

# HORNIG'S BULLETIN NO- ONE

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Published now and then by Charles D. Hornig, at 831 N. Harvard Blvd., in Hollywood, Calif. Sent free to all fans who desire it. If you want the next issue, just drop me a letter commenting upon the current number--that is the only charge.

## IN DEFENSE OF POGO

In this first number, I wish to clear the name of one of fandom's top feminine fans--Pogo--of false accusations and suspicions. We have always agreed that fans should "stick together," yet we sometimes go out of our way to pass on some choice bit of malicious scandal about another fan. We can easily understand that, because fans are human and weaken to an occasional bit of gossip. At the same time, we should try to curb ourselves--to pass on the admirable bits of information; especially when such a fan as Pogo is unjustly the subject of sly smiles and wise-cracks when a fan gathering takes place. This condition has continued for a year or more and I hope this article will prevent the situation from growing any worse, and save a lot of stefans from real suffering--also, of course, to exonerate the name of "Pogo."

## JOE FAN GETS HEART TROUBLE

Joe Fan has been reading science fiction for several years. Of course

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everyone around him considers him a bit "odd." His parents admonish him about reading "that crazy stuff," and he loses most of his friends, if he becomes so rabid as to talk often of science -- fiction and advises them to try it. Chances are, if they do try it, Joe Fan will be almost completely ostracized. So what does he do?

A fellow must have companionship so Joe Fan turns to Fandom. There he revels in the association of fellow-thinkers. As he begins to mature, if he is otherwise normal, as most of us are, his mind occasionally turns from science-fiction to the feminine sex.

He can't stand the ordinary scatter-brained female who laughs at science-fiction -- and, as a matter of fact, she can't stand him very long either. Result: Joe Fan, introvert, has very little association with girl friends--his cravings are normal, yet he can't find a girl to match his ideals.

Now Joe Fan has lots of friends in Fandom, but of course they are all fellows. All? Well, nearly all. But then there's Pogo! She's young, attractive, unmarried -- and a Science-Fiction Fan to boot! Joe Fan needs a girl like Pogo--someone who thinks as he does. And before long, consciously or otherwise, Joe Fan decides that what he needs is Pogo. She's his ideal. Forthwith, he falls for her,



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whether or not he has actually met her --but a lot faster if he has made her personal acquaintance.

Joe Fan is legion. Now he proposes to her by mail. Now he plans to have the government transfer him, to her city of residence. Now he contemplates suicide! --because she does not jump at the chance to marry him. Now he makes fruitless cross-country trips to be with her. Now he writes her every day, calls her long distance, sends her telegrams, sends her burning love letters and love tokens. Or if he lives around Los Angeles, he takes her out as often as he can and proposes to her every time. Poor Joe Fan!--and poor Pogo! Ho, knocking his head against a stone wall-- she taking the back-room abuse of the gossips.

Pogo is ordinarily a friendly person. She likes science - fiction and she likes fans. Why must Joe Fan misinterpret her friendly letters and always find something in them to give him hope? Why, when she writes "If I don't see you at the Convention, I'll be awfully disappointed"-- must he go and take that for an acceptance to his proposal?

No girl can help being flattered when a fellow offers her his future-- yet on all sides poor Pogo has to say that she is not in love with Joe Fan, that she didn't intend to lead him on

--that she really isn't the girl for him. Sometimes Joe Fan becomes so insistent that Pogo has to feign hatred for him, and write scathing letters professing her loathing. I don't believe she sincerely means what she says in these letters of "counter-attack."


Stubborn, unreasoning, introverted Joe Fan just can't realize that Pogo isn't the girl for him. It will take an awful lot of arguing before you can convince him of the truth.

#### EMOTIONALLY UNBALANCED

In the meantime, poor Joe Fan suffers the tortures of the damned -- his mental agony is real and terrific --all because he has built his plans on dream castles, and it almost kills him to see them come tumbling down. For Joe Fan is a serious-minded fellow, and when he falls in love, it's no frivolity.

And why isn't Pogo the girl for him? Well, for a number of reasons. Most of the time, Joe knows practically nothing about Pogo, except that she is a fan--and then he expects her to be in love with him! But let us delve back into the past a bit.

