
FIRST DRAFT #7

Vol. 2, No. 1

1 May 64

being the special May Fools Day issue of an on-stencil fanzine contrived for many Fanoclasts by Dave Van Arnam, who can't think of anything for this line

Maybe nobody believes me when I say I'll print letters of comments. Well, I will. So there.

Then there was the time that Grover Whalen was taking two visiting dignitaries on a tour of the Police Academy Stables. Noticing a sack of oats lying carelessly in their path, Whalen reached down, picked it up, and looked about for some proper place to put it. As the rather irritated Official Welcomer moved off, one of the dignitaries, who had not noticed the word "OATS" on the sack, said to the other, "Upon what feed does this our Meeter seize?"

Well, that's Inspirational Poetry for this issue.

Quick, change the subject. Last Fanoclasts Meeting was the best turnout for Fanoclasts Friday since I don't know when. Almost a little discon-(disclaimer!) certing, actually. Critical mass for the group seems to be at about six -- less than that and we sit around listening to Ted's beard grow -- but I for one have gotten used to there being not many more than that. And especially used to not more than one unusual face a meeting. Lo and behold, came Arnie Katz (a Fiend who is about two ahead of me on the Cult, SAPS, and FAPA w/l's), Joe Pilati, and John and Perdita Boardman, in addition to the regulars (Ted & Sandi, me, Steve Stiles, rich poor, and Ike McMikenerny) and irregulars (Frank Wilimczyk, Les Gerber, Earl Evers, and everybody I'm leaving out by accident "or" something). That's a lotta fans for a Fanoclasts Friday. I'm not complaining, I'm just not used to it. Ahhh, for the good old days, when the only ones going to Lin Carter's were Steve Stiles and me. Much more egoboo for me -- we sat around listening to my beard grow.

Les Gerber thinks that just because my laughter can be heard in four boroughs when something strikes me as funny, you'd need an audiometer or something to judge my relative opinion of two different funny things. Not so; just time me. I still occasionally chuckle reminiscently at "Warren Brick put his drink in his pocket and came with us." Steve Stiles' full-page Copcon I-type cartoon got the longest laugh from me last Friday, too; oh, it's easy to tell, if you wait long enough.

Ted White wanted to look at several pages of my first draft notes that will eventually be polished into TROUBLED OIL #1, on the Donaho ruckus. He handed it back with that slow sort of half-smile, and said, "Gee, it's ... it's even draftier than FIRST DRAFT!" Or maybe it was, "It's even first-draftier than FIRST DRAFT!" Still, I shall continue practicing my apprentice-fanning on the helpless Fanoclasts.

It is purely a myth that Frank Wilimczyk gets lost on the subway every time he tries to get to the Fanoclasts; last Friday Frank Wilimczyk did not get lost on the subway. There are no hidden meanings in that last sentence, like "but he didn't come," or like that. He was there.

Null-Q Press

Undecided Publication #8

Mike McInerney says he doesn't read FIRST DRAFTS unless his name is in the issue somewhere, so I'm not going to mention him this issue, because in it I'm going to have lots dirty stuff about him and I don't want him to read this issue and find out...

rich brown & I have decided that there is now a word in the English language, "respectimely" (see the first and second lines of the colophon to POOR RICHARD'S ALMANAC #17). Later on we will Get Around to Deciding What It Means.

Which reminds me: the Fanoclasts want Calvin Demmon to Come Back to New York City and come to Fanoclasts Friday again, like in the Good Old days we are already getting nostalgic about. Or I am getting Nostalgic about, anyway.

And I wouldn't be so tempted to imitate little bits of his style if I knew he were reading every issue along with everyone else as I handed them out.

Walter Breen has for the time being been kicked from the FAPA w/1, and now Bruce Pelz has put himself on record as in favor of ousting him from SAPS and the Cult. Bruce's statement on the matter is reasonable in tone, though I do not accept his logic, and is rather refreshing coming from the anti-Breen side. His position seems to be that though the parents involved in various cited instances refuse to come forward and tell the law about Walter, he (Bruce) is convinced that they could, and he is therefore convinced Walter is a sick menace who should be hospitalized, and moreover that it is "hypocritical to support the Con Committee, in the belief that Breen is a menace, while being perfectly willing to accept his presence in other organizations..." As a factor at present indeterminable, he adds mention of the possibility, if Walter should be arrested, that "any organization which retains him as a member without protest may put itself in jeopardy." (This "has been stated," in Bruce's words, but I disremember me where, and as a point of interest I'd like to know where and by whom.)

Bruce states his position calmly and briefly, and calls for a referendum in SAPS (1 July 64 deadline, which seems reasonable). He does not say whether a majority of pro-Breen votes will save Walter's membership, though; his phrase is that after the referendum, "from there on the OE ((Bruce)) will decide what shall be done in the matter."

I think Bruce is wrong, but I think he has stated (and that I have re-stated) his position fairly. This aspect of the Donaho/Breen situation seems rather clearcut. Can I get any letters of comments on it? They'll be printed, here, and any really significant portions would later be reprinted in TROUBLED OIL #1, which, when-and-if it comes out, will go to all apas, w/l's, and miscellaneous fans.

But I'd like funny letters of comments, too. Hilarious, if possible. Lin Carter has already promised to attempt same, and if he does not do so soon I will run many pages of SPECTRUM/SIX upside down.

Earl Evers charitably reviews FD2 in zEEN #2 by saying "Van Arnam doesn't get to the subway terror in this either. He's still letting it settle in his mind before he writes." Well, it's settled to the bottom and is getting silted over, but I haven't forgotten some of the nasty things I said to the motorman, and I will Get To Them next issue. Or Maybe Not.