

OPUNTIA

#42.1



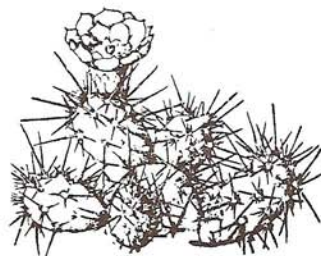
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OPUNTIA is published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. It is available for \$3 cash for a one-time sample copy, trade for your zine, or letter of comment. Americans: please don't send cheques for small amounts to Canada as the bank fee to cash them is usually more than the amount. US\$ banknotes are acceptable in Canada at par value; what we gain on the exchange rate we lose on the higher postage rate to USA. Do not send mint USA stamps as they are not valid for postage. Whole-numbered issues are sercon, x.1 issues are reviewzines, x.2 issues are indexes, and x.5 issues are perzines.

ART CREDIT: Cover drawn by Teddy Harvia, 701 Regency Drive, Hurst, Texas 76054-2307.

I ALSO HEARD FROM: William Breiding, Henry Welch, C.F. Kennedy, Sheryl Birkhead, Silvano Pertone, Teddy Harvia, Karen Johnson, Robert Lichtman, Eric Lindsay, Harry Andruschak, Guy Miller, Scott Garinger, Jim DeWitt, Chuck Stake

[Editor's
remarks
in square
brackets]



FROM: Alison Scott
42 Tower Hamlets Road
Walthamstow, London E17 4RH, England

1999-04-26

A footnote on Leonard Dawe, the crossword compiler for the DAILY TELEGRAPH who was associated with the D-Day landings. A fuller version of the story came out a couple of years ago. He always maintained it was pure coincidence. The boys he taught (he was a teacher as well as a crossword compiler) were friendly with soldiers at the various U.S. bases locally. They heard the words all the time and used them in conversation, so it was just coincidence that Dawe heard them and used them. But one of the boys involved, presumably now a pensioner, spilt the beans. The business of compiling many crosswords, and thinking up an endless supply of new words, became tedious for Dawe. He subcontracted the business of filling grids with words to his

pupils. They would produce a suitable grid and he would do the clueing. The boys thought it would be a lark to use the words they'd heard the soldiers talking about, and the rest is history.

I'm sure that now you've admitted to joining the computer generation, you will get lots of useless advice. So I will only make two observations. Firstly, if you ask for contributions on disk in text format and never leave those floppy disks in your machine when you start it, your computer will not pick up any viruses.

[The computer technicians where I work advise me that boot-sector and other traditional viruses are not the only threat. Newer types of viruses such as macro viruses can attach themselves to text files and be downloaded with e-mail or documents.]

Secondly, you might find it as quick to write a letter on your typewriter. But this letter will take me about three times as long to write, print out, put in an envelope, address and stamp, and mail, as it would to send the same letter by e-mail. So you should not expect to hear from me as frequently as you would if you got yourself an e-mail address. I very rarely send letters these days, and every time I write one I wonder if it will be the last.

[On the other hand, it takes ten times as long to download an e-mail as it does to open an envelope and skim the real-mail letter.

I have two e-mail accounts, one at work and one on Hotmail which I access via the University of Calgary Library terminals. I do not want e-mail locs because it is too much trouble to log on, sort through the mail, copy to a file or print out, and then edit. It is faster for me to edit a real-mail letter as I type it in as it sits beside the computer than it is to copy the file and then spend ten minutes highlighting, cutting, pasting, dragging, and formatting.]

FROM: Lloyd Penney

1999-05-02

1706 - 24 Eva Road

Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 2B2

Every quantum change in communications tech changes its society for good and bad. The Internet/WWW is doing that for much of the same reasons the telegraph did in the 1800s. The telegraph became an everyday part of life, and its hype went away. Let's hope the hype over the Internet goes away soon. The Web had such promise as a source of information, but it's already taken over by opinion, mis- or dis-information, nonsense, and pornography, often making the pure information difficult to find or discern. In many areas, the Web is pretty to look at, but had not much more substance than that.

It seems that any zine, maga-, fan-, or otherwise, when it goes exclusively

to the Web, unintentionally hides itself away. Some Webzines send an e-mail announcement that the newest issue is on the site, but it's not the same. Obtaining a Webzine is like getting an unfinished magazine. It's just not finished unless it's properly laid out, printed, and bound. For many of these zines, the Web is where they've gone to die.

