

Dave Van Arnam, who still lives in
sin The Bronx (at 1730 Harrison Ave.,
Apt 353, Zip 10453), keeps screwing
up his numbering system, if anybody
cares -- all those Vol.-and-No. num-
bers over there at the right that no
one pays any attention to, even myself.
They serve an occasional purpose, how-
ever, when I fear that my issue number-
ing is also off. But this is a funda-
mentally unprofitable discussion. Arnie Katz wd sneer. How do I know
this? ~~Arnie Katz always sneers.~~ Arnie Katz does not like me to waste
great stretches of my time and your eyes on what he considers fundamen-
tally unprofitable spacefilling. I am not entirely sure it is funda-
mentally unprofitable spaaefilling, but that becomes another line of
discourse.

FIRST DRAFT #149

Vol. 25, No. 5

20 Jan 67

DEPT. OF LINGUISTICS: Last issue led off with a quote in German in which
my name and this fanzine were mentioned. But I forgot to put in any of
the accent marks. Most likely this makes it impossible to read in
German. This is but another in a long line of illustrations as to why
such languages as German, full-up to here with accents in addition to
letters, may well be fundamentally non-survival. Or Something.

EARTHSHATTERING EVENT AT FISTFA DEPT: The FISTFA Meeting of 20 Jan 67
will have come and gone, [1] without me, [2] without FIRST DRAFT, [3] without
Cindy (numbers for reference, not for relative importance of indicated
phenomena...). To the best of my recollection the first two of these
events is totally unprecedented; the only meeting of either Friday group
I have missed was, as I recall, a Fanoclasts meeting held at John
Boardman's. I may, however, be mistaken about this; John may have been
holding a FISTFA meeting in one of Mike's infrequent absences. In which
case 20 Jan 67 will not be of a uniqueness in FISTFA history afterall.
sigh

But I haven't, in that case, missed a Fanoclasts meeting since I began
attending them at Ted's (and only one or two since I first started atten-
ding at Lin's back in 1961).

This may be mildly frightening. It indicates a better-than-51-out-of-
52 meetings a year attended -- for six years! (NOTE TO TRADITIONALISTS:
You will of course recall that the FISTFA meettngs are where Mike is, so
the Westercon treks do not count as missed meetings; by analogy, the same
is true of Fanoclasts -- i.e., that there is a rump meeting wherever
the regular host happens to be, which lets me off the hook for all those
weekend trips that would otherwise count as missed meetings; what this
boils down to is Fanac Is Fanac, and I have Fanned continuously since
early 1961... I may vomit...)

CINDY HEAP DEPT: Cindy is always asking me to say something about her in
FIRST DRAFT, and I have usually not managed to get around to this, on the
not unreasonable assumption (as it seems to me) that a casual mention is
not sufficient recognition, and that I usually don't have time to do the
6 page issue that proper treatment of the subject (even superficially)
would require... But maLaise lovers the world over will be pleased to
know that that title may well be revived once more in the near future,
dedicated mostly to her column, which may well be titled "Cindy: Eller".
☐☐☐ Hoping she is the sane...

-- dgv

Null-Q Press
Undecided Publication #239

RP: :24H
IF: : (?)

Last issue I (Dave Van Arnam, address
overside) failed to draw a couple of
conclusions I had intended to, and in
the process also omitted why we missed
the FISTFA meeting last week.

TINKER BELL
FIRST DRAFT #150

Vol. 25, No. 6

27 Jan 67

Well, it's because the new AVENGERS
has been thoughtfully rescheduled for
Friday, 10 PM, and I refuse, absolutely,
to miss it. Ted has already stated with
a commendable firmness that the Fanoclasts will be watching THE AVENGERS
whether they want to or not, tho not in those precise words. (Why, asks
the curious bystander, why don't you go to the FISTFA meeting after THE
AVENGERS, like Ted and LeeH & the Meisners and, no doubt, a whole host
of others over the years to come? The answer is that I have a profound
antipathy to going from the Bronx to West 16th St after 11 PM at night.
Brethren & Sisteren, it a long ghoddam subway ride for that time of
night, and I am Very Very Lazy.)

Also (to get momentarily out of that last parenthetical morass, only to
fall, as is my wont, directly into another one) it provided a good moti-
vation for me to do something I shd have probably done some time ago --
cut down a little on my long-term fannish habits. I have a bad habit of
letting habits become obsessive (if you'll forgive the prosodical lapse),
and it has begun to show as a bad influence on my quite serious intention
of becoming a well-sold sf writer by the end of 1967.

I mean, I've finally gotten completely sick and tired of actually working
for a living, and just now it looks like writing is the only alternative.
Not a bad one, either, when you're in the groove -- Tuesday Ted told me
he'd signed contracts for two new books, and earlier this afternoon Lin
called to mention he'd just sold two books today...how groovy it is to
be part of the Fanoclasts' version of the Futurians' famous storming of
the professional ranks a quarter of a century ago...

Vilely phrased, that. Will I ever write good final-draft prose?...

One way I have tried to break the fannish chains that bind me, by the
way, is that I Missed The SAPS Mailing -- I had intended to construct a
string of all-mailings-hit-since-becoming-a-member, but as time grew
short it suddenly came to me: what a wonderful way to rid myself of a
fundamentally unproductive obsession! Miss a mailing and feel the
weight lift from off my shoulders...

Of course, I'll lose points in the Pillar Poll, but if you're striking
for that big Pillar Poll up in the sky (the Hugo, that is...), one must
first establish priorities...

Of course, I'm not going to drop FIRST DRAFT. Some things are sacred,
after all. I don't care what Arnie Katz says...or Alan Shaw, for that
matter; Alan called up last night from Cambridge Mass, and in the course
of conversation repeated almost thought-for-thought the substance of
Arnie's criticisms of FIRST DRAFT. I guess this zine is no ghoddam
Tinker Bell.

I just decided this issue is, however; which is why the unlovely heading.
Rejoice, out there, all you who Believe in FIRST DRAFT...er, anybody
there? Anywhere? ? ?? ??? *sigh* Hoping you are the sane...

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-- dgV

RP::24H
IF::(?)