

QUOTE OF THE, ER, WEEK DEPT: "Dave VAN ARNAM ist nicht nur einer der gern gesehensten Gaste auf jeder Party rundum, er ist ebensolange wie Ted WHITE im Fandom. Dave ist ein zuverlässiger Typ, sein gegenwärtiges wöchentliches Fanzine FIRST DRAFT halt den Rekord der langsten wöchentlichen ununterbrochenen Erscheinungsweise. Ein wichtiger weiterer Punkt, der Dave für jedes Con-Komitee besonders begert macht: Dave ist von Beruf Drucker." -- Tom Schlueck, STREIFLICHTER 7/8 (Alfred Beha, Editor), in a two-page rundown of the NYCon 3 committee and, apparently, of our activities at the TRICON. I can't read German, but it sure is Nice to see one's beloved name in print even in such alien surroundings...

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BERUF DRUCKER #148

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DEPT OF RAW PORNOGRAPHY: I mildly overflobbered Ted White on the phone the other day. My message was simple -- two Marcus Van Heller books have appeared in the Porno Shops of NYC. Whoever this guy really is, he is the author of at least two Olympia Press sex specials, and they are the real hard-core stuff. The two that are out are ROMAN ORGY (Brandon House #2014, 180p, \$1.25) and THE HOUSE OF BORGIA (Greenleaf Classic #GC216/GC217, 2 vol, 336p, continuous pagination, 75¢ ea). Of the two, the Borgia seems considerably raunchier, tho the Roman book has some pretty explicit stuff. Of course, I'm rather a student of good ol' Cesare Borgia anyway, so I prefer the Hamling production. At any rate, these may not be on the stands too long, so Be Warned...

Why do I give a bunch of publicity to some books of second-rate pornography? Well, for one thing, I happen not to believe there is anything in the least harmful about so-called "smut," no matter how strong it is. Lin Carter once said in SPECTRUM that "Nobody was ever hurt by a book," which I think may be overstating a jot (DAS KAPITAL, MEIN KAMPF, DICK AND JANE readers, EARLY PROSE WORKS OF SAM MOSKOWITZ, each painful in their various historical and literary facets...); but I think as a general statement it is probably the fairest guideline available.

There is a theory, which I hope is gaining acceptance, as it is eminently sensible; it holds that pornography provides a positive gain for society, in that by its very nature it drains off those antisocial drives that otherwise would result in mass rape in front of the Times Tower. Your average would-be sex criminal is probably going to get about four pages into Vol. 1 of THE HOUSE OF BORGIA before he starts whacking away, and when he is finished he is, most likely, not going to go charging out into the streets to bang the first helpless grandmother he can find. He won't have the need to. The better the porno, the more satisfying the experience, and our Sex Criminal will be even less likely to Go Out Into The Streets, etc.

Thus, it can only be a positive good to society that a greater range of pornography is constantly being made available, and thus it is that I enter plugs for Real Dirty Books in FIRST DRAFT. Go thou and do likewise, gang, before the professional smut-sniffers at the P.D. get wise and make another forlorn try at Cleaning Up New York.

I have a number of other topics at hand to discuss -- Harlan Ellison, DRAGNET 1967, THE MARIJUANA PAPERS, STAR TREK -- but Cindy is here in the office and wants to take her to dinner. ☐☐ Hoping you are the sane...

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Null-Q Press  
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