



VOM #30
15¢

* This is lithoed from the ORIGINAL, which constituted the frontispiece of Miracles, Science and Fantasy Stories #1, the now legendary pro of 13 years ago.

THE ROC OF GIBRALTER
(Voice of the Recapitulation)

This is a meditorial about that legendary brobdingnagian bird.////
Synonymously noen as the Roc of Ages. Vom is that Roc. And fans may//
come & fans may grow out of fandom but Vom goes on forever.

However!////
Of late a spate of criticism has come up. "What is VOM coming to?"////
"Does VOM really show a cross section of fan thought?" "You have let//
the mag become too stereotyped." "VOM is getting stale." "All too////
many fan are saying that VOM no longer interests them." These are all//
quotes from a letter from our good friend, nabor & critique, Jimmy////
'Toward Tomorrow' Kepner.

Kepner's criticism calls for comment. Vom,//
to sum up his complaints, has reacht Roc bottom. The old bird aint////
what she used to be. And--we agree!

The trouble? Deviation from////
first principles. Bcu2 yeds've been with the mag since its metamor-////
phosis from Madge (IMAGINATION!) we've overlookt the fact that new-////
comers rnt familiar with the old numbers & the editorial explanations//
& mutations &c.

In the Beginning, for instance, I, 42, introduced the//
"sic" policy on the theory it woud produce typografically better let-////
ters. It was my idea that once a fan realized the letter was going to//
apear complete, replete with its misspellings et al, heesh woud take////
more care about hiser's submission. This workt out directly the oppo-//
site. Fans deliberately were difficult. Things had reacht such a////
stage by the time of the 7th number that the Roc clamt a talon down//
on the talon-ted trivia-makers who were taxing our ingenuity to repro-//
duce letters sent in upsidedown, backward, in shorthand &c. The nov-//
elty was getting out of hand & we decided it'd better be banned bfor//
someone submitted a carving on a slate plate or challenged us to re-//
produce a message in invisible ink.

Well, while running letters sic//
did not shame them into better apearance, it did materially mold Vom's//
policy, so that we nue definitely what we wanted to do was present a//
mirror of fandom. And we've only made one concession to that ideal:////
Originly we ran letters one ryt after another, in chronological order,//
just in the rotation rcvd. The objection we realized to this was: It//
was making a fetish of the time-element, as tho there were something//
sort of supernatural about the order in which the letters were rcvd, a//
chain which shoud not be broken. Beside, 3 or 4 long, serious letters//
might be rcvd, unrelieved by any latter or short notes; then a stack//
of postal piffle might come along & be buncht after the thottuleters.//
It made bad balance that way. So we switcht to interlarding lengthy//
strate face stuff with the short retort or the sunny funnyarn.

YEARS//
pass. Today Kepner asks: "Why are there no comments on the prozines//
in VOM's pages?" Why indeed?--we're all for it. "After all, you of-//
fer a swell opportunity for the fan to compare the various pros." Ex-//
actly! We always thot so! "We can write to Campbell and comment of//
Astounding, and we can write to Palmer to comment on Amazing and FA,////
so why doesn't VOM open its doors to general & comparative comment?"//
They have never been closed! But aparently we havent been making our//
readers sufficiently aware of that. "Also," he ads, "a bit of com-////
ment on some of the stfantasy books." This is quite all x with us!////

Other topix Jimmy suggests: Do we need a nat'l fan organization?//
Plans for a fan community--"Slan Center". Isnt Atheism just as narrow//
& dogmatic as the faith of a Hardshell Baptist? Or even scientific or//
metaphysical discussions. Is time travel possible? Was there ever an//
Atlantis? Which theory of the Universe's formation is acceptable to//
most scientists today? What are some of the possible uses of radio-//
activity? Can science create life? Science disproves much of theolo-//
gy but can it ever disprove general religion? What was the civiliz-//
ation probly like in Ankor Vat? Is magic more than just hocus-pocus?//
What is mental telepathy? Do ants act thru pure instinct? Etc. "Why//
don't you appeal to the readers to try to have something particular to//
say when they write?" asks Kepner. OK--consider yourself apeald to,////
our fine featherd fans.

Now about NUDES. "VOM has degenerated into a//
soapbox parleur for the discussion of the nude drawings publisht////
therein," accuses Kepner. Geo. Barr wants to noe why we waste space//
& offend the reader with a crude nude? Elsewhere it was publisht that//
anyone coud look into the cesspool that was Ackerman's mind by buying//
Vom. Hum. Chums & chumesses, have some of U got the erroneous idea//
that Forry's personal stamp of approval is on evry nude used? Didja//
ever notice that byline on most mags, "Not responsible for opinions"//
express in this publication unless editorially signd?" Do we gotta//
waste space with that legend too, amending it to include "Publication//
of nudes does not necessarily indicate approval of their proportions,//

attitudes, execution or implications"? Look--first person Acky//////// speaking--do I draw 'em? U'll agree there are lousy letters in Vom & there're xint ones. There is no discrimination whether they come from infant prodigys or Methuselah's children, whether they urge alcoholism, abstinence, atheism, a new theism, devil worship or whatever the devil. They can pan Esperanto, they can praise Basic English, they may be rambling products of diarrhea of the pen or a literary gem. They may be vulgar, profane, sublime. I don't see why merely with what U disagree should be singled out & blamed on me. It is the very same way with the artwork. Personally, I prefer the more polished work of fan artists of professional quality like the few we have been fortunate to publish by Wright, Turner, Gibson, Watson. But the scrawl by some inexperienced jerk is presented on the same basis as a beginner's letter. It gives him his opportunity to express himself. Keep in mind: This is the Voice of the Imagination; not the Choice. It has oocd to me we could take say 25 letters & 10 illustrations, boil 'em down to the best 15 & 5, correct spelling, punctuation, grammar, give 'em even edges, spread the pix around artistically, & present a much more attractive publication. As an editor at heart, I'd like to do it. But I feel that would be presenting a false impression in this forum of fandom. It would be looking at fandom thru rose colored glasses. Come, U fans out there, say that U do bliev it important to preserve a thoroughgoing freespeech (& free art) fanmag. Speaking of freisprache, I might put in my 2 Bok's worth at this point to point out that those who contend nudes have no place in either fantasy or weird work are not arguing merely with me but Finlay & Brundage & McCaulzy & Catherine Moore & A. Merritt & many others. The list of contributors of uncladamsels to fantasy fmz is legion. In fact, I bliev it almost may be said only those who have not "sind" is this respect, if some choose to consider it a sin, are fans who have never drawn!

As for the ill cuts this ish, personally I think they're kinda cute. Nothing sensational but not too bad; included cuz they've come to be expected, like Vargals or Petty peaches in the pgs of Esquire or--any of U remember IO Story Book mag, edited by Harry Stephen Keeler, which published "the oddest storys in America" & for some whimsical reason always had bathingirls & seminudes posing thruout its pgs? Mermaid by Wactenant Horton...Ray (cummings) Sea (Shore) Girl by Pvt Kris Voy...Swiss (Cheese) Miss by the Wac...pix initiald "K" are by Karl Welch.

Concerning the pix this time, they're bunched in the beginning & then U get none in the back--an objectional way held to Startling--cuz of an innovation, in that for the first time Mororojo has prepared the mag without a dummy. We don't obtain all the esthetic effects we'd like that way but saves lotsa time so what do U say? All x to continue without dummyming?

Two notable fubars this ish. First, redundancy abundancy: In the 1st 4 pgs we forgot & rote editorial parenthetical remarks ((thus)). Either the double brackets or tildes were superfluous. The tildes we employ as a special Vom feature, the double brackets only on long editorial comments. We caught ourselves & corrected the duplication from the 5th stencil on. Then, in Harry Honig's letter, one complete line was left out. We defy U, however, to tell the diffrance, or where the error of omission occurs!

