VOM

#23
10c


HYDRO CHLORIC KOENIG


"ECCO"


GUS WILLMORTH


BILL CRAWFORD


GERTRUDE KUSLAN


BOB TUCKER


LARRY SHAW


damon knight


HENRY & DOROTHY (FINN) HASSE


HARRY JENKINS JR
JOE GILBERT

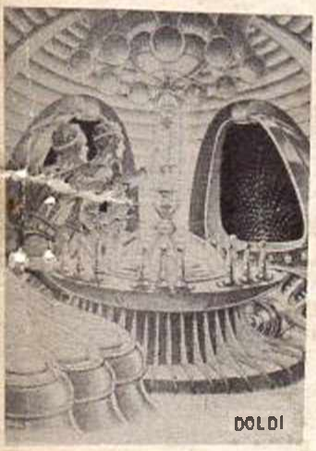

WALT SULLIVAN


SAM RUSSELL


GRAPH WALDEYER


DALE ROSTOMILY


WIDNER & WIFE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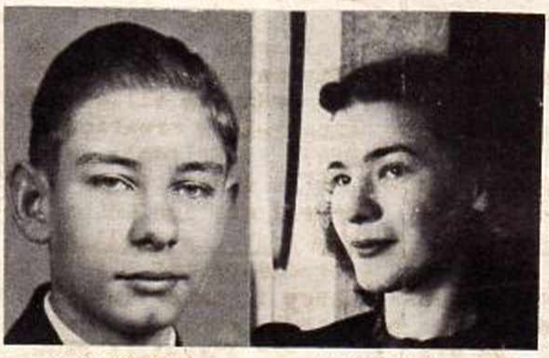

LEN MOFFATT
leslie perri


MORRIE DOLLENS


"RAYM"


LES CROUTCH


1+1


13


JOHN MILLARD


J. MICHAEL ROSENBLUM


LE/ROY TACKETT


Phour


5


6


3E


LLOYD CONNERLEY


VARGA!

R_I_G_O_R_O_U_S M_O_R_T_I_F_I_C_A_T_I_O_N. Vom is beginning to fall apart & it mainly is ma faute, j'ai peur. 4e speaking. Dyktawo has a lot to do with it but evrything can't be blamed on Warmagedden & in one particular case I imagine I'm to blame thru sheer negligence. The promist picture of John Cunningham does not apear on our cover. This, despite the fact he sent one to me & another to Merojo. With a cunning capacity of myn I succeeded in misplacing both; & no amount of searching coud uncover either, ryt up to the deadline. It was to have been perfect: the foto of Rosenblum--#1 Anglofan, & Cunningham--the British Boys' most altruistic benefactor. To make matters worse, John contributed $1 tord offsetting the expense of the offset-process. One heaping helping of humble pie, please, for Acky; I'll eat it with hands tied behind back. So really terribly sorry, John; & apolegys to U readers who lookt forward to his foto. '' In petitioning pix from various mems of the fanation we suggested a contribution anywhere from a dime to a dollar woud be welcome. But we wanted fotos first & financial assistance secondarily & no discrimination against a snap unaccompanyd by cash nor was it a matter of buying one's way. Dankon for the dimes from most of U; & especial appreciation to Tackett & Connor, whose contributions were almost above & beyond the call of duty. '' It was suggested on sevral scores the foto setup coud be improved by identifications on cover. This recommendation we have acted upon. Also, I'll try to go into a bit more detail about each individual. First we have...H C KOENIG: Koenig is Acky Baiter #1. He regards me as a lil boy who never'll grow up, playing with his toy ray gun in Paulian pantaloons: God's gift to goons. Other outstanding characteristic of K. is his antihissing campain. He carrys this on thru the medium of his Fapub, Reader & Collector, an expertly varitypt periodical wherein he quarterly quotes the latest hisstrionic statements found in the pro's. K's objection is not to legitimate hissing but rather to the unhissable, unpermissible "Blackguard!" she hissed type of thing. Hiss Critic Koenig put evil ideas in my head when he rote "If I find you putting horns and a beard on it; so help me--I'll chase you into the middle of the Pacific Ocean." Til then I had no intention of sabotage. Acres me new C/O D. Jones. ''MOFFATT has made a name for himself as the Christian Scientifictionist. Also is Dir. the Western Penna. Science Ficticneers; conceived & circulates the hand-made chainzine, Fantasy. '' TRUDY KUSLAN: Ah, yes, I forgot Trudy for the moment when designating Koenig as AB #1. TK myt have something (caustic) to say about HK's claim to that name. T. contends fans are nuts & nudes rnt nice & I obviously am both. Holds a 2 out of 3 attendance record at World Cons. One the few actifannes. That I shoud be disliked by such an attractifanne; ah, the Pity of It All! '' SHAW of Electricity Pubs put out that fine nickel mag Leprechaun. Don't noe much to tell about Larry as he has yet to rite a name for himself. But we think he will. ''DOLLENS originated the SFCollector, one the pretty early fmz. Retired from fandom for a period while he studyd fotografy, art, recording & allied subjects, now is returning with plans for a Stf Institute in Shangri-LA & creation of the neultra-plus in fmz, to be called COLOSSUS. '' WALDEYER is Frisco's sole stf author; also a ffandriting analyst. '' GILBERT & JENKINS, that indefatigable Dixie duo. They publish more fmz than a slan coud shake a tendril at, including Southern Star, Fanart, Unfamous Fantastic Mysteries, Fantasy Editor & Publisher, Stf Hash, Jinx...currently are publishing FFF for Unger, & producing the NFFF's first Fannual. Both have made fiction sales to pro's. Harry is an artist. Joe fanalizes chirografy. I undoutlessly am disremembering other outstanding characteristix & achievements in this hurryd thumnail fanografy. '' Foto Finn-ish: PEGGY & HELEN FINN. Peggy is the unidentifyd dawter of the late Directrix-LASFS, the lil name-tag somehow having fallen off her pic unnoticed somewhere along the line. This foto was taken by Bill Crawford, who takes a better picture than he takes pictures. Peggy is far prettier than this snap suggests, much more mature than her 17 yrs. She usually was to be seen reading Ast at mtg nites when she regularly attended the Club bfor leaving for DC. Artisticly inclined & also determined to make a literary name for herself greater than her newly-acquired brother-in-law's. Mother Helen--whom we more often were inclined to think of as a 3d sister--until recently ruled the LASFS, not by Amazonian qualitys but popularity. Has put out the first ish her own pub Stench. Ownd Joquel's collection of 600 pro's, numerous fmz, originals, etc, for a matter of wks, bfor hastily having to auction all to fellow fangelenos. '' Canadian Fan #1, CROUTCH. Gets hick kick trading stf. Started a lil mart-sheet circulated among a few friends; after over 100 issues having evolved to a monthly mimeod mag name of Light. '' "ECCO"--ECConnor, newcomer climbing fast. Has joind FAPA, edited first ish of Science Fiction Echo for same. Firancially supports worthy causes freely (say we, koff-koffing at the thot of his generous donations to us.) '' BOB TUCKER: The #2 Face. To explain who Pong is woud be doing rong to anyone who has read one fanmag. Downryt insulting. Selah. OLIVER SAARI (6) fan of long-standing. Name familiarized thru letters in the pro's in earlier days. Latterly has been seen on sevral occasions as an author; "The Door", in AS-F, frinstance. Mem MFS. '' LOU GOLDSTONE (5) His 3 Fantasias are his claim to fame. A technical triumf of a fm, with first-rate material. Lou also is said to be making a serious study of the Left Hand Path. '' "Fhour": "EPHLENS" ELMER PERDUE, so-called houz of a period during which the "f" key on his typryter was out of commish, a substitution of "ph" being made in all articles & letters. Active in official capacitys during growth of the FAPA. Traveld extensively around the fanation--NY, Philly, Chi, Wn, LA. Boogie-woogies sumthin trifik. That thing curving around on his cheek is a tendril. '' "1 PLUS 1" equals PHIL BRONSON & FRAN BLOMSTRAND, the coeds of the #2 fanmag, Fantasite. Phil is one the Top 10 fans, an xlnt artist & an ever-active exec. in the Mpls Fantasy Socy. Fran, as can be seen, woud make a welcome addition to any weary editor's lap. '' KID CONNERLEY grew up to be a fellow with quite a few fine ideas. U'll find some exprest this issue on pgs 9 & 10. '' DALE ROSTOMILY, mem MFS. An unknown fan, made famous at one fell swoop by being featured on Vom's cover. This foto is posed to be for horror fans, the equivalent of our Frankenstein pic on the preceding fotografincover. (No offense, Dale; 's'all in fun.) '' "RAYM" (of the Star-Looked Cosmos) - publisher Scientifun; poet. Full name, Raymond Washington Jr. '' MILLARD: Chief Pilot the

