

Dave Van Arnam, of 1730 Harrison Ave,  
Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453, rather  
thought he might go briefly to FISTFA  
tonite, until he found that Patrick  
Macnee wd be in the cast of THE  
IMPORTANCE OF BEING ERNEST for 1½  
hours before THE AVENGERS. As I am  
gaining a high regard for Macnee as  
an actor, I cannot see missing this  
opportunity of seeing him in one of  
the supremely comic masterpieces.

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FIRST DRAFT #153

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PROGRESS REPORT PROGRESS REPORT DEPT REVISITED: Except for a couple of  
ads, the issue is made up and about ready to be sent out for platemaking  
-- which puts it in Al Schuster's lap. At any rate, things are shaping  
up well, and PR #2 shd have some interesting things in it... All  
readers of FIRST DRAFT have of course by now joined the NYCON III...  
Yes? No? Well, as a matter of fact, No, as I am well aware having  
typed up the roster of members. It's easy, y'know -- \$2/\$3 to NYCON  
III, PO Box 367, Gracie Sq. Sta., New York, NY 10028. See? Join and  
enjoy!

MONDAY I took the ms for STAR GLADIATOR in to Henry, two days before  
the contract deadline. It took about two months for me to do the  
retype-cum-rewrite and about three weeks alone on the last 12 pages and  
simple proofing & final minor verbal tinkering. There are those who  
say that all the time was wasted since I hate to finish anything, but  
I prefer to believe it was simply because I wanted the damn book to be  
as good as I cd make it at the present time. I now feel that it is,  
while if I had hurried it thru I wd by no means have felt as certain  
about it. If I may be egotistic about it for a moment, I honestly feel  
that it's a more entertaining book than Ted's first, ANDROID AVENGER,  
which pleases me since I by no means felt this way when the outline was  
first accepted. It's important to bear in mind that STAR G. Is only  
some 32,000 words, though; many things I wd have liked to do with the  
story were impossible within that length. In the future I do not plan  
to put so much eventfulness -- 'incident' wd be a better term -- into  
a story; as Lee Hoffman pointed out, I had enough stuff in that out-  
line to fill 90,000 words up. Well, we shall see...

On the other hand, when Cindy & I left Henry's Monday, I got about  
half way up the street and then turned back screaming "I want it back!  
I want it back!" I sure did hate to part with that story...

POLITICS AND POKER-FACES DEPT: There is a big stink on the Left about  
the CIA's multimillion dollar support over the last decade and more of  
the National Students Association, support which enabled American stu-  
dents to meet communist students on a more equal footing in the vari-  
ous "international student conferences" over the years, that have been  
concocted by the communists for political and propaganda purposes. As  
for me, I think it was a damn good idea and I'm sorry the cover finally  
got blown. It wd be a much more pleasant world if we didn't have to  
counter communist pressures at every turn; in the meantime, we can only  
ignore those who live in the dream-world in which the communists have  
gone back to being simple agrarian reformers -- ignore them and keep  
on with the business at hand, which is simply standing firm at the  
lines we have drawn around the world, saying to the communists, "Thus  
far and no farther, hey."   Hoping you are the sane...

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Null-Q Press  
Undecided Publication #244  
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-- dgv

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IF::(?)