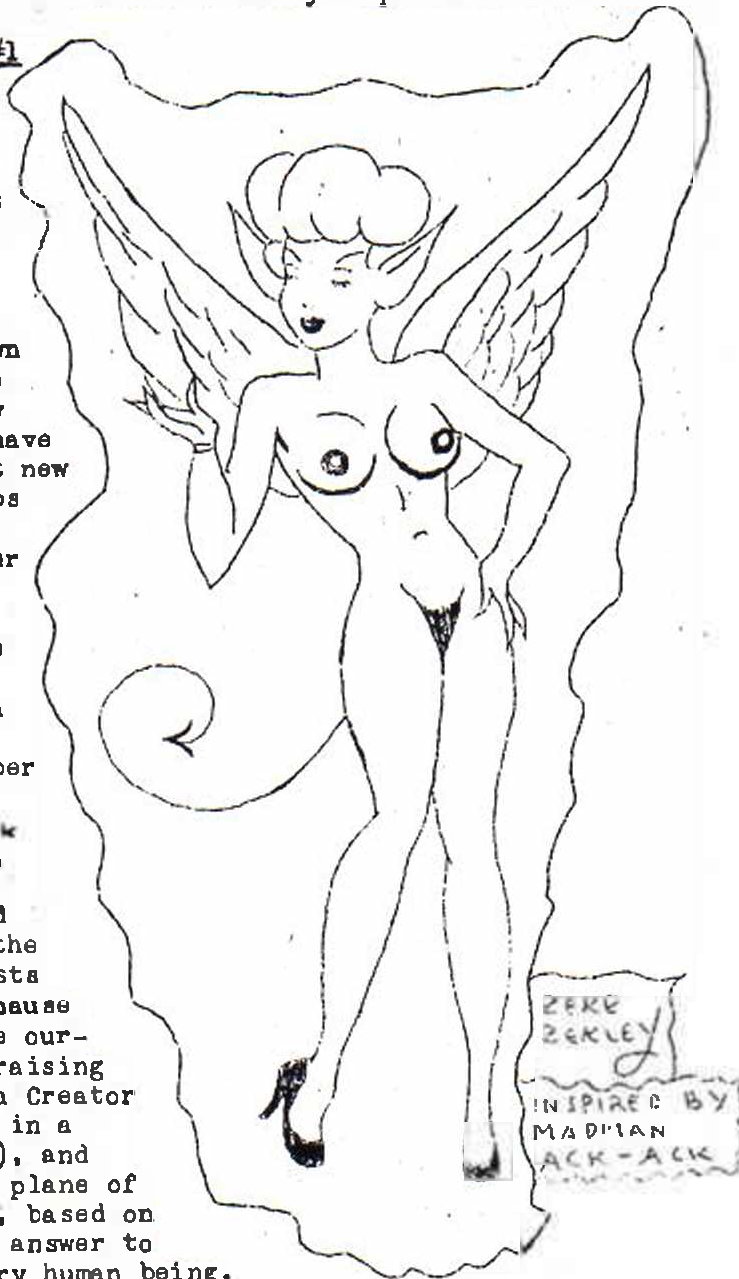


might teach me to draw in my toes a bit. Keep punching, Beb. I should like to correspond with H. Lorin Sinn, whose chief contribution to fandom seems to be the bland statement that he doesn't particularly give a damned about fandom. That's heresy. Also it's shocking. In spite of it, I think he might make an interesting correspondent. Would you consider this an invitation, H.L.S.? Altho I'm rather slow on my correspondence of late. And then comes another little subject..Esperanto. When I first came to L.A., I (without knowing anything in particular about the subject) felt Esperanto to be unworkable. That Basic English (or B. French, Ger., or Russ.) would be better, altho I knew next to nothing about them. But when I found how solid the favorable points massed behind Esperanto - well now I'm convinced and studying hard. Take that back. I've studied some of Latin, French, and Spanish, and Esperanto requires almost no study required to the labor of learning the others.