GALACTIC ROAMERS, now with the RCAF. '' damon knight: Snide made him famous overnite, winning him Daugherty's Denvention Award for Best Fan Humor of '41. Cofounder the NFFF. Graduated during last yr to pro-status as an artist for Lowndes. '' "3E": EVERETT EVANS, our Grand Old Man of fandom; "to know him is to love him". The exuberance & enthusiasm of a kid 16 combined with a kindly & mature & modest nature. A very wonderful guy to count a fan, & possibly the next leader of the fanation, as represented by its organized section, the NFFF. '' leslie perri, aka Doris Pohl; fiery futurian & futurartist. Designd the prize-winning costume of Ming the Merciless worn by David Kyle at the Chicon. '' JOHN GERGEN: The nice-looking chap unnamed in upper left corner. Watch for his fanmag, Tycho. Assorted Services just got its cover to litho. '' CRAWFORD: Marvel Tales...Unusual Stories..."Shadow Over Innsmouth"...nufsed? '' SULLIVAN: Travling fan-riter who's travled ryt out of the fanzine fan scene of late. Where are U, Walt? Incidently, the location opposite each other of Gilbert & Sullivan is far from coincidental. '' SAM RUSSELL: Dir., Mpls Fsy Socy. '' TACKETT: Upper bracket fan of tomorr? We think so. '' #13: The Old Master...CLARK ASHTON SMITH (foto by Freehafer). '' ART WIDNER: A Great Fan... & the Great Fan's Lady. The Poll Cat is another guy yecoeds really are prepared to rave about. Humorous & serious by turn; intelligent; sincere; we cannot offhand think of any enemys he has in fandom; & bliev, but for his modesty in omitting to publish where he placed, his name woudve been found in the Top 5 in the last Fan Poll. We like your wife's looks, Art; & wish U both much long happiness. '' WILLWORTH: Who is going to be nicknamed "Hattic" if he continues to be seen with that lid. Gus & his hat seem to be inseparable, even while he's conducting mtgs of the LASFS, of which he's the new Director. Single & with a good job & a weak heart, Gus doesnt seem to care about much else other'n building up an all-around collection of pro's, fmz & originals--fast--while he can enjoy 'em. Other consuming passion besides stf is seeing evry show in town first run. '' ROSENBLUM! What can we say about this grand Britisher but what shoud be known to all but the veriest neophytes? A C.O. who has made a go retaining his liberty, he has devoted himself not only to keeping Anglofandom together during the war but actually building it up thru Futurian War Digest. JMR also is well-known as a bibliophile & author of the "What They Are About" feature evry Spaceways. Placed 15th in popularity in the last Widner Poll, with, significantly, only Amerifans voting. '' The VARGAL, we think, needs neither introduction nor vindication. About the beer bottles she is holding, however, we wish to state they were emptyd of the alcoholic beverage, thoroly sterilized with scalding water & refild with noncarbonated orangeade, bfor fotografing. ## We are privileged to announce the Marriage of HENRY HASSE & DOROTHY FINN. ## Letter from Egypt! Gottliffe: "My fan activities came to an abrupt end in September '39, and since then JMR ((Rosenblum)) has been holding the fort alone; I do'nt think anyone can realise just how much he has done with his two hands. -- Do give my best wishes to all the fans." ## In the Dyktawo Dept, line left out of Milty's letter shoud read "reluctantly having to admit he's not quite a superman. 'Gee, I wonder if I can!" (insert after "simultaneously", next to last line). '' Apologys for snagging Widner's work of "Art" & the poor repro of the dress on the Broomaiden. Ted Carnell will get the inside story on all this débâcle when he receives the dummy; like a rummy I find I rote twice as much as can be comprest into these 2 pgs, even sacrificing the Table of Contents. ## My self-efacing affinity Morojo is limolite-shy & I noe I'll embarrass her by this public praise but I do think she deserves heaps of appreciation for the huge amount of work she does on Vom, on top of coming home tired from her office work, & devoting her Sundays to it while others relax & play. Australia's Evans has recognized her worth at long distance; let it not be thot I'm so near the Forrest I can't see the Myrtle tree & the Douglas pine. Actually I think it is too much to ask of any human & I otto do Vom all myself since I'm so particular. But without Morojo's invaluable assistance I don't noe how Vom as U noe it coud be got out. That it is late this date mainly is due to me, in private capacity, who has been passing thru a period of emotional mixups & finding it difficult to keep his feet firmly planted in the clouds (did I read that somewhere?) when influenced by the Fortier brand of thinking about forgetting foolish fan activitys & getting down to earth, combined with a touch of Widnerebellion & wanting to do something one wants to do now & then - grr!- & defy the Djinn of Duty. So Morojo devotes a goodeal of her vacation to making up lostime of our straying stfan. Now I ask U, is that a pal or is that a pal? True blue Monjo; or shoud I say green? Stf, it's wonderful! '' And of all idiotic things to do, with time at such a super-premium, my barber talkt me into treatments to rid me of that Dreadful Dandruff. "Indeed," I thot, "whoever heard of a bald wolf? I must consider my reputation! Woud Ruja-blu love me if my hair receded so as to expose my tendrils? Woud Morojo go see 'Things to Come' for the umpteenth time with a denuded Forrest? With 7 Kiss to Bald Pate coud I ever rate, place or win with Peggy Finn? Woudnt Tigrina think I was obscena with a bare head? Woud Irene Carnell rush up the gangplank pellmell to greet a Forry who forgot his Kremlin?" So I signd up for the brain-wave. ## We are horrifyd to inform U Ackerman in direct contradiction to all best fan tradition has been reclassifyd as a ONE A! This pending report on blood. Formerly 1-B, when we were caut with our knittin' down & dropt one & Pearl too, & Uncle Sam became less particular about whom he considerd candidates for tulips on Fodder's Day instead of two lips nite & day, I hadda start from scratch: Yoikes, here comes the syringe cringe! Sickening sensation of sanguinary sample. Bloody nuisance at first but now I can't live without my wkly jab. I am reminded of Daugherty's moron joke about the vacuuminded who studyd for the Wasserman test. And everyone's sure to call me vein & stuck up--!

VOICE OF THE IMAGI-NATION, Bx 6475 Met Stn, Los Angeles Cal. 10c. June '42. No. 23.

If all goes well U'll have another Vom in a couple mos. & the ish after that otto be about time for our 5th Ann. Woud U like another fanograficover then? --FJA.

Art

WIDNER, who Gallupt up the aisle (or was it a civil trot to a Justice of the Peace, Art?) with his slanhood sweetheart about 6 mos. ago but didnt let fandom in the noo til recently, rites from their new adres, 25 Arnold St, Quincy, MASS: "The last two issues of VoM seem to be on the road back. At least they were interesting enough to prompt me to write a letter when I have seads of other things to be doing. I guess I'm like Milty. I write to VoM when I should be boning away stenciling Fanfare or whittling down the pile of unanswered letters on my desk, because I'm a rebel, and like to say whathell every once in a while, and do something because I feel like doing it instead of because I ought to do it . . . Incidentally, it's guys like Milty, Chauvenet, DBThompson, and the everbright Britishers that make the mag interesting. And me, of course. (Yes, one fan - a 'big name' at that - said VoM wasn't as good without me, so nyaaahh!)

"First I will write about things in issue #21. Deeby T. has something when he says that fandom is dependent on the pros for new blood. And that disturbs me. Most of the time I have been in fandom, I have been working to help fandom be independent of the pros. The NFFF is a case in point. For its own safety and continued thriving existence, fandom should be independent. Suppose the war causes the flopulation of all the pros? I've thot about it before, but I can't seem to figure out any device by which those ever-so-important first contacts can be engineered. I would very much like to hear any ideas on how fandom may be rid of its umbillical cord.

"And now to Mr. Tackett. My personal greetings to you sir. You are a fan I like. In respect to your letter in #21 VoM, I'll attempt to clarify myself. 'World conditions' is a definitely unsemantic term, and I shouldn't have used it so loosely. I was referring to the mental attitude of homo sapiens that keeps this peculiar species from developing to the full its unique powers and opportunities - rather than any actual material 'conditions.'

"'Tis true that progress is being made - housing projects and flood control; vitamins and plastics; stratoliners and television - but I am dissatisfied with the rate thereof, and I think many of the 'serious-minded' fans are too. You must admit that the above-mentioned 'progress' could be doubled and trebled or better yet if it wasn't clogged with such useless and vicious things as wars, politics, power-mad financiers, superstitious religion, senseless social taboos, etc.

"But I suppose the main reason goes back to personal considerations. If humanity doesn't get a wiggle on, in a measly fifty years more or less I'll be dead, and I won't ever get to see the glorious world of the future -- the projections of which I have been buying at 15 and 20¢ and two bits a throw. That's why I don't read the pros very much any more. I want to do something, however little, to help make a good tomorrow, instead of merely reading about it.

"The Real Fans are characteristically the doers rather than the 'readers.' That is what I meant by my statement in #20. 'The Inner Circle' seem to have a creative instinct, which finds its outlet in writing, publishing, etc. I've often thot that this creative instinct might lead to something more than fanmags and authorship. Maybe it will. Maybe it won't. But that is why I regard fandom as more than just a 'hobby.'