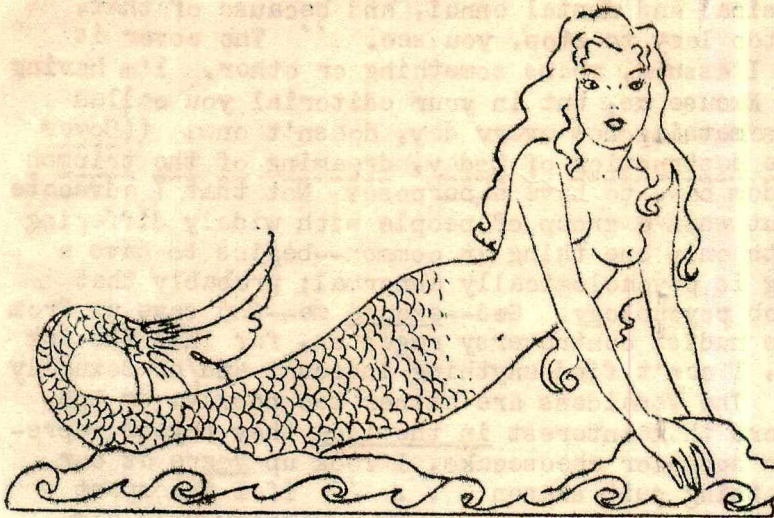
"I happen to know that you let an awful lot of hyper material slip thru your fingers," further criticized Jike. "For instance, if you and Mel Brown would divide up the Wilmoth Travelogs, it would enliven VOM considerably." Simply an oversight on our part, & this time a Wilmoth Travelog enlivens our pgs. We may alternate these with 'Plans for Slans' (so we won't run out of parents so soon!)

States Speer: "I recommend most urgently that you consider Kepner's suggestion that you paragraf within letters. We could easily do without one letter per issue, which'd more than make up for the space lost." We have acted on this in this ish, accepting Speer as volunteer & omitting his letter. (Actually, this is punishment for his daring us to put the matter to our readers. Jack, we love U--but we tisk!) (Juffus' swellletter will be featured next time.)

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, aka VOM, #30. Mar '44. 15c, 7/\$1. On a bimonthly schedule again. Produced in collaboration with World Fandom by Ackermorojo's Fubar Pubs, Bx 6475 Metro, Los Angeles 14, California.

bears repeating

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Wiley, Co A, ASTU 3900, Ore
State Col, Corvallis,
Ore, opens the ish with a flip of
the fish-gal's tail: Ah - Vom's
appearance approaches regularity.
Cover very excellent, altho the
mustache with the face behind it
gets in the way of more interesting
things. " Today was announced
the new rocket plane. And the
pattern continues to form into fam-
ilarity. In the beginning the
war had none of the aspects of the
future war we were expecting to
see. But evolution takes place.
Just as in the Campbell-Smith stor-
ies, the war starts with ordinary
equipment; by the time the end is
reached, two-mile space ships and

cosmic power are being used. This war started with 37-mm anti-tank guns. Now 155-mm guns are standard. Rocket guns have come in. Radar is our old spy-ray or de-
tector screen. And now the rocket plane. " I await atomic energy. " I won't
argue with Laney. He seems to have misunderstood my letter. I clearly stated that
for years I have been trying to find out what the purpose of fandom was -- and never
found out. Naturally, if you choose your scale large enough, all purposes break
down into meaninglessness. However, within the frame of human society, the purpose
of an activity may be looked for. To search for a purpose for fandom indicates that
it is more than a pleasurable activity, and that there is some contribution it can
make to society of value that will last beyond the life of the individual. " As I
say, I haven't found this purpose, unless it lies in stimulation to individuals, who
themselves go out and add to civilization. For instance, the present discussion of
child care is an activity whose purpose is more than pleasure alone, and which may
have far-reaching effects.

Pvt. Edw. C. Connor 3653 SU, Co D, Sec 20,
Hitchcock, Univ of Chi, Chicago 37, Ill, comments on #29: New Year issue of Vom re-
ceived and the magazine certainly has changed in the last few issues. It is for the
better, I believe, although there are certain aspects of the art-work which are not
too agreeable. For instance, the drawing on page 11 is a risk, inasmuch as the
postal authorities certainly don't approve of such a pose as is shown. Myself - I
don't mind at all; not at all. " I certainly think that when you have time for
it - a table of contents similar to those presented in the past should be included.
" Was quite interested in J. O. Bailey's letter pertaining to Argus' "Pilgrims
Through Space and Time", since the book sounds like it will be something unique. "
I agree with Kepner's letter on page 13. Religion today is in a fairly desperate
situation; I hope that it will gradually disappear. Few young people who go to
church nowadays know what it is all about and go to church merely because their
parents did. " The cover was neat. I assume the pictures were from "Metropolis"?
No, a montage from "Deluge" - lower half - & - upper - "Just Imagine".

RUSSELL LIL WILSEY of 87-22 252 St, Bellerose, NY, skips back an ish
to #28: Once more I turn a befogged eye on the latest works of 4E,
the Vomitor. (That was supposed to be a pun, but it just accured to
me that Vomitor would make a nice title for Nu. 2.) " And VOM
goes nuding on. Hail Allah! Splfrsk! Let us refrain froming killing ourselves, eh.
I mean you can overdo anything. Why don't you try and get Ron Clyne to do a cover
for you, or some body else. Possibly Wright could be brought out of his hibernation,
but lets leave the lude lumps languish for the while. While lookingup the word lude,
which I didn't find, I come across Lucifer.--Meaning : Venus, as the morning star:
Satan. We take it the gentle complers of this dictionary mean the Devil with Satan
and not the astral body of the same name. However, I never had been in knowledge of
Lucifer having any connection with Venus. Can any of you slans enlighten me? This
dictionary is very incomplete be- "The Pocket Dictionary". Even for a pocket one,
it's very abridged. Has any one noticed this? " But let us see, we were discuss-
ing VOM, were we not. The cover ((MichoLass)) stank, just stank. No beauty to the
face, or figure. The background, possibly trying to aachieve a weird effect, failed
miserably. But, I could certainly be wrong. " I shall not take my usual habit of
going throu the issue, letter by letter, but start with the most interesting and hop
from there on to the lesser titbits. Away, my steed. Hi De Ho, Moskowitz!! "
The various doodads running thru out the issh are swell, but please don't deluge us
with to many of them, thereby cancelling thier appealing orignality. " The car-
toon was swell-ditto. But it was funny. And as long as we're on the page, I glance
at the work of one, Roy Garden ((Ray Karden)). Despite the fact that I am prejudice
against anybody that writes letters to thrilling wonder, his letter in VOM is excel-
lent. If you will notice, we agree on the subject of nudes. And to his parting
shot quoted from Time, "Don't get me wrong, I'm in favour of the future". Well, this
must have ment as a joke. I honestly can't concieve anyone this narrowminded. "
Zeke Zekly was really the nuts, (shut Up!). The face reminds me of somebody. The
strang combination of wings and tail is interesting. " Plans for Slans; To bad
the rest of the world couldn't adopt the same clear thoughts of these two ((Widners)).
Really, tho, one shudders when you realize what the youngsters of today are breed to
be. However, I have a very small thought towards the common man. And as I will
probably grow to be a very stuffy old bachalor, I don't have to bother with such
thoughts. (That's what they all say.)

