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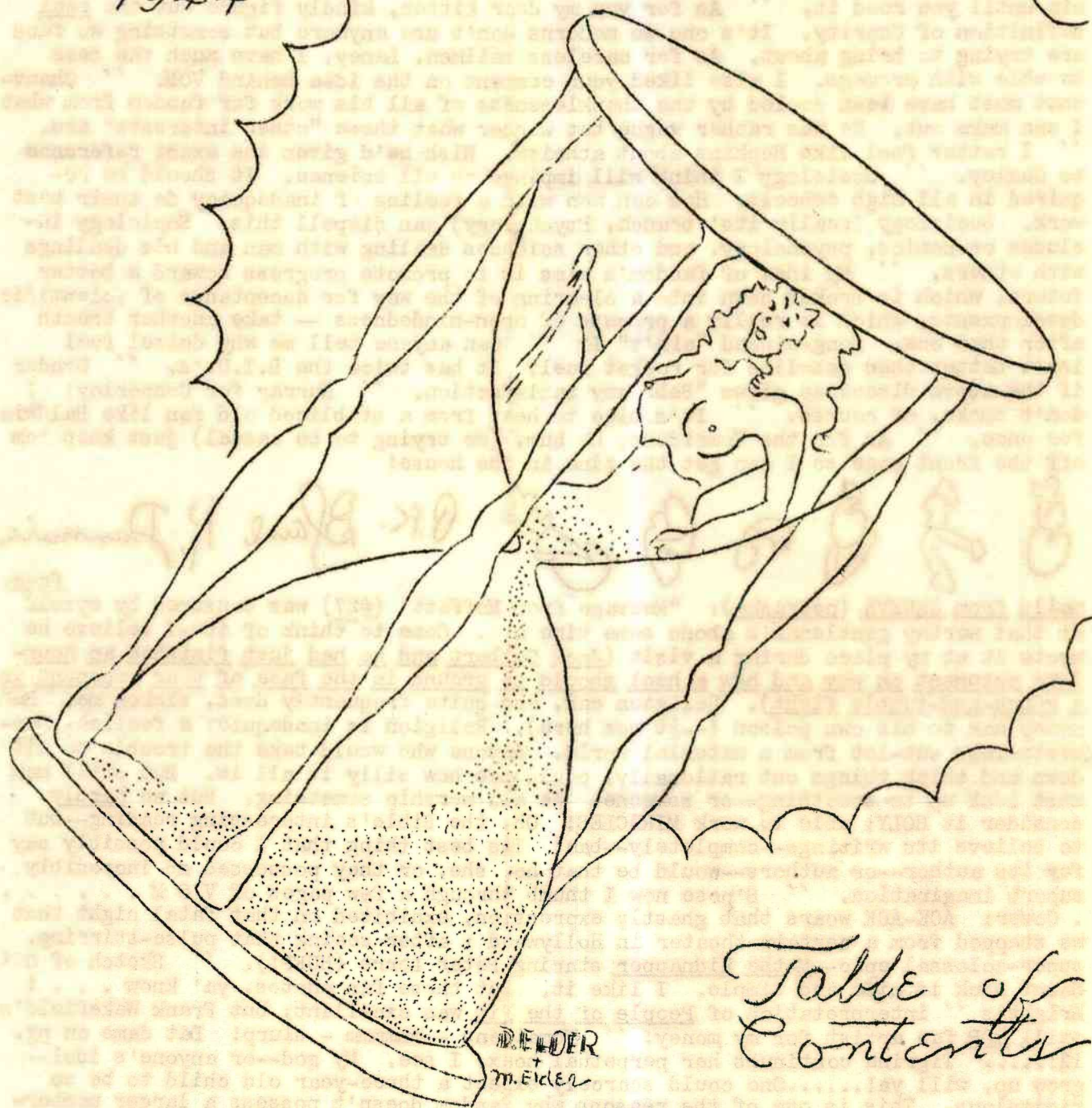
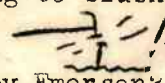
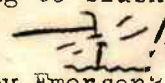


Table of Contents

Goody, goody! There isn't any room for a Table of Contents. I've got, in the last yr, so I hate making up the ToC, & now I'll have a good excuse to omit it. Y'see, I read the letters once when they're rcvd; again when I dummy one; 3d time when I proof the dummy; run it thru my mind the 4th time if I stencil it; have read it a 5th time when I proof the stencil; go over it the 6th when it comes out the mimeo. I bog down about the 7th when, evrything done but the ToC, I have to take all the pgs & re-read 'em, searching each letter for something suggestive or jestive for the ToC. Mebbe working as a full time comedian on the campaper cramps my style, or something; I dunno. I only noe it gives me kinda a pain in the pneck to hafta think up a stack o' witty stuff; & I'm quite relieved to have the excuse notta. Now evrybody rite in & say this feature is the cream of the ish & the part U look forward to most, &c, & mebbe my ego'll expand & I'll take myself in hand & turn out a ToC nexttime. ((4e speaking))

Vom ups its purchase price to 15c per, not for this ish alone but for the dur. Increased use of lithografy for one thing, plus fact our erstwhile angels seem to've taken wing. (Anybody wanna sponsor a Clyne cover or spend any part of 6 bucks for more Michel?)

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, aka VOM, #29. Jan '44. 15c, 7/\$1. Issued the first of every so often. Produced in colabration with fan-kind by 'Snafucius Publications'. Rx 6475 Met Stn. Los Angeles 14.

M. Zyphe of Bx 105, Baraboo, Wis. who is no relation to Zyphe-Davis, declares: You know, anytime I couldn't do better than Brimm does in #27, I'd sponsor an insert like 4e mentions. "In spite of 4e's doubts, it was a satisfactory editorial. Kepner has a good point. I, myself had a predjudice against S.F., Yet I read Verne. It is true with S.F. as with any literature that there is a range from excellent writing to slush, and from stereotype to perfect originality. It's a case of Kepner →  As for all these sparks and fights about religion, will you  birds shut up long enough to read a short essay titled "Compensation" by Emerson? He was the first Great American thinker to see the foolishness in established religions, and don't you dare say anything about him until you read it. "As for you my dear kitten, kindly figure out the real definition of Charity. It's one we moderns don't use anymore but something we fans are trying to bring about. As for careless mailmen, Laney, I have much the same trouble with promags. I also liked your comment on the idea behind VOM. "Chauvenet must have been cooled by the thanklessness of all his work for fandom from what I can make out. He was rather vague but wonder what those "other interests" are. "I rather feel like Hopkins about atheism. Wish he'd given the exact reference to Huxley. "Sociology I think will impinge on all science. It should be required in all high schools. How can men with a feeling of inadequacy do their best work. Sociology (really its' branch, Psychology) can dispell this. Sociology includes economics, psychology, and other sciences dealing with man and his dealings with others. "My idea of fandom's aims is to promote progress toward a better future, which is broken down into a clearing of the way for acceptance of scientific developments, which is really a process of open-mindedness -- take another breath after that one. Long-winded "ain't" I? "Can anyone tell me why deisel fuel isn't better than gasoline for rocket fuel? It has twice the B.T.U.'s. "Wonder if the above discourse gives "Beb" any satisfaction. "Hurray for Connerley! I don't smoke, of course. "It's nice to hear from a stablized old fan like Baldwin for once. "As for the Vomaidens, ho hum, (me trying to be casual) just keep 'em off the front page so I can get the zine in the house!

 P.K. Blaine R. Dammie

free-mails from GENEVA (nebraska): "Message from Moffatt" (#27) was consumed by myself at that worthy gentleman's abode some time ago. Come to think of it--I believe he wrote it at my place during a visit (Jack Gilbert and he had just finished an hour-long argument on why and how a heel should be ground in the face of your opponent in a rough-and-tumble fight). Religion can, and quite frequently does, sicken me. But every man to his own poison (--it sez here). Religion is inadequate; a foolish, superstitious out-let from a material world. Anyone who would take the trouble to sit down and think things out rationally, could see how silly it all is. But still man must look up to something--or someone. We all worship something. But we hardly consider it HOLY; able to work MIRACLES! Oh, the Bible's interesting reading--but to believe its writings--completely--bah! The best thing that I could possibly say for its author--or authors--would be that he, she, or they possessed an incredibly superb imagination. "S'pose now I thumb through a few pages of V O M Cover: ACK-ACK wears that ghastly expression, exhibited on that fatal night that we stepped from a certain theater in Hollywood: after seeing that pulse-stirring, super-colossal epic--M-the Kidnapper starring Peter Lorre (HUFF!). "Sketch of Ol' Saint Nick is nice and simple. I like it. But those fan photos, ya' know . . . ! Wright's "interpretation of People of the Pit was excellant; but Frank Wakefield's still TOP fan artist for my money! "Vomaidens - mmmmmmm - slurp! Dat dame on pg. 12!..... Tigrina continues her perpetual hoax, I see. My god--or anyone's idol--grow up, will ya!.....One could scarcely expect a three-year old child to be so ridiculous. This is one of the reasons why fandom doesn't possess a larger membership. "Prospectites" read of the childish, and superstitious--if "Tigrina" is really serious--prattling's of this - this - indescribable MAGYIP, and immediately conclude that they want no part of it, and her. Me, I'd like FANDOM, regardless--regardless if we had a troop of Vampires to play with! And cometimes, I'm not in doubt! oh, hell, then--I know it. "The fact that I'm leading this letter in circles, is probably due to the fact that I had K.P. yesterday. Iggy-goo-brrrrrr! Yaw!