[Any new form of communication first models itself on the previous form, then gradually changes. Printed type was first cast to look handwritten before developing fonts that could not be hand drawn. Radio was first vaudeville in front of a microphone, and television was radio with pictures. E-zines and Webzines are not real magazines, but are only called such for lack of anything better. With time, Websites (which is what I prefer to call them) will develop their own distinct form in ways we cannot yet imagine. Then it will be recognized that print zines have their own advantages, just as the Internet has its advantages.]

FROM: Ned Brooks
4817 Dean Lane
Lilburn, Georgia 30047-4720

1999-05-02

I must protest the idiotic typo in OPUNTIA #41.D that has me talking about writers who "trade on their mannishness". We were discussing SF, not Hemingway! I said "fannishness", as the

context would suggest.

[To add a third observation to Alison Scott's letter, I can now make typographical errors faster and more efficiently with a computer than I ever could with a typewriter.]

FROM: Joseph Nicholas
15 Jansons Road
South Tottenham, London N15 4JU, England

1999-04-29

"If WIRED, Microsoft, and Amazon.com can't turn a profit on the Web despite billions invested", you say of MAXIMUMROCKNROLL's move to electronic publishing, "it seems unlikely that an undercapitalised editorial collective can survive". This statement suggests to me that no matter how much capital is invested, no one is ever going to make a profit from the Internet. Indeed, in the longer term, e-commerce itself will die, because of the fundamental contradiction at its heart. On the one hand, Internet gurus assert that "information wants to be free", but on the other, these prophets are feverishly trying to work out how to persuade people to pay for this same information, with a notable lack of success. How could it be otherwise? The whole attraction of the Web is that it is free. Since no one in their right mind will pay for something which they can otherwise get for free, the e-commerce enthusiasts are wasting their time.

[I believe that the Internet will evolve into another advertising medium like television. There will be a few quality sites run by universities or non-profit groups, in the same manner as BBC or CBC Radio 2, but the mass of material will turn the Internet into the same wasteland as now exists with television.]

As to your comments about the essentially conservative nature of trade unions, in your review of two books concerning the hidden revolutionary potential of the oppressed proletarian masses. Well, yes, of course, but what you have to remember is that Trotskyists (in particular) and others would like unions to be so much more than the latter-day friendly societies they are. They are convinced they would be were it not for the compromise-seeking class traitor sell-outs who lead them and who have deluded their memberships into believing that pay and conditions are more important issues than an all-out general strike which will paralyse international capitalism and send the masses flocking to the barricades to usher in the socialist millennium. This is an article of faith, immune to the inconvenient facts which contradict it.

This does not curtail activists from haranguing union memberships as to their supposed revolutionary duties, nor stop them from attempting to hijack internal union machinery through every procedural vote they can manage. But even if they lose, it won't stop them trying again next year, and the year after, and the year after that, in vain pursuit of their tedious delusion

that every union member is a potential soldier in the holy war to overthrow the fascist boss class and instigate the dictatorship of the proletariat throughout the sevigram.

[Joseph Nicholas and Judith Hanna publish INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GARDENER. Prior to becoming part of the land-owning class (that is, before they bought a house), they published FTT, originally FUCK THE TORIES.]

FROM: Murray Moore
2118 Russett Road
Mississauga, Ontario L4Y 1C1

1999-04-26

Thanks for a copy of your Subject Index to Canadian Zines. The winter nights are really long in Calgary, eh?

[More due to the fact that I don't have a television set, and can thus accomplish more in an evening than most people do all week. As Karl Marx might have said, television is the opiate of the masses.]

I was interested to see that you included SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES [Canada's first SF fanzine, published 1937 to 1938 by Nils Helmer Frome]. I wonder at your source for copies.

[I don't have originals, but Ken Faig Jr produced a book on Nils Helmer Frome which included photocopies of Sam Moskowitz's copies from his library.]

FROM: Chester Cuthbert 1999-04-26
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Most of my favourite authors were socialists whose sympathy with the workers was sincere. My own destitution in early life is unforgettable. It crippled me socially, and my dread of poverty was so great that I was forced to adopt capitalistic measures in self-defense. The system may be the best available, but its imperfections need to be corrected. I can think of no fairer idea than a Guaranteed Annual Income of universal application.