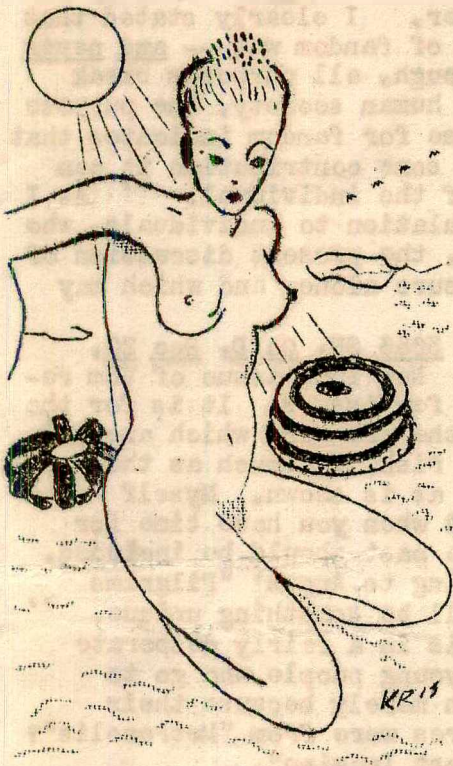


12th St, Cloquet, Minn, gives Vom a
course of his letter (if we get to print with it first!): The latest VOM has been
perused and read with quite a bit of pleasure and sundry emotions, and the driving

Ray A. Karden

CLUSTER ed, of 409 -
scoop during the

urge to answer some of the letters now makes itself evident. This is conceived in an atmosphere of physical and mental ennui, and because of that, will probably be all too long. I'm too lazy to stop, you see. "The cover is good, but is it art? Who cares; it, I assume, means something or other. I'm having a hell of a time figuring out what! Excuse me, but in your editorial you called yourself a humorist. . . one learns something new every day, doesn't one? ((Cover symbolic of servifan, distress by the destruction of today, dreaming of the triumph of tomorrow.)) Yeah, why does fandom have to have a purpose? Not that I advocate a philosophy of complete hedonism, but when a group of people with widely differing interests, environments, etc--and with only one thing in common--begins to have a concrete goal it advocates, something is psychologically abnormal; probably that curious catalyzing action known as mob psychology. God--excuse me--Ghu save us from the realistic Deglers! "I see the nudist controversy rages on, far into the ink stained pages of VOM. Try as I will, I can't find anything indecent and/or sexually stimulating in these hallowed pages. The Vomaidens are either too poorly, or too unrealistically, drawn, to attract more than interest in the idea they try to represent. For sexual stimulation, and/or superior cheesecake, I look up Vogue at our public library!--preferably in the bathing suit season. . . "If I interpret Frued at all wildly, I should have a hopeless complex against nudism by this time. In this part of the country (settled mainly by Finns) the custom of the "sauna" or bathhouse, or steam bath, or vapor bath--there is no literal translation--is very common; superseding, in fact, all other forms of the cleansing medium--among those



of "old-country" ancestry, of course. When I was fairly young, we used to stay at a lake most of the summer. There, men and women went in different groups to this diabolical instrument of cleansing. I was, for the first eight years, in the women's group, because I couldn't stand--or so everyone said--the incredible temperatures the males purported to use. Before my proximity became too embarrassing, I was transferred to the brawnier section, of course; but the point is, I remember that form of nudism as a surrealistic melange of steamy bodies, flapping breasts, ugly contortions of hairy flesh; in fact, nothing pretty or beautiful about it. That's no argument, of course; just a hope that nudism will keep you young. . . (Incidentally, I was thirteen years old before I ever took a bath in the regulation tub!) "The above brings up another question: Is it ethical to use a pen-name in fandom? I do; my real name is an eleven letter semantic monstrosity (Kainulainen). I don't really mind it, but it is a fact that a goodly majority inevitably either pronounce, spell, or interpret it wrong, at a superficial acquaintance. ((Jack Darrow, #1 fan many yrs ago, was used as the faname of one Clifford Kor-noelje, & there was a Latvian fan I bliev who shortend his name down from something or other to Lutwin)) Loney's "logic-tight" compartments, I believe, are

technically known as canalizing. That is, forcing a certain channel into a person's mind until it is impossible to think straight in that direction any more. Hitler has made a notably "good" use out of it. . . "Now pacifism! Kepner's case against and/or for it (and the resulting religion-annihilation) sounds like a clear cut case of complex syllogismism (!). I distrust anything this logical, as it never seems to work out that way. Religion doesn't necessarily have to be based upon anything logical, or rational; quite the opposite: Most people, I would say, don't even attempt to reconcole their church-going with logic. They simply accept it as something that is believed in, and is done--the same attitude, approximately, that they take in regard to the immutable processes of capitalism. . . If religion--or-organized religion; the other type will never die out--dies, it won't be because pacifism has killed it; it will be because it was dead already! We're going to have a hell of a time disposing of the corpse, though! . . . "I suppose I have to state my views in regard to that variously labeled monster, bugaboo, blessing, etc: Religion. I am not at all opposed to religion, except the organized racket it is today. There will always probably be a good proportion of the people who won't be able to get along in life with a psychologically satisfactory outlook unless they have somebody higher than themselves to look up to. What I object to is the systematic racketeering that hides under the guise of pious verbage and, together with the system then in power, mulots the masses deliberately kept in ignorance for that purpose, giving the impression that they are getting something for their labor. Perhaps I'm idealistic, but it should be possible to teach that religion is an internal affair, and not to be misled under its guise. Of course, some other minority group will be the exploiters then; I don't have that much faith in the "future of humanity"!

TUCKUS raises a ruckus from POB 260, Bloomington, Ill: Shuddering, I hastily turned past that horrible monster on the cover and invaded the interior of VOM #29. For the first time since I was a little tot, I turned under the cover of a science fiction magazine, so that the others sitting about me in the streetcar could not see what I was reading. I wonder what my teacher and schoolmates will say when I take VOM to school and show it around? Working thru the interior with the usual speed, I must admit I did tarry now and then (to make a clean breast of it) over some of the girl pictures. The gal by Bill Watson is the only one in the issue I'd go to hell for; the others strike me as poorly-executed cartoons. If we're going to have a VOM chockfull of nudes, let's have good nudes. We may as well get our money's worth before the postoffice cracks down on youse. Because you are skirting the thin edge of their blue nose, you should realize. They decidedly frown on certain parts of the human body. Look at poor old Esquire, and View. Neither have gone as far as

you, and both presented good art. Oh well, I'll see you in Levenworth.

Harry Honig

ed ARCANA, 256 - 26 Ave, Frisco 21, adreses an Open Letter to a Friscontemporary: This letter is a personal note of thanks to Mr. Willam Watson who bravely and rightously in his recent letter to VoM set fandom and all others concerned, whoever they may be, STRAIGHT, about the poor, misguided, hopeless, assinine, JERK, the writer of this letter is!

Really, Mr. Watson, you were very mild in saying that I had a feeling of friendliness for Harry Schmarje. The truth of the matter is that a letter from each other at least three times weekly. Naturally though, Schmarje is much, much, more intelligent than I, being I believe six years older. If I can develop my now sub-normal intelligence to 1/10 of Schmarje's I firmly believe that I shall have become the intelligentsia of fandom, that is of course, next to Harris. I'm sorry if I'm a nasty, nasty, atheist MR. Watson, but I promise you that next sunday I shall go directly to church and pray fervently to our oh, so reverant lord-oh-oh-Capital-L, Lord in Heaven, Amen. Please, Mr. Moffatt, won't you accept my apology? Mr. Watson is absolutely r-i-g-h-t, you are entitled to your opinions and I am definitely not God as Mr. Watson stated, although I don't like to contradict him as he has been just too, too, kind to me. Ah--- yes Mr. Yerke, I would appreciate it if you would analyse me, as I'm sure you'd find some rather startling facts about the pitiful writer of this letter. (Sob, Sob, Sob) And Mr. Watson as a closing thought, I wouldn't want you to spend any of the money which you have so painstakingly picked off the gutters of San Francisco. I offer to pay entirely for the lovely strait jacket you offered me. I also have heard of still another kind gesture of yours. An article submitted to Mel Brown's Fan Slants, tentatively entitled, "The Trials and Tribulations of Life with Harry Honig." ((Appears in #2 Slants, 10c from 628 S Bixel, Los Angeles 14, as "Take to the Hedges, Men---Honig is Coming!") I am sure that this article shall bring further enlightenment on fandom's greatest nemesis since Clod Deglar-----Harry-nasty-dirty-slimy-juvenile-idiotic-atheistic!-socialistic!!-friend of Schmarje!!!-HONIG!!!!!!

