
FIRST DRAFT #18

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which is Dave Van Arnam's written-on-stencil contribution to the first New Series Apa-F Mailing (the only apa with no activity requirements!)

Of course, you do have to come to Fanoclasts Meetings to get the mailings, but...

Clarification of a point which I was questioned on by each and every member last Meeting -- in which I seemed to blame William Donaho for the demise of CRY. What I was speaking of was not CRY's death, which was the fault of whoever it was that decided that Wally Weber shd be transferred to Huntsville, Alabama. Now, rich brown was thinking of writing to the Busbys and offering to pick up CRY where it was forced to leave off; they might very well have refused, but there certainly would have been a possibility. But due to the Donaho demolition attempt, which has put F.M. Busby on one side and rich on the other, rich felt that it wouldn't be consistent to be knocking Busby's arguments on one hand and on the other hand asking him for a favor. Actually, rich's point is more complex than that, but it all boils down to the recent activities of the Rev. Donaho and his associates.

I'm finally going to send out copies of FD (the complete run so far, 18 issues) to half a dozen or so people around the country. Not sure just who, Tom Perry, Bill Blackbeard, Don Fitch, Calvin Demmon, Bruce Pelz (from #8 on; I sent him the first 7 before), Felice Rolfe (back in '52 she helped me put out my first fanzine, DARK UNIVERSE), and maybe 2 or 3 other people. But I'm just about out of copies of the first few issues; I ran only 30-odd copies, and I just totted up the people that get FD handed to them at meetings -- there's 21 of you!

Inasmuch as several of these people may not even heard of FIRST DRAFT, it seems appropriate here to mention briefly what its Noble Purpose is; unfortunately FD does not have a Noble Purpose. I put it out as a sort of conversation-substitute, written on stencil, with the associated purposes of giving a rundown on the last meeting, variously, of the Fanoclasts and FISTFA, which meet on alternate interlocking Fridays, if you take my meaning, and also to try to complete the story of an incident that happened on the BMT Subway after the Farewell Avram & Grania Davidson Going Off To Mexico Tomorrow Special Fanoclasts Thursday Meeting. (That was a sample of genuine first drafting Van Arnam at his most intricately and ever-so-slightly-confused "best.")

Being written as a conversation-substitute, then, I do frequently write things that I would ordinarily modify considerably before sending out as a Real fanzine. I'm thinking of remarks, for instance, that I put in FD in first draft form that I will some day get around to revising and putting into the Cult. I'm not particularly interested in getting sections of it quoted in other fanzines because it is written with a particular situation, a particular small audience, in mind, and because I'm a demon for rewriting. True, Al Lewis did quote a page of FD2 in his SAPSzine, but that was, well, sort of non-political; that was ok. But remarks I make on the William Donaho affair are, really, on the order of transcribed conversation rather than completely-thought-out essays.

Null-Q Press

Undecided Publication #19

I suppose I'll send Donaho a set one of these days just for the record; but my remarks in FD are not official statements; one of these days I'm bringing out a decimal oscillator for the Cult (stealing an invention of Bill Blackbeard's, I think it's going to be called D/OUBLECROSS, unless someone has used that already).

I was very smart last Fanoclasts Friday. I made up a list of everybody that was there so's that, like, I wouldn't forget anyone? So I forgot the list. Undaunted, though, I make an attempt...rich brown, Mike McInerney, Ted & Sandi, Steve Stiles, myself, Arnie Katz, Andy Porter, Andy Main, and...and! Bbob Stewart!

(But -- that's incredible!)

Andy Main, rich brown, and Ted White are bringing out a new fanzine, title not yet released for general consumption, following the imminent demise of MINAC. Apa-F has been reconstructed under a new mailing system, with Mike McInerney providing the first Official Organ and with publications expected from Mike, rich, Ted, myself, Dick Lupoff, Arnie Katz, and possibly Steve Stiles, John Boardman, Andy Porter, and Andy Main. Good Lord! This paragraph has been the Outsurgent Edition of Fanac #100-and-whatever.

Part of the reason I'm sending FIRST DRAFTs to Bill Blackbeard, Don Fitch, and Tom Perry is that I have a great admiration for these guys' publications that I've seen (and in more than one case, received and in my carelessly thoughtless way not even acknowledged). Not that FIRST DRAFT is anything like or equal to any of the above gentlemen's recent issues; just that, well, hell, what can I say about a one-sheet publication even if it is weekly? (It isn't necessarily published each Friday, but each Friday's meeting since the first issue 2½ months ago has seen at least one new issue; that's 16 consecutive meetings, including tonight.)

It's a shame that I've hit Apa-F every time since I started but haven't done more than get a quote in SAPS, a letter in the Cult, and nothing at all in ShFAPA. Say, Don, when's the next Shadow-FAPA deadline?

It's easily explained, though. This nerve-wracking waiting around for something to break somewhere along the line with these three different contacts I have with these various TV and movie people. It's been a couple of months now. I'm reasonably certain that the lightning will strike, but when? Any sort of fanac just seems a little too much of an investment of vital nervous energies, under such pregnant clouds. Except for FIRST DRAFT, of course. But FD is already a completely formed habit

"I almost wrote a poem, once..." (Mike McInerney)

that I mightn't even be able to break if I should want to. Wouldn't like to put it to the test, but.

I suppose everyone has heard the latest grisly bit of news on the "Vigilantes/Involvement" front? I was a bit bugged when an 84-year-old man, robbed and beaten a few months ago by a pair of punks, got arrested for Sullivan Law violation when he shot one of them to death in a repeat-attempt. But now -- a very pretty girl, Arlene Del Fava, 27, remembering Catherine Genovese and the couldn't-care-less citizens that watched her being murdered, stabbed a sailor attempting to rape her -- and was arrested because it happened to be a switchblade knife. This sort of crap is so unspeakable I won't say any more about it.

-- dgV