

Dave Van Arnam, of 1730 Harrison  
Ave, Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453, here.  
Who else?

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FIRST DRAFT #154

Every so often I pause to wonder why  
I continue to put FIRST DRAFT out.

Vol. 26, No. 4

24 Feb 67  
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By and large, because it's fun,  
that's why.

Is any other reason necessary?

□□□ Speaking of fun things happening these days, I see by the early  
afternoon papers where the Boston Strangler has escaped. Jolly good  
show, eh? I think however that it was a mistake for him to escape.  
Now he can't collect any royalties on that tasteful book of transcrip-  
tions of his taped confessions -- you know the one, it gives every  
detail of each of his killings. If Frank Harris had been a multiple  
murderer in addition to his other numerous skills, I suspect he wd have  
spoken of them in about that fashion.

□□□ Speaking of good taste, I also read somewhere in the last day or  
so that Jackie Kennedy is thinking of doing her own memoirs, seeing as  
how the Manchester book turned out as it did. I wonder if she'll put  
in any of the stuff she insisted Manchester remove? And speaking of  
good taste in high places, oddly enough President Johnson seems to have  
conducted himself, from the assassination through the present hooraw,  
with the utmost personal dignity and restraint. A clod he may be at  
times, but he seems to have been undeviatingly polite and correct in  
his actions in this matter.

□□□ It was a matter of utmost astonishment for me to see New York's  
Kennedy not only come out for a revision in our NY: abortion laws (I'm  
not myself much in favor of abortion, but rich and poor continue with  
great frequency to insist upon it, and under the circumstances it seems  
only fair that the poor shd have the same chances of surviving the  
ordeal as the rich) -- not only that, but he's come out supporting the  
CIA in this brouhaha about the National Students Association. By golly,  
what's a poor Nixon Republican to think, these days? Are there no  
more rocks to cling to? Bobby Kennedy -- a good guy?

Now if he comes out against the pending city legislation against top-  
less waitresses...

□□□ One of the jobs in the office today was to stencil a transcription  
of Lee Harvey Oswald's Russian Diary (written in English) for a group  
of experimental dancers who think they may be able to mine some art  
from this rather barren-seeming lode. I didn't type the job myself,  
and have only glanced at the run-off copies briefly, tho I have pulled  
a couple of sets for my own use. I did notice one curious and possibly  
enlightening entry: "Jan. 4-31 I am stating to reconsider my disire  
about staying The work is drab the money I get has nowhere to be spent.  
No nightclubs or bowling allys no places of recreation accept the trade  
union dances I have had enough. Feb. 1 I mail my first request to  
American Embassy, Moscow for reconsidering my position, I stated 'I  
would like to go back to U.S!'" Somehow that seems oddly convincing.  
Is that the way a man wd talk who had actually been recruited as a  
Soviet agent? Interesting... □□□ Hoping you are the sane...

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Null-Q Press  
Undecided Publication #246  
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IF: : (?)