FROM: Ken Faig Jr 1999-04-26
2311 Swainwood Drive
Glenview, Illinois 60025-2741

I guess the idea of a "living wage" which would allow a man to raise a family without the support of a second wage-earner (i.e., wife) is about defunct. I wish it wasn't. It seems to me that the domination of our economies by international corporations will eventually result in a leveling of standards of living around the

world. Perhaps that's to be desired but I'm afraid it will subject us to worldwide business cycles too, and erode other values. When I think of the repression which has marked Communist China since its inception in 1949, I wonder at the honours recently shown its visiting premier in the United States, but of course the reason is the vast market potential of China for these international corporations.

[As with so many other problems, globalization can be traced to the population explosion. As long as Third Worlders were just dirt farmers it didn't affect our standard of living, but now they know how to run assembly lines and write software. A finite amount of resources divided by an increasing number of people therefore equals a decreasing standard of living as the average shifts downward.]

FROM: Scott Crow 1999-04-26
10741 Fair Oaks Boulevard, #36
Fair Oaks, California 95628

Romance novels are, or seem to be, similar to the pulps. Romance novels are fast-paced, provide good value, and offer a wide variety of styles. Bodice rippers as the pulps of today?

I struggle to see how anyone could study even a fragment of history and think that, left unimpeded by government, people would act in the common good. With all due respect, people will always act in their own interest. While it is romantic and idealistic to think that a socialist system would work, it is also ignorant of human history.

FROM: Harry Warner Jr
423 Summit Avenue
Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

1999-05-18

The suggestions offered to amateur publishers in OPUNTIA #41.C (page 15) are uniformly good and should be preserved somewhere in a continuously available publication containing advice.

[This would probably be best on a Website or FAQ where neos would be most likely to stumble across it, rather than an obscure publication known mostly to the people who don't need it.]

There is one other important point that you didn't mention, the need to avoid the awful urge to make each new issue of a zine bigger and better than the preceding one. That almost invariably leads to burnout within a half-dozen issues.

[The past 150 years of zinedom history have demonstrated that it is a rule of zine publishing that an individual can publish small issues frequently or large issues infrequently, but not large issues frequently over a long period of time. I recognized this rule explicitly when I began publishing OPUNTIA. I deliberately limit it to a maximum of 16 pages, partly because of postal rate increments, but mainly because it makes for an easier workload and faster production cycle. If OPUNTIA were to be ramped up to 64 pages, for example, it would become a quarterly at best.]

FROM: Carolyn Clowes
5911 West Pay Drive NW
Depauw, Indiana 47115

1999-06-15

I don't believe thinking is harder work than shoveling coal. I can think without getting blisters, pulling muscles, or breaking a sweat. But I find hard work very hard indeed. People who shovel coal, pick up garbage, or do those tasks society considers menial and unpleasant should be well-paid. I don't believe people who work with their money should be taxed less than people who work with their hands.

So after a day of shoveling, what should average workers do? E-trade with the grocery money? Create some venture capital with the mortgage payment?

Take responsibility beyond why the kids are screaming? Must everyone become entrepreneurs? I can't imagine a less enjoyable way to spend my time, or one for which I'm less suited, than starting a business or gambling money on the stock market, unless it would be shoveling coal.

I don't think any one economic system is the whole answer. Communism is so idealistic it needs totalitarian government to enforce it. Capitalism is so Darwinian it needs government to restrain it. Social democracy at least tries to balance private interest with the common good, and that seems to me a sensible approach.

AMATEUR PRESS ASSOCIATIONS

Apas are a form of zine distro dating back to the late 1800s. SF apas date back to the 1930s, and there are a large number formed in more recent years. There are individual variations in the procedures, but for most apas, you send in x number of copies of your zine to the Central Mailer or Official Editor. The C.M. then collates the zines into bundles and sends back a set to each member. You pay an annual fee to help cover the cost of postage.

For some apas you must meet certain requirements such as proof of activity in zinedom or interest in the particular specialization of the apa. There are many general apas, but most specialize around a specific topic or geographical area. Above all, an apa requires active participation, not simply passively subscribing. You will be expected to publish a minimum number of pages per year, known as minac. Apas are for the creative and self-motivated who seek a community of like-minded zinesters. Some apas have annual conventions, but most apahackers never meet.