"That may be why Fortier wrote such a peculiar letter. The 'drive' is in him, as in many of us, and it bothers him, because he knows that fan 'activity' isn't the proper outlet for that 'drive,' yet, what else is there? He can't crystallize his ambition, so he is trying to forget it. But you can't, can you, Joe? And I bet there are others, even as you and I, with that 'desire to bawl his heart out into the night's dead ears.'

. . . . .

"Medhurst's 'idiom' is obvious enuf. 'A can of porridge' would be practically the same as our 'puddin'head' expression. I'm surprised, 4e, that such an old word-phenagler as thou couldn't figure that one out. ((I still am in dout, Art, remembering my ingenious deduction that a "nostril mat" was British for handkerchief; only to learn later my logic was wacky, 'cause it meant lip-brow! So I shoudnt wish to stick my tongue out & get burnt on any hot porridge. I may be a moron but I'm no idiom!))

"In case nobody is interested, the readers of VoM get a real break at this point. I'm going to let the remarks I have made on the subject of nudes, in 'Widner's Column' in SCIENCE FICTION FAN and in YHOS, constitute all I will say for the present.

"Tigrina is a silly girl. She would no more go thru with all the disgusting orgies of a real Black Mass than I would. Her pose as a Servant of Satan is just that and nothing more. It appeals to her schoolgirlish sense of the dramatic. No doubt, mental rebellion from puritanical parents is back of it.

"One Art must back up another, (you might say this was 'Art for Art's sake'!) ((Art, for stfsake, watch yourself! U may have to eat your words someday! Do U like corn? 'cause that aint hay!)) and I'm right behind Art Young in beefing ((what's the stew?)) about the crowded, run-together appearance of VoM. Did you ever hear the old saying: 'Penny-wise and pound foolish.'? ((We gotta count the pennys, 'cause they ain't heaven-cent; but--special British joke--the expennysive covers we can present as long as angels are found willing to go on shilling out!)) Well, coe-eds, you're it - right up to the hilt. Tsk! Scrimping and pinching with regal size, no paragraphs, etc, and laying out ten smackers for a cover. 'Phooey!' says I. Gimme a nicely done cover, and a well arranged interior, and I'm happy. And I'm not talking about a zoot suit and a real meal, either.

"Your prediction that the 'crowded' fanzine will result as a rule for the duration, is going to be upset if I can possibly get my crowbar under the apple cart. FANFARE and all the

rest of BODACIOUS PUBLICATIONS are going to stay dummied, with ample margins, paragraphing, and all the rest that makes a neat fanzine. Nor do I like the hint of sarcasm in your use of the word 'artistic.' A subtle way of trying to plaster the stigma of affectation or arty snobbishness upon such fans as might try to preserve a greatly needed criterion of neatness. Nor am I merely tooting my own horn. ECLIPSE, FANTASIA, PEGASUS, and several other fnz are typographically better than FANFARE at present, and they are the ones I wish to emulate, and surpass, if possible. Incidentally, FANFARE will be sent free to any fan in any of the allied armed services who is interested enuf to send me a postcard asking for it. ((Awryt, so we aint Nostra,damus! Fandom isnt sacrificing its artisticoncepts in the intrest of making materials go farther, last longer. However, as the Casting Director said to the moviextra of Persian extraction who was applying for a part in a picture, "We're not casting any aspersions." Any fan who says we consider neatness nexto snobbishness, or anything like that, lies like a rug. Fanliness shoud be nexto perfection. --Thus Spake Mirta Forsto.))

"Incidentally, did anyone notice the very marked resemblance between Harry Turner and Linus Hogenmiller? Coincidence ? ? ? ?

"Before I go on to #22 - I'd like to insist that you use paragraphing in this letter if you print any of it. If not the nonstop type, then at least indentations at the beginning of each pragf. I would also appreciate your not deleting anything, as (please do not take offense) you do not have the genius of Art Joquel in condensing material. You are apt to cut the good stuff and publish the boring parts. Witness the letters of Rothman and Croutch respectively. (Particularly Rothman's letter in #22.) ((Acky, the Human Termite: Always boring. Ant that a formicable joke?))

"Two or three days have elapsed between this and the preceding paragraph. In that time I received a chain letter from Paul Klingbiel, director of THE FRONTIER SOCIETY. Paul realized FS is dying on its feet and is appealing to the members for ideas to give it a shot in the arm, or put it out of its misery. In my section I wrote suggesting that FS be made the organization of fans who wish to help make a better world rather than read about one. Those of you who have expressed approval of my ideas, please support me by writing to Paul with a promise to join and back up FS if it takes the path I have suggested. Address: 518 Fullerton Pkwy, Chicago, Ill.

"It will be interesting to watch the career of Len Moffatt in fandom. I was a Christian Scientist around the time I became interested in stf and fandom. After weighing everything for a couple of years, CS went overboard in favor of straight 'Science' and stf. CS has a good foundation, but like all other religions I know anything about, is 90% twaddle ((& the other 10% twiddle, we be inclined to add)). Stf is also 90% twaddle, but it's interesting twaddle, and shows a slight disposition to change when proven illogical. Religions usually do not. Therein lies their downfall. I only hope that when they fall, a real religion without dogma, The 'Holy' Bible, etc, but based on common sense and straight thinking, will take their place. Otherwise, times are gonna be tough. Religion has done a passable job of holding civilization together, but now the former is coming apart at the seams, I hope C is not so bound up with R, that C must follow the same course.

"John Millard does a workmanlike job of defining himself as a Reader.

"Hmmm - according to Mr. Connor, I must be mad. I find it much easier to 'comprehend' an infinite universe, without beginning and without end, than a finite one. The latter always raises the maddening questions of 'What went before?' 'What will come after?' 'What is beyond the edge of matter?' The answer can only be - 'nothing.' Absolute negation. You think of it; it gives me the green geesepimples - brrrrrr!

"It is possible for demons and spooks to exist, as types of energy, completely unknown to us as yet. That is a subject to be 'pigeon-holed because of insufficient data.'

"There is something to be said for liquor. I drink very little. I will touch the stuff perhaps twice a year. Usually 4th of July and New Year's Eve I like to get blotto. Yet like Elarcy, and others, I can have a fine time when sober. Why drink? Well, speaking for myself alone, I get some very strange, pleasurable sensations. There are flashes of mental clarity that take me soaring to beautiful heights. There are moments of physical well-being that match standing on a mountain-top at sunrise. There are times I feel that if I squinted a little harder, I could see the fourth dimension. Musical impressions are greatly intensified. Unlike many, I seldom experience any ill after-effects. Perhaps you wonder why I don't drink a lot more. It's simple. I merely wish to live a long time.

"As for smoking, I quit that over a year ago. To obtain the slight enjoyment it may afford, one has to make it a habit. It's not worth it. It's foolish, wasteful, and harmful.

"And that is all I have to say . . ."

Len MOFFATT, the Christfan, of 419 Summit Ave, Ellwood City, Pa: "No, I won't judge VOM. I never have. I comment on VOM, I criticize it - but I don't JUDGE it.-or those who are found there-in. I try to keep my criticism on a constructive basis. By JUDGING, I meant - telling a person that he or she is doomed to Hades - tellin'em to go there,etc. 'Judge not others, that ye be not judged by God.' SAVY? '' WHAT'S THIS? 'Nary a nude in the APRIL ish! Nay, not one! VOM is improving.I presume you couldn't find any clean nudes, and thus refrained from printing unclean ones. At least,I hope such is the case! '' Tigrina's cover was O.K.-but gag-line not as funny as her cartoon in last ish. Her letter was interesting. She says she is 'interested in Devil worship & Black Magic purely

for revenge, power, love of mystery and just pure devilishness' but NO FURTHER THAN THAT' '' Well!!! How much FURTHER THAN THAT can she go?''''? I like mystery myself, being a mystery fan (also), but revenge- power (evil power,of course.D EVIL power--)----ULGH! '' Her excuse is that she's rebelling against the straight & narrow path she's always been forced to lead. (by her over-religious parents, I presume) '' Well, I don't believe in forcing people to live religious lives,either. But she didn't have to rebel that much!----Well, at least we agree somewhat on the nude question. Unless,of course,she doesn't like clean nude art, either. (As I said B4, I do) ((Yecoeds woud appreciate a clarification as to what constitutes a "cleanude" to your mind.)) '' The Ashley fanography was absorbed by ljm with much interest and glee and so forth." On the credit side, ljm lists the pic of "the Prof" by Croutch, also Leslie's letter, & the tripletter by Pong, Liebscher & Evans. Considerd the XGRLMPH waste space; calls for more but better cartoons & pix. ##

WRIGHT, artistfan of 3618 Maple Ave, Oakland, Cal: "The cover was quite clever, let's hope Tigrina comes through with some more in this series, her little witch-gal is kinda cute. '' Warner's quip about "Fortier's latest retirement from fandom" is more truth than poetry, since Joe is back more active than ever. Len Moffat's letter was rather a surprise to me, I didn't think there were any christians in fandom. Oh well, every one to his own belief, and I'd much rather believe in something sensible like "Shottle Bop". '' The Ashley's biogs were excellent. In the not-to-distant future I expect to see them both on the top in fandom."

