

As soon as Dave Van Arnam, yhos of 1730 Harrison Ave, Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453, finishes this issue of FD, he is going to run the rest of NYCon Comics, Issue #2 -- which, as you all no doubt know by now, will go free, but only to those members of the NYCon who have joined by the time the First Progress Report comes out (about the middle of the month).

FIRST DRAFT #138

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It's what's happening! NYCon!

Progress Report #1, by the way, will be 12 pages (offset on Null-Q Press, of course), which may well be a record for PR's #1, tho I'm not betting my co-chairmanship on it. There are a lot of ads, and a lot of informative text -- so if you want to get in on the action now, join now, huh? We're not planning on trying to make this the biggest convention of all time (in fact, we'd love it if it were smaller in attendance than Tricon), but we are going to try to make it the best convention.

One way you can help us is to JOIN NOW.

Some impatient people have been asking us when they get their membership cards. Well, they'll be going out with the first Progress Report. We think you'll find them quite attractive; Al Schuster, who owns Aton Offset, is printing the cards -- the office tabletop here is a nice little machine, but it can't handle cards and envelopes -- and though we had decided on doing the card in one color to cut down costs (two color work is expensive!), Al, out of the goodness of his kind and gentle heart, decided to throw in the second color free.

Al is also imprinting two sizes of envelopes for the NYCon, the larger of which will be used for the PRs; he's also making all our plates, which is good, because the guy who made the plates for NYCon Comics before did not do justice to all of Ted's beautiful screens, while Al is fanatically careful with such things.

All in all, things are coming along right well at this stage of the game.

DEPT OF BIG MONEYMAKING SCRIPTWRITING: So far Van Arnam Associates have failed to make a penny off our scriptwriting activities. But the producer is flying to Europe tonite, carrying with him a four page outline I dropped off this afternoon, and he will be cabling his office as to his decision, "presently." *sigh* It sure wd be nice to get a contract out of these people some day...

DEPT OF CONTRACTED NOVELS, STUCK HALFWAY DIVISION: Actually, I'm not stuck, at least in the sense that I'm by no means thrashing around unable to get past a certain point. Mainly, all this script stuff, plus a neat batch of three minor but debilitating illnesses in a row (plus my Cultzine, my SAPSzine, my TAPSzine, the Shadow FAPA mlg, NYCON Comics, the Progress Report #1...aughhh!) have managed to make it all but impossible for me to concentrate on STAR GOODGIE (I never can remember the blasted title) for more than a page or so at a time.

The trouble with being a professional writer, I've found, is that you have to work... Yea, verily, I have discovered a Truth. (Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you broke...)

Null-Q Press (NRP)
Undecided Publication #227

RP::22
IF::(?)

SHATTERED DREAMS OF GLORY DEPT: For those of you who've seen me go thru this before, I beg your indulgence; I have a Plan. I have published: 1 genzine (not counting poor old Dark Universe back in 1952); 8 SAPSazines (SAPrise!); 6 Cultzines (The Jug Of Doubtful Joy); 3 miscellaneous Shadow FAPAZines; 1 Tapzine (TT 11, The Eleventh Hour); 1 TAPS fractional (Shole); 2 oneshots (OLD SOCK & ARROW) -- a total of 22 nonweekly publications. My four weekly publications make up the rest of the 227 zines listed as Undecided Publications on the first page of this issue. (Two Notes: the genzine of course was JARGON, and there were several combined issues of FD and maLaise which futzed up the UP totals.)

Let us consider this situation more closely. If it weren't for FIRST DRAFT, and the subsequent torrent of weekly fanzines, including three additional weekly titles of my own, there wd be a lot less fanzines to my credit -- and to the credit of most of you who will be reading this, whether you're in New York or Los Angeles (subscribers don't count because as of now I have no subscribers, which may be partly due to the fact that I've neglected to try to get any...).

I sought to remedy the obvious inequity of this by devising the Index Factor, or IF, which, one of these days, I am going to get around to figuring out for my own publications.

This has worked pretty well, and has been picked up by a few people (with relatively high IFs, for the most part).

But it occurs to me that there is still a skew factor, because just to look at one's publication number and IF does not tell the whole story. For instance, I was rather appalled to realize I'd only published 22 Real fanzines (Note: this figure subject to slight revision upon double-checking for one or two other titles I may have forgotten). It made me Pause/To Think.

And this is what I thought:

Ok, I've got 227 Undecided Publications. ((Hey, wow!))

And I've got 22 Realpubs (tentatively, and holding). ((Braaaaack!))

So, does anyone out there in Fandomland care to join me in this effort to take a little more of the Shine and Glory out of the ever-multiplying long lists of publication numbers? Bear in mind that it will benefit as well as take away -- Bruce Pelz, for instance, tho he will lose over a hundred titles in his Realpub listing, will still have one of the largest lists of publications going (MENACE OF THE LASFS wd not, I shd think, count as a weekly publication even if at times it has been, partly because I have just made up a New Ruling right on the spot -- titles that may be weekly, or may have been weekly, but which predate FIRST DRAFT, the unhappy precursor of the Present Chaos, shall be eligible as Realpubs).

Takers, anyone?

((Additional Interpretations: Basically, a fanzine wd not be considered for Realpub credit if it were produced regularly for either Apa F or Apa L; Ted Pauls' KIPPLE, did he publish five straight weekly issues, wd still be a Realpub, therefore. This is not to be construed to mean that a zine is not a Realpub just because it has appeared in a weekly apa; one shd have the option to distribute one's more general zines in any fashion one desires...))

Hoping you are the sane... -- dgv