And how to become involved? I list a few herewith that I am personally familiar with. The definitive directory of apas is the NEW MOON DIRECTORY, price US\$6, which lists hundreds of apas. Its publisher Eric L. Watts resides at 1161 Research Drive NE, Marietta, Georgia 30066-5539. If you are interested in becoming involved with an apa, here is the place to begin.

FANTASY A.P.A. (Sample bundle US\$5 from Ken Forman, 7215 Nordic Lights Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119-0335, or details only about joining from Robert Lichtman, Box 30, Glen Ellen, California 95442) . Now in its 62nd year, this quarterly apa is nominally about SF, but in actual practice is largely perzines and reviewzines with a fannish tinge. One feature of this

apa is the mailing comments, which are remarks by members on each others' zines in the previous bundle. Members are required to send in 65 copies of their zine, which is the membership limit. Currently there are a few vacancies, so if you hustle a letter of enquiry to Lichtman for details, you should be able to get in.

LINGUICA (Sample copy US\$2 from Sarah Ovenall, 1821 Hillandale Road, Suite 1B, #132, Durham, North Carolina 27705) The theme of this apa is languages, covering every aspect from etymology to grammar to culture, although the members do veer off topic into personal life, movie reviews, etcetera.

POINT OF DIVERGENCE (US\$10 per year for postage, plus 30 copies of your zine, double-sided 8½ x 11. Write first to Jim Rittenhouse, Box 562, Lisle, Illinois 60532, to verify vacancies are available.) This bimonthly apa requires a minimum of two pages of original material once every other issue. It is devoted to alternative history and sizes up at roughly 250 pages per bundle. World War Two and the American War Between The States tend to dominate the discussions, but there are other alternatives discussed as well, such as Islamic invasions of Europe, workers' revolutions, and colonialism gone awry. Solid reading; mostly essays and extended commentary but also some fiction, as some POD members are working on novels and timelines.

Zine Listings.

by Dale Speirs

[The Usual means \$2 or \$3 cash, trade for your zine, or letter of comment on a previous issue. Americans: please don't send cheques for small amounts to Canada or overseas as the bank fee to cash them is usually more than the amount. US\$ banknotes are acceptable worldwide. Do not send mint USA stamps as they are not valid for postage.]

FANTASY COMMENTATOR #51 (US\$5.75 from A. Langley Searles, 48 Highland Circle, Bronxville, New York 10708-5909) The definitive periodical covering the history of SF, with first-person accounts of the early days of SF publishing. This issue starts an account of Hugo Gernsback (the father of modern SF) and his comeback attempt in magazine publishing, as told by Sam Moskowitz, who worked for him. Elsewhere is an interview with Neil Barron, librarian and publishers' salesman, who published standard SF references and has seen from within how academics view the field. Steve Sneyd has an article on SF writer Lilith Lorraine and her FBI file, which he obtained under the Freedom of Information Act. The file ranges from 1941 to 1949; she was investigated for possible Communist links. Some of her poetry is quoted in the file, and as Sneyd writes: "*It must be a rarity for verse to appear in FBI files!*".

Well recommended.

THE LEIGHTON LOOK #? (The Usual from Rodney Leighton, R.R. 3, Tatamagouche, Nova Scotia, B0K 1V0) This fluctuates between a zine and a letter substitute. Zine reviews intermixed with thoughts on the state of zinedom and fandom. Some personal accounts as well.

LETTERSUB #20 (Letter of comment or contribution to Terry Hornsby, 66 Johns Avenue, Lofthouse, Wakefield WF3 3LU, England) Perzine about family life, job politics in a political job (two City Councillors nabbed downloading Internet porn), reviews, and letters of comment.

MAINSTREAM #17 (The Usual from Jerry Kaufman and Suzanne Tompkins, 3522 NE 123 Street, Seattle, Washington 98125) SF fanzine, with articles about arts festivals, a Sherlock Holmes pastiche radio play, polyquaintance (six degrees of connectedness), surviving a serious apartment building fire, and letters.

THE KNARLEY KNEWS #75 (The Usual from Henry Welch, 1525 - 16 Avenue, Grafton, Wisconsin 53024-2017) SF genzine with fannish parables, credit card abuse, reviews, and letters.

MARKTIME #56 (The Usual from Mark Strickert, 300 South Beau Drive #1, Des Plaines, Illinois 60016) College radio, sports predictions, zine listings, and letters.

