
FIRST DRAFT #37

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starting Dave Van Arnam's seventh volume *sigh* of this interminably on-stencil-ge-written nonsense which talks too much of NY IN '67 & the EASTERCON I

There's quite a spate of material these days examining the basic questions of World Conventions and Hugos and whatnot. Jack Chalker went into the Rotation Plan at great length in SAPS #69, Geo. Scithers has just done a historical analysis of convention regulations, for the Cult, and Dick Lupoff has 4 pages in the current Apa F mlg on Hugos.

Chalker points out some interesting anomalies in the rotation system. If Syracuse shd acquire the necessary 3/4ths majority and get the con in the East in '66, Baltimore wd then still bid again for '67, hoping to also get 3/4 (since it wd be a con in '66 mostly attended by Eastcoasters) of the vote and again take the rotation away from the Midwest. Then, he points out, the rotation wd revert once more to the Midwest in '68 -- and in '69, it wd again be the East coast's turn, under the normal rotation. At this point Chalker's point becomes a little confused, but it seems to boil down to the fact that the West Coast may well get the shaft for a number of years. His solution is that the '65 Business Session shd vote to repeal the Rotation Plan altogether.

On the other hand, he seems to think that NYC will support the Syracuse '66 bid out of simple geography and economics. Somehow I don't think he takes the NY in '67 bid seriously, for I shd think it wd be obvious that it wd cut our throats if we tried to have two cons in a row in New York state.

He also says, a few pages later, "Yes, the Fanoclasts are the only other 1937 bidders, but considering the lack of solidarity among NY groups, the past history of NY cons, and the personalities involved, I think we can lick them. My worry isn't a '67 floor fight but the 1966 bid ((i.e., the Syracuse/'66 bid))." Well, there it is in cold print, gang. All things considered, I think our NY Bulletin, with Ted's suggestion to make it something of a newszine, will be about the best antidote to this sort of attitude. Jack Chalker will be taking us seriously, anon, I think...

One other thing he says..."The Lunacon, next April, is reported to be a 2-day affair. The Lunarians have been putting on remarkably good conferences for the past few years (marred only by the lack of decent post-con parties) ((my emphasis)) and I welcome the expansion and will be there again as usual." Heh-heh, I hope he enjoys the EASTERCON,...

I had some things in the back of my mind to comment on, concerning the Scithers & Lupoff pieces, but I'm not feeling too well and I don't seem to be able to think out exactly what I want to pay. More later, I guess.

THEY LAUGHED WHEN WE BID FOR THE WORLDCON...and then we unfurled Perdita's magnificent banner at the Phillycon. I think that banner is going to be responsible for about 1/3 of the total votes we get. I really don't have words to say how much it gassed me. John's establishment of an OBJETS D'ART committee post seems highly justified, under the circumstances. Perdita Boardman for the Fanoclasts Award!

Null-Q Press

Undecided Publication #70

I was talking on the phone with Ted about Chalker's article in SAPS. "By the way, Ted, Pelz pulled a neat trick this mailing." "Oh, what was that," answered Ted guardedly. "Well, you know it was the 69th mailing?" "Mmmm," said Ted judiciously. "Well, rich brown said his copy of the mlg wasn't bound, but mine was -- in reverse! Wow, hey?"

"Mmm. How was it bound?" "You don't get the picture, Ted. It was bound back to front. It was the 69th Mailing. Right?" "Sure, but how was it bound?" "I just said. It was a great joke. Back to front. 69. Not so?" "Gee, you're obtuse today, Van Arnam -- how was it bound?"

I sighed to myself. There was obviously a communications problem here somewhere. "Well, Ted, it was in three sections..." "But how?" "And they were each in reverse order..." "I understand that." "And that's it, that's all." "But how? Stapled? In a binder? Sewn? How was it bound together? What process?"

"Oh," I said. "That's what you mean. It was stapled, with a half-sheet of stiff paper wrapped around the spines."

"In reverse order."

"Yes," I guess I'm not very good at explaining; it's too much work being a fannish wit anyway. I'm going to go back to arguing about the Boondoggle or something.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE MIDWEST? I see that Cleveland and Detroit are bedding together for the '66 consite. I am having trouble visualizing this. I see everybody registering in Cleveland on Friday, Saturday morning everybody piles into highspeed racing cars and airplanes and drive and fly like crazy to Detroit, Sunday morning the same thing back to Cleveland, and Monday back to Detroit. This cannot be what they have in mind, but it's what I think could ruin their bid...or maybe not.

I suppose, tho, that the Fanoclasts should definitely support the -- the what, the DeClention (pronounced 'declension') ? -- midwest bid in opposition to Syracuse. We certainly oppose Syracuse's bid, don't we? I don't see fandom supporting two New York conventions in a row not nohow, not no way, never.

The flyers handed out by Syracuse were interesting, and quite impressive in one case -- the hotel plan. That's one of the first things we shd put into the Bulletin, I think, once we get it finally settled which hotel we will use. I can't fault Syracuse's point that there shd be some real competition involved in bidding for the Worldcon. It would seem that if Cleveland/Detroit really wants '66, they're going to have to do somewhat more than they've done to date. I disremember me at the moment whether the VirginVention bid is for '66, but I seem to recall it is. Actually, tho I suppose these out of rotation bids are good for competition, they do contain within them, as Chalker pointed out, the seeds for doing a certain amount of damage to the rotation system. Besides, I don't want to go to Syracuse or the Virgin Islands. (For that matter, I don't want to go to Baltimore either, but that's another matter.)

I have a feeling I may fold both my mailing comments zines and concentrate entirely on FIRST DRAFT and maLaise. I know that I have mentioned this off and on for several weeks now, but it's a Big Decision, and you've got to expect repetition in a weekly apa anyway. Hoping you are the sane...

-- dgV