

Ever since I started FIRST DRAFT back in early 1964, I have had it in my mind to make it available by subscription. So far, I have successfully avoided this temptation, even when Andy Porter finally made DEGLER!

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There was the matter of the work involved. There was the little matter of my being a professional science fiction writer who occasionally wd put chunks of work-in-progress into FD (if I give FD away, it's a manuscript-extension; protected by what little seems to remain of common-law copyright; if I sell it, it means actually registering it and paying money and all that goddam Federal stuff, so that the Immortal Works remain properly protected).

St Louis Is Good For You....

But Andy Porter has finally persuaded me to help him put out SFW -- doing the addressing, basically, and seeing that the envelopes get stamped, and using the office folding machine to save him having to fold 200 copies by hand each week. Why not, then, I said to myself, send FD along with SFW, from time to time, just for the hell of it, and when I happen to have a good issue? Because of the amount of paper involved, I answered immediately, upholding my reputation at quick and perceptive repartee.

But what the hell. Starting this issue, I guess I'll go ahead with it. This fanzine, however, for the time being is not for sale. Back issues are, for the time being, not available. Future issues cannot be guaranteed, because it may be too much work. In short, FD is available much like any other fanzine whose editor doesn't want to futz with money -- i.e., on the editor's sufferance.

However, if it's reviewed, I won't scream bloody murder.

And one of these days when I sell a few more books and can afford it, I'll start offering genuine subscriptions.

GENUINE COLOPHON ACCEPT NO OTHERS DEPT: This revoltingly long-time weekly fanzine is written almost invariably on-stencil by Dave Van Arnam, who can from time to time be found at 1730 Harrison Ave, Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453, and might best be described as some ghoddam sort of personal diary which I have gotten into the habit of doing; topics range from science fiction itself, yet, to fandom, to me, to you, to politics (oh, boy, politics; remind me to tell you all over again about why I'm a Nixon Republican), to psychedelics, to...whatever I want to write about. It is always available to attendees of the Fanoclasts, and has begun being once more available to participants of Apa L, and may fairly well regularly be available to subscribers to SFW. You can't buy it. But SFW is available from Andy Porter at some ridiculous price like 12/\$1 or 15/\$1. This colophon is too long.

SCOOP ~~DEGLER!~~ SCIENCE FICTION WEEKLY DEPT: Famed science fiction writer Dave Van Arnam disclosed today that Pyramid Books is bringing out his LOST IN SPACE original novelization the middle of October. You shd all run right out, buy it, and read the middle story. And come December you shd all run right out again and start looking for a Belmont double, half of which will be famed science fiction writer Dave Van Arnam's STAR GLADIATOR, which he had fun writing.

Null-Q Press
Undecided Publication #281

STATESMANSHIP DEPT: The cry for unconditionally halting the bombing of North Viet Nam continues to increase both in the United States and around the world. It is said that the greatest nation on Earth shd be big enough to do this little thing, which wdn't cost it anything in prestige or tactical/strategic considerations.

And if we stop the bombing, Hanoi might talk peace with us, three or four weeks later.

Wow.

What if they don't start talking in three or four weeks?

It will cost American lives, that's what. I don't think there's any reputable person around who will assert that the bombing has not cut down on American casualties in South Viet Nam. Or rather, to get out from under that clumsy negative locution, let us say that if it were not for the bombing, more Americans wd be killed every day; the interdiction of supplies to the Viet Cong has hurt them, hurt them a great deal -- which is not the same thing as saying the bombing is winning the war for us. We're not winning the war. But the Viet Cong is no longer winning the war, either, and one big reason is the bombing. End the bombing, and supplies and troop replacements begin pouring southwards again.

Result: more Americans killed every day.

Ok, stop the bombing. Hope that Hanoi will come then to the peace conference table. And hope also that the additional Americans killed in South Viet Nam will find it possible to forgive you for their deaths if Hanoi does not come to the peace conference table.

And if Hanoi, then, does not respond to the bombing halt, will you then scream in protest if America resumes the bombing after a reasonable wait?

FEGHOOT LIVES! DEPT: Several centuries from now, at great personal expense and sacrifice, F.F. was able to construct a two-man inter-dimensional travel Machine, which proceeded to zip him and his great-great-great-grandson among the probability lines. "Watch closely, now," he admonished his elderly descendant eventually, "we're getting close to the central point from which all the lines spring away."

"I don't believe any of this," asserted his offspring defiantly. "Why, that thing out there looks like nothing so much as a gigantic female mammary gland. Preposterous."

"Tut, tut, my child," F.F. asserted calmly, as their craft settled down on the nipple. "Why, anyone can tell that this is the breast of all possible worlds!"

APA L DEPT: Incredible! Apa L is still going on! 153 weekly mailings, and no end in sight. It was quite a kick to see that many of the old standby contributors are still going strong; the only problem was that, having been away since #127 or so, I cdn't follow the discussions too closely as yet. Owell. FD is not an mc zine for Apa L; I'll have to revive maLaise. Yes. As soon as I remember whether I left off that weekly fanzine with #51, 52, 53, or 54. Yes. And with that, we come to the end of another issue of FD, and as the writer sinks slowly into the mimeo ink, we hear the last plaintive cry...hoping you are the sane!...