
A Personal Statement On The Breen Boondoggle

distributed to readers of Minac, SAPS, and possibly FAPA -

At this sitting I have destroyed four beginnings for this 'article' or whatever. I can only say that B--- D----- and crew have done their monstrous work well: the distortions and innuendo so thick, the lies so cuttingly cruel, that the mind boggles. The task of setting all things straight again seems impossible in any trying. One thing which should (but doesn't) smooth the way is the quantity of soft-soap that has been bubbling up in the fan press and in recent correspondence I had; soft soap may be smooth, but it's not really very palatable.

It comes in one form as a 'poll' from Eney, so loaded as to pre-whitewash the committee's act. It comes in another form as a letter from the West. "I hope you aren't being carried away by the hysteria of White and Gerber," it says, "Ted in particular always feels that everything is done from personal (and low, in his view) motives rather than circumstantial necessity." This may or may not be a true picture of Ted (let him argue it), but it doesn't happen to be valid in this case; not if one remembers B--- D-----'s quasi-quote of Danny Curran which explained the action: "You know I have homosexual friends. But I think Walter's a shit. And this is a handy club to hit him with." So excuse me for not buying the bit; I'm afraid it just doesn't sound like 'circumstantial necessity' to me. In fact, I'd even go so far as to say it sounds to me as if the whole thing were done for personal (and low, in my view) motives.

I'm not fighting these things now -- I may be soon. Walter knows better than I just which things are true and which are not; I am offering him space in my FAPA and SAPS zines to defend himself there if he wishes.

Nonetheless, I think I should make my position entirely clear. I think B--- D----- is a shit and nearly always have; but it is the other people who have been throwing darts at Breen's back, people who have been friends of mine, that have disturbed me. I have been in fandom for seven and a half years, I came in at the WSFS hassle and since then I've sometimes felt that fandom has had more suits than Robert Halls; I have seen all manner of backstabbing and dirty tricks. But I have never seen a campaign as low, as deliberately designed to hurt as many people as possible, as this campaign which is being conducted against Walter Breen. So while Walter and I disagree on many points, he has my endorsement because I feel that he, not the con committee, is right; I repudiate those who, close friends though they may have been, are now swimming in a morass of DNQ in attempts to justify their actions.

I can only speak for myself. I did not have a Pacificon II membership to give up. I have informed the committee that I do not intend to join; and I urge all who feel as I do to take like actions: unless Walter's membership is returned and a proper apology is offered, I, for one, would just as soon see the Pacificon reap the reward of non-attendance for the committee's irresponsible actions. Though I suppose the monster fans will attend regardless.

I have a big mouth: I intend to voice my objections in SAPS and in FAPA, to write magazine and fanzine, fan and pro alike, to do everything in my power to dissuade them from supporting the convention and to get them to urge others to do likewise.

Further, I go into print against the FAPA blackball being organized simultaneously against Walter. As far as I know, Bruce Pelz heads this and he is backed by B--- D----- and F.M. Busby. This is further proof to me that the action taken was for personal rather than circumstantially necessary reasons; of all the charges leveled against Walter, none of them have any but a personal bearing on his possible FAPA membership -- even if they were true, which has been most emphatically denied. I oppose this action and urge others to oppose it also.

There may be no good way to begin articles like this, but there is a good way to end them: by taking action. Please do.