Author David Everitt, one of the early pioneering editors of FANGORIA magazine, died last Friday, May 7 at age 57. Everitt, who worked on classic Fango issues #16 to #50 (1981-1985), had been suffering from Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (a.k.a. ALS or Lou Gehrig's Disease).

As a freelance writer, Everitt contributed to several magazines and newspapers during his life (STARLOG, COMICS SCENE, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The New York Times*, etc.) and wrote a number of books (many with cousin Harold Schecter), including FILM TRICKS, THE MANLY HANDBOOK, A SHADOW OF RED: COMMUNISM AND THE BLACKLIST IN RADIO AND TELEVISION, LEGENDS: THE STORY OF WYATT EARP, HUMAN MONSTERS: AN ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE WORLD'S MOST VICIOUS MURDERERS and many others. His interests encompassed film, history and baseball.

As a co-editor of FANGORIA, Everitt brought a biting sense of humor to the magazine. He enjoyed covering the independent scene (he was the first to laud RE-ANIMATOR) and the horror and sci-fi films he grew up with on Long Island. Everitt's many contributions to Fango included interviews with the likes of makeup legend Dick Smith (his first Fango article), director Joe Dante, FIEND WITHOUT A FACE producer Richard Gordon, EATING RAOUL helmer Paul Bartel, PSYCHO star Anthony Perkins and, of course, B-movie actor Dick Miller (BUCKET OF BLOOD, LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS, GREMLINS, etc.), whom Everitt championed in the magazine as a sort of unofficial mascot. His pseudonymous reviews as Dr. Cyclops, witty captions and editorials gave '80s Fango a cutting edge. Back in Fango #18, then-editor Bob Martin joked that anything in the mag deemed "rude, off-color, or offensive" came from Everitt's "insidious influence." Everitt and Martin began serving as co-editors with issue #19; when Martin jumped ship as of Fango #48, Everitt took over as sole editor for just two issues, #49-50. Subsequent editor Anthony Timpone (Fango #63-292) coaxed Everitt back into the Fango fold for a few freelance pieces circa 1990.

"Along with Forry Ackerman and STARLOG/Fango editor David McDonnell, Dave Everitt was one of my key mentors," says Timpone, who trained under Everitt in summer 1985. "He had a profound impact on my career and life in the short time we worked together. He trusted me, encouraged me and promoted me, back when I was green and fresh out of school. What I liked best about Dave was his sense of humor; he always found something funny to chuckle about

and comment on. Plus, he instilled in me that there were other things in life besides horror and monsters that deserved one's attention. He will be sorely missed."

During his Fango tenure, Everitt enlisted many of the magazine's best writers, including retrospective specialist Tom Weaver and initial British correspondent Philip Nutman. "David Everitt was my first managing editor at Fango," Nutman says. "He was the one who hired me to write and launched my professional writing career. He bought my first main feature [Milton Subotsky of Amicus Productions]. He took me to breakfast the second day I arrived, a 20-year-old kid from England, when I was in NYC for the first time. I'll always remember his pleated, neatly pressed, sharp-as-knives pants, buttoned-down collar shirt and immaculate tie. He really taught me how to be a good journalist."

"As someone who grew up reading and collecting Fango, I am heartsick to learn of the passing of David Everitt," says current Fango editor Chris Alexander. "Dave was an essential piece of the Fango puzzle, and though we had never actually had the pleasure of shaking hands, his presence will always be a part of both the magazine…and my childhood. My sincere condolences to his friends, family and fellow readers of his wonderful words."

Everitt leaves behind a wife, Laurie, and sons Anthony and Gregory, as well as legions of Fangorians and close friends. Watch for further tributes to the man and his legacy on this site soon.

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