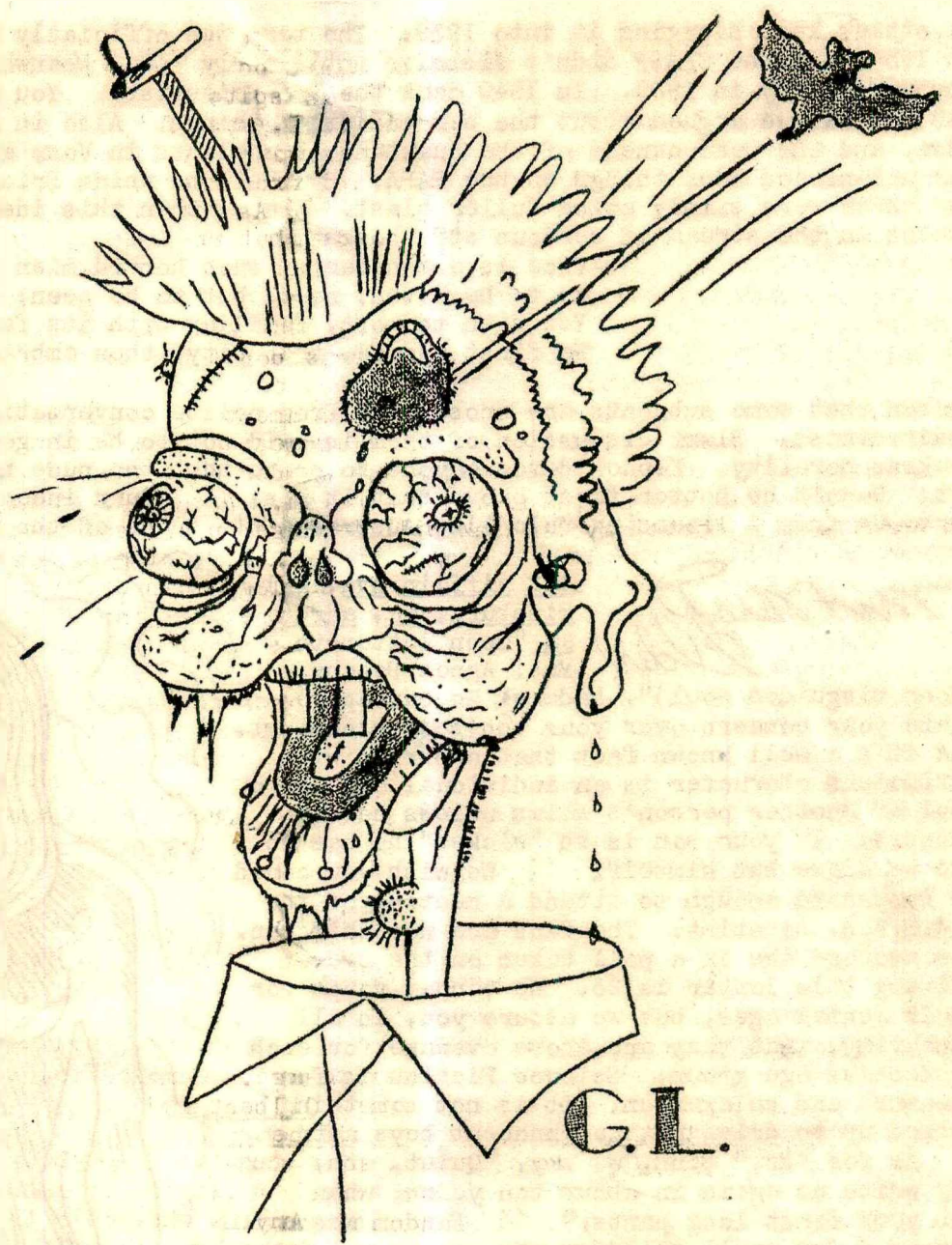
Harry WARNER of 303 Bryan Pl. Hagerstown, Maryland, continues from lastime: I don't mean to ridicule Moffatt's beliefs; matter of fact, I'm afraid that they're considerably more logical than your and Morojo's near-fanaticism for atheism (when you haven't the slightest bit of proof that there is no God) and entirely unreasonable hatred of the Church and blanket condemnation of its past works and present influence upon the world. (This is a debatable question but we don't have room to rise to de bait.) "I don't get annoyed when people consistently draw false conclusions from things, because I do it myself, not being God, and until we are able to look into the future, and figure out for sure just what the Eternal Verities are, the world will continue to draw said false conclusions. But I do object very much to BEB's habit of drawing conclusions from absolutely false premises, which she piles one upon another in the most dogmatic, irrelevant way, in practically everything shewrites. (To be concluded.)

MR GHYPPTH LOUGH of
Los Angeles, in what
might be termed

"Complexified Eng-
lish", complains:

Ynn poloooughtest tou
psymplighyd psptel-
yng whea'v deevel-
oughpphth auyrh o-
amn deyeawlecquephth
woch mneigh olouv-
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js



G.L.

(JACK SPEER) of 3633
Jenifer, Wn/15/DC,
comments exhaustively
on #27: Cartoons
generally pretty
good. As you know,
I dislike the return
of the Vomaidens.

Incidentally, Tom Wright says the Gibson girl is definitely illegal. " Haw! Yleft
out Syd Beach on the TableCon. " Jinke says "What makes a thing good or evil?" My
answer is, what is contra human survival is evil, but the question's a very tough
one. Re the schools' liking the three fathers of stf and none of their descendants,
my own hi school English teacher thought Wells had some good stuff, but said he used
imagination more than any author has a right to, or words to that effect. My defense
that he had a pretty good scientific explanation (we were discussing The Invisible
Man) didn't faze her. Well, how would you answer that objection of too much imagina-
tion in stf--or would you just deny it? Mundane fiction (by mundane I mean non-fan-
tasy) ordinarily submits to the test of degree of imagination, and that which is too
improbable, or departs too far from known reality, is condemned. " Moffatt:
"thinketh I". Ugh. Better read your King James more thoroly, Christianfan; you'll
never find an -eth end used with the first person there. Moffatt advises Shaw to
tell his parents about his religious unbelief, saying he'll feel better for it.
Isn't that a rather selfish attitude to take? How would Len's mother feel if she
thot her son was heading toward Helly? Wouldn't the Christian thing be to spare her
that mental anguish? Incidentally, there are some Christians who don't accept Len's
second article of faith. From earliest times there have been those who denied
Christ's divinity, and this is one of the characteristic beliefs of the modern Unit-
arian Church. Yet they are Christians, and believe in the teachings of the Jeffer-
son Bible. You've made an understandable error in your note to Len's letter; in the
English of King James's time, "charity" meant love, not almsgiving. I think the word
"love" is substituted in the Revised Version. " You'd better read some more Middle
English, too. You say Laney "didst write", but -st is the second person ending only.
" Foo, still talking about the Bible. Is the Hobrow word for which we translate
"sin" really "mistakes" all the way thru? I had a theory that in the modern world
the two were truly synonymous. So far as the modern man is concerned, the only thing
he would consider a sin is a mistake, if we assume his will to be directed toward ob-
taining happiness, and sin always resulting in unhappiness in the long run. Re Eri-
cop's last remarks, I mite disagree that atheism is impossible for most people. Un-
less you accept my dictum that only a fool is certain of anything, I think you can be
certain that there is no God, at least as certain as you can be of the validity of a
syllogism. For my part, I suppose I'm an agnostic, but I prefer not to call myself
by the word, since it has some connotation of wishy-washiness and maybe playing safe
on your deathbed just in case you're wrong. I don't think I'll play safe on my
deathbed (perish the picture--let's keep on hoping for immortality!) I get a kick
out of these guys that every so often talk about the re-awakening of fan interest in
vital subjects. Look: The Michelists temporarily gave up in 1938, but Lowndes and