BOB TUCKER, new #1
face, pushes in our face from POB 260.
 Bloomington, Ill, declaring: I sometimes wonder about you west-coasters. Are all women in California overly developed in their northern hemispheres or is it merely a breast-complex in the majority of your illustrators? One hesitates to raise the question of unfamiliarity with the subject --but ye gods-- such pictures as have been drawn and published by California fans in the past are enuff to excite an inferiority complex in our more-Eastern girls. I have heard of art teachers who complain that new students always sketch mighty tree limbs much too heavy for the tree to support ... I suggest you point this out to your "artists." ((Vital statistics: Of 27 nudes publisht in Vom & Vomaiden Portfolios in last 2-1/2 yrs, only 1/3 have been by Californians. Interior litho U mistook for a Tomaiden last ish was a Gibson Girl. Gibson, bfor he became a Pvt, lived in New Mex. Nudes this number are exclusively by Califans.))

E. Frank
PARKER, COSMOS CLUBster of 6 Graytiles,
Queens Rd, Teddington, Middlesex, Eng,
rices in the English SLANguage: A word about the "Plans for Slans" notion in the current VoM. That particularly interests Sylvia (my unfortunate mate) and I, because what comes up but that quite shortly we ourselves will be facing the problems of raising a youngster. Now I believe in a God, a Creator with powers unimaginable, and existent in a timeless state (dimension, if you like), and capable of influencing affairs on this plane of existence. The argument is a long one, based on the fact of existence, "proofs" of the answer to prayer, and the innate instinct of every human being, as distinct from the unreasoning animals, to believe in a Higher Being. What's wrong with religion, think I, is not the basic premise - it's the distortion and corruption thereof engineered by the bigots, the self-righteous and the stupid, within the Churches. Yes, I've had a lot to do with Churches in my time. And ninety percent of every Church is potent p'ison! Yet, all the authoritative teaching on religion emanates from the Church . . . What do I do about that?

Harry WARNER Jr, the #3 face, of 303 Bryan Place, Hagerstown, Maryland, takes us
to task: I don't understand why you use such careful selectivity in publishing letters, to obtain the maximum of interesting wordage in the limited space, and yet will insist on sticking in those cartoons that usually don't even draw a chuckle, like the ones on page 2 and 11 (of #27). Tigrina's has historical interest I suppose, so I'll exclude that one from my condemnation, except to ask a bit irrelevantly just why Tigrina or anyone else should consider the snake an instrument of Satan. Black magic seems to derive mostly from the Bible; but you won't find there in any identification of the snake with Satan. Quite true, the snake tempted Eve, but as Byron pointed out at great length in his tragedy, "Cain", the devil had nothing to do with it, according to Genesis. This mistranslation about "sins" being visited upon the coming generations makes an interesting point but I don't see that it changes my basic argument that religion tells us that we have the power to discern the difference between right and wrong, and I prefer to think that it's wrong for sins or diseases to be wished upon innocent children and grandchildren. Keith Buchanan gives me great pleasure with his observations on Christian phenomena. Moffatt's three things to teach the kiddies sound nice, but would hardly stand up under any high-pressure scepticism, when said kiddies get old enough to think for themselves. And "believe that Christ is God's Son" isn't strictly true, for we're taught that Christ, God and the Holy Spirit are three in one. Follow Christ's teachings is a slightly more practical thing to inculcate in the dear little brats, but you can pull almost any meaning out of the first four books of the New Testament, inferring things to fit your own beliefs and preferences.





ART & RUTH W I D N E R talk about Things to Come for their son Pete. Papa is one the Inner circle acti-fans, member the Stranger Club, cofounder NFFF, publisher in FAPA of Yhos, editor many fine Issues fan-fare. Mama is producer of Pete. They adres Fandom:

FIRST, we're not laboring under any delusions that Pete is a slan. So far as we can see, he's a normal, happy, healthy human baby, and if he grows up to be a normal, happy, healthy man, we'll consider that we've done all right. Of course we hope that he'll be a bit better than "normal", and some of what follows is definitely with that thot in mind.

PETE, and incidentally the rest of our children (2 or 3), will be reared as scientifically as we know how. By that we don't mean a mollycoddle in a glass cage whose every morsel of food is weighed to the exact milligram, but that anything we can possibly foresee which might have a definite effect on his development will not be left entirely to chance.