From Illinoistfan editor The Stf Echo, 929 Butler St, Peoria: "Oh-ho, trying to pull a fast one on your unsuspecting readers,eh? Black Mass,indeed! I have retaliated with a red mass. ((Ecco's letter hand-redden.)) '' The drawing of,pardon,I mean by,Tigrina on the cover was very good. '' So who is going to start bettering world conditions? 'Twould be better to eliminate all those who have never wanted to do anything to better them. '' You seem to have hit a new high with puns in ish #22. '' After a few issues of legal-size I can scarcely say that I dislike the new length; on the contrary, I am mad about it. '' Since Yngvi was mentioned in the last Vom, I would like to note that YNGVI is a very common name in certain circles. Or at least YNGVE, which is practically the same--inasmuch as the pronunciation is no different. As one example, Yngve E. Soderberg is a famous artist, having done beautiful etchings,,,for BLUE-BOOK. The name itself did not originate in 'The Roaring Trumpet' by L. Sprague de Camp and Fletcher Pratt in the May '40 Unknown, although it was used--in a remote sort of way. '' I have recently met Tucker, and it is my personal opinion that he is a number 15 fan--Ghodde! And to think that only 40 miles of space'n'stuff separate us. Cripes--I was just going to ask you what Dyktawo means (!) when the meaning hit me like a thundering thrust of atmospheric electricity. The first letters of 'Don't You Know there's a War On?!' -------Gulp!"

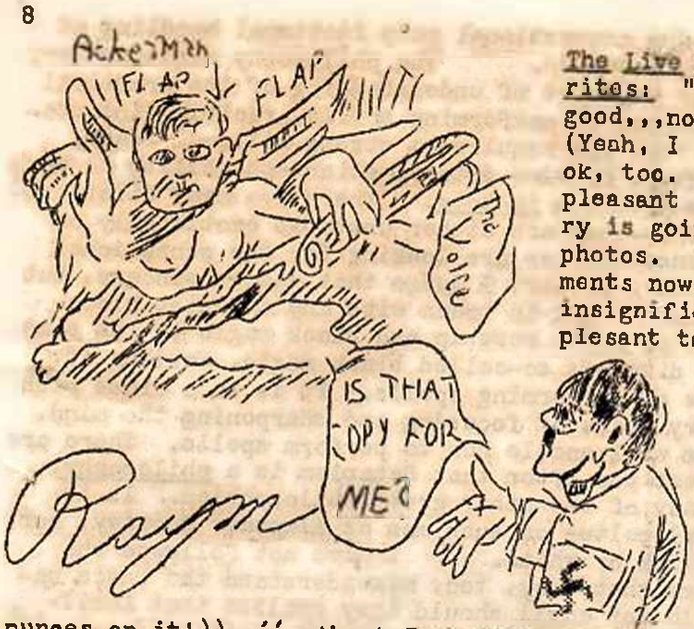
ROTHMAN, 2113 N Franklin St, Philly/Penna: "Dear Leeches: Today was payday, so you get paid. A whole, entire dollar is enclosed. Next payday, when I get paid for the twenty-two hours overtime I did last week I'll have to hire a guard to care for all that money. Yah, Ackyman doesn't have anything on me now. I worked almost fifteen hours yesterday, and am also working two weeks without a day off." Faithfully having reproduced the boring part, we now summarize the intresting stuff (fiends that we are): To keep the records strate, Milty wishes to relate it turns out DBThompson works for Q'master Corps instead of Engnrs, Klingbiel is a fella behind a teletype for Ordnance rather'n Signal Corps. '' Lil to say re Vom 'cause just finisht reading Studs Lonigan, which deprest him. Also disgusted bcuz just learnd Univ. of Penna. doesnt recognize credit for courses taken at Philly College of Pharmacy & Science: 2 solid yrs shot to hell. If Tig woud care to say a black mass in honor of the U of P, Milty'll be glad to cooperate. '' Milty concludes by saying it's difficult to listen to Norman Thomas on the radio & letterite simultaneously,,remain a science fiction fan after saying a thing like that."

OPEN LETTER RE TIGRINA, FROM HENRY KUTTNER: "It is apparent that Tigrina is interested in demonolatry, though I cannot feel that her expressed motives are in accord with the tenets of Satanism, which today is a somewhat theosophical and cabalistical philosophy stemming partly from the Chaldees and partly from the sects of Asia Minor. Feudal devil-worship was of course a degraded cult chiefly serving the purpose of freeing the peasant libido from the social oppression of the day. It was not Satanism, though it is often mistaken for such. '' In my work I've had occasion to run up against this sort of thing occasionally, and I'm wondering, therefore, to what books and credos Tigrina has had reference. It seems to me probable that she may have mistaken the sensational, hokumy, fictional devil-worship for the genuine article. I can't say, of course, but her letter seems to lead to that conclusion, especially in its remark about weakening the will through dissipation, and her statement about the needlessness of going to extremes. Indeed, 'going to extremes' is a basic tenet of true Satanism, though it certainly does not involve such absurd matters as smoking and drinking, which are physiological matters and not psychic. Since Satanism involves sharpening the senses, grasping and understanding broader vistas, and a slow but complete re-orientation of the id, you can well imagine the difficulties in the path of a student. Satanism is not a religion, except to the feudal peasant and the uneducated masses of past days

KUTTNER
(Self-portrait)

who required symbols. The conventional pulp fictional handling of Satanism is obviously untrue and much distorted. '' The philosophy requires very many years of specialized training for any sort of understanding of its practical application. Tigrina speaks of the powers of performing spells, reciting incantations, etc., and that in order to do that one requires a strong will. I fear I must differ with her. One does, however, require determination and ability to work hard in order to devote one's self to Satanism in toto. There are many dilettantes, but one cannot call these Satanists--they are either unstable emotionally or mentally, require psychological compensation, or are looking for the sensational side of the matter. In view of Tigrina's letter, I judge that she is sincere, but I also judge that she has not been able to get in touch with any Satanist blocs. That's fairly obvious, for she speaks of Devil worship and black magic in the same sentence, though Satanism completely disavows so-called black magic, calling it, indeed, a fake. Again, this business of performing spells. It is in a class with om mani padme hum, simply an auxiliary means of focusing and sharpening the mind. Tigrina must not expect that Satanism will enable her to perform spells. There are no miracles involved. I cannot repeat too often that Satanism is a philosophy, pure and simple, to be classed with any of the other great philosophies. It is certainly not the degenerate, criminal cultus of such men as Alastair Crowley, nor is it a group of magicians, either black or white. '' I have not followed the critics Tigrina mentions, but I assume that they, too, misunderstand the basic nature of Satanism. I'm sure they would not cavil should they realize that Devil-worship is, in its purest form, not harmful, gives no powers of magic, and actually improves mind and body through a series of vigorous mental and physical exercise. It is a health-cult of sorts, coupled with a fundamental psychological readjustment which goes on over a period of years. The same end is reached by certain other methods which are looked on with more favor by the public, but these have not the complete mysticism of Satanism, though this is coupled with a soundly sane material attitude toward material things. '' I merely mention all this because I do feel that Tigrina is sincere, and also that she has rather got off on the wrong foot, so to speak. Also I'm a little dubious about her expressed motives--revenge and power and so on. I have no personal criticism to make, but I feel it advisable to say that if these are Tigrina's chief and only motives, she should consider carefully before investigating the real Satanism. Such motives as she expresses are, as of course she knows, compensatory for psychological difficulties, which are encountered by most people who, at an early age, are sufficiently 'different' to become interested in fantasy and science-fiction. You know that, Forry, and so do I; we all do. And it is natural enough. Moreover, over a period of years, readjustment takes place, and the psychological handicaps are overcome, though I'm glad to say that in most cases the liking for fantasy remains. '' But in view of Tigrina's letter, I thought it advisable to write her through Madge, in view of the always possible danger of an amatour student being victimized by fake cults. And, too, I was slightly annoyed, as I always am, by the confusion of Satanism with black magic, spells, and such silly legerdemain. Still I realize that Tigrina erred through ignorance rather than intent--so I have taken time from a rather arduous program of writing to tip her off to the real dope. Hope it'll be of some assistance to her should she continue her professed plan of embracing Satanism."

Bfor fandom becomes "too wrapped up in its various theories of" What Makes Tigrina Tick, the broomstick girls wishes "to disillusion of some of the opinions concerning me. Some have evidently been under the impression that I believe implicitly in the existence of ghosts, vampires. etc. Let me say once and for all I am definitely not a spiritualist and I am not superstitious. I try to keep an open mind and try never to scoff at anyone's beleifs and theories, yet I do not accept everything I read about the Occult as true facts. It is true that occassionally I dabble in the Black Arts (what person does not who is interested in that sort of thing?) but only as an experiment or as a harmless (?) manner to give vent to my injured feelings. And I do not limit myself to experimenting with evil spells against those whom I dislike! But if there are truly such opposite beings as god and Satan, if such opposite beings do exist, I think that you know which deity that I would accept as Master!"