In the first place, Pogo has had a very miserable childhood. Unhappy family relations came to distort her whole life. For the past three years Pogo has been leading a life that is emotionally unbalanced. The hatred





that was bred into her during certain unfortunate occurrences in her childhood, such as few children are forced to endure (it would not be nice to go into the sordid details)--this hatred has been transferred to the entire male sex -- and at the same time she has the normal craving of a young girl for love and a family of her own --thus the emotional struggle between complete distrust and strong desire.

She, like most fans, is repressed, and that only adds to her misery. As to the fans, she likes them all right, as fans, but the minute they become "males," that's another story.

Her unhappy girlhood has robbed her of normal sympathy --she does not consciously encourage poor Joe Fan to fall for her, but when he does, she has no conception of the mental suffering he endures when her "no" finally convinces him. She can not appreciate his feelings on the matter, or perhaps she would discover some way to prevent it from becoming so acute. Her idea of a friend, on her own admission, is "someone who can help me" -- not someone whom she can help-- nor does she value friendship for its own sake.

As I mentioned before, all this is not Pogo's fault. When her mind and emotions were young, they were moulded the wrong way--distorted from their rightful growth. The struggle

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that now goes on within her was not of her own making.

But that doesn't help things for Joe Fan. One day she's hot, the next day she's cold. One day he thinks he has her, and then comes a note of icy torture.

Are you a Joe Fan? Have you experienced any of this? The chances are that you have, because I have a list of some of Fandom's most active who have experienced the misfortune to "fall" for Pogo. As for myself, I had a particularly bad case of it--not only because I was the first, but because we actually became engaged -- unofficially -- before she was "gone with the wind." Several others have been through the same mill--but it is not true, to my belief, that she goes out of her way to make the fans fall for her. It is the very nature of Joe Fan that causes him to bring this misery on himself.

Pogo suggested that I write this article (she declined to write it herself, on the ground that it might appear to some that she was bragging of her powers.) She willingly supplied me with valuable information. We are on friendly terms and understand each other as well as can be expected.

If you, Joe Fan, are now contemplating what a wonderful mate Miss~ Pogo would make--take a tip and a bit of advice from both of us! Don't for



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a moment. think that the adventure can be worth the suffering --because any of us Joe Fans who have been through it will assure you that you'll sorely regret it if you let yourself go! The fact that Pogo is a fan does not make her the girl for you!

And you gossips--try to realize, that all these heart-broken Joe Fans have brought it on themselves. And to you Joe Fans--sit down for a few minutes and think it over. Save yourself a lot of worry, trouble, and mental suffering by injecting a grain of reason into your desires.

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#### A COPY OF THE ABOVE

article was presented to Pogo upon its completion, and her reactions to it were consistent with her disordered emotional procedure. I tried to coach my terms as favorably toward her as possible --yet she immediately took a hostile attitude toward the idea, after having suggested it. That is, she was hostile during the first hour or so -- then she swung back to the other extreme and became very affectionate toward me--such a display, as she had not showered on me for over three years. But did that last? Of course not! The next day she was hostile again--this time even threatening. I have become accustomed to her alternating current of treatment, so nothing she can do will be able~

to surprise me now. What can be done to help her-- to save her from a future of complete frustration? I sincerely and earnestly seek your aid in this matter. You are a fan and your ideas will be helpful. Please write to me at the address on the opening page of this "Bulletin." Some have suggested that what she needs is treatment by a good psychiatrist. I don't know whether this would be best or not.

Pogo is one person. You are many. Therefore it is important that you first protect yourselves. But, perhaps that can be done best by trying to bring Pogo back to a sane, logical social appreciation -- bring her back to rationality, into the great happy world that can be hers. But while pulling her out of the abyss see that you don't get pulled down there with her.

Please write to me, Fans--I need your help!

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The next Bulletin will contain a further analysis of this situation. It will probably appear in a couple of weeks. How about you putting in your two cents? Fan editors are given permission to reprint material from this Bulletin and are encouraged to enter into the discussion in their pages.

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