COVERT COMMUNICATIONS

FROM ZETA CORVI #2 (The Usual from Andrew Murdoch, 2563 Heron Street, Victoria, British Columbia V8R 5Z9) Genzine with some reviews, award lists, and letters of comment.

DWELLING PORTABLY May 1999 (US\$2 from Box 190, Philomath, Oregon 97370) A compendium of readers' advice for living simply, from tools to bicycles to handicrafts. Lots of neat little ideas for the camper or urban survivalist, based on practical experience.

FABLES OF IRISH FANDOM #5 (US\$5 or L2 from Ken Cheslin, 29 Kestrel Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2PH, England) Anthology of humorous articles from Irish zines of the 1950s and 1960s. Modern zinesters who think the scene was only invented in the 1970s should read one of these volumes (some back issues may still be available). A refreshing change from political rants or whining about the job from Hell at a fast-food outlet.

NUMERO #5 (DM5.00 or 2 IRC from Wilfried Nold, Eppsteinerstr. 22, D-60323 Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland) Nicely produced mail art digest, with articles on San Francisco Dada history, mail art trends, artist stamps, visual poetry, and detailed accounts of some mail art projects. Well recommended.

FOR THE CLERISY V6#34 (The Usual from Brant Kresovich, Box 404, Getzville, New York 14048-0404) Perzine with articles about being a poor team player in sports, Shostakovich and his troubles with the Communist regime, reviews, and letters.

FOSFAX #195 (The Usual from Falls of the Ohio SF and Fantasy Association, Box 37281, Louisville, Kentucky 40233-7281) 84 pages of microprint, with the usual substantial book reviews (mostly SF and history). The main feature is the lengthy letter column *IRONY ALERT* in which everyone politely discusses *END IRONY ALERT* the aftermath of the bungled Clinton impeachment as well as all the other affairs of the world. This zine is an full evening's reading.

GEGENSCHHEIN #84 (The Usual from Eric Lindsay, Box 640, Airlie Beach, Queensland 4802, Australia) Perzine, with tales of moving house, solar power, reviews, and letters. Lindsay, a computer techie, points out that it is not correct to call the Y2K problem the Millennium Bug, since it is not a bug (it was a deliberate design policy, not an error) and the millennium is 2001, not 2000.

I'M JOHNNY AND I DON'T GIVE A FUCK #3 (\$3 from Andy, Box 21533, Vancouver, British Columbia V5N 4A0) Diaryzine of the life of a teenager drifting through the lower classes and through the thin line that separates them from the homeless. It

begins with him in a hospital after a drinking and driving accident that leaves him with broken bones. It follows him as he wanders from city to city, meeting the denizens of punk rock, ending up with the bottomfeeders in Vancouver, and dealing with the consequences of too much booze. A lifestyle that may be glamorous if you have a home to go back to each morning, but grinds you down if you haven't the energy to make an escape.

AND STUFF #2 (The Usual from Doug Bell, 12 Hatherley Road, Bishopston, Bristol, BS7 8QA) Perzine, starting off with the editor moving from Scotland to Bristol for the love of a good woman. Other items include a history of SF fandom in Aberdeen, convention reports, and Scottish politics.

CHALLENGER #9 (The Usual from Guy Lillian, Box 53092, New Orleans, Louisiana 70153-3093) Thick 106-page zine, about half of which is the letter column. Sort of like FOSFAX except bigger type and less politics. Event reports, not just SF conventions but also re-enactments, behind the scenes in the post office, the technical details of watching paint dry, some legal case reports (Guy is a barrister), and reviews.

FANZINE FANATIQUE #? (The Usual from Keith Walker, 6 Vine Street, Lancaster LA1 4UF, England) 4-page reviewzine.

VANAMONDE #303 to #307 (The Usual from John Hertz, 236 South Coronado Street, #409, Los Angeles, California 90057) Weekly apazine. Single-sheet but in the time it takes other zines to appear it adds up to a regular-sized zine. Some of it is ap mailing comments of no understanding to outsiders, but each issue usually leads off with a brief article of some kind.

NOT YOUR NIGHTMARE February 1999 (The Usual from Kevin Eldridge, Box 184, Blackstone, Massachusetts 01504) Contests, a travelling American pie from McDonald's, reviews of stuff from the 1970s that would have been better forgotten, fake television shows that aren't too far removed from reality, and food.

