

Life's Many Sides

Bunny and all that

By TON THAT THIEN

«Oh, boy! Look at this?», someone shouted in our office. Then another joined in the shouting: «But she doesn't look it!»

That shouting distracted me from my work. So I looked up and asked: «Look at what? Who's she? And what doesn't she look like?»

There was some confusion following my questions. After a while, quiet came back to the room, and the first man said: «Haven't you seen Bunny?» «No», I said. «Couldn't you see that I was busy writing about her?» (Bunny was arriving, so the wires said). But my colleague pleaded: «Stop writing for a minute and take a look at her! That would improve your writing!»

«You mean the contrary?», I replied. But I took a look at the pictures all the same. It sure was worth it.

But, then, the second man wailed: 'But she doesn't look it!' 'Look what?', I asked. The man scratched his head and, with a long face, said: 'She doesn't look like the one I saw in PLAYBOY'!

So that was it! She probably had too much clothes on in the picture, whereas in the magazine, she had too little. So I thought, and said, and my second colleague agreed.

The next question was: what was my second colleague going to do about it? And I asked him that cruel question, well realising the effect of it on him. That left him persive. He must be thinking about Price and his mates, and the whole 173rd, which may be paralysed for the whole duration of the presence of Jo Collins here...

«You don't think they will pinch her and slap at her on the behind, do you?», someone asked. Quite a question! I replied that the boys of the 173rd might do that to their pin-ups, but not to a real bunny. «Here, look» I said, «the wires say she gave that fellow Hudson a kiss, and he blushed so much that one couldn't see the red of her lipstick on him.»

«What a lucky man Price is», the man said. If she kissed Hudson that way, who was not the real winner, what is it going to be with Price! (That would make him rise up and walk right out of the hospital immediately). And I guess he was right.

But I added, «why don't you try?; after all it costs only 175 backs!». But the man replied: «Last year, it would have been all right, but now...»

«What do you mean NOW», I asked.

«Well, you see, last year, 175 backs would have cost me 6,125 piastres. That is one month's salary. Even at the 73 piastres rate, it would still be accessible: that would be 12,775 or double my salary. Now at the rate of 118 piastres to the dollar, a subscription for life would cost me 20,720 piastres, three times my salary! All Tet is approaching. Oh hell!»

And, so, 173rd brigade, keep your Bunny, and be happy. I am sure Bunny will be very happy, too, to have brought a lot of sunshine to the boys here. Of course that is only a way of speaking, for it is snowing like hell in the States and on top of that, there is the transport strike in New York. So it is better still to be in the rubber plantations in Bien Hoa!

And one thing I am sure of too: instead of one, we shall have two or three copies of 'Playboy' at our office...

A poetical supplement to

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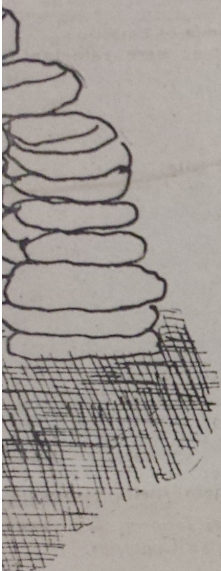
(Offered free of charges, as a public service)

By TON THAT THIEN

TO BUNNY

(A poem in BLANK VERSES on behalf of an unknown GI)

Dear Bunny, many thanks to thee.



nd to Nam

By WILLIAM STEVENSON

extension of the war a sombre back-ground e-in-front-cried-back» Peking's assertion that

President Johnson embarked upon a diplomatic offensive on four fronts to end the war, President Ho's message was received in South-East Asia with considerable dismay.

Communist proposals for a cease fire in Vietnam during local New Year celebrations one week hence did not diminish the sense of outrage that Peking's hard-line policy continues to push the Vietnamese deeper into bloodshed. The communists have made similar suggestions annually for the past seven years and just as regularly broke the resulting truce arrangements.

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