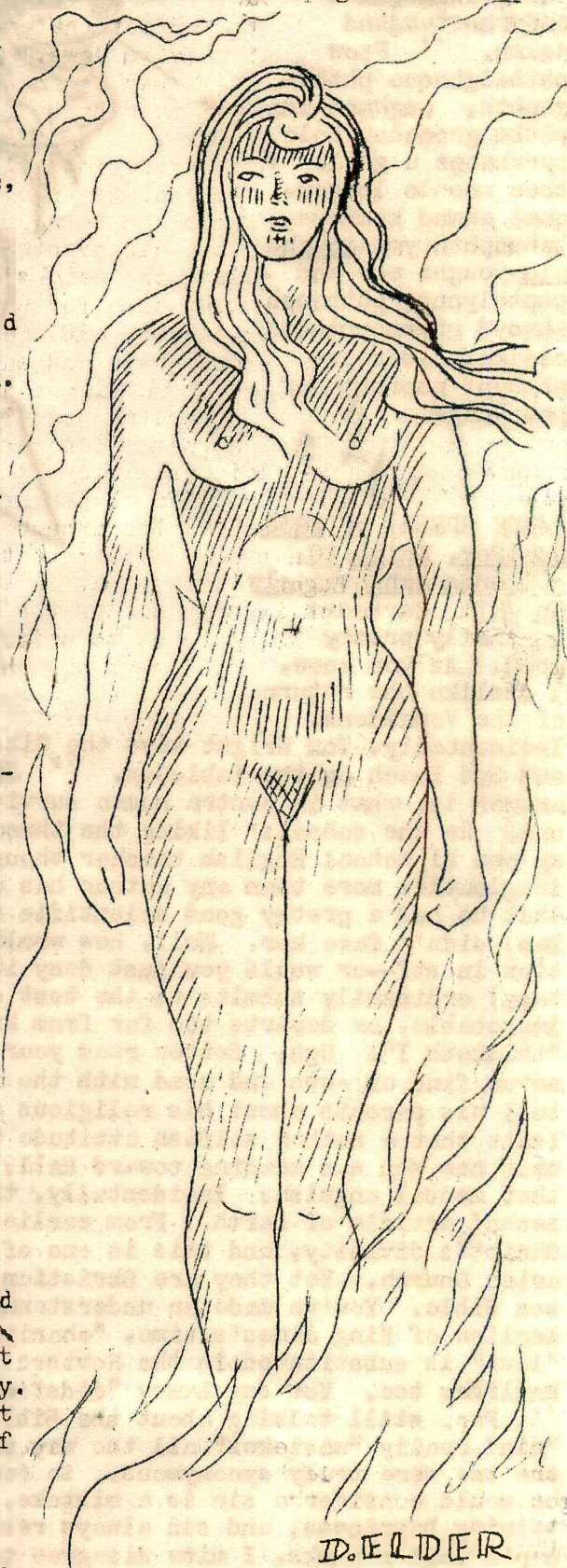
others kept plugging it into 1939. The term was officially abandoned in 1939, but the CPASF didn't dissolve until early '40. Meanwhile, Technocracy had appeared early in 1939. In 1940 came the Pro-Scientists. You remember how all thru '40 and '41 we argued about the War and other things. Also in 1941 began the slan idea, and the seriousness of the quasi-neo-Michelists in VoM, and discussions of labor unions and such things in the FAPA. By 1942, to which Ericop refers, these latter three were simply going fuller blast. Whence then this idea that there's been a hiatus in the stream of serious stf thought?

"Vice is a monster of such horrid mien
As to be hated, needs but to be seen;
Yet seen too oft, familiar with its face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace."

It is for this reason that some subjects are proscribed from polite conversation, or discussed with indirectness. Blunt discussion of them is said not to be in good taste, when it weakens morality. Kepnor dares anyone to prove that the nude has no place in fantasy art. Hadn't he better first prove that it has? Burn incense to FooFoo to preserve us from a licensing rule like Australia's! Shade of the Areopagitica!!!

Mr + Mrs D. Elder
442 Mifflin Ave, Wil-
kensburg, Pa, adres
an "Open letter to
Mrs. Agnes Beachy
(Poor misguided soul)", Madam. We can appreciate your concern over your son's shortcomings, but it's a well known fact that a person with sufficient character is an individual and not a tool of another person's whims unless he so chooses. If your son is so "wicked" he has no one to blame but himself. "We wish you could be fortunate enough to attend a meeting of the L.A.S.F.S. sometime. The fans are not children. The average age in a poll taken on the eve of writing this letter is 23. We cannot vouch for their mental ages, but we assure you, in all sincerity, that they are above average for each respective age group. Science Fiction is for pleasure and relaxation. It is not something cooked up to drive little innocent boys astray. "As for "Mr." Sinn, we say, "Quiet, son, you may write us again in about ten years, when you get your first long pants." "Fandom was not intended for small children who are as yet incapable of comprehending the "big" words in "Astounding." We need say, of Sinn, only one word to fans and they dismiss him with an understanding smile. That word is "Space-Tales." Read it, Mrs. Beachy, if you can (we admit we couldn't) and you'll no doubt see what we mean. Nuff said on that point. "In conclusion, let us console (r) you by pointing out the fact that fans are born, not made, and if your Henry is to become a fan he shall, and to be trite no power on earth will stop him.

CPL Lively
ROTHMAN ruminates: I don't care very much for the nudes - but like the doodlings very much. There's much subconscious form to them that please the emotions. "The letter from "Mrs. Agnes Beachy" was a howl. Is it on the level? If it is, I really don't blame the gal very much. At first glance we really do appear to be a nasty bunch, but I know we're nice people, so there's no need for us to go into detail defending ourselves to ourselves. MacDonald raises an interesting point when he uses the phrase "no interest in religion." I think that wording puts the finger on my case magnificently. Religion is something you get interested in just like saving stamps, or geology, or the design of radio tubes. Most people in the world assume that everybody is automatically interested in religion. There's no reason why they should be, except that they've been brought up that way. With me, that interest never had a chance, because I was always interested in a dozen other things. That's why I haven't bothered to "investigate" religion, whatever that means, any further. (Because I have, in the past.) Not believing in "salvation" I see no reason why I should investigate further, or become interested. As for "getting religion" in a foxhole, I doubt very much if that would happen to me, for I'm familiar with a phenomenon known as "auto-suggestion." The mind can do wonderful things. Maybe I'm not objective. Maybe my mind is already made up. But I think that I'll get along all right this way. "I may sound cold and mentally armor-plated, but I really get a lot of fun out of life. Honest.



D. ELDER

That SPEER is here again! Here I sit, drinking myself into a stupor with Welch's grape juice, and all it makes me think of is, "Take ye and drink all this, it is the blood of our blessed savior", etc. I wonder if it was worth the trouble. Owell, it's something I've been wanting to do a long time. You know how kids are reputed to say "When I grow up I'm gonna go to the movies everyday and eat all the ice cream cones I want." So this is an example of Speer being immature. Gaag! Wonder if I shouldn't thin the stuff a little with water.... Even to my drunken gaze, the Vomaidens in #28 still stink. On the other hand, Wortman's doodles are all quite fascinating. The invisibility cartoon was rather poorly executed. The cartoonist should have handled his background so as to make it unmistakable that the guy was apparently bodiless. I disagree with Phil's (Bronson's) belief that a true potential fan is sure to find us sooner or later. All the evidence seems to point the other way. If there is a fan type, he should be distributed pretty evenly thruout the population. Yet we find the center of fan population shifting all about, and small towns like Comanche or Decker may have several active fans at some time that metropolises like St Louis and Chicago are deserted. There must be geographical factors, primarily the proximity of other actifans, which bring in the potential ones. And a lot of accidentalness. (The grape juice is getting low in the bottle. Wonder if I have enuf points for another.) Muchly I like Milton's (Rothman's) sensible attitude toward Jewishness. I liked a quotation in Thompson's COY-UM a while back, to the effect that most of the Jews' troubles would disappear if they would forget that they're Jews. And then I turn around and see Ben Hecht or somebody else saying "Remember us at the conference table--remember us Jews, who aren't represented there" (except by their respective national representatives), apparently crying for revenge. It mite be wise to plan to send your young slans to Sunday School. Unless religious allusions are suddenly dropped in literature and no effort in made to explain them in presenting literature of the past to students, the Judaistic-Christian background will continue to be part of our culture, and the child will be at a disadvantage-- he may make laughable mistakes like your censoring of "dick against the pricks", or misinterpreting the Biblical meaning of "charity", ktp. When time came for me to turn atheist, I didn't notice that knowing the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was much of an obstacle. (The sun has been shining on the grape juice and warmed it. Faugh.) May be, as Warner says, you can pull any desired meaning out of the gospels, but I think intelligent, enlited reading shows them to be pretty unequivocal. Satan had nothing to do with the temptation of Eve? I think such a conclusion is roached only by ignoring obvious implications, and specific traditions that have come down alongside the Genesis account. Kepner says, "In re personal religion ... her (Bovard's) definition would seem to be closer to the proper definition of philosophy". Not by a long shot. Not on your old tin-type. Closer to the vulgar definition of "philosophy", perhaps, as employed by Edgar A Guest, but in learned usage, closer to the proper definition of "ethics", which is only one of the numerous branches of philosophy. He says later, "That is good which tends to universal progress". Maybe I'll agree with him if he'll define "progress". There are those who say we have not progressed beyond the Athenians.