OLAF #2 (The Usual from Ken Cheslin, 29 Kestrel Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 2PH, England) Anthology of cartoons from old British zines. Crude artwork, mild humour.

ON SPEC #36 (\$4.95 from On Spec, Box 4727, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 5G6) Canada's SF prozine, digest size with colour cover. The best story of this issue is "Home" by Peter Watts, an oceanological cyborg's point-of-view tale of how it lost contact with its masters and why it decides not to return.

ANGRY THOREAUAN #24 (US\$5 from Box 3478, Hollywood, California 90078) A slick cover musiczine with the usual record

label ads and reviews, but

with much more solid

content than most of this ilk. The essays and reports range from the dark side of Los Angeles police operations, zinedom goings-on, a photographer who convince people to pose nude en masse in front of public places, why mass-market journalism is so bad, college life, and why campus newspapers are so bad.

TRANSVERSION #10 (\$5.95 from Paper Orchid Press, 216 Woodfield Road, Toronto, Ontario M4L 2W7) SF fiction semiprozine digest, with a quality of contents that equals the same as ASIMOV'S. The lead-off story is an extract from a forthcoming novel by Spider Robinson. Several of the stories have plots you can see coming three pages ahead but nonetheless are written well enough to keep you immersed in the story.

TRAP DOOR #19 (US\$4 or The Usual from Robert Lichtman, Box 30, Glen Ellen, California 95442) Perhaps the saddest thing in this issue is an essay by Lucy Huntzinger about how she has dropped out of the Papernet and now does only an e-zine. She doesn't want any feedback about her writing, which she gets from real mail but not electronically. The rest of the issue is taken up by various personal essays and lots of letters of comment.

BARMAID #6 (The Usual from Yvonne Rowse, Evergreen, Halls Farm Lane, Trimpey, Worcs. DY12 1NP, England) Perzine of a barmaid, surprise!, with behind-the scenes looks at managing a pub. Also thoughts on writing romances, a miscellany from Wales, and letters of comment.

BIBLIOZINE #64C and #65 (The Usual from John Held Jr, Box 410837, San Francisco, California 94141) Single-sheet bibliography zine, each issue on some aspect of mail art, with annotated references and abstracts. Useful for the serious mail artist.

BRAIN CELL FRACTAL #442 (Mail art trade to Ryosuke Cohen, 3-76-I-A-613 Yagumokitacho, Moriguchi-City, Osaka 570, Japan) Part of an on-going series of 11 x 17 posters, created from items sent in to Cohen. Send 150 stickers, rubber stamp images, or other small mail art stuff. The items will be collaged into a full-colour poster, and a copy to all participants. Also includes a mailing list of participants, so you can expand your contacts in mail art.

THYME #126 (The Usual from Alan Stewart, Box 222, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Victoria 8005, Australia) Newszine of Australian Sfdom with convention reports, publishing news, forthcoming events, profiles, award lists, people in the news, and letters.

TORTOISE #4 (The Usual from Sue Jones, 89 Sutton Road, Shrewsbury SY2 6ED, England) Perzine covering a wide range of interesting items. She displays her birth certificate on the cover. While her name is unremarkable, it is the Registrar of Births who signed the certificate that catches one's eye: Athelstan Eatenton.

PLOKTA #12.5 and #13 (The Usual from Alison Scott, 42 Tower Hamlets Road, Walthamstow, London E17 4RH, England) A visit to Speakers Corner in Hyde Park, a fannish wedding, Captain Birds Eye, millennial predictions, Fanby dolls, and letters. These people do not take themselves seriously.

QUIPU #10 (The Usual from Vicki Rosenzweig, 33 Indian Road, 6-R, New York City, New York 10034) Perzine, starting off with her apartment building catching fire, designing things, robot charity, and letters of comment.

RE:ACTION #10 (L1 from Neoist Alliance, BM Senior, London WC1N 3XX, England) From the avant-garde of Europe, with an essay on hoaxes and pranks, and a Stewart Home interview.

THE GEIS LETTER #63 (US\$1 from Richard Geis, Box 11408, Portland, Oregon 97211-0408) Conspiracy newszine, this issue emphasizing the recent tragedy in Serbia, also reviews and letters.