The Live Wire of Live Oak, Fla, rites: "Greetings, fanatics! VoM,,,pretty good,,,not as good as in the pre-war days. (Yeah, I know, DYKTAWO yourself!) Cover was ok, too. Larry Shaw's super-letter was a pleasant suprise. We should be glad that Forry is going to present the less-known fans in photos. '' I will not engage in the arguments now being discussed, for I am as yet too insignificant in the fan field. I leave that plesant task to my betters. Besides, I might wind up in the gutter. '' I still don't see how Ackerman thinks up the puns to go with the letters. Tell us, please, FandM. ((Sshh, secret: the Efjay's depundable source of humor is the sort that pours from a bottle! But not the kind U think: an ink bottle! He fiddles around with a pen, meditating, & when he gets an idea, he punces on it!)) '' About Tackett's letter: you made a grave mistake in reproducing his name. It is LeZ-Roy Tackett. He just gets absent-minded at times and writes it wrong. '' Page 8 of #22: The art is superlative. Never before have I seen such an intelligent -looking gentlemen. Pray tell me, is he one of the Anglo-fans? Youd, possibly, I take it. Which reminds me. 'DREAMER,' by C. S. Youd, is my favorite piece. (The most beautiful phrases ever to strike my ear go.... 'Oh dreamer of dreams! Your path will ever be 'As bright and gilded as the tales you wove, 'Through valleys, whence the dreary shadows flee...' Superb! I mean it, Youd, if you read this. '' I like VoMaidens. Tell me how I may obtain the first two portfolios? How!? ((25c for both to Box 6475 etc)) '' Must stop now. Step up and sound-off, dope. The guy's letter that immediately follows mine is a dope. '' PS: We admire Forry's broad-mindedness in publishing things which he does not agree with or approve of."

Another letter rcvd from Raym, just as we dummy this, reads...((unfortunately, the aforementiond is imaginary--we're just foolin' Ray bouz of what he had to say about the author of the letter following his. We are avoiding the ticklish situation of being responsible for labeling any of our correspondents a dope, by not publishing any letter following Raym's: The following shoud be considerd as preceding the letter which follows it.))

rites Alojo otherwise Art Joquel, Bx 5451 Met Stn, LA: "Dear VoMites:" "Sorry to take up your space this way, but not having a mag of my own to answer various insults addressed at me, I have to take advantage of you. '' Art Widner recently sent me a card requesting an explanation of my alleged accusation of 'racial and national prejudice' on his part, which I was supposed to have made in FANFILE. Of course, I really didn't make any such accusation. I only said that if I had the space to do so, I might. But what I would have based it on was the question in Widner's POLL CAT referring to Hitler, in effect, 'What would you do with him--hang, burn, quarter, exile or what else?' Now I hold no more brief for Hitler than the next. But, in order to be impartial, the question should have listed the other alternative--wine and dine, world dictator, or anything else. Or, if the brutal questions all referred to Hitler, then there should have been an identical question about President Roosevelt or some other American figure. THIS, IN ORDER TO BE IMPARTIAL." Art thanx those who traded for Fanfile, requests copy from those still outstanding.

Michael ROSENBLUM, ed "Fido"--the Futurian War Digest, from 4 Grange Terce, Chapeltown, Leeds 7, relates of the difficultys besetting the mimeo mag in England today. "Tis becoming a weird and wonderful process indeed!" The obvious difficulty is paper, now reasonably well in hand by generous local as well as overseas donations; but next "spot of bother" was disapearance of duplicatink a yr ago. A certain awful ersatz tends to cause creases in stencils after about 50 cranks. Latest trouble is Stencil Priorities. '' Characterizing our preceding fotograficover as "magnificent", JMR continues "but oh, couldnt you have arranged it better--at first glance it looked like nothing on earth. Only comments on the pictures--how old were those of Turner, Needham, Hanson & Les Johnson? ((up to 5 yrs, one fears))--& Pogo is almost the living image of my sister! The letters seem to be getting more thoughful & sensible, less of the outpouring of vapid puerilities. And 'tis better so. Any method for packing as much meat as possible into the 'zine highly commended, hence the summarising is O.K. Don't skip the 'art' entirely tho - it does liven up the proceedings." Re nudes, regusted with being alternately attackt & commended for his broad or narrowmindedness, wishes to make position clear. Sides with Mrs Leeds on stupidity of convention & treatment of nudity nowdays. But also thinks it silly to buck public opinion for sake of so doing. And definitely that stressing nudes for nudesake in fmz or elsewhere is rather childish compensation to balance general attitude. Not meaning the Nude isnt an art form, & fine one at that; but are fanudes (majority, tennyrate) art in any shape or form? '' "One other matter--the definite existence of Alan Roberts. The laddie corresponded with me some few years ago & even wrote a couple of articles for the old FUTURIAN. So you can tell that to the disbelievers." JMR wishes to inform intrested Amerifans: FIDO for 12 issues may be rcvd in exchange for current USA fantasy pros to the value of 75c.

FLASH! POGO infanticipating!

D R Smith the Sage of Nuneaton, 13 Church Rd, Hartshill, Warwks, Eng, in deepurple on 18 Mar 42 rote: "Having at reluctant last installed a new ribbon in this machine,,,it would seem that I cannot give its virgin freshness to a better cause than acknowledging the receipt of two more VoMs. '' I fear that I cannot honestly add my voice of approval to the chorus praising the cover drawings. The one on the Anniversary issue was well-conceived but indifferently executed. All strip and no tease, as the poet remarked. The drawing would be a good sample of the sort of excessively elongated female figures used in fashion magazines, and at least not even the most narrow-minded of the narrow-minded clique of fans can accuse it of being anything but pure. Mrs and Miss Time,,,are somewhat better, but not so much better at that. Neither of them are exactly anatomically plausible, the mother does not look matronly nor the daughter girlish in proportion to her stature. I think it would do all of your artists good to be locked up for a couple of years in a gallery full of Rubens, the ceiling to be a reproduction of the Sistine chapel frescoes of Michelangelo. Another point which strikes me about the January cover is that the background fights with the foreground for the attention of the beholder. The action of passing the torch seems too static, too rigid, giving the impression that Miss Time will say 'Well - I've got this wretched thing now, what am I supposed to do with it?' as she takes the torch of her parent - thereby asking for an answer that may not be entirely in the lofty tradition. '' I want to applaud your editorial proclamation that you intend to and try to publish the letters you receive without fear or favour. Such is obviously the only way to run the magazine as a genuine discussion mart, and if everybody doesn't approve of everybody else that is only natural. '' Lorluvvaduck! Procrastination is indeed the thief of time"--& goes on--or back--to the peewee ish featuring Wright's bust, or, rather, the bust by Wright. In his opinion far & away best cover Vom ever issued; in fact, only really worthy pic we ever reproduced on our cover. '' Finds nude femmes in fmz being discust from absurd & entirely irrelevant viewpoint of morality rather'n relevant v.p. as to whether pix are artistic. Thinks we'd be ryt in assuming majority our readers advanced beyond stage of finding rudery in nudery. '' Delder's blue alien reminiscent to him of the caterpillar-like phantasm seen floating thru the air by a lady artist sketching in the grounds of Borley Rectory & reproduced ("the sketch -not the phantasm!") in Harry Price's account of his investigations of this place entitled "The Most Haunted House in England". '' Thanx God Chapman doesnt noe him. '' Nude by Nyx undoutedly worst we ever publisht. Admonishes us not to waste paper--dyktawot '' Thot the publishing of the Tigrina pix (fotos) unfortunate, for they went a long way (with him) tord destroying the image built up by joint accounts of her. As for long-distance annihilation of him via doll, always thot essential part of spell was quantity of victim's toenails & hair-clippings etc...which cannot be obtaind from him beuz one Johnny Burke proved in Fay (Fantast) yrs ago he (Smith) doesnt exist! '' If Croutch is antiprudes he's antiSmith, for he firmly has establisht his rep. over there as England's #1 Prude. "Pooey to him from me. Prudery for ever is my motto." '' Incomplete Damn Thin-g pleasantly entertaining, book review (Burks' "Great Amen") particularly enjoyd. Unhesitantly in favor of retention of that pleasant amenity, the Vom contents pg. '' "I rather strongly deprecate Widner's admiration for tho'toughness' of British fandom, but I fear that if I say why I shall get myself in trouble with any of my compatriots who might find me out. Still, in my opinion the very grimness of war causes a natural reaction towards frivolity - it is noticeably so in the case of stage and screen entertainment - and the flourishing condition of English fandom is part of this reaction. Escapism is another word for it. Moreover it is our racial tendency to take the edge off bad news - and God knows we get enough bad news to turn us into maniac depressives! - by adopting a cynical or flippant attitude, and the effects of this attitude are reflected in the refusal of most British fans to be as solemn as Widner would really like. In any case hobbies and other forms of relaxation are more needed and appreciated in wartime than in times or peace, not less." '' Never thot to associate his carbuncle with criticism of Tigrina's "Hymn", his own explanation being the release of poisonous matter into his system thru removal of a couple decayd teeth. Hopes she confines her attentions to giving him mere boils & doesnt do anything really nasty like getting him called-up! '' Finally being reminded of the story of the capitalist who tryd the Faustrick of selling his soul to the devil in return for other advantages. Mephistopheles was most amused. "What makes you think you've got a soul?" he asked. ##