LANEY rote from "The Lair of the Lasfs, Thanksgiving Eve, 1943": In Vom #28 Fran certain remarks were made by various of the VoMenagerie which actually scream for my comment. Yerke's query concerning otherwise sane people whose mental processes go blotto when religion rears its noxious head interests me. Is this not, perhaps, an example of what my psych prof used to call "logic-tight compartments"? I believe that this logic-tight idea comes into play whenever anything is taught to the individual when he is too young to question it. That is, few people will ever question the mores and conventions of the race if they have been thoroughly impregnated with this crud at a tender age. But as far as these people being idiot savants--faugh! Idiots, perhaps. While on this subject of religion, I am moved to contemptuous braying by Master Washington's remark on "SO MANY millions of people." The guy is no end provincial. I had always been under the impression that christianity (small "c" please) was one of the relatively minor religions. Consider the teeming millions of the far east--buddhists, confucians, sikhs, hindus, all sorts of pagan faiths. We mustn't forget old poppa Mohamet either; I darsay he has as many followers, or nearly as many, as any paper mache jesus ever thought of having. Or how about Africa? Raym should remember that although the US is a fairly large nation, it does not comprise the world. Jiko's crowd is immensely interesting, and with a few minor exceptions, I personally am thoroughly in accord with it. I fear he is a bit touched with idealism in spots, but this is all right--too many cynical people around anyway. MacDonald's remarks on fandom emerging from the science-fiction stage don't entirely jell with me. While I'll be the first to grant that a fan (or anyone else) should have a broad variety of mental interests, and not limit himself to any one field of human thought or endeavor, I fail to see the good in "emerging" from stf. Stf and its allied fields are the one great thing about fandom which truly appeals to me. Without stf, fandom would be a group of quite young, rather serious young people with radical ideas and a burning urge to express themselves. Certainly a futile bunch, except insofar as what personal satisfaction they might get. With stf, the picture changes. A detached point of view will show one that stf and its reading and collecting are futile as hell--but then, may I inquire WHAT HUMAN ENDEAVOR IS NOT AS FUTILE AS HELL??? For the extraordinary individual, for the person who differs in one iota from the common herd, life is a futile and pointless misery; made bearable only by the cushioning effects of books, music, art, and perhaps alcohol. With stf, now, there is a chance for some satisfaction. There is a definite feeling of accomplishment in filling out some rare old magazine file, or in picking up some rare book. When one is fed up with it all, he can reread STAR-MAKER and get his sense of perspective adjusted. He can dig into the November 1928 Amazing, and reade some old tale he has not thought of for years, perhaps not even read at all, and get considerable pleasure therefrom. He can, in short, indulge in

all manner of satisfying acts--nothing cosmic, or world shaking about them, but still thoroughly satisfying. The stf-less fan, on the other hand, is merely batting his head against the brick wall of human indifference. "Emerging" may be a necessary stage in our personal evolutions, but we will undoubtedly be happier if we remain in the chrysalis. "Milty's letter on the purpose of fandom STINKS. WHY must fandom have a purpose anyway? Fans are fans because they enjoy it--any other reason is highly superfluous, and smacks of Horatio Alger and the Junior Chamber of Commerce. One of the most annoying faults in contemporary American thought is the apparent necessity that every activity have some definite and useful purpose. We can't do something because we enjoy it---hell no, that would be too much like the shiftless natives of the south seas. We can't go out and play golf because we enjoy the game; we must play golf "because it is good for our health". We can't go to a juice store and get a glass of orange juice because we like orange juice and enjoy the taste of it; we must drink it for the vitamin PDQ it is filled with. We can't read for the sheer delight we may get out of someone's mastery of words; we must read to "improve" our minds. We can't beat our wives for the sheer sadistic kick we get out of hearing them scream; we must beat them because they need discipline. "Why in the sacred name of Tsathoggua every human act must be rationalized so as to show a practical and useful purpose is completely beyond me. I am undisciplined, perhaps, but (with the sad exception of making a living) I do what I damn well want to, and ONLY because I damn well want to. If it improves my mind, if it is good for my health, if it happens to have some practical purpose---I can't help it; that is wholly incidental. "What I started to say, fandom NEEDS no high and mighty purpose. We enjoy fan activities--get our kicks therefrom--what more justification does the field need? Want to argue with me, Milty?

Bill Watson

ye Devilled Ed of diablerie, The Poor Fan's Esquire, 1299 California St., Frisco 9, Cal, composed the following during Staplecon #2: I hereby nominate Harry Honig as the number one successor to

Harry Schmarje's title of the number one jerk. The title, from his letter in number 28 VoM, fits quite well, so why not let it stick? "His feeling of friendliness might be well-felt, for they certainly fall into the same class, he and Harry Schmarje. And as to Schmarje's being young -- he's a damn sight older than "grandpapa" Honig. "Harry Honig is an athiest, clap, clap. Well -- g o-o-o d for him, he's to be congratulated, but not for that, I fear. Rather for his idiocy, heh, heh. "God forbid! He's dumbfounded! No, wait -- he's been found dumb. That, of course, is a matter of opinion -- all of fandom's opinion, or I'm a wet sock. (Hi, old sock!) "I appreciated Moffat's letter -- I'm sure that the majority of the fans did. Len, after all, is entitled to his ideas. No one has a right to dictate to him not even Great God Honig. Selah! "Yerke: Please analyze Honig . . . two-bits says that a strait - jacket will be your verdict. If so, I'll contribute half a buck for the cause. Maybe even a dollar! "Comes the subject of nudes. An old one, but it still appears to be raging strong. I like nudes. I harbor nothing -- that I can recall -- against nudes, either in the flesh or on paper. I of course prefer them on a bed or on a low couch, but that's just my viewpoint. Forry sez he likes 'em on a sheet, but hell, what kind of a sheet? A clean sheet, he sez. High rag content, he adds. We're still getting nowhere -- hi ho. (Use your nude-al!) "To Tucker: not all women here are overly well- and large-breasted. Just well-developed; pert, we'll call them. Come to sunny California sometime, Bob, and we'll furnish you all the women your constitution can stand. Fun. (Come to Stapleconstitution #3 & have a gal-a-time!) I miss Bob Bloch's choice and juicy remarks. He's humorous. Like me.

Jimmy Kefauver

adreses "Douglas Ackeraft" from 628 S Bixel, LA-14: And the endless discussion in re nudes rages on. Really, Forrojo, I think the whole thing is beginning to get a bit ridiculous.

Everyone throws in a few haphazard comments in each issue but still the discussion continues -- and so do the nudes.

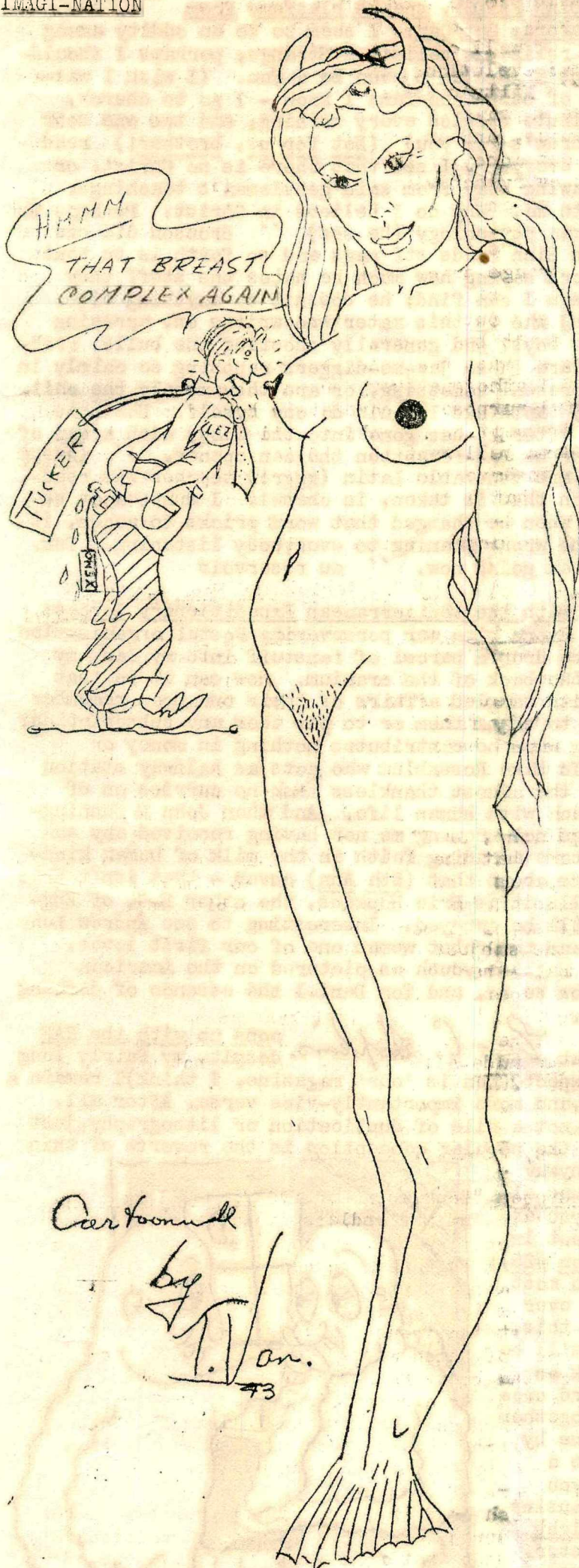
I did a little checking, and in the last ten issues of VOM, I found only sixteen and three halves nudes, one and a half of which were male, (the halves relating to drawings of only the upper portions of the body, rather than to hermaphrodites) and five and one half semi-nudes. This totals up a surprisingly mediocre average of two nudes per issue, with one out of four being male or else semi-clothed. Ye Gods! Is that what the fans are doing all that howling about? Much more space has been wasted in pointless discussion than was used by the drawings themselves.