FOR INSTANCE, he now recognizes facial expressions. Smile - good, frown - bad. Therefore, whenever he gets a little bump, surprise, disappointment or what-have-you, if it's not so bad as to require an immediate howl he looks at us to see what we think of the situation. We try to laugh and make a joke of it whenever possible, instead of assuming a sad face and saying "Poor baby, didja hurtcha-self?" or some such. Our theory is that this will establish a good habit of his ignoring or laughing off Life's Minor Mishaps instead of bawling and feeling sorry for himself, or looking for sympathy every time something disagreeable happens.

WE AGREE with the famous epigram that "An atheist is merely a Roman Catholic turned inside out." We think it just as silly to attempt industriously to prove the non-existence of God as it is to attempt to prove the opposite. (Ruth believes there is a God, while I have strong doubts.) We will let Pete himself decide the religious question. We will explain our personal opinions as clearly as we can, and also any other creed, dogma, philosophy or what-is-this which may excite his curiosity. (Note: The name "Pete" is to be taken as a symbol of all the children we may have and not merely himself alone.)

ONE OF THE MAIN THINGS we plan to in-culcate in him as a basic rule for living is the following quote from Van Loon's Geography: "We are all of us fellow-passengers on the same planet, and we are all of us equally responsible for the happiness and well-being of the world in which we happen to live." The Italics are Van Loon's, but I emphatically second them. Instead, it might be well also to quote the paragraphs preceding that sentence. I imagine they might do even some of Vom's readers some good. If you hadn't been told, I betcha the avg fan would guess that the words had been written by Wells, Stapledon or at least Van Vogt or Hubbard or Heinlein: I quote: "Call me a dreamer and call me a fool - call me a visionary or call for the police or the ambulance to remove me to a spot where I can no longer proclaim such unwelcome heresies. But mark my words and remember them on that fatal day when the human race shall be requested to pack up its little toys and surrender the keys of happiness to a more worthy successor.

"The only hope for survival lies in that one sentence:"...

PETE WILL LEARN his world geography from that book. See what I mean?

AS FAR AS SCHOOLING is concerned, we will no doubt have to send him to regular public school, since we are incompetent to supervise his entire education ourselves, and correct such distortions and misinformation as may be forced upon him in the guise of "facts". We hope that he will be bright enough to begin learning before "school age", and that learning will help to act as a buffer toward the swallowing of many "essentials" taught in our present educational system. The insidious virus of nationalism for example. On the other hand, we will take every precaution against the formation of a hostile or patronizing attitude toward society in general. Selfish altruism will be the order of the day. By that apparent paradox I mean the philosophy of doing good in order to receive good. Not only in emotional and mental satisfaction but in actual material benefits.

STF is a rather hazy and not essential part of the picture. We will be pleased if he becomes interested in it, and will

be tickled to see him enter fandom, but with the special training in store for him this will not be as necessary for him as it was for his father, in order to grasp certain concepts. That, incidentally (the grasping of certain concepts) is the main benefit which yhos has derived from his participation, which it seems likely would not have been gained elsewhere.

ALL our personal observance and learnings have convinced us that force is an undesirable means of attaining an object, particularly in the correction of a child. Not only that, it is inefficient. However, there are certain times when force is the most efficient method available, and you may rest assured that Force will be applied to the rect pleat in Petz's seat with gusto and abandon when, after due deliberation, that "certain time" appears to have arrived.

RETURNING TO STF, it seems likely that Petz will become interested in it at least somewhat, since he will be constantly exposed to it as soon as he can read, what with all the books and magazines lying around the house. He will be encouraged to read only the best, of course. The traditional approach of Oz-Kipling-Verne-Tom Swift-Burroughs etc seems as good as any.

QUESTIONS will be answered as fully as possible on the spot, and use of the dictionary and encyclopedia and the public library will be demonstrated at as early an age as possible. It is probable that sex education will start at an earlier age than customary. It is our opinion that the possible damage done by full information is far outweighed by the damage done thru ignorance and half-knowledge oftentimes continuing thruout adolescence and sometimes into maturity, as is so prevalent in this "enlightened" day and age. The subject will be treated as dispassionately as possible. "Where do babies come from?" will be answered in the same manner and truthfulness as "What makes the tide go in and out?" or "Why do the trees change color in autumn?"

AND OF COURSE we will be changing and learning ourselves in the meantime, and perhaps will find better ways of teaching than we know now. We certainly hope so.

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