ART SEHNERT, one of the Tenn. top fen, rites from 1414 Poplar, Memphis: Oh God! VoM has arrived, and I read it through, I repeat Oh God!

Yerke's letter provided this neighborhood with a good nights laughter. An anti-bibliophile, whom I work with, was especially glee'd. He said he'd like to reach out and shake Jerke's (typographical error, there) hand.

Since this is the first Vom I've ever had the pleasure of reading I was astonished at the flagrant slingling of anti-christian philosophies. Looks like Moffat caught hell for being a christian. Too bad Len. No, I'm not belittling your beliefs, but I'm truly sorry that you are met with such absolute lack of tolerance. I can't agree with you, but I can understand your sincerity.

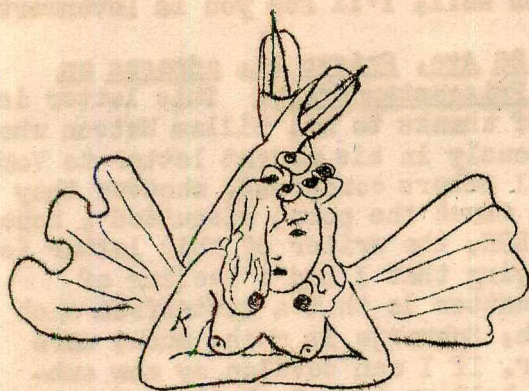
Frankly, dear eds, I'm thinking fandom would be making a mistake if they circulated their anti-christian views too much. I would like to believe, in my dogmatic way, that someday we stfans will present science fiction to the world. Doing so with a reputation for being christian haters would be bad. Remember Heinlein's "Sixth Column"? Remember how the conquerer conquered the conquerer. Now thats a beautiful piece of mssed prose. Oh well, just a thot.

What I'm really writing this letter for is to pose the question: Have stfans noticed Amazing's influence on the other mags? Allright so you don't read them, listen anyhow. I refer to the illustrations particularly. If you will open the Winter issue to page 13, (thrilling Wonder) you'll take note of the pants bedecked frail. Now this chick has got a pair of teats on her that would do justice to a mastitis infected cow. Nice for the pimply faced adolescents, and on page 15 she appears again. This time with a dresson. The same frame work from the waist up is evident, and there's a healthy view from the ankles up. And you don't have to be lying on the ground to see either. All thru the issue these naked-butted broads are slingling



their fanny's around. Of course, it smells of sex and that should increase sales some, but damn if I like it when I try to interest my friends in science fiction. palmer started all this with his Mac girl and interior nudes. Grrrr!

Ed. Note: We have found our sexperiment of torrid drawings in Vom has increast our sales tremendously--at least 10 new 2-bit subscribers in the last 24 mos!



David & Marie Elder

of 307 West St, Wilkesburg, Pa: Dear Regurgitates,

Now I see why you accepted my T.O.C. pic... so's you wouldn't have to make out a T.O.C.... Hm...I am insulted.

I see religion is chief argument these days...Due to Marie's feelings on the matter, and mine differing (Her being very much the Christian) I will preserve marital happiness by keeping ye olde trap shut on that subject.

Wat-inell was that letter on Pg. 7 with the urpy-gurpy beside it? Podden my ignorance, but I'll take Vanilla.

What's wrong with Vomaidens? Accordion to J. Speer, he don't like em...Only one in Jan. Ish I didn't care for was the ghastly one on 11. She looked..ah..sort of..well you know...anyway, she'd either better lay off the beer or start thinking up a name for it.

Whoinell drew that thing on Pg. 8....Oh...I thought it looked familiar...Sorry no comment...

As to Speer's suggestion that Jike prove the nude has a place in fantasy...my answer to that is....What could be more fantastic than nude wimmin all over the place? Or has that been said before..... Jack's second letter was interesting to my way of thinking.

Laney's letter intrigued me, particularly "What human endeavor is not as futile as Hell?" He has something there.

C/o 26 Edward St, Shelton, Stoke-on-Trent, "Eng.-tain": If I read it thro & then wrote, you; my letter would be vague: so I'll read & note down reactions: thus

Julian Parr Kepner: "Will someone please give me a rational explanation of modesty" I couldn't: but there is such a thing, rational or no. Why don't you try explaining it?

Erikop: Atheism impossible? Well, I don't know. Atheism implies a working, everyday disbelief in God: surely such a disbelief exists? Thus it is possible, it exists (whether justifiable or not.). May seem a small point - but take my word for it, it isn't. Beliefs influence the formation of events in many significant ways, regardless of there truth: thus you should appreciate a man's professed atheism as an important (relative to the person's importance) fact, & allow for it as actual, not impossible. As for agnosticism - those persons who do not feel strongly, who consider themselves able to defer judgment for a lifetime (and it is a few who sincerely can do so) should realise that persons who are not interested (or have little time to spare from other interests) find it convenient to accept (an effort of self-will - faith) either existence, or non-existence (not vague emptiness) and turn their back on the pros & cons--while agnostics can never be so determined and convinced that their actions are in the right direction:- therefore their actions are less effective, less forceful than those of the faithful.

Jimmy Kepner -II- is sensible; but dogmatic in this statement:- "the subjects I mentioned above /Science, the Future, Fantasy, Fandom/ would & should be stretched to include almost any topic that might arriso"

Does the word "Science" mean anything? "Fantasy"? the "Future"? are we to ignore their meanings - if you can't be bothered to define, them, limit their application; then don't use them!

Fantasy art should be predominantly surrealist = why don't fans study this sphere? Too much trouble? Too little sexual excitement?

Barbara Bovard: wish we had her over here: she could help Roy Johnson & myself = who are planning - nay, acting - in the direction Barbara suggests. While the future of this particular effort - PHOENIX - Fido-sheet devoted to the social influence of fandom-as-a-potential-group is uncertain, my efforts - & those of other fans here, will continue: and when we "socially-conscious" (permissibler?) fans get together, Barbara, we shall be able to use more influence in uniting all fandom.

The nudes: again:- those responsible are not careful; nor are they talented enough, to justify - except "Shape of Femmes to Come" of course!

Nebularray of 1301 State St, Schenectady, NY, submits an only slightly cut 4-pager: Abracadabra - Looking backward to the fifth Ann: the value of the fotos on the cover was enuf to make me forget any lack in the arrangement

of themIf I tired hard ((sic!)) I suppose I could make a pun on the Nanek pic and Annie Oakley or something, but I don't want to try hard. The editorial reminds me to ask you if there are any back issues of VoM for sale at any price. It is now one of my greatest ambitions to own a complete set, something I don't give a about with other fmz. ((A few each, excepting #18 & 25, available at premium prices from publishers.))

I am slightly puzzled by Bob's reference to Louie Berg as a jerk.



VOMAIDEN A LA BANCA D'ITALIA, SUBMITTED BY PARR ON A LIRE CINQUECENTO NOTE

Did he guess? Schmarje admitted it to me on a postal, and later when I addressed him as Berg he said how did I guess but please don't tell. Not that it matters now.