Now what is the reason for all this storm of protest?

One complaint is that nudes, in the flesh or drawn, are vulgar, per se. I see no reason why the human body should be considered lewd. Nor should its particularly erotic members be looked upon as vile. Why snub that from which we derive one of our greatest pleasures? Reproduction is perhaps the chief aim of any living thing, and the organs connected with it should be looked upon without false shame or modesty. I will even go farther and claim that even the natural processes of waste disposal should offer no reason to blush. Not that I mean that we should glorify these things. It is however necessary for the entire race to adopt a saner attitude in order to maintain psychological health.

Next, perhaps, comes the contention that while nudes, per se, are not vulgar, many of those published in VOM and other fanzines are intended for lewdness. I offer neither protest nor denial here. While I certainly shouldn't care for a steady diet of "smutty" jokes or drawings, I do enjoy them, if they're sprinkled sparringly. Most fans are liberal enough not to wince prudishly at sexy jokes or cartoons.

Another charge is that they use up more space than their quality warrants. In many cases this is perhaps true, altho even a poor drawing helps to counteract the narcotic effects of several pages of solid print. Nor can you, as editor of the particular type of mag that VOM aspires to be, be held quite responsible for the



quality of the drawings the artists submit any more than for the type of letters contributed. And, it being your aim to attempt to present a cross section of fandom, you must take what comes. I suggest that you backfire a bit on the discussion by publishing a plea to the artists to submit better material.

Then comes the question of artistic values.

First, are nudes artistic? If you don't know, look in some art gallery sometime.

Second, are the vomnudes artistic? This arguments can only apply to those not considered cartoons, since cartoons have a different purpose than pure art. In answer to the question, I would say yes, in so far as they are amateur attempts, which tho perhaps not reaching pro standards, much less the higher aesthetic standards, are still strivings after beauty.

Third, do nudes belong in fantasy art? Am I supposed to offer scientific reasons here, when fantasy itself does not rest on a scientific basis? I will only say that whether or not **they belong there or not** (and who is to decide that but the artist?) nudes certainly have occupied a major place in the works of most leading fantasy artists, and, but for Postal regulations and such, their place would have been even greater. I might add that nude drawings have a place in sfal art whenever the artist (or the author of the yarn he may be illustrating) feels that clothing may not always be used in the **future** or on other worlds.

Fourth, do fanudes (vomnudes particularly) meet the standards of fantasy art? Here, I contend, the decision is between the talent of the artist and the severity of the critic. And we all know what stern judges fancritics love to be. Perhaps a certain biblical platitude would be appropriate here.

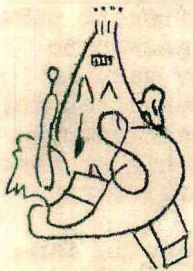
Anyhow, I do not hope to have succeeded in fankind's rambling discussion on nudrawings to an early close, for the discussion will probably go on as long as Vom and fandom survive.

P.S. Don't you really think paragraphing adds sp, icj tp a 'earamce, as well as setting off the writers thoughts properly, for which purpose he used the paragraphs in the first place? (Subtle hint.)

RUS-
SELLLL WILSEY of 87-22 - 252 St, Bellerose, NY/NY, debuts with these views: Boy, are you getting nudesy. Personal, I don't object to them in

the least, not in an unclean lite but I do object to some of the monstrosities (Gad, what spelling) which you try to put over on some of the fans, uh. Of course, I have to watch out that my parents don't see it and get the idea that fans dote on such stuff. They are pretty liberal-minded, but their conception of fans is bad enough as it is. As to the present fad, religion, which seems to have hit the pages of our 'good book'. (Here I would like to digress a moment and explain my use of the word 'fad'. It seems that the intellectual genius of Vom pick up some subject laying around, kick it around awhile untill they got tired, and they try to find something else. First there was the cause of science-fiction, then smoking girls, nudos, and now religion. By the way, as long as we are on the subject of vices, has any body mentioned cursing? That should be worth a few hot letters.) I diffintily don't think that children should be brought up with no idea of God. A man must have some faith in something outside of himself. After all, without the Church a lot of people would be minuss a head and a 38 bullet.

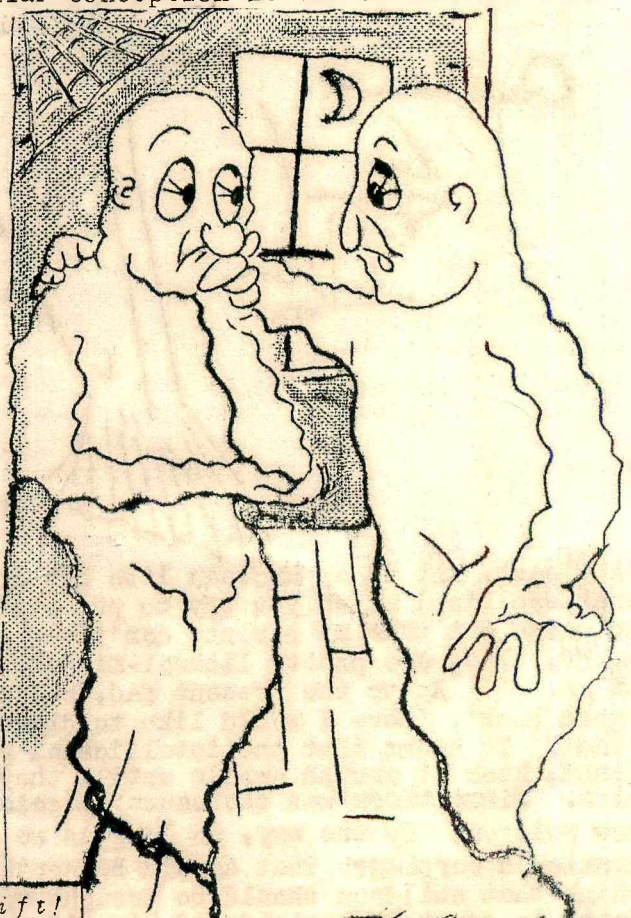
Beak TAYLOR, publisher CANADIAN FANDOM, speaks blasphemy from St Andrew's College, Aurora, Ont/Can: I seem to be an oddity among fans.- I have no queer religious beliefs. Strange, perhaps I shouldn't be editing a fanmag at all, perhaps I shouldn't even be a fan. (I wish I wasn't) Anyhoo, I seem to be like a lot of other non-fans I know - I go to church, (gawd do I go to church. A fifteen minute service every morning, and two one hour services on Sunday. But that's St Andrew's for you) (Not for us, brother!) read the bible, and don't go round telling everybody I see that there's no Christ, or that we should repent, that we are drawing away from said gentleman's teachings. Somebody tell me what's the matter with me. Why do I believe in Christ? Perhaps T. Bruce Jerke can, he seems to study human psychology (he sez) "Bronson did his subject full justice. The only reason Sinn reads stf mags and so forth is so that he can write letters back to the editors saying how much he hates the stuff they print. At least, that's the only reason I can find; he doesn't do anything else. Also in connection with Sinn, (or Sin) who is this mater who writes in, agreeing with him, telling us we are bad little boys, and generally shooting the bull? Probably H. Loren himself. " Say, what are those jaz-me-diggers reposing so calmly in the midst of the letters? Do they represent something, or are they merely the children of a disordered brain (Or vombie) Methinks I could do one myself. Now this represents Ackerman just after he has gone into the woods with a can of sardines, only to discover he has forgotten the can opener. " (Anent our snafu): Our ancient and venerable Latin (gggr!) teacher was reading the passage from which that is taken, in chapel. I dunno what he was thinking, but I know when he changed that word pricks to goads, it certainly brought home the wrong meaning to everybody listening. Tsk. " Well, I guess I'll beak going now. " au reservoir



