

2962 Santa Ana St.  
South Gate, Calif.  
Nov. 2, 1959

Dear John & crew,

Sorry the delay in writing you about REVOLUTION. It is a issue worthy of comment. But things have been normal since I've been back, and thus I haven't caught up on the six weeks of mail that piled up while we were in the East. I've still the August BAPA mailing unread.. -- This great meeting you at the Detention.. Only trouble with John's there are always too many people to talk to, that you never say much to anyone.. Hop you didn't take an aversion to fans in mass.

On first thought, Down With Everything, did not seem to be a clue that I could feel at home in....and yet I like to join things. But on looking at this issue I see that you do not really believe in down with everything.. Actually I gather you are more in line with a policy of WAITH (What Am I Doing Here?) But, what's in a name.. If you are willing, I would rather like to join too. It puts me in as nobly a group as I've been in since I joined Science Fiction International and found Richard J. Shaver was a member.. So of course you wont mind if I start out with a policy of Down with the membership of DWE? --- I would like a title that has something to do with money, too...if it can be arranged. Something like Chief Coin Counter....

There is so much material I shall comment on the main items first, and see how much space gets filled before detailed reaction. --Like Denouncement..about Pauls.. Your (editorial you, meaning both of you) last line of comment is the crux of the whole question. Merely being talked about does not make for lasting fame. I for one think/thought Pauls has a lot of talent. I do not know why he began sounding so cynical - and it is rather a disappointment. You yourself tread on thin ice with some of your remarks.. Most noticeably the statement that DM #5 was the first (and possibly only--at this date I can't remember if other comments apply to material that appeared in other issues) issue you had seen.. Yet couldn't write a review of a line he had only skimmed.. ----One can gain an opinion after reading only one issue, I grant you... But it doesn't pay to say that someone else can't.. And, along with Len Moffatt and a few others I find the liberal use of the word "fugghead" in poor taste.. It's a "loaded" word. ----If DM had not folded, which I atleast feel is a loss, though it certainly was not the type of letter zine I'd hope to see--there is little point of my stating my agreement with you on other points.

Regarding subs--about which there was much talk--I rather agree with Marion, but mainly feel that no one should announce a hard and fast rule, because there are too many exceptions.. There are many fans, such as Willis, who you would be foolish to cut off your list, even if they didn't comment every issue. For once they did write I would more than make up for it. (I know you said you weren't, I was just added my own thoughts anyway) But I

do think you ought to have a reasonably price on your fanzine, for people who can neither trade (like myself, as I have no zine) or have not the time to write letters of comment.. A price to put in reviews...as I believe when a fan you don't know well enough to have sent a copy to, writes and ask for one, he ought to be willing to pay for atleast that one... If you want to keep him on after that free-for-letters-of-comment, or what ever, that is another thing.. And, ofcourse when you get into the 120-pluss mailing regular, you will have good reason to trim your mailings to only active readers.

Last page comments by Art Hayes is a fine example of the danger of making broad sweeping generalities.. -- It was my error to not state what I meant by being "active" and "informed" about. By "active" I meant in the frame of reference of the currently popular fanzines --especially the Gen-zines. I atleast do not see his name very often in them, and I think I see most of them. And it is noted that it was the so-called "fanzine fans" that wanted to bring John over.. I know full well that one can be very active in the NFFF and not know anything about the people in the top ten of fandom... (And let me make it clear, I do not say members of the NFFF don't know --but that you can be a active member and not know.) ---as for being informed.. It's no disgrace to be poorly informed, but don't blame others for it. I'm poorly informed about what the Beat Generation stands for, but this is my own fault, for I haven't bothered to find out. and I'm not going to write a general denouncement of the movement, based on what little I know.. ---My feeling was that if Hayes knew the facts regarding the Barry Fund, he would not be against it... I was not making any slur, for he never have time to know all we should... But if he chooses to defend his lack of information on the grounds people could have told him, I find there is little I can say..... Marion, by the way, we might agree was wrong in her views about Barry.. but her remarks were based on well informed, personal opinion..

I've always thought of and maybe used the word "faaan" with an implied slur. Or like Tucker says.. the way I would use it in a story say, would be to have a fake or insurgent fan say, "He's a faaan," when referring to active "IAWOL" type fan.. It's sort of grown up goshwowboyoboy.. Though I don't see anything wrong with it myself. about the only time I'd use it is if a friend approached me with big fanac project that I was to lazy to be interest in helping... I might appreciate it by laughing and saying "But that's so faaanish."

I don't know why the big fuss about not believing in strand names.. Carl Brandon was a perfectly believable name, as was Joan Carr.... While who could believe names like Ferwilliger or Sneary.. And as I said about Underman, I believe in Dryb, because he fits the pattern of your being a fan..

With that I'm going to stop.. You'll have to except this as your pound of blood.. The rest of the issue I was in far greater agreement, and it was really well done mimeeing.. Hope more DNE pubs will be along...

Regards,