

W R A I T H

Wraith 26 According to the marginal usage of "deadwood" as given by FanCy II it has come to mean someone who hangs on by doing only the bare minimum requirements in an apa. There is something added, the inference that these bare minimums are rather uninteresting, but we'll ignore that for the question I'm trying to raise, question or smoke screen, is: Is it better to do your deadwood credentials in one hurried last minute effort, or is it more respectable to spread them out over several mailings? Personally I prefer several mailings, for it should show good intention. Feeble performance perhaps, but good intention surely.

This is Wraith 26 intended for the 113th mailing of Fapa..deadline November 13, 1965. This is my '99th zine, and done not only because I want to hit every possible Fapa mailing, but because somehow I've been talked into giving a mild sort of party(I'll serve Kiddie Cars)on the issuance of my 100th zine and I'd like to do that during the Holidays.

Before I go much further, I want to tell a joke.

A man went to a Psychiatrist.

"Doc", he said, "I need help."

"What's wrong?" said the doctor.

"I keep telling people I'm Napoleon." the fellow said. "I tell my wife a dozen times a day that I'm Napoleon Bonaparte."

"You do have a problem". the doctor said.

"Yeah," said the man, "That crazy Josephine keeps telling people she's Mrs. Swartz."

OK what was your reaction to that? No I don't expect you to think it a great joke, nor even an especially funny one. What I'm interested in(mildly)is your reaction. You see this is a sort of test joke I use on people, and it has some connection with fandom in that the sort of mentality I think of as fannish get it immediately..they may groan, but there is usually a laugh too.

And that's rather unusual for I've been experimenting with non-fannish mentalities. A few people laugh, politely. A large number just look puzzled and one of my favorite memories is the fellow who waited till I left, and then cautiously asked someone else, "Who's Mrs. Swartz?" One of my favorite memories..this has happened more than once, though others have asked me who Mrs. Mrs. Swartz is.

When that happens I merely tell them it is just a Shaggy Psychiatrist Story, and try to let it go at that. Seldom can because the next question is what is a Shaggy Psychiatrist Story, and I answer that by telling the one about the lady who liked pan-cakes, and then finally when that calls for another question I have to tell them the Shaggy Dog story, and by now I'm known as that fellow who tells those terrible unfunny jokes.

Think all of this is some form of compensation, for I am incapable of telling a formal joke at all well. So I merely tell terrible jokes/terribly.

Before I forget, Mr. Speer, I live 3 doors south of the post office, not north, and that puts me into the fringe area. Better explain that...locally you do not hear anything about Beatniks, but you do hear a lot about the "fringe", which is the term used for what is popularly known as the Beatniks. According to legend, most of them in this city live below 43rd and north of the canal, which means I qualify on that count and perhaps sartorially, but I miss out on the beard and haircut for I shave once or twice a day and my haircut is so short it blends into my bald spot.

Might as well add my culinary boasts too. I did not make that cake threatened last time, but I have branched out. Last triumph was breeding a cubed steak which turned out fine. In fact just last week a girl was telling me how much she enjoyed my meals, though she spoke more of how dramatic I made it seem rather than how good it tasted. It seems I prepare food with a real flare... it seems exciting...one expects it to be edible. The performance was great. Enough to drink before hand and the food seems to be too.

I wonder though why I started having trouble with my stomach since moving out here...not much, but some usually after a spell of doing my own cooking.

I'm still President of the Nameless and will be for a couple more meetings, and I'm sure every member will say as President, I'm the best bartender they ever had. As President I don't do too well for it is almost impossible to get them to open a meeting, and then on the rare times I remember to try to close it no one pays enough attention to get it closed. One time I got home, remembered before getting to bed and called back to the meeting and announced the meeting was closed. On the phone at least one person was listening to me. Next meeting I plan to open, and say as first of the old business we have to close the last meeting. Then the next item of business will be to close the meeting before.

No, wait a minute I can't do that for last meeting the motion to close was tabled so I can't open the new meeting since the old meeting was never closed. Therefore the Nameless now has a perpetual meeting.

Wonder if death will release me from the President's post. That would be a less-violent release than some hints I've heard.

Now have 11 of the Gilbert & Sullivan operas on record and have been trying to locate a copy of Utopian Ltd. Accumulated a fairly good high fidelity set-up for listening too, but hardly get to hear any because it is more fun to listen to it with someone else, and the only other rabid Gilbert & SULLIVAN FAN IN THE locality, Carol Murray has a fairly good G&S collection of her own and is wearing out her records far faster than I am.

Speaking of my Hi fi, it is odd that Buz and Elinor have not been over here since I invited Elinor to listen to some of her Beatles records on my set-up. Buz, I think, has been able to find one excuse after another and even set the stage for an excuse one week by staying home from work a day or two previous to the time set for coming here. What you bet this week end it will be too close to Halloween for him to leave his house?

Next time there may be mailing comments. This time I just stalled too long... normally not too long, but today they, in the person of the supervisor told me I had another test next week..and I should open the text book before then.