BANANA WINGS #13 (The Usual from Claire Brialey, 26 Northampton Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 7HA, England) SF genzine, mostly given over in this issue to esoteric debates about numbered fandoms and navel-gazing fanzine reviews. But for the outsider who doesn't care who said what about whose fanzine, there is a history of an Australian small press that offers a few insights about publishing books on a shoestring budget, convention reports from 1948 to 2010, and a tour of San Francisco which refers its landmarks to their mentions in SF novels.

FILE 770 #130 (US\$8 for five issues from Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Avenue, Monrovia, California 91016) SF newszine with convention reports, list making, news about fandom, and letters.

GLOBAL MAIL #19 (US\$3 from Global Mail, Box 1309, Grove City, Pennsylvania 16127) A listings zine with hundreds of mail art projects, actions, and requests for contributors to zines. If you are looking to plug into the Papernet and want addresses to communicate with, here is the place to begin.

GRAMMAR Q AND A #16 (US\$2 from Misti and Scott Crow, Box 445, Clements, California 95227) A single sheet zine that deals with questions from you're versus your, to bulleting items in text, to one of my pet hates "I could care less".

PHILOSOFY #12

(The Usual from Alexander Slate, 8603 Shallow Ridge, San Antonio, Texas 78239-4022) Genzine with the usual personal notes, letters, and reviews, but which distinguishes itself from others by its philosophical bent. In this issue are discussed medical ethics and governance.

OUT OF THE KAJE #3 (The Usual from Karen Johnson, 35 Mariana Avenue, South Croydon, Victoria 3136, Australia) One of SF fandom's brightest new stars. Those who worry about where the new fans are coming from to replace the BOFs need only look this way for a satisfactory answer. In this issue, a memorial to Ian Gunn, a discussion of what ten personal things you would take on a voyage to Mars, reviews, and letters of comment.

RUTHIE #5 (2 from Ms. Mastre, 28 - 101A - 601- 17 Avenue SW, Calgary, Alberta T2S 0B3) Feminist zine, but ranges more widely than that. Articles on Tiananmen Square, homophobia, true love, how vegetarians get their protein, and tattoos. An interesting account of a Calgary business where people come in, have their bodies inked up like a rubber stamp, and get a lifesize poster of their imprint.

INTERNATIONAL REVOLUTIONARY GARDENER #2 (The Usual from Judith Hanna and Joseph Nicholas, 15 Jansons Road, South Tottenham, London N15 4JU, England) Bringing in the revolution by allotment gardening, with lulls during the combat to contemplate the ethics of wearing furs, reviews, and letters.

IT GOES ON THE SHELF #18 (The Usual from Ned Brooks, 4817 Dean Lane, Lilburn, Georgia 30047-4720) Reviewzine that emphasizes books. Not just current bestsellers, but older books that deserve a second look or are weird enough to attract notice.

SHORT TREKS May 1999 (The Usual from Candace Harborne, Box 2003, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R3) Clubzine of SF media fans, mostly with personal natter and cat stories, but with some local club news.

SOUTHERN FANDOM CONFEDERATION BULLETIN V7#3 (The Usual from Julie Wall, 470 Ridge Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35206) Clubzine of a federation of southern USA SF clubs, with convention reports, news, and letters.

SUGAR NEEDLE #9 (The Usual from Phlox, 1174-2 Briarcliff, Atlanta, Georgia 30306) Addicted to sugar, with each issue on some aspect of candy and other confectionaries. This time around is a discussion of candy sold in movie theatres.

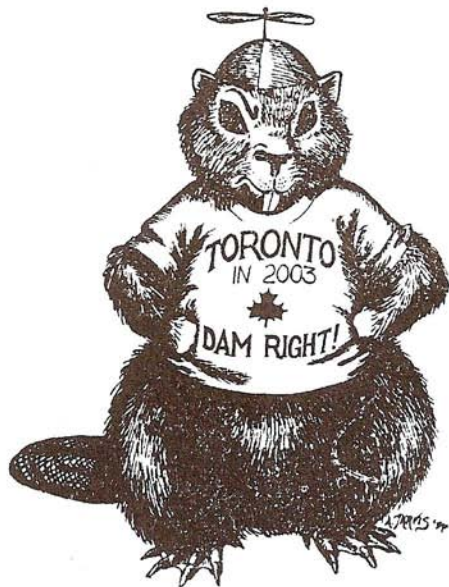