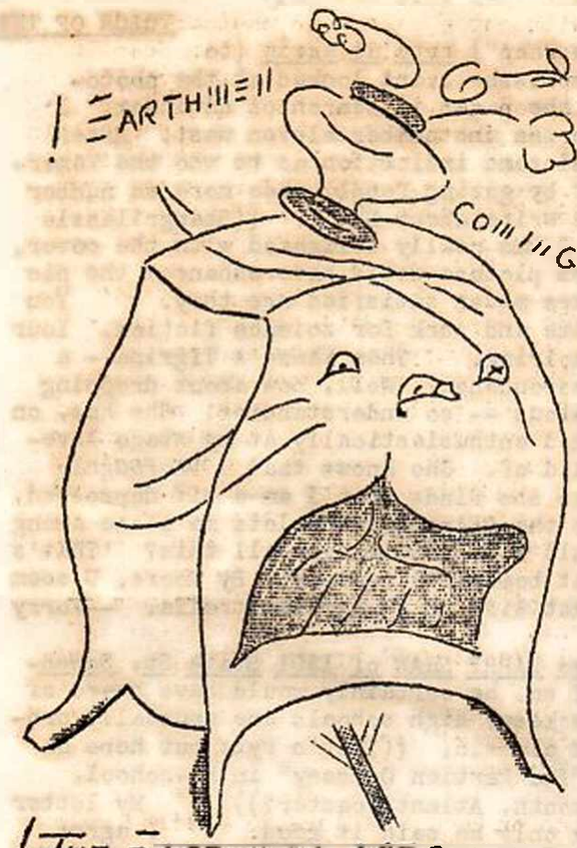
Lloyd Connerley pens a 8-pg epistle from POBox 267, McKittrick, Cal: "Dear Ackermorojo: What! No nudes in #22? Goody, goody! '' I object to any but fantasy nudes in Vom. Nude pictures can be obtained for a dime a dozen from any newsstand, but good fantasy nudes are rare. '' The Jack Erman nude ((Vomaidens Pf #1)) I consider to be the best of the fantasy nudes, while the butterfly girl ((Paule gatefold)) possibly is second. ((Gee, U flutter me, Connerley: Even I don't think the Ermanude the equal of the first & only Hirst fantasynude.)) '' Let's not have any more sharing of a fantasy nude ((Delder's)) with our Canadian cousins. It's all right to share them, but no more dividing of one, please. '' I cannot agree with Moffatt when he says that the Vomermaid is lewd and exhibitionistic. I consider it to be the cleanest of the nudes to date. ((O, Lloyd, what U have left your self open for! "Cleanest of the nudes to date." To date, in the romanticonstruction. Need we say more???)) Nor can I agree with Tom Wright's opinion that 'That hag sure fades in comparison with the photos of Tigrina and Pogo.' On the contrary, it is my contention that, aside from the Tomaiden, the Vomermaid is the only real art that Vom has presented." Connerley found our sea-girl strikingly similar to Hiram Powers' sculpture "The Greek Slave", which inspired Will Stuart to pen lines of the same name, the 50 of which Connerley quoted. Unfortunately, we do not feel we can spare the space to quote the poem in its entirety, but these lines in particular seem to apply:

'...that candor of Hellenic race - which let them love the body without shame. And thus she stands unrobed, with not a care - to whether nude or naked she appears. Full knowing men will see her as they will, and quite despite her dress or deshabille: the satyr sees a nymph, the saint a saint, the youth a virgin and the pimp a bawd...' '' That 'Halloween 42', so in keeping with the spirit of the cover, gave me a real shock. For an instant I thought I had pulled a Rip Van Winkle. '' I prefer the tilde underscoring to the double parenthesis for indicating editorial comment. (We too, but for previously explaind reasons, the Dyktawoe dictates Dykta-whoah!) -- I've got you beat Acky, for hours-per-week of work. My average is 60 hours per week; you wouldn't believe me if I told you how many hours per week I work during the busy season. '' So Art Young, LeRoy Tackett, Bee Leeds, Art Widner et al, want to do something about world conditions? Everyone has ideas but no one expresses them. '' 'World Conditions' is rather a vague term, but I suppose that by it they mean illiteracy, poverty and war. '' All right, we are going to do something about the wide-spread ignorance, poverty and war in the world today. In other words our goal would be permanent peace and prosperity, and universal enlightenment. '' It seems to me that the first thing to do, then, is to determine what changes or reforms are necessary in our social, economic and political structures before such a condition can be realized. After deciding what must be done to improve world conditions, the next step would be to select the course of action deemed most likely to bring about the desired results. The third step would be to decide how this course of action is to be prosecuted. The fourth and final step would be the work of actually striving to institute or establish those basic reforms chosen in step one. '' For the present then, let us concentrate upon step One. To start the ball rolling, I propose the following four-point program:

1- An universal auxiliary language.
2- A highly personalized medium of exchange.
3- A non-profit economic system.
4- Economic equality.

Come on you pacifists, idealists, visionaries, liberals and progressives, air your views; let's make this such a burning issue that Vom will have to be published on asbestos paper!"

DOUG WEBSTER, Idlewild, Fountainhall Rd, Aberdeen, Scot, on 3 Mar 42 sent 6 typt pgs, portions of which we quote, much of which we reluctantly must summarize: To begin with (& he threatens "You'd better lift chunks of this dirt for VOM...or I'll mutter in my beard") he states most Vom pix stink. Besides Hoffman monsters, to him but vaguely funny, what does he see--a collection of human & quasi-human figures, many nude. Doesnt noe whether to take 'em seriously or not. Considerd seriously, such as Nyx, #19, p15, is not only ridiculous but hi-ly lafable. Anatomicly, terribly poor: draftsmanly (or womanly) - puerile. Doug's the last fan on earth to object to nudes qua nudes, but our sort show "so infinitesimal an amount of talent, such a waste of energy, such childishness, such ignorance of anatomy. Oh, I keen, I keen. Give me Petty, O Gods." '' Vomaidens Portfolio #2 an all-time low in fan artistry. Suspects whole thing a gigantic nat'l dif in sesayuma & outlook on life--must postulate such a theory or admit nrly evry US fan artist (Rogers, knight & Hunt being among the few exceptions) mentally a moron. Yet finds American Widner agreeing with him completely: Opinion of Art been going up long time & now rockets! Doesnt object to good pornografy--a French pic from time to time to briten up life--but Erman's unnoen femfriend who described his nude efforts seemd exactly ryt: "Disgusting", "repulsive" &, to add one of his own, degrading if meant to be taken seriously. ((It was--to be taken seriously, that is; &, Truth noes, I've no desire to degrade my fellow fan; so must be poynta-vue.)) ''He's seen pix in Vom he liked a lot: Milty's first drawing, of a quarter with spaceships around it; Bradbury's conception of himself; the Paule girl; sevral of damon's; but mostve fallen awfly flat. And - "oh, how unpopular I'm making myself !" - the Tomaidon, which was a very worthy attempt but didnt come off in his estimation. '' Re the topic of "the Professor", he wonders why the devil the duck didnt make a more convincing attempt to seem a prof? Whole style, opinions, mock dignity--all so transparent. No great objection to being kidded if it's carryd out cleverly: If Singleton coud fool all fandom into swallowing his suicide, twas an impersonation in its way a work of art; the guy's sense of humor was there, & he did something successfully. This being, incidently, he says, English opinion on the matter in the main, not merely his own. So why does the Prof make such a poor, fool-nobody attempt? '' "Your pet protege Tigrina appears to be a little girl at heart, with the dickens of an inf. complex, who has omitted to grow up. You do find cases like that here & there - all too often, unfortunately - and instead of encouraging her you'd be doing the wench a devil of a lot more good if you tried to jerk her out of it & act her age. '' From which you'll infer that I Am Not Amused." ((Beware the Concussion...Beware the CONCUSSION! Webstergrina, or Doug vs Devilkin. Can such criticism go Scot Free???)) -- Turning back the clock to Nov 41 Vom, p15, thinks Croutch has rong angle. "Of course the whole thing's unreasonable & cockeyed & just plain crazy. If it weren't so grim & horrible I'd get a huge laugh out of this colossal nuthouse of a war. But it happens to be serious, and it happens to be real - the only reality we have these days." And immurage in an ivory tower in this, the Charn Age, is a fallacy. Reality destroys first metaphysics, then its practitioner. He quotes the now-famous verse: "It was once decreed by superior powers - In a moment of wisdom sidereal, That those who live upon ivory towers - Shall have heads of the same material." Emotionly can sympathize with Croutch, the intellectually nothing is more certain he's rong. We must take care of what Taine called the Beast, or the Beast will take care of us. "I'm as confident as you are that someday the planet as a whole will achieve cooperation rather than nationalism & intolerance; but as yet it isn't here, and we mustn't pretend it is. See?" '' Feeling in the mood for gore