What has become of Tackett? (In Ye Navee.) The way SiDean states the premise: "five fans can accomplish more by working singly on separate projects than the same five fans can working together on one project" can be "proved" easily. Naturally, if the fans devote all the time to the project instead of having to correspond back and forth in order to work on it, thus wasting time, it will mean a larger amount of actual work done. Of course, almost any project would be rendered more valuable by having the work and ideas of more than one fan behind it, but Sid didn't say that. And Brown is wrong in criticizing Speer. How could fandom get along without help from the outside, Mel? How could any group get along without help from the "outside"? Or did you make the stencils for FAN-SLANTS (swell mag, incidentally; I'll write ya about it soon) yourself? To hell with Unity of Purpose for fandom. For real work to improve fandom in logical directions, "JACK SPEER" (unquote) has any three other fans beat for my money.

Interesting to note that 4e, in his discussion of the censored word, actually gave it away to anyone reading closely enuf. I wonder if anyone read it closely enuf. I presume you did it on purpose, Censor? Tigrina Recapitulation appreciated. Cutting off the story at such an intriguing point, especially when it seemed at the time that removal of the cory cartoon would have made that unnecessary, was not appreciated -- but clever.

In the supplement, I agree with neither Laney nor Gibson. My viewpoint is somewhere in between. Calling fans slans is moronic, but that doesn't say the fans aren't capable of making themselves extremely valuable to the world. I think the most important thing is that fans think as they do, that more fans are coming to think so, and that ~~at least~~ a few "ordinary people" are being influenced to think that way. The more influence on o. p. that we can make fandom have, the better. But while doing that job, we should be careful not to make fandom itself too painfully apparent to the o. p. There are plenty of reasons why they could not be blamed for taking us for a bunch of crackpots.

I am following the Plans for Slans section with much more than casual interest. However, my misbeguided upbringing is probly the factor that'll be strongest in preventing me from marrying, and thus making use of any worthwhile ideas presented. If I am securely hitched up ten years from now, I'll join you in a hearty laff at my expense. But one thing is certain: I'll never marry a gal who doesn't at least have a good knowledge of what fandom is all about.

The smoking con-

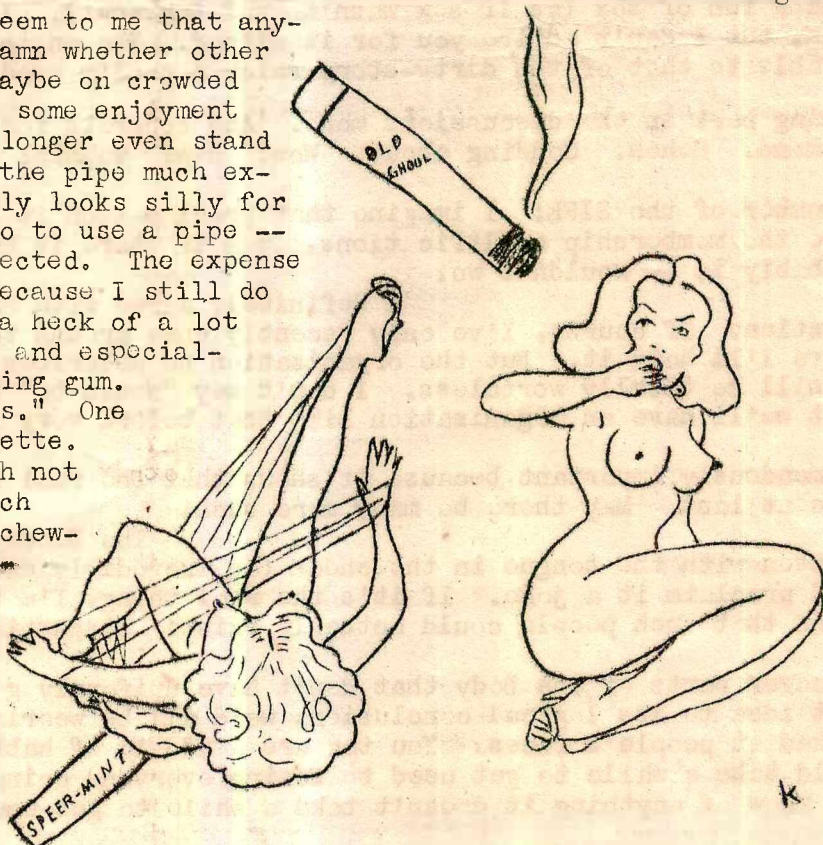
troversy is dull. It doesn't seem to me that anybody with brains would give a damn whether other people smoke or not -- except maybe on crowded busses. Personally, I now derive some enjoyment from a pipe, and find I can no longer even stand cigarettes. But I don't smoke the pipe much except when alone because it probly looks silly for a kid who looks as young as I do to use a pipe -- if not silly, at least very affected. The expense item is not to be considered, because I still do and probably always will spend a heck of a lot more cash on candy bars, cokes, and especially chewing gum. (Consider chewing gum. Lots of folks are "chain chewers." One stick costs more than one cigarette. It's quite tuff to get away with not giving away at least half of each pack of Wrigley's. And why is chewing not as great a vice as smoking?)

VoM #27 is in many ways one of the best you've ever put out -- well worth the wait. I liked the cover even if nobody else did. Don't see why you changed the name of your publishing house, but since you can't explain Snafu (Situation Normal -- All Fouled Up.) I'll undoubtedly continue to wonder. The insert is not up to the Wright standard, and was "Face in the Abyss" a misprint? (Don't understand question.)

JiKe wastes no words in presenting his very swell ideas. I think that if Moffatt advises others to look around for a religion that suits them better, he cannot be too biased himself. Under the circumstances, I don't see how he can be as "religious" in the ordinary sense as has been made out. His being "Christian" is quite another matter.

I read and digest LRC's letter and your reply, and then took an oath on my collection of VoM's that I will never resign from fandom, not even in fun. Not that the oath makes any difference. I don't believe I could resign. In that, as in many other things, I seem to find a kindred soul in Forrie. Probly we are exceeding far from being kindred souls, but it gives me pleasure to think so.

Defense Plant is clever but not worth the space it takes. I honestly cannot understand Sinn. Perhaps I don't have the proper perspective for trying to discover what could possibly make my letter the only interesting one, but if anyone else came anywhere near agreeing with him I'd certainly like to know the reason. "14 year old jerks" and "no one prominent" are so stupid as to be meaningless.



Congrats to Joe Gibson for his nude. He drew a beautiful girl beautifully. He drew a logical background (and one that was sure to appeal) nicely. The finished pic is marvelous. Oh to be a hitch-hiker on a night like this!

Circumstances force me to continue this . . .

Tomorrow: . . . which it now is.

How many of the screamers really give a damn what happens to the future? Lots more than the percentage of any other class of people, I betcha. And not only do they care, but they seem to be capable of much more foresight in planning for the future. That statement stands, whether we're capable of really doing anything about the future or not. I'm glad fans are what they are. "education gained from thud and blunder stories" -- I'm laughing. Most of the fans seem to go out for getting all the real solid education they can, no matter what the source. And there are more important things to be gained from the reading of fantasy. If you'd let the FAPA officers know where you are, BEB, so that you could receive your mailings, you'd see where things are being done to better the conditions of actifandom. If you're not interested enuf to do that one little thing, tho, you have no right to say the things you've said.

Statistics usually leave me cold, Connerley, but yours just seem silly. Three times as many cases of heart disease among smokers as among non-smokers, eh? Did it ever occur to you to find out how many more smokers than non-smokers there are to begin with? If the three-to-one ratio isn't at least equalled, I'll eat my Buck Rogers pistol.

VolM #28: Not so hot. Seemed to be done in a rather hap-hazard style, and the gal herself sure ain't no beaut. Her proportions are bad and her position strained. Nudes are much more beautiful when they're relaxing, anyway. The makeup of the ish hits a new high. The superdoodles scattered throughout are not only very effective little bits of stuff, you seem to have included them in just the right places. The cartoons really are corny this time. For the strange indefinable reason that usually is behind my special favor for any one cartoon, I like that by Art Gates. The others are old stuff, tho it can't be denied that they are drawn as well as most professional toons. The editorial reminds me to say: Hey, Delder, how about letting me hear from you again? I'd really like to start out correspondence up once more.

