

I (Dave Van Arnam, 1730 Harrison Ave,  
Apt 353, Bronx, NY 10453) forgot to  
mention a few things last issue  
about my New Books, mainly about  
STAR GLADIATOR.

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FIRST DRAFT #190

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First off (and for those of you who  
remember THE READER'S GUIDE TO  
TARZAN'S AFRICA, we will pause briefly  
for a few jolly ho-ho-ho's), there  
is the little matter that STAR G is  
only the first of, hopefully, many  
books I intend to set in the multiwave-

drive universe. (As a matter of fact, I have four making the rounds  
now, and two of them may start series of their own.) The reason, if  
anyone is exercised by this, is that this is the kind of thing I most  
like to read, in the action-adventure-and-yet-partly-serious vein that  
I am currently attempting to work. For instance, the fact that Asimov's  
robot stories are set in the same universe as the Foundation Series  
does much, for me, to counteract the rather dull aspect of the inter-  
mediate stories (CAVES OF STEEL, and the one about kert, and the murder  
mystery about agoraphobia -- so dull on one level that I can't even  
remember their names for the moment) which show how the two major  
series tie together. Using the same universe means one can spend more  
time on the story -- both as author and reader -- without having to go  
through the process of creating an entirely new background every time;  
this in my opinion produces better and more interesting stories.

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The 69th Worldcon is in 2011  
- the '69 Worldcon shd be in  
St Louis!

I hasten to add that I am not denigrating those authors whose fertility  
of invention is good enough to enable them to create an entirely new,  
entirely different universe for each novel (Heinlein is the best exam-  
ple, tho some of his books tie together; del Rey painstakingly invents  
a new method of faster-than-light travel every time he wants to use  
one; Brunner is fantastically inventive; etc.). I have every intention  
of keeping at writing for the rest of my life, and I have no intention  
of writing multiwave stories throughout that period. But right now  
I'm attempting to learn my craft. Ezra Pound in HOW TO READ relays  
the classic definition that (in my transmutation, anyway) art has three  
purposes: to teach, to move emotionally, and/or to delight. (The  
'and/or' is my glose.) It happens that I don't believe that any art  
shd explicitly teach; as for the other two aims, tho I'm hardly yet  
creating art, moving and delighting one's readers strikes me as admir-  
able goals for any writer. Certainly they are included in my goals.

And at this time in my career, it seems to me I can more readily  
attain those two goals, at least, by constructing a common background  
for most of my current writing. I find the multiwave drive personally  
convincing, and I am also well satisfied that the nature of its dis-  
covery is such that it becomes convincing that Man thereafter becomes  
the major power in the galaxy. (The theory is that no other ftl drive  
is possible in the 'real' universe of these stories, and that humans  
are the first to discover how to use the multiwave, giving them the  
permanent jump on every other race in the galaxy.) Having then worked  
out a universe with its details fitting into place and ticking away  
like a well-tuned clock, as it were, I'm loathe to pass up the oppor-  
tunity to pick up on all the superb stories to be told about such a  
universe.

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Null-Q Press  
Undecided Publication #288  
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Well, that's a long prolog for a short point, which is that reading STAR G in print jolted me into realizing that, if I've finally accepted Ted White's belief that a writer can't write well if he doesn't believe in what he's writing, I'm going to have to do a kind of 'reader's guide' to my own works as they come out, or I'll never be able to keep the details straight.

This is hardly earthshaking, I know, and yet I recall Asimov saying somewhere that one of the most difficult aspects of working on a new story was the laborious job of going back and rereading all the previous stories in the series to get the details straight again and to avoid contradictions. Possibly I may have misunderstood him, and he had a kind of file on the 'reader's guide' type of details, and was rereading for a subtler kind of continuity than I am here concerned with. But on face value, he cd certainly have used a guide to his own works.

At any rate, I'm going to do an index to STAR G, and to the rest of the stories as they appear in print, a la READER'S GUIDE TO BARSOOM AND AMTOR. I intend to make an index card for every character, place, and thing invented in the story that is capable of being indexed; then I shall type up an alphabetical flat list.

The thought that is nagging at me, however, is whether I shd have the damn thing published in some fanzine after making it up. I rather think not, at least for the present. This is partly because the kind of remarks for each entry I intend to make will pretty much give away the plot and other surprises of the story, and while this is also true in a way for many entries in THE READER'S GUIDE TO BARSOOM AND AMTOR, ERB's books have been around long enough that people go to RGBA, generally, only after they have read the books in question. STAR G, on the other hand, has only just come out, and I like it well enough to wait for people to read it in sufficient numbers and, hopefully, then to clamor for a guide...

(I might note here that RGBA has long been out of print, and that the Tarzan guide still languishes about half-way to completion, to forestall queries on these purely fan-projects of mine; I have an apartment full of Cindywife, girlchild, two full-grown cats, and three kittens, all delectable and all constantly and urgently in need of food and suchlike other necessary impedimenta, and hence I'm concentrating on writing-for-pay, for now. But as soon as I get organized...)

One unfortunate contradiction has already crept in, by the way, and it is entirely my fault. Long after the ms for STAR G was irretrievably in the printer's hands, I got into a discussion with Prof John Boardman and happened to mention that Jonnath, the hero of STAR G, comes from Kalvar, a planet whose gravity is two Earth-G's, and that the Kalvaran are a human people who have been genetically and scientifically modified to withstand this gravity. To be more precise, they are my version of Doc Smith's Valerians. John viewed this as, charitably, extremely unlikely, and demonstrated to me that at the most, Kalvar might be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Earth-G's. He was so convincing that I decided that he was right, and Kalvar indeed is a  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -G planet. Unfortunately this came too late to change it in the book, and there we have the genesis of a genuine Contradiction, because in the rest of the books it will be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  Gs. \*sigh\* Unless somebody else out there -- Tom Digby? -- can work out a way for a 2-G world 5,000 years from now to produce the Kalvaran I wrote of...  And this has been Dave Van Arnam talking to his typer for the 190th time in 190 weeks, hoping you are the sane...