Doug descends upon GKChapman. He's enjoyd his column so far, he says--"as a concentrated disclosure of GKC's character, of course, not as revealing anything about those whom it's grand to know." Also calls for clearup of the myskery why Kenchap's name once was KGC & later became GKC? '' Thoroly enjoys the Carnellograms. Carnell guy he likes; good racy style. '' Getting positively cheerful, Doug declares "Now me, though you'd never guess it, I like VOM a lot. In the last year or two I've become more & more an Ackerman fan, and I must say I like reading Forrie's stuff a lot. Especially enjoyed is the good-natured, happy-go-lucky tone of VOM; I wish I could imitate it, but I just feel too bloody miserable these days, and the only thing I can do that might be called constructive rather than destructive is wish in a dull sort of way that the war was over and I could get back to work & civilian conditions again." '' Anent the question of what to print in Vom, advises to steer clear of the saylittle letters unwittily ritten. And if the older guys talk intresting, the younger ones drivel, don't be kind-hearted, cut the young, even if we want to give 'em a start. They'll learn, even without fmz; he noes some who did. '' Robts & Smith amusing as ever. He kills himself laffing at DRS evry nite. '' "Hi-de-ho." ##

From his own private asylum, "SIMAD, THE MAD ARISIAN", noen in earthly form as SIDNEY M DEAN, sends his first galacticommunication via 1310 SW Pk Av, Portland, Ore. "I am getting VOM second handed at present but will correct that soon . Will join the LA's eventually , etc. You'll get no. 1 of the Stellargram , the microscopic fanmag patterned after Pons one he has in Le Zombie . (I'm fandomS poorest fan , any challengers?) '' Nudes in VOM ? WODDAHECK kinda gag is this argument ? Breathes there a critter so un-human that he (she or it) dislikes them ? '' Good for Tigrina and her Voodoo etc. A gal after my own heart . '' Black Mass (April Foo ish .) OUCH ! Ye Hoff challenges my degree of Insanity (Doc of) . '' As for the religion , I can take it or leave it , but would prefer to leave it . I'm mystic , metaphysics , Buddhist , Yoga , Taoist , and so on ad infinitum . Mostly nuts tho . I will defend Tige to the last - well , next to the last - breath against her enyumies. '' LeRoys(Tackett) 5 senses : are there fans who only have five of the several dozen senses ? Why ? Why Not? As for devil worship . etc. (again) Portland is the pirate base and all the local yokels are zwilniks , delgonians , eichs , etc. C'mon up , Tige (meow) if things get to hot there . We'll hide you out . '' Too many fans don't like too many things . The louses comment reminded me . '' I repeat , there is nothing unclean about a nude except the observers thots . Shame on the observer in that case . (("...full knowing fans will see her as they will, and quite despite her dress or deshabille: the cynic sees a vomit-maiden, the narrow-mind a thing of Satan, the inbetween 'Yes, but not in a fanzine!', while the minds-set-free see an Eve from Aiden.")) '' I don't smoke or drink . I only swear ...'n' how . Dunno and dunkare what other people do about any of the three. '' If anyone sqwaks about Vom send 'em to us - piece by piece . All 10 of us local stupes like it . '' These people that drool about 'that way lies madness...' BAH. Madness arises either from brain trouble , conscience , or from overworking the mind. Most folk have'nt sense enuf to value mantal relaxation . Mind is like stomach- when itS full it'll tell ya . Stuff it and you got indigestion."

David R. Evans AUSSIFAN of 130 Brook St, Coogee, NSW, on 8th of Mar rote re #20: "I notice that a little controversy has sprung up regarding Vom's contents page. My own impression of this page is that it is one of the most consistently clever pages of the entire magazine. I like it. There is no way to make better use of Vom's contents page, unless of course you would care to paste a few dollar bills on it; so keep it as it is. To dispense with it means the first step towards the end of Vom. '' Most of Sydney's Futurians are now in khaki. I have in my box of rejection slips, my medically exempt certificate. Me I'm like Ambrose Bierce I suffer with asthma -- all of us genius chaps suffer from asthma -- to name but a few,,,Orson Welles (The Martians are coming).

And later, G. Chap Evans (short for "Genius Chap") rote us again (to be exact, 12 Apr): "When I received the mid Feb issue,,,and looked at the photographs on the cover, I made a mad dash through the pages in search of an index. I was in a hurry! I could not wait. I wanted to see who number eleven was!! After satisfying this eager curiosity, I tried to find some indication as to who the Vomermaid was. I failed here, so I contented myself by gazing fondly once more on number eleven. Gee! I wish I could write poetry, I'd write about N° 11. ((Shangrilassie who sent Evans to the 'eavens was Pogo.)) '' I was really delighted with the cover. I think a short biography on the subject of each picture would have enhanced the pic idea much more than just the name.--Some guys are never satisfied are they. '' You 4.S.J and Morojo must surely put in a lot of time and work for science fiction. Your interest and good comradeship is really awe-inspiring. Then there's Tigrina - a most interesting young lady - who invites correspondence. Well, how about dropping me a line, Trig? Enid my wife is not a bit jealous -- so understanding. She has, on many occasions, sat in the audience and applauded enthusiastically at my stage lovemaking; so you see, there is nothing to be afraid of. She knows that I thoroughly enjoy being surrounded by beautiful women. When she finds that I am a bit depressed, she invites a crowd of blondes and brunettes to the apartment and lets me loose among them. She spoils me, really. Anyway, why should I be telling you all this? 'That's not science fiction' you might say." ((But what beautiful fantasy! By Moore, U seem to have a slice of Paradise. U mustve found that wife in Shangrilaustralia. --Forry the Mohammedan)) ##

NOW IT CAN BE TOLD, states LARRY SHAW of 1301 State St, Schenectady, NY: "4e never went to high school. If so, he certainly would have heard of Silas Marner. Unless these Pacific coast (no ackese) high schools are unusually progressive and have done away with that so-called classic. ((That's ryt; out here on the Pacificoast--ackese--we study storys like "The Martian Odyssey" in hi-school, "Last & First Men" at college. Shangri-LA forsooth, Atlanticoaster?)) '' My letter stinks. Moffat said about what I wanted to say only he said it good. '' I agree with Tackett, let's do something. I am behind practically anything that will benefit fandom as a whole. '' I miss the green. It is the Irish in me. I dunno if I'm really Irish --- I'm afraid if I trace my ancestry I will discover that I am not. That would be a terrible blow. '' The Donnell pic is incomplete; since when do Sirian XGRLMPHs have only three eyes --- and where are the horns? Nor can the professor be as good-looking and intelligent as Croutch portrays."

DAVE MC/ILWAIN, 14 Cotswold St, Kensington, Liverpool 7, Eng; 9 May: "The cover in question ((first fanografic)) is fenomenal, a regular galaxy of fans, and an invaluable item for any fans collection. 38 of them! It's terrific. Congratulations on your enterprise are in order. Keep up the good work -- VoM has already made fan-history; let her make fan-future too. '' Pogo is, of course, the last word in loveliness. I can well understand the Hornig affair now - in fact, he has my sympathy. When the English fans subscribe towards 4e's transatlantic excursion, I suggest they also add a bonus and invite Pogo over as well -- it ain't fair that the American fans should have her all the time. Joquel reminds me of George Raft -- a fascinating person, I should imagine. The Vomermaid is cunning -- I suppose the V stands for victory, but in the position where it lies on that foto, it symbolises defeat. I fully support the Vom policy with regard to nudes. I personally can't see anything obscene in a certain ordered arrangement of printing ink on paper, that the pattern produced should bear similarity to person or persons existing in real life is merely a peculiarity of the absorptive action of said printing ink on the light waves, and depends also on the imagination & general psychology of the observer, for he has to reconstruct these splashes of black ink into a mental image corresponding to that which he would receive if the stimulating object were a real person. In any case, a nude is not obscene unless the pose is such as to accentuate the sexual characteristics, and so render it pornographic. On the other hand, a nude does not necessarily have to be asexual -- its aphrodisiac properties are not an indication that it is pornographic, but merely a sign that Mother Nature is functioning efficiently, though actually a nude reproduction or photo should not be aphrodisiac, since, if we are to believe these bearded old satyriacs who call themselves psychologists, that would imply that the photo, an inanimate object, had the property of arousing sexual desire - a form of fetishism. I shouldn't like to be too dogmatic about that, though; it depends on the exact status of a fotograf in the sphere of human instincts and emotions. Rather akin to the supposed aphrodisiac properties of jazz -- but that an entirely different matter altogether." ##

But room for a short xrpt from 6 pg single-spaced typt transAtlanticlipper letter by TED CARNELL, 17 Burwash Rd, Plumstead SE18, London, as of 19 Apr: "My personal thanks are tendered to the three donors who made that photographic cover possible. Oh, yes, one item in Medhurst's letter that needs correcting. As far as I know, and I'm well up on British slanguage, there is no such expression as 'carrying a can of porridge between his shoulders.' I would presume this is some obscure crack originated at Cambridge, where the Snaghurst used to burrow, and therefore known only to himself. '' I'd like to send greetings and thanks to the various Americans I hear from. Particularly Art Widner for the continued arrival of FANFARE. I find his fanzine of absorbing interest these days. ((10c from 25 Arnold St, Quincy, MASS)) Also to Julie Unger for his regular mailings of FFF. Seldom, if ever, do I receive a letter from these two donors,,,but by just mailing something of interest means that we are not forgotten here, and is all I ask while the war is on. Bob Tucker remains clouded in mystery -- I haven't heard from him for ages, neither have I seen a copy of his fanzine. Is he still in circulation, or moving in military circles. ((Tuck still going Pong...er, strong.)) As for the New Yorkers -- complete silence. Not a pee, tweet or whisper from any of them."