Bo particular comment on Yerke's very enjoyable letter. I didn't mean exactly that you British boys were childish, Mac. I dislike childishness, and I like you British boys. But it seems to me that you -- some of you, anyway -- put the wrong kind of emphasis on sex. I can't quite comprehend your attitude. The closest I can come to putting my finger on it is that you seem to be making fun of sex (as if sex wasn't enuf fun now!). I don't exactly disapprove, even, but I don't admire you for it either. Tho on the whole your attitude is preferable to that of the dirty-story snickerers I'm used to.

Was pleased to see Raym taking part in the discussions more. And congrats for the "goddling about" crack, Raymond. Heheh. Godding about. Wow! Haw! Teehee! Lovely, no less.

I wanna be a member of the SIFE! I imagine that proclamation is sufficient evidence that I have the membership qualifications, even if there is no other evidence, and there probably is -- wouldn't we?

I definitely agree with Milt on the fan organization question. Of course, I've only recently come around to this viewpoint, but I believe I'll hold it. But the organization he describes must be open to all fans, or it will be totally worthless. I don't say "would be" because I sincerely believe that we'll have an organization like that before very long.

Crozetti's letter is tremendously important because it shows that the real live second generation fan is here at last. May there be many more such!

The Beachy letter sounds as if it was written with the tongue in the cheek (an incredibly difficult means of writing, eh?), so I proclaim it a joke. If it's the real thing, I'm terrifically sorry for Hank. To think that such people could actually exist! Disgusting.

Karden: so clothes serve to cover parts of the body that don't have uniformly good looks. If we followed that idea to its logical conclusion, we'd all be wearing veils! Or haven't you ever looked at people's faces? You too are a victim of habit, I believe. Naturally it would take a while to get used to seeing everyone going around bare nekkid, but do you know of anything it doesn't take a while to get used to?

The bacever babe is much nicer than the other one. Even if she is going to fall flat on her . . . face. For a first attempt at stenciling, this is really marvelous. And to think that Lora Ruth paid good money for the privilege of presenting this to us. She certainly must love fandom. I am looking forward to Venus, of course.

The issue gives the impression that you prevailed on a lot of localites to kick in with material so that you could get done in a hurry, but it's quite interesting, well-balanced, and meaty in spite of that. (Or should I say "in spite of"?)

At last I'm thru. Phu!

Ray Richard Johnson

member #39 of the British Fantasy Socy, adresses "Ye Almighty Ones" from "Homewood", 108 Kimberley Rd, Leicester, Eng. There has been a convention: an international one, since it was attended by "Gus" Willmorth, as well as numerous Anglofans. That, in itself, is by the way - numerous reports, official and otherwise, will doubtless reach you from time to time, until round about 1946 you will begin to realize that there was once a convention in Manchester, England, known as the 1st. Norcon. But at this Norcon, there happened to

be - an issue of Vom! Ergo I am now pounding away at Gus's admirable typewriter, the like of which has not been seen in England for many a day.

Slan Shack, & Cosmic Circle: The first I consider an admirable idea, and have already advocated that such a thing be attempted in England after the war. The second: it seems we've been hoaxed. Upon receiving the first two issues of Cosmic Circle Commentator, I immediately became enthusiastic, and sent of enough stuff in books, etc., to cover the membership fee for the so-called "Inner Circle", but with a strong suggestion that much of the idealism be cut right out. From what JMR tells me, and from what I read of Yerke's, even that may leave me open to having my name quoted right and left, and generally messed up by the Great Don Rogers. Therefore let me state right away that I consider the basic principles behind the CC to be good; but the organization itself is far too idealistic, and the support I promised Rogers (before JMR gave me the full facts of the case) will not be forthcoming until it reaches the stage of sane practicability.

Religion: I'm an atheist, and a materialist in that I think everything can be explained naturally and scientifically - thought not necessarily by present-day scientific notions and principles. The one salient feature about all religions as taught to-day seems to be that they are stuffed down the throats of young children who are manifestly unable to understand them, or to think for themselves. Even fans, who mature early, cannot really appreciate the deep problems of religion and philosophy before the age of fourteen or fifteen. Since 99% of the people never pass the mental age of twelve, the whole of religion as understood by the masses is a complete farce. The same applies to politics, and to many other things. What is needed is an unbiased, educated populace.

The various ideas expressed for bringing-up future Slans seem eminently sound.

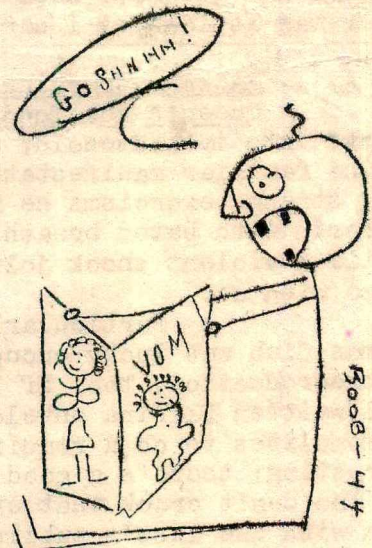
Bob's Future's Plan for Slan

I have a girl 7, and a boy 3. I have swell plans for them when they grow up. I am going to allow them to become adults. I think this is a keen idea. I know what it is not to be an adult. Nothing is too good for my kids.

I am going to let my kids go to Sunday School. I went to Sunday School when I was a little boy. Papa used to give me 2¢ every Sunday to drop in the glass beer mug the Sunday School teacher passed around. I fooled her and Papa. I kept 1¢.

I am going to let my kids get baptized too, if they wanna. I was baptized when I was a little boy. It was keen fun cause I fell in the pool and got all wet. And afterwards, on the way home, I deliberately said a bad word, just to see if my halo would vanish. It did. It must have been a second-hand halo, or a retread job.

I am going to let my kids read Vom when they grow up. I read Vom when I was a little boy. I want my kids to get the cheap sex education I got.



THE PROFESSOR RETURNS! He disparages: Dear Mr. Ackerman: It is with the greatest of sorrow in my old heart that I find myself again called upon to write to you a letter. You no doubt remember that once before I communicated with you anent the deplorable display of unclad females running in a mobbish display through the pages of your mimeographed publication. Since then I have read your deplorable effort in the world of journalism and I see my words had no effect on you.

Someday you will rue the day you entered into this sinful contract, this devilish compact, this diabolic pact with the woman known as Morojo. Someday when on your detached you lie, your earthly body ravished by the fires of disease brought on by your lavish indulgence in the delights of sensualism, you will remember my words of warning, and wish that you had led a different existence while on this earth of God's. And as you stand before your maker, naked in the Blinding Light of His Glory, you will remember the myriads of young people you led into the realms of sexual debauchery through the means of the printed word, the drawn line, the subtle innuendo.

Yes, I give you credit as I would give the Devil credit. But I also deplore the stand you take. With summat skill and fiendish glee you trace patiently upon that tool of evil, the stencil, those works of depraved minds: females with monstrously distorted torsoes and debauched miens unclad for the mind of man to rest upon and the mind to suggest: females with horns spouting forth from their foreheads, with cloven hooves instead of the perfect foot He gave them, with forked tail, pendulous breasts like those of harpies, dough-like hips and muscle-bound thighs.

