

This is as ever Dave Van Arnam, or "Ohio Slim," here to tell you that it was a Hellofan Eastercon and Lunacon this year, but that he is not going to go into a whole bunch of detail because if he does that he is going to make it into an article for to sooth Arniekatz's ruffled feathers (in that I have never so much as sent an loc either to EXCALIBUR or QUIP).

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FIRST DRAFT #110

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I will, I trust, be forgiven for a certain mismanagement in the matter of pronouns in the previous paragraph. I am \*minacing\* again this issue. For it seems that I am entering a new stage of my fannish existence. I have decided to be serious about professional writing. (I'm not gonna drop FIRST DRAFT, tho, so don't get the wrong idea.)

Mainly I decided this when, earlier this week, I found myself planning to do something about my membership in OMPA. I got in OMPA two mailings ago on the basis of having applied to the wl and sending a few high-number FIRST DRAFTs to the powers that be. I thot it wd be Very Nice to be in OMPA, to get to know a bunch of fans that otherwise I wd not get to know at all, etc. Well, I've gotten two mlgs now, and I have to now have 12 pages in the next mlg or I'm \*out\*, which is quite reasonable. Well, then, there I was, saying to myself that one of the things to do this weeknd was to bat out 12 stencils for OMPA. It shdn't be too difficult; I just did a 34-page SAPSzine and published a 42-page TAPS artificial satellite, and so forth.

Wonderful. Then I got to thinking. I've got two fantasy novels in mind (Ace-type sword& sorcery but as good as I can make it, not just for the money; I've always wanted to write s&s); Ted & I are brainstorming a series of novelettes for a possible market to Fred Pohl; the Gothic will be coming up very soon; I'm also going thru my great stacks of poetry and attempting to cull out enough stuff I'm satisfied with to make up a 50 to 100 page book, to send off perhaps to Macmillan's series; and I've got some other writing ideas that have been hanging fire for long periods of time.

Now there is only so much time in a weekend (usually 48 hours, is the way it tends to work out...), and if I spend the time necessary to cut 12 stencils for OMPA I may or may not have enough time & energy left to work on fiction.

So I have made a Decision. Apart from FIRST DRAFT, which I do almost invariably in the dead space Friday evenings before the meetings, I am going to insist to myself that I do no fanwriting until I have done a stint of pro writing -- more precisely, that I allow myself to do one fan stencil for roughly every two pages of double-space reasonably final prose-for-sale.

I suppose that might sound a little Pretentious or something, but I've got to reinforce my own decision somehow, and this seems like a moderately good way of doing it. This may mean no more 12-page TAPSletters, and a curtailment of my jiant SAPS projects, and dropping out of OMPA after all, etc., but it seems the only sensible way I can devise to balance fandom as Hobby and as Way Of Life. Actually, fandom has become a way of life to me -- not that that bothers me; the point is that there needs to be space for other ways of life too...   And I am hoping you are the sane...

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