HARRIS SCHWARJE, 316 Stewart Rd, Muscatine, Iowa: "Will you please announce in VOM,,,that I am resigning - from fandom."

LOUIS RUSSELL CHAUVENET, 1920 Thomson Rd, Charlottesville, Va: "A Vomissive. ´´Larry Shaw's idea that women are entitled to special consideration, and that a woman, if evil, should not receive the same treatment which would be meted out to an evil man, is to my mind folly. The age of so-called chivalry is past; with equal privileges, women must accept equal responsibilities. Indeed. why not? ´´ This humble one is desolated at the news his last epistle bored Tom Wright. Honorable seppuku is indicated; farewell, cruel world, good-bye. Or. no, on second thought I don't think I'll kill myself today; I'm too busy and can't spare the time. Perhaps I can attend to it within the next hundred years, tho; all is not lost. ´´ I was amused, but withal a little saddened, to see my good friend Moffatt bravely advancing the familiar thesis that atheists & agnostics are such only because of ignorance. How that old delusion still survives to comfort those of religious mind! You must know, Len, that I was brought up as a Catholic, with all the 'advantages' of Sunday School, communion, confirmation, & all the rest." Later spent 2 yrs at a Jesuit college. In consequence, not only familiar with old & new testaments, but has studyd Roman Catholic Church's position in its efforts to assert its authority as the one true church of Christ. Combining all this with independent thot & study of the non-ecclesiastical viewpoint has resulted in his having no more faith in the literal truth of everything in the Bible than the Egyptian "Book of the Dead", Mohammedan "Koran", or any such. ´´ Admires Moff's adherence to Christian principles. As ethical & filosofical system, C. has definite appeal to Elarcy; as an organized religion, thinks it's force doing almost as much evil as good; in past, balance more heavily on evil side than now, since Church has lil temporal power at presentime. ´´ Moffatt surely ryt in saying he wishes to destroy evil in people, not people themselves; but Elarcy's point was: organized chunches have not always been of that opinion! The Inquisition... ´´ "It is the merit of science fiction that it aids greatly in opening up new vistas to the imagination; we learn of worlds beyond our earth and solar system, and of innumerable races of beings both far and alien. We read speculations on the ultimate fate of the human race, which show us our true place in the cosmos, and point the lesson that all we can hope to obtain must be by our own efforts. The effect of all this is to sweep the mind clean of the comfortable but hampering delusion that we are the Chosen of God, his special care & pride, etc., and that the whole universe has nothing higher than we save perhaps the angels. This is why science fiction fans in general are non-religious; they may well believe in a God beyond infinity, but they cannot return to the cramped confines of an orthodox creed. So Moffat is an exception; yet, from what he says, it might seem that the attractions Christianity hold for him lie more in its ethics and philosophy than its mystical doctrines, which he may also accept." But asks Len to consider if an ethical doctrine is effective & good, it will not need any supernatural enforcement. "The photo Vomermaid on the Feb. cover seemed neither sexy nor especially attractive; I was surprised to note strenuous protests. She isn't a hag, 2j, and hardly lewd, Len! ´´ Rennison's letter reminds me: what would be the reaction of US fans if one tried to set up a branch of that delightful British organization, the SPC? ((Socy for Propagation of Coitus--minors please refer to a dictionary & don't ask your parents what that funny word in Vom means.)) There's no doubt in my mind that the "furriners" are by & large more emotionally & psychologically mature than US fans." ##

A repeat appearance from one the "advanced furriners", DOUG WEBSTER, who rote from Scotland on 29 Mar: "Gee. One most bee-utiful cover. ´´ It leaves you with a hunger for more, much more. Pity you couldn't have had a larger proportion of English fans. In a scrabbling desire to crash VOM, I'll have a snap of me taken at once. Even the Vomermaiden is a luscious piece of work, & displays a delicious touch of humour. I note the V-for-Victory patch meticulously placed where it will stir up the greatest amount of lust among your customers; good for you." Didnt notice the flashy Tomcro display til had examined all the other pix, indicating the future citizens featured around it far more important than that superficial aspect of things to come. Or they will be mighty good citizens (like Milty or Birchby or Turner, for instance) "once they've given up their science-fictional delusions & taken a bite out of life. ´´ I rise on my hind legs with a couple of good hearty cheers. One for Arthur Young, who's the goods - though I disagree with quite a bit of what he says. And one for the Prof's delicious nude. Her expression is nothing sort of masterly." ´´ Misses old names...doesnt see often enuf such as Speer, Milty, Lowndes, Carnell, Widner, Youd..."and no fights. Gad, can't we have some really juicy fights? ´´ Secondly, am I the only dope in all fandom who isn't interested in the Cause, in forming clubs, in forming national associations, in preserving the Unity of Fandom, in spreading the gospel of stf, in Getting Together & Doing Things? It all makes me slightly sick. What the Hell ? Can't the kids relax and just live fairly normal lives ? Why all this crusading ? It seems to be the fashion again for fans to act like they were a mass of repressions, aping the Messiah." ((And This Goes On for a goodly footage, the essence of which is "Why get so het up about such a footling thing as stf ?" ((Well, Art Widner, for whom U have expressed an admiration, has given one ansr to that earlier in the ish. Do Evans or Tackett or Connor, for instance, wish to respond at greater length to our anarchist across the Pond; or praps Trudy Kuslan side with the Webs)) ´´ "Cf Fortier. This is indeed a wondrous specimen of humanity: I am fascinated by it. Of the three possibilities he gives, personally I'd say he was a dope; because otherwise he should obviously realise what he's saying one week, & what he says the next; which he doesn't seem to. He should try regarding himself dispassionately, I think. Like most fans, it can truly be said of him that he should know better. That applies to me too, of course. ´´ On condensing letters, I can only say that if you print mine without condensing, you'll need a hell of a lot of Voms to do it in!" Liked the pic of Tig but doesnt like the devilady herself. Thinks she might profitably try growing up for a change. Got a beautiful laff out of EESmith: "he seems to be just like his stories." And concludes: "I weep over the last of the green ink."

Joe Cthulhu's brother, Harry PHTHOLOGNYRRH (pronounced Turner) - artist of the above, sends along a letter dated 2 Mar 42 from 41 Longford Pl, Victoria, Manchester, Eng. Bfor we begin quoting, we're noting the still-lifted eyebrows over PHTHOLOGNYRRH & the casual translation, Turner. Howy Well it's very simple & quite legitimate. Phth: T, as in phthisic. Olo: ur, as in colonel. Gn: n, as in repugn. And yrrh: er, as in myrrh. Satisifyd? '' Not being acquainted with the British stencil & whetner it'd fit our American make mimeo, we sent Harry several of our own stencils in requesting a drawing. About 3 wks later, when we practicly had forgot about them or unconsciously thot of them as nearing their destination, they turnd up back at Bx 6475 mark 1 1/2c due! Of all the -#!¿' things to do! So we stuck the xtra postage on and hastily remaild it. Few days later, back again. Stamp fell off or some darn thing. Meantime, Turner has revd letter advising stencils on way, wonders where on earth or under the Atlantic they are. Eventually: "How do you guys manage to draw on these godawful stencils? British stencils are sensible; they're white and if you draw on them using a carbon backing sheet, it's easy to see what you're up to. But with yours . . . well, you're working in the dark all the time - literally & metaphorically! It took a bit of getting used to, but I think my first effort is passable." Passable? Well-nigh unsurpassable! pal, from what we can make out on the stencil. And no one who's seen the stencil has been able to pass her by or Turner way, ravers including the Daughertys, Pogo, Freehafer, Willmorth. If this is the way U draw in the dark...LET THERE BE LITE!

DAVE & FIGGIRR

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