Sir, if the laws of Moses, of Abraham and of God do not deter you from the vile path you have set your feet upon, then look about you at the fair creatures cast in His image and ask yourself these words: "Do they look like this?" and then look upon the vile perpetrations of those imps from hell signing themselves Dr. Elder, Van, and others of

equal ilk. Does not that hardened heart beating in your manly breast cry aloud in sorrow at the insults offered those innocent creatures by the suggestive pictures drawn by your consorts and printed in your foul organ? ((Dear Prof: Vile, I'll tell U! The only consorts I lish to are Brahm Stone's blas-famous rendition of Tigrina's "Hymn to Satan", Anirgit's virtually unnoen but equally brilliant "Her to the Devil" & the damoniactal "Knight on Bare Mountain". These are sponsord on the radio locally sundays by the One Tract Mind Socy or sometimes I tune in to Shirley Temple MacPhearsome & Jehovah's Witlesses. Y'see, Prof, in branding Vom a "foul organ", I figure it's all accordin to how U look at it. U quote from the Book of Reville-ations; my source of rebuttal is Ack-clesiastics, where Uncle Psalms says, for instance: "Blessed is he who exalteth the feminine form, for yea, tho he be but an ape, yet shall he inherit the monkey-wench." The translation is from the original lost Phoenician version, which has never been found; &, as anyone should be able to see with half an eye, is enuf to make a Phoenician blind. Hoping this finds U the same, Prof, I remain, Cynosurely yours, F. Jesus Ackerman.))

CONCLUDING

HARRY WARNER's 3-pt serial letter: I'm annoyed with the way BEB thinks of and refers to the "future" throughout her "broadside" (#27). The future is meaningless, to me, except as a continuation of the present, and I'm veryfirmly convinced that fandom and the world will get nowhere if they continue to prate about what must be done for the future. Oddly enough, BEB seems to realize this, and contradicts herself by admitting that "we build from the top down instead of from the bottom up" and "We are sobusy constructing houses on the sand...". I'm not speaking here, of course, about something such as Slan Center, which can't be thought of as anything but a future hope, because of present conditions. But I am referring to changing the world, as some fans seem to think fandom is destined to do. I don't think it can, no matter how it goes about it, but I am positive it won't, if it continues ignoring the present, which is the only thing that it can change. For until we invent time travel, the future is as unalterable as the past: it's the result of everything that happens, and happenings occur only in the present tense, in their pliable form. And so the paradox: in BEB's attempt to get fandom to do something to disprove its escapist, impractical stigma, she's just falling into the fallacy in the worst way, herself. I have spoken.

Russell Mitchell Box 35, Duvall, Wash, postcards: Read with considerable amusement Mr. Elder's letter in Vom, and, my curiosity aroused, borrowed a set of Space Tales. Quotation from Mr Elder in Space Tales No.5. "... your magazine is lowsy ... I dare you to print this ...". If those statements aren't. childish and immature, what are they? Dear Mr. Palmer. I am 12 years old and have been reading your magazine for 15 years & I writ in to tell your your mag is lowsy & I dare you to print this. haw haw

Frank PARKER, sparking-plug of the COSMOS CLUB, sparkles from 6 Greytiles, Queen's Rd, Teddington, Mid'sex, Eng: Three or four days ago, a parcel erupts into my household, smoking slightly and sparking somewhat between the poles. The familiar manifestations make the Parkerian eyes become a trifle B.E.; mouthing strange exorcisms he runs a trembling thumb through the paper wrappings, brings forth with bated breath the bundle of mimeo'd MSS, and fumbles through the pile until a violent shock jolts his wrist up through his elbow. 'Tis true. VoM is once more with us!

Particularly pleasing to your humble servant was the fact that the Cosmos Club was lucky enough to be favoured with one of the Wright reproductions (a rightreproduction, too, if I may say so), and luckier still, to have one of the original written Tigrina envelopes. Maybe we can dig up a handwriting expert amongst the Cosmopolites to do a reading on that orthography. Seriously, I think that would be interesting; there's a good deal of character in that hand unless I'm much mistaken - and don't crack that every letter's a character, willya! - and that in conjunction with the lass's published effusions would surely shed a good deal of light on the psychology of one of fandom's mysterious albeit misguided misses.

And whilst on the subject of misses, let us cast an optic at the art work of the ish (#27). The cartoons were all funny to this guy's warped sense of humor, with the exception of the ghosts on p. 15, which didn't click at all. As for the noods, they're okeh, I guess; the funny ones are good, but oh, my, the proportions of the Gibson gel - shewer-ly, Mr. Gib, that isn't quite the shape of any femme, past present or future, unless they're ones that have run to seed from the waist down.

And one other thing do I note in re the drapeless ones, and that is the innovation of hirsute verisimilitude. Well, that gets by, too; but for the luvva Pete, avoid the toothbrush effect next time, on account of it shows an appalling ignorance of the subject, see. . .

Now let me plunge into this perrennial argument of the Materialists versus the Churchgoers. Me, I'm neither, so it looks as if I've got an angle on this question. After perusing the arguments pro and con religion in the recent numbers, I've come to the conclusion that both sides are right! Yeah, I mean it. The M's say that the Churches stink, and so they do; I've had a bellyful of them myself, and they're rank with hypocrites and self-seekers. Not one percent of the Churchgoers I've met were real practising Christians, following the teachings of Christ. They each and every one had their own idea of what religion was and what they thought ought to be the law, and they were all at each other's throats trying to get everybody around them to accept their own personal ideas. The result was that there wasn't a single atom of concordance in Church affairs - and I've been within the workings of more than one.

On t'other hand, the C's are just as right, or so it seems to me, when it comes to saying, "Well, whether you choose to call It God or anything else, you've got to admit that there must be some causative Force which gives rise to existence

and reality at all. You can argue about cosmic accidents giving rise to life till you're blue in the face, but right back of everything you've ultimately got to explain the origin of the Cosmos somehow, and you can't explain that without reference to some superhuman Power" Whether that Power is benevolent or not is of course a matter of opinion; but I personally choose to believe it is. Sheer contemplation of the very order of the Universe seems to afford the necessary evidence. Ponder on what a thin time we humans would have if there were no order, no predictability, associated with inanimate things! Such disorder as exists in human affairs is surely man-made, the result of stumbling attempts to climb the difficult ladder to greatness that has been erected. That ladder exists all right - it wouldn't be possible to discover a single law of nature if it wasn't intended that we should, for obvious reasons.

There's another point which leads me to believe that a strict materialism is mistaken. It is absolutely certain that there are manifestations and phenomena to be observed which cannot be accounted for on any rational scientific basis - in particular, I refer to that one percent of spiritualistic results which cannot be accounted for by fakery, even under the strictest of scientific tests. Whether he likes it or not, your Materialist has to develop a philosophy that can accommodate the unexplainable in this connection. What is the difference between acknowledging that and acknowledging the existence of some other supernormal power, such as a God?

ROBERT ANSON HEINLEIN notes of #29: A notable cover.

This seemed like an exceptionally good number of VOM. The letters seemed to make more sense than usual. Most fan letters are pretty esoteric and can hardly be understood by one who is not up to date on the latest quarrels, fads, feuds, etc. But this one I found easy to read and very enjoyable.

"from the garrett at . . . #10 . . . 628 South Bixel Street . . . Los Angeles, '14, Calif . . . on this day of our lord . . . February 19, 1944

Smudgy Nation: . . . Dear Sir and Morojo - - - - -

To: The Voice of the

In my last letter I made a few suggestions - so perhaps I should practice what I preach. So I shall attempt to find if VOM'S doors are open to general comment on the fantasy field as it stands today.....

ASF's new format has raised considerable comment. Personally, I think its one of the best things that has hit the field for a long time - neater, handier, and much more respectable. I wish all the pulps would follow suit. For some reason, the small size even seems to vastly improve the appearance of their second-rate art work. Campbell has another problem now, i.e., what to do with the material that formerly went in UNK.? Perhaps it would be a good idea for him to use the set-up Wolheim used in STIRRING SS, with two separate sections. Put the stf in the larger, front section, since the far majority of the Street & Smith readers went for stf, and have a special section in back for two or three fantasy yarns, or a novелlette. This would also add a little variety, as ASF tends to become very monotonous at times.

