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FIRST DRAFT #5

Vol. I, No. 5

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being an on-stencil fanzine contrived  
by Dave Van Arnam mostly for the Fano-  
clasts, FISTFA, and the Richard Wayne  
Brown etc. Foundation

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Starting next issue, FIRST DRAFT will publish letters of comment. FIRST DRAFT received no letters of comment for the last issue. Mainly because it'll be handed out tonight together with this issue. In fact, tho, FIRST DRAFT will start publishing letters of comment next issue, even if it doesn't receive any. No, it won't; I'm too lazy to write more than two stencils at a sitting.

One of the perils of composing on-stencil is I got this lousy memory, and don't happen to have a copy of BATHTUB GIN with me at the moment, so I can't make up yet for slighting the Richard Wayne Brown etc. Foundation in FD3. I might just forget the whole thing; and besides, more interesting things have been happening anyway. Everybody in NY fandom seems to be writing and selling books these days (well, Ted White anyway), and I gotta break the great news! I'm breaking into print myself! Y'see, there's this magazine CASTLE OF FRANKEN -- no, lemme tell it this way. I was up at Lupoff's Monday night, and bhob Stewart and Chris Steinbrunner dropped in too, and everybody started talking ingroup stuff about CASTLE OF FRANKENSTEIN, except me because I don't know nothing about CASTLE OF FRANKENSTEIN (I hate ingroup stuff). All of a sudden there's Dick Lupoff pointing a finger at me and saying, "He's going to do the captions." This made no sense to me. But then it turned out that Dick's got an article on "Horrible Bloody Evil Gruesome Hideous Slimy Sickening Monsters In The Works Of Edgar Rice Burroughs" apparently coming up in the next issue of COF. A stack of ten or so negatives of illustrations were handed me, and bighod there I was, typoing away on Dick's golfball gadget, writing captions. Gosh. I guess they're going to use them, too. Things like "GARK, a nauseating lizard-dog of Amsoom, attempts to fang heroic John Carson, while ramphorhynchous-like glurg assails him from behind..." Like that, see. I don't think I spelled ramphorhynchous the way Burroughs did, but I was lying when I implied I actually used it in a caption. I was tempted, but...

RED HOT NEWS ITEM WOW!: SPECTRUM/FIVE will be out Monday or Tuesday. This is an absolute promise, maybe.

Well, according to Ted at the last Fanoclasts Meeting, they've scragged Walter Breen in FAPA. I guess it's because there's so many children in FAPA that can be molested by mail.

I'm really looking forward to reading the justifications for blackballing Walter from the w/1; I always enjoy watching people sweat to condone actions that cannot be condoned. It's fun to read NATIONAL REVIEW harumphing about Atheism, or the WORKER lying about Communism, and I expect the same morbidly amusing type of thing from the FAPA Blackballers. Not that I still don't think it was a mean and nasty and low thing to do; but sanctimonious villains like Billy Graham and Bishop Sheen are funny, and while no fan could be as anti-life and anti-truth as those two pious

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scoundrels, I can't help anticipating that I will be amused. And one other thing. A certain non-fan I know, exposed to the recent MINACs (the same non-fan who in describing a certain horror movie she was interested in seeing that night said, "I think that's the one with a vampire Quetzalcoatl bird," dead-seriously), said that she was already bored with the Walter Breen hassle. Hey, I didn't mean to sound like I was putting her down when I said "dead-seriously," up there in the parens; I just meant she wasn't deliberately putting us on. Anyway, my point is just that I can't imagine being bored with this matter; just the analyses of the moral aspects of all the actions of all the people involved seems to me fascinating in the intricate ins and outs of the matter.

Boy, now that was a screwed-up sentence. What I mean is that the present situation is full of philosophical considerations, as well as the more or less personal considerations of "Will Walter remain banned from the con," "Will I or won't I actually join the con myself," "Are the facts as Donaho implies or as Breen implies," etc. For instance, I have a line of reasoning which has more or less convinced me that whether or not the Boondoggle is factually correct, its publication was totally indefensible; i.e., there is a moral consideration involved which goes beyond any question of factuality. (This line of reasoning is pretty much what I was saying in my Cultletter that Don Fitch so kindly printed, and which I will be going into, among other things, in my forthcoming TROUBLED OIL #1; I won't go into it here, because I don't like to have to think while I'm writing FIRST DRAFTS...)

At any rate, it is or are such moral aspects that to me lend what I expect will be a continuing fascination with the growing debate. That is why I don't find it boring, and don't expect to. The unfortunate thing is that there is inevitably going to be more and more acrimony involved, and as Don Fitch wrote (and I agree with him), "I do not, in fact, enjoy contemplating the probable results of any course of action I can visualize in this situation."

I hope to avoid making personal insults in writing on the situation, but I've noticed that I can't help showing anger at the thought of certain actions. The anger is at the action, however, not at the person. Though I know both Bill and Walter personally, I don't feel I know them well enough to make any definitive statements or imply any definitive interpretations for the reasons for any of their or anyone else's actions involved. Those that feel they do know the personalities involved well enough -- hell, I just got two phone calls in a row and I forgot my train of thought. Well, that's Timebinding for this issue, folks. Anyway, I hope people won't charge me with being gratuitously insulting in this matter, because my own instinct and intent is to strictly apply sweet reason and calm insight.

I'll get nasty later, when I completely make up my mind.

As I've mentioned, I hope somebody else also writes up the Battle Of The BMT, because in amongst all the confusion and hooraw, I have managed to forget (actually, I had forgotten the moment the incident was over) most of the classy repartee and whatnot; all I remember is there were a lot of people saying a lot of things. My point was quite simple: the girl was insisting she was subject to being deceased if the guy was allowed to get to her, while he kept saying she'd bit him or something and I shouldn't let her get away, and the motorman said "let her loose, he won't do anything, I've got the situation under control," and I said -- but here's the bottom of the page...  
-- dgv