Eric C. Williams with the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces: Every time our persevering Postal organisation

and tireless Merchant Service manage to drop a parcel of fanstuff into my lap, my conscience rises up and clouts me on the back of the cranium. How can it be that people thousands of miles off, busy with tangled affairs of their own, can remember this gawk, Eric Wms, who never writes to thank them or to pay them any subscription? How can he keep on expectantly waiting when he contributes nothing in money or words? It is beyond understanding. To Mike Rosenblum who acts as halfway station for VOM,,,I'd like to thank him,,,for the almost thankless task he carries on of keeping silent fans like myself in touch with human life. And then John M Cunningham who has sent me one or two pro mags not knowing me nor having received any encouragement from me - such people restore a fading faith in the milk of human kindness. " And now, just a couple words about that (5th Ann) cover - that isn't Eric Wms. So far as my dulled memory recalls it is Eric Hopkings, the other E.C. of English fandom. Tut, tut, Mr. Hopkins will be annoyed. Interesting to see Andrew Leonard, well remembered from W.S. days ; and the robot woman one of our first loves. Sam Youd looks the personification of English youth as pictured on the American screen, and far from being the highbrow he is, and Tom Daniel the essence of dashing American youth as seen from Hollywood.

Eric C. Hopkins in Canada: It is a sad reflection that despite my fairly long acquaintance with your magazine (the expectation is 'our' magazine, I think) I remain a real stranger to those who produce it, and more importantly-vice versa. After all, editors and editresses (!) are people, not a pile of duplication or lithography, just as novelists are people not books, tho the popular conception is the reverse of this probably to the majority of people. Anyway (cut the chatter, 'Opkins) I am dismal and all that, because I don't really know who you are or what you are like, tho' you are sweet in your pics! (Anent the misnomerd pic on #25): ...that Eric Williams on your cover is most definitely ME. Just look at it and say over and over to yourselves, That guy wrote this, and this was written by that - and you'll be shaken to the core. I know I don't look as tho' I can write. I think Barbara Bovard once expressed the desire to pin my ears together realizing too well that it was all done by prayer. If I can find them I'll enclose a teeny photo of myself that will have you really wondering about your English cousins. Boy, it'll puzzle you why you had to fight for your independence! " Doug. Webster, with whom I discourse most learnedly upon the shattering short-comings of SF fans (I think this is why La Bovard dislikes me), says I am far less serious in person than in correspondence. This is not really so 'cos such an observation depends wholly upon the correspondence in reference and, Webby being a very intellectual type, I deliberate most assiduously with him thereby creating a profound impression.



He's working on the graveyard shift!

The Carlson

Bill Temple pencils a couple pgs from ITALY yet! Just to let you know that I seem to be getting most of what you've sent. The idiocies of Shangri L'Affairs and Forry's mad serial ("Madman of Mars", FAPA) contrast in a welcome way with the less pleasing idiocies out here. I have been devouring such pleasing idiocies & in imagination haunting the LASFS club-room (which I have determined to see some day) while squatting on the Egyptian sands (you can have 'em), traversing the Libyan Desert (they can keep that) & the Shores of Tripoli (nothing to make a song about) & Tunisia (who wants that?) & Sicily (the vino & the grapes make it almost inhabitable) &, as now, touring in Italy (doing as the Romans do, which is apparently scratching their mosquito bites & getting washed out in cloudbursts.)

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stork

Put all their jewelry in rock

For nine long months they toiled and slaved

They worked and scrimped and scraped and saved

They gave up beef and veal and pork

To pay their meat points to the stork

July 28th (The date will live)

They told the stork, "Come on, now -- GIVE!"

The wheel of fortune gave a whirl
And then produced a baby girl

The baby's name is Sally Ann
Method of birth? - Caesarian

Her weight is five pounds, fifteen ounces

The mother is well

And the baby bounces!



KEPNER returns for a 2d round this ish: Dear Morojak, The subject this time relates to pacifism. First, to define broadly, and then more specifically, what I mean by the word. Its wider meaning denotes a predisposition against war and the use of violence. More narrowly, it applies to the absolutist philosophy that evil can and must be met only by good, or at worst, by passive resistance. Here, even defensive violence is verboten. But so far, few persons have considered the influence that pacifism is beginning to have on the world, and the role it is to play in history. Patriots will quickly point to our so-called unpreparedness, and lay the blame to the pacifists. However, we may make a discount here, since the Axis has had to contend with the same problem, for pacifism was especially widespread in Germany, and among the Christians in Japan. But, back to the charge in re preparedness. It is not hard (altho not entirely fair) to "pass the buck." 'Twas the powerful Isolationist bloc (with whom the pacifists had allied during the last presidential election) rather than the handful of pacifists, that succeeded in blocking preparations for war. However I think that the wave of pacifism that followed the last war, and the even mightier wave likely to follow this one have a deep historical significance. While pacifism is intentionally striking a deathblow to nationalism, I feel that it is unconsciously striking a telling blow against an even greater force - religion. Here we have a case of childbirth causing the mother's death. Pacifism has denuded religion. It brings out the most blatant contradictions between the Old Testament and the New. It flashes a spotlight on the gross hypocrisy of the Churches, which claim to be based on the teachings of the extremely pacifist Christ. And it drives a solid wedge between religion and nationalism, from which latter religion has gained much of its power. Now, I do not mean that the pacifists set out with these purposes in mind, for most of them are quite religious. But the ideas begin to permeate our society, and more and more people are faced with the realizations (whether or not they themselves are pacifists) that the Old and New Testaments are ideologically opposed, that the Churches flagrantly ignore or deny the teachings their founder emphasized most strongly, and that religion and patriotism fit together about as well as a lumberjack's big hands in a dainty lady's gloves. I have heard that during the last war, people flocked back to the Churches. Religion experienced its greatest revival since before the turn of the century. And when this war came on, the Churches had high hopes. But somehow, they failed to materialize. There has been a markedly steady decline in general Church attendance since the war began. Religious people go about their patriotic pursuits with a heavy heart. They try not to think of the incongruity of it all, but the thoughts are there, just the same. And after the war, they will break forth into full bloom. Pacifism, born of religion, seems destined to do more to shatter its parent than has any force since the great debates on Evolution during the last century. And after that, it will merely be a slow racial process of forgetting. sincerely yours, Post Script: Dear Editors, you have no idea how dry and rambling a letter appears to be when the paragraphing is left off. A little empty space here and there enlivens the letters marvelously. The doodles help altho they never come at such a juncture as to space the thoughts correctly. Puh-looze, use paragraphs, or else it giffs a blasting letter next time. (Well, that's one way to insure mail! Jiké, how do U like this nice blank space at the bottom?)



FRANCIS LANEY, fanova who has burst on fandom with the brilliant fanmag Acolyte, here discusses the future of his off(traill)spring. Give with your slant-points, FrancisLANey!

MY PLANS for raising my two lovely (ahem!) little daughters are by no means as elaborate as those of most parents. When one considers the staggering quantity of knowledge, attitudes, conventions and mores with which a modern person must be familiar in order to get thru life with a minimum of friction; it leaves the would-be constructive parent with a well-nigh insurmountable job on his hands. Consequently, I shall attempt only to instill certain basic attitudes and semi-instinctive reactions in my girls, with the belief that they will order their own lives for themselves far better than I could possibly organize them myself.

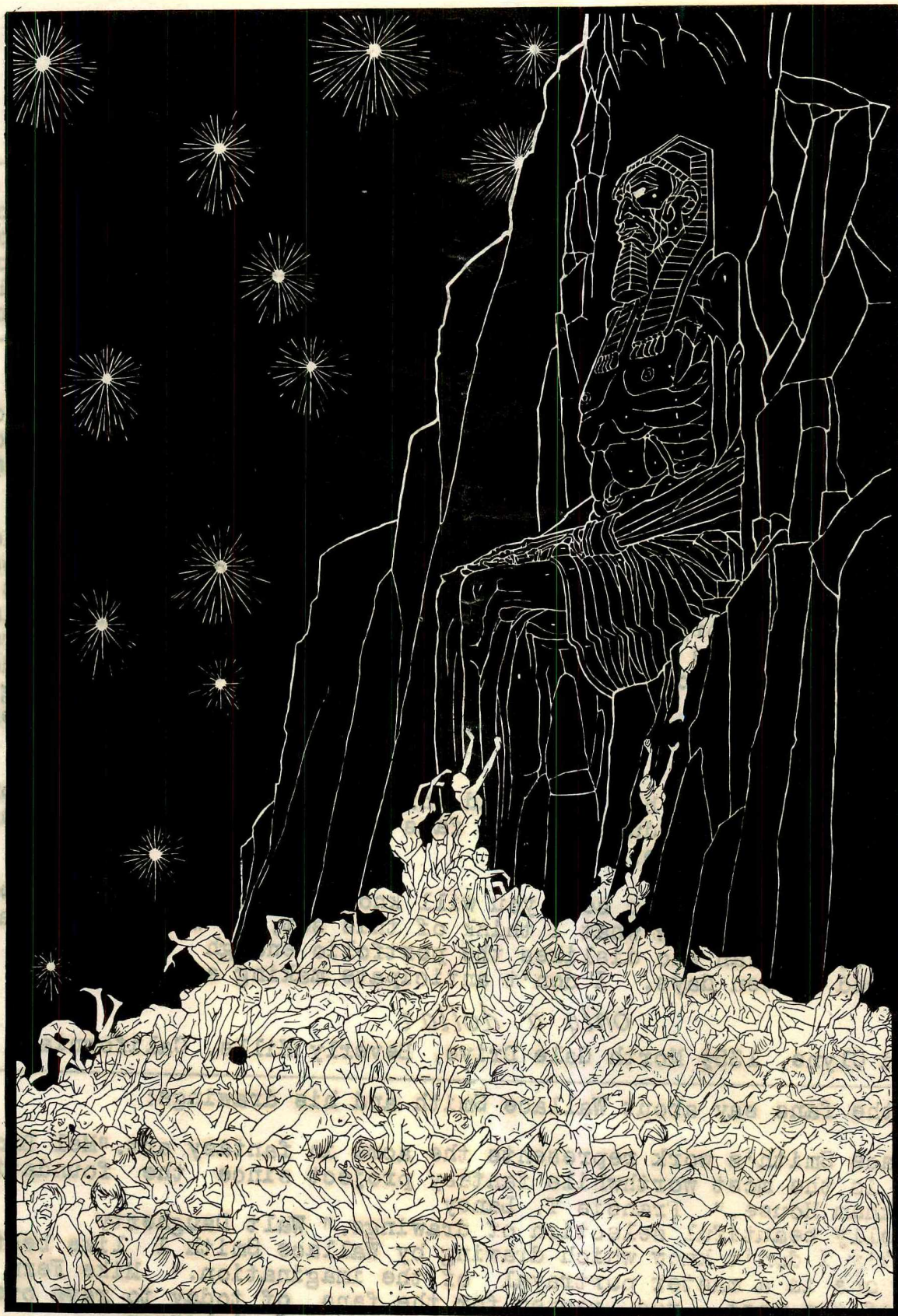
BY FAR the most important attitude I shall attempt to drill into my girls is a habitual OPENMINDEDNESS. I don't want my kids to take anything on my say-so or anyone else's; I want them to be able to weigh and evaluate and draw their own independent conclusions. If these conclusions happen to run counter to my own considered views, it will grieve me more or less, but I certainly shall never attempt to mould them to my own outlook.

COUPLED WITH this matter of openmindedness, I am determined to inculcate these kids with the SCIENTIFIC ATTITUDE. Perhaps this requires a little definition. The scientific attitude implies that a person make all decisions and choices on a basis of strict intellectual reasoning, rather than allowing himself to be swayed by emotions and preconceived prejudices. Of course, one will often fall far short on his attempts at ordering his life scientifically, because after all, mankind is at heart a primitive and atavistic race. However, a person sincerely attempting to follow such a plan in his daily life will avoid a large share of the grief and misery of the average human, and in addition will avoid practically all nutty sects such as Yogiism, christianity and similar crud. The scientific attitude also implies that most decisions will be made on a basis of controlled experimentation. While at first glance it may seem somewhat difficult to conduct controlled experimentation in daily life, in actuality it is quite easy. It is a simple matter to proceed partly on a basis of trial and error (experimentation) and partly on a basis of empirical reasoning; and, as a matter of fact, most intelligent persons do this a great deal, even tho they may not think of it in quite the same terms as I do.

ANOTHER extremely important attitude that my girls must have is one of almost cynical CRITICAL JUDGMENT towards anything which may be brought to their attention. I hasten to add that I do not generally approve of a cynical attitude; but in view of the vast amounts of sheer bilge and propaganda poured out upon an innocent public by such fertilizer dispersers as congress, the church, sects, movements, commercial advertisers and the like; it is a virtual necessity for one to be a semi-cynic in order not to become contaminated by more or less of this corruption.

I BELIEVE that if my girls are thoroughly inculcated with these three attitudes--openmindedness, scientific attitude and critical judgment--their other habits and attitudes, may well be left to chance. For example, I have no fear of either of them becoming church members if they are trained from an early age to exercise their minds; no intelligently reasoning person will ever fall under the sway of sacerdotal slop--and this is also true of anything else that might be a detriment to a well-rounded personality.

PERHAPS I should add parenthetically that my main aim is to slip my girls thru life with a minimum of friction, and that in view of this objective, they will be inculcated with a foundation of good manners, suavity and other minor accomplishments calculated to make them agreeable to their fellow-humans. It scarcely seems necessary to mention sex in this discussion; it should go without saying that my girls will be informed of everything in connection with any of their bodily processes--including sex. By example, and thru having the stuff underfoot all the time, both kids will probably become avid readers of stff, fantasy, weird and other literature and will also doubtless become much interested in other art forms, such as music, painting, sculpture, etc. However, nothing will be stuffed down my girls' throats; they will be



ronald clyne announces the wallace smith art portfolio -

In September 1922, Ben Hecht's FANTAZIUS MALLARE was published in a limited edition of only 2000 copies, featuring the truly magnificent series of pen and ink drawings by Wallace Smith. This volume is now virtually unknown and unobtainable; I personally paid \$ 15.00 for the rather battered copy in my collection. (I paid this admittedly high price simply because I felt that my collection of weird and fantastic art would not merely be incomplete without this series - it would be practically non-existent.)

Not being the type of individual who wishes to hog all the choice items I am consequently, through the expenditure of a great deal of time and money, publishing this series of wonderful drawings for all fandom to enjoy.

The folder contains all ten of the drawings, expertly lithographed on extremely heavy, glossy stock; and is unstapled, so that these pictures may be framed if desired. The portfolio also contains a page of introductory notes, and is neatly gotten up in a substantial folder. The reverse of this page is a sample of one of the pictures - but is NOT the stock used in the portfolio. I personally consider Wallace Smith's ten drawings markedly superior to those of Virgil Finlay, Cartier, Paul, or Harry Clarke. (whose style Smith's very much resembles).

The lithography bill has been paid through \$5 and \$10 subscriptions on the part of individual fans -- fans who have seen these drawings and know what they are.

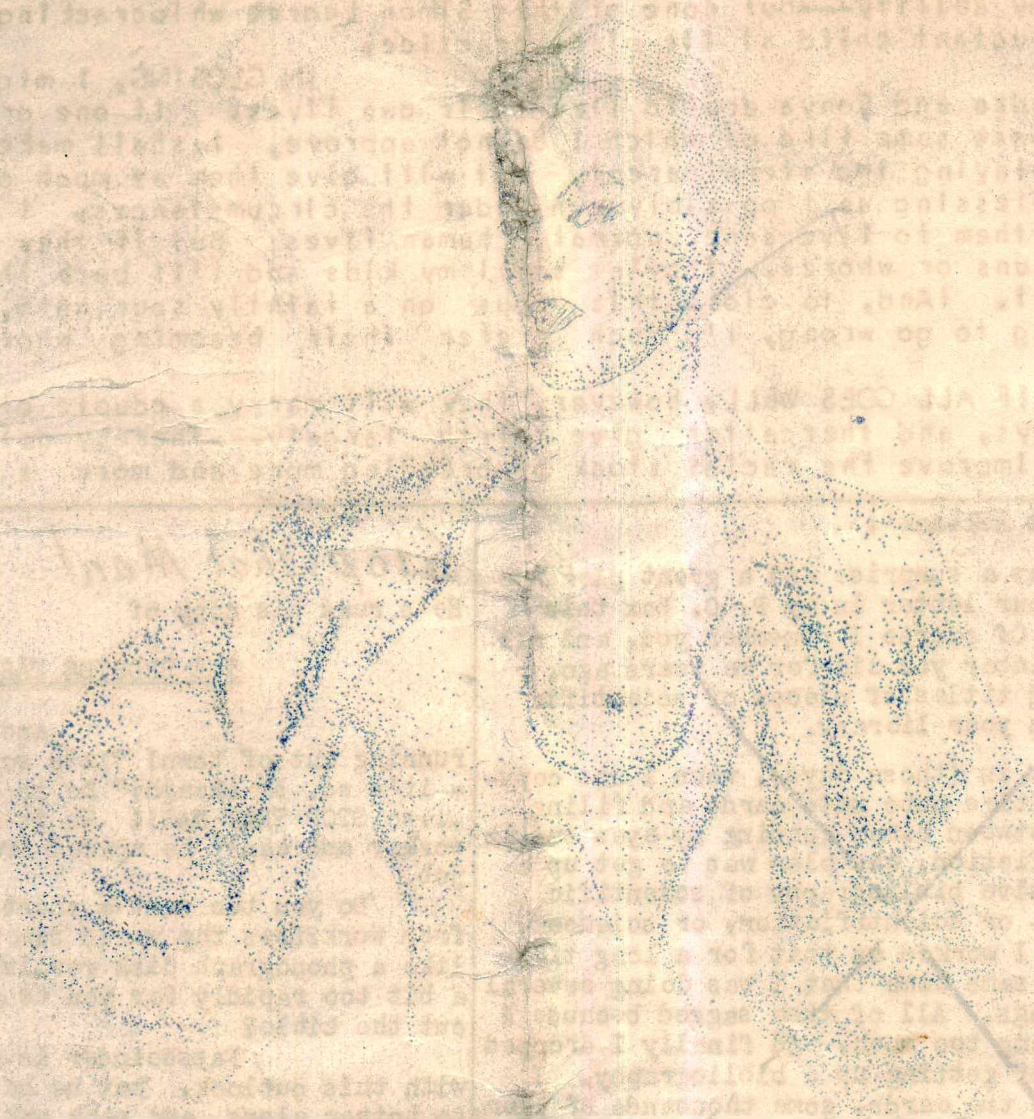
When you have seen your set, you will know that the dollar was well spent. Just to show what I think of this set, I will make a cash refund to any fan who dislikes the portfolio enough to return it undamaged in ten days. I don't anticipate making any refunds.

only a dollar

Ronald Clyne, 135½ North Gale Drive, Beverly Hills, California.

What the fans say about Wallace Smith and his drawings:

"Wallace Smith's work represents the acme in fantasy art." Mel Brown
"This is the most worthwhile fantasy project since the foundation of Arkham House." Francis T. Laney
"A really beautiful selection of drawings." Walt Daugherty
"Frankly I don't know which drawing by Wallace Smith I like best ; every one is a master portrayal of the imagination." Mike Fern
"Out of the past - resurrected for the fans of today to rave over- the outre artwork of Wallace Smith." Forrest J. Ackerman
"I wouldn't sell my portfolio for ten times the price." Chas McNutt



IF YOU LAUGHED AT THORNE SMITH ** SNICKERED AT H. ALLEN SMITH ** ROARED AT LUCIUS
BEEBE ** THEN YOU CAN'T HELP BUT LIKE THAT NEW FANZINE ** D I A B L E R I E

Take for instance, that grand old man of fantasy -- Thorne Smith -- you'll be
able to draw a neat parallel between his works and Lea's KING OF THE GAY PLACES

Or, if you prefer subtle ribaldry -- H. Allen Smith -- then don't miss Grap
Waldeyer's OUT TWO DIMENSIONAL ANCESTORS. We split a gut laughing when we re-
ceived this manuscript. And if you don't do the same -- there's no hope for you

And of course there is Lucius Beebe, that wordy columnist of NYC -- if you enjoy
him, then you'll like Watson's LIES THERE A COUNTRY. Plenty of humor in this
item, even if you do need a dictionary close at hand when you sit down to read it

And that isn't all -- Geo Ebey drags everyone in sfiction fandom through the
roller, including the editors of the magazine you're reading now. These attacks
are perpetrated in DIRTY OLD KEPNER -- who is the brunt of many a good joke

And of course there's an editorial -- it starts out exactly like this:

O h -- h o w w e i l I d o remember
It was i n o n e b l e a k S e p t e m b e r
That e a c h s e p e r a t e p l a s t e r e d m e m b e r
L a y i n a s o d d e n h e a p u p o n t h e f l o o r

You should have gotten the idea by now -- you're is for a riotous time when you
read:

5¢

d i a b l e r i e

5¢

from:

BILL WATSON
1299 California St
San Francisco -- 9
California

exposed to the stuff---if it takes they will be encouraged to the limit of my ability---but none of this Simon Legree whipcracking to keep some reluctant child at its piano practice.

IN CLOSING, I might state that Sandra and Sonya are to live their own lives. If one or both of them choose some life of which I do not approve, I shall make a point of not playing the stern parent, but will give them as much of a parental blessing as I possibly can under the circumstances. I naturally want them to live sane, normal, human lives; but if they turn out to be nuns or whores, they're still my kids and I'll back them up to the limit. (And, to close this opus on a faintly sour note, if they are going to go wrong, I'd much prefer their becoming whores than nuns!)

IF ALL GOES WELL, however, they will marry a couple of intelligent guys, and thereafter give birth largely---thereby doing their part to improve the racial stock by breeding more and more s l a n s.

"Dear 'Cpl Ack-Ack':

It was a surprise and a great pleasure to find your letter in my P. O. box this morning. Of course I remember you, and all the hard labor you did for me years ago, collecting titles of pieces of scientific fiction in your library.

"Back in (those days), when I was copying the titles onto note cards and filing them in between times reading my eyes out in magazine fiction, the plan was to get up a comprehensive bibliography of scientific fiction -- or scientification, or science fiction. I worked on that for a long time -- at the same time that I was doing several other things. All of them sagged because I was carrying too much, and finally I dropped the idea of getting up a bibliography. I still have the cards, some thousands of them.

"But after doing other things for a while, I returned to the dissertation I had written on the history of scientific fiction. I rewrote it, and two years ago took it to Mr. Abramson of Argus, who agreed to act as agent. He didn't have any luck getting one of the big commercial houses interested. Then I rewrote again, cutting out a tremendous lot and streamlining, and tried again. This time,, Mr. Abramson said that he was interested. So Argus is bringing the book out: Pilgrims Through Space and Time."

--JOBailey

Volume traces history of stf from Lucian of Samosato in 2d century. 336 pgs. Due late Jan or early Feb, price between \$3-5. Inquire Argus, 16 N Michigan, Chicago.

Stop that Man!

He's read his copy of

THE BEDSIDE FASSBEINDER!

and now he's running out of town! "It's so horrible - it's so, so aaaagh!" he is screaming ...so STOP THAT MAN!! He is a defense worker and can't be spared from his job.

Do you too want a short vacation from work? Does the world sometime seem like a phonograph disk revolving just a bit too rapidly for you to quite make out the title?

Fassbeinder is afflicted with this outlook, but he has managed to totter along and hack out a lot of semiscience fiction observations which his fanmag readers have never seen.

We have about ten or twelve of these that just don't fit any fanmag, but are well-worth reading, even if they do leave you a bit dizzy.

The subjects go from discourses on psychology, jibes at the contemporary scene, research into quaint anachronisms, to mad accounts of adventures that could only befall Fassbeinder.

Drop two-bits for THE BEDSIDE FASSBEINDER to T. Bruce Yerke, 1223 Gordon St., Hollywood 38, California. Mailing date 15 April 1943. Order now!

STAPLECON

A special Souvenir pamphlet of 8 pgs describing & picturizing the doings at the 2 Frisco fan gatherings at 4e's in '43. Hoffmania cover...interior art by Harryhausen, Goldstone, Waverly Bronson...2 full page fanographic fotoliths including pix of Bill "diablerie" Watson, Harry "Arcana" Honig, Graph Waldeyer, Lou Goldstone, Tom Wright, Andy "Centauri" Anderson, Anthony Boucher & others! Price 15c, or send \$1 for next 6 Voms & STAPLECON will be included. Adres "Staplecon", Bx 6475 Met Stn, Los Angeles 14, Cal. (This is an Acky-Lite Publication...)

CREDITS this ish: Largely to Morojo for dummyping, stenciling, mimeoing & assembling. Fran Laney for dummyping his own article. Ron Clyne for Ackermontage of "Deluge" & "Just Imagine" on cover, & for stylus-ing the Vomaids of Delder & Van--Van, incidently, is a Canadifan. Doodles by Dick Wortman. Blue ink on Slan-Plans courtesy Mel Brown. Ad for diablerie created, stencild, mimeod & maild special delivery for inclusion in this ish by Watson. Riding along with this number may be a lil item, Fan, from Daugherty's new ditto machine. Snafu: We inadvertently copyd a pic used by WJD in his "Frankenstein Meets the LASFS", to appear in Tuck's next Lez; so, tho U see it here first, it really is a reprint. Guess that about winds up the blz. -BcnU-

ADDENDA: No pgs are missing bfor p5. Originly bacover was sposed to be a 2d front.



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