How do you like the artwork Lawrence is doing for FFM? He doesn't seem to be quite as mature an artist as Finlay, but on the whole I should say he is better. The covers are rather dull, though, but it may be that we are spoiled by Finlay's smooth brilliance. I just hope Lawrence doesn't develop into another pure hack. That's one big trouble with the pulps. Their demands are so heavy on an artist (or writer) that to earn a decent living he must turn out reams of junk, rather than concentrating for quality. When FFM gets a good artist, they bleed him dry.

That's one compliment I can give RAP. He uses variety in artwork. One artist's work always looks much better if it is set off by others with different styles.

Along another line, don't miss the movie, LADY IN THE DARK - the dream sequences are marvelous fantasy - and in technicolor. And the show as a whole is quite marvelous. And then, the reviews of THE UNINVITED look quite promising. We might have something here far better than the run-of-the-mill horror.

How do you like the recent spurt of fmz? And a lot of us were predicting that fandom was about ready to collapse. C'est la Guerre, we were saying. Then the mags start flying thick and fast. VOM itself has been coming out rather rapidly lately. Diablerie, I think is one of the best new fmz we've seen in a long time. And this coming FAN SLANTS (#2) promises to be a mag, that will contend for top honors of all time.

Of course we mustn't forget the constant flow of tripe that is still emanating from a certain address in Newcastle, Inc. Gawd, what persistence!

To strike a slightly less sour note along this line, the NFFF seems to be showing some real signs of revival. I hope. Yes, I'm coming around to feel that their new program might really be good for fandom. . . . so lets all get in and give it a shove. . .

sciencercely *Jike*

AD: "SONGS FOR SORROW & BEAUTY" by the above gentlefan, very attractively got up by that justly famous getterupper of fine fan pamphlets, Arturo Joquel, priced to sell at 15c per copy from 1129 N La Madera, El Monte, Cal. Contents include "Pantheon", "Distance", "Dolorosa", "Pledge", "Atlantis", "Into the Shadows", "Frustration", "In Passing", "Lin Chu", "Transient", "Fidelity", "Aquamarine", "First Love", "To John", "New Wine & Old". When ordering, mention Vom, get a free verse.

FIRST ALL--AMERICAN FAN CONFERENCE IN ENGLAND.
 London Scene of Fantast Gathering
 (Reported by Cpl Gus Willmorth)

After a morning of rammaging around in Foyle's Bookshop, which is perhaps the most famous of the London Bookshops, the LASFS correspondent met Michifan John Millard at the Canadian Beaver Club just off of Trafalgar Square and from thence the body of the conference retired to the streets of London looking for a spot to pass the hours of the meeting favorably. Soon tickets were purchased to the show, "Halfway to Heaven", stage counterpart of the fantasy movie, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan". While waiting for the evening to fall and the opening of the next showing, we strolled along the streets dropping in at Foyle's again en route where a couple of purchases were made including a H.G. Wells' "Phoenix" for Ackerman. There was a shelf of Stapledon's "Last and First Men", war time edition at about a buck and a half. (In as much as I have one none were bought, but as a pal of fandom am always open to suggestions).

Tea was next consumed--strange that both of us drink tea and not coffee in the traditional American manner--and after further small talk, we did go to see "Halfway to Heaven". On the whole it was a fair show somehow managing to resemble the Hollywood version quite closely. Enclosed and accompanying this letter is a progame of the show listing acts and actors for the edification of those interested and autographed by the complete attendance of the American London conference.

After the show we retired to the underground where we split up to go to our respective service clubs to spend the night.

Next day we again met for dinner and during the course of the afternoon's discussions took in a girlie show, had fish and chips, and looked at a collection of photos of the Michifans, the Chicon, The Leeds meeting of Rosenblum and Willmorth, and the Aberystwyth gathering. There were even pictures of Forrest J. Ackerman shown, both BC & AD. And so late in the afternoon the conference broke up; Willmorth the prepare for the homeward journey and Millard to his club to get set for an evening seeing "This is The Army".

I've been thinking vaguely of endeavoring to put up a fmz and have been wondering hopefully that if I managed to collect the stuff and stencil it, if I could find some sucker there willing to co-edit and turn the mag out on the mimeo, staple, and mail.. Don't imagine that my circulation would be any too large for I intend to leave it small and to concentrate on a fanzine catering to those who enjoy mythology and allied fantasy. Anyone who might like stories, poetry, and articles on Kobalds, Gremlins, Fairies, Gods, hero-myths, witchcraft, primitive beliefs, and comparative religions are invited to subscribe and submit material. Always providing of course that a printer can be found there to do the dorny work after we've edited up something to do. Also artwork would be produced both from here and from there as I am ingratiating myself on these here English fan artists with high hopes. What say peopler? Gus may be contacted c/o Vom.

JACK SPEER drops a line on #29: The cover is terrific! Worth a good 9 on the 10-point system.

Re Table of Contents: it wears thin on the readers too after a while. Far's I'm concerned, anyway.

Dunmire letter: "Religion is ... 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." Dunmire reveals a narrow circle of acquaintance or something. Tom Slate, Harry Emerson Fosdick, and all the great thinkers of the past who've stayed within the church have certainly sat down and thunk things out with a clarity probably surpassing Dunmire's, but have found considerations which leave the matter at least in doubt. Dunmire is under no obligation to find out what those consideration are, but he should not assert their nonexistence. You and Miltie are quite within your rights if you wish to ignore religion (tho I think you mite as wisely ignore the labor movement). But if you ever take a notion to look into the modern kind, probably the only type that can hold and inspire enlightened young people, I recommend the Highroad, a Methodist monthly. The people behind that magazine have shown an integrity unusual in these times; they've stood fast by socialistic, pacifistic, and internationalist ideals while party-line opportunists, Technocrats, and others have temporized at every turn. Their advocacy is the kind of thing that I have, with little hypocrisy, atheist tho I am, discussed and participated in for the past four years in Washington. Incidentally, I take exception to Dunmire's statement that everybody worships something.

Laney is mistaken in his impression that Christianity is a relatively minor religion. Also mistaken was a recent Scripps-Howard interview which said Mohammedanism is the largest religion. According to the latest World Almanac (a notoriously unreliable source, but it checks closely with some other figures I have), Moslems number about 220 million and Christians 6000 million. According to my other source, the Highroad, Confucianism and Taoism together count 300 million, and the Hindus 200 million. (Columbia Encyclopedia figures check, too.) To be concluded.

F-L-A-S-H!! Cash & a communique from a topfan of another day--DICK WILSON!--who pleasantly surprises us with: Wilson returns to the fold herewith. (The fold consisted of 1 long green from a guy who remembers Vom as one long pun in green ink.) The enclosed 1/66 of my pay is designed to persuade you that I am a prodigal son and want the calf in the form of VOM. Our own dearly beloved "Dikibirdo" is a Cpl.



Horton.

FANTAZIUS HALLARE! You know your Smith Portfolio? "Man and Wooden Women"? Well, this is the same scene in reverse, from another edition, and the artiste is in the Army--you guessed it!--an acquaintance of Dick-Ack's. Beside being a damn fine backispiece, her piece above will give you a faint idea of a fabulous litho of hers* which is featured, along with lovely work by Ron Clyne, Alva Rogers and Karl Welch, in *Womaidens Portfolio* #3. Not available for 35c at 10B 6475 1st Stn, Los Angeles 14, Cal. Or Folios 1-2-3 for 50c.... *Lency says: "It is the first printed picture I would consider, to put on my wall." Dougherty: "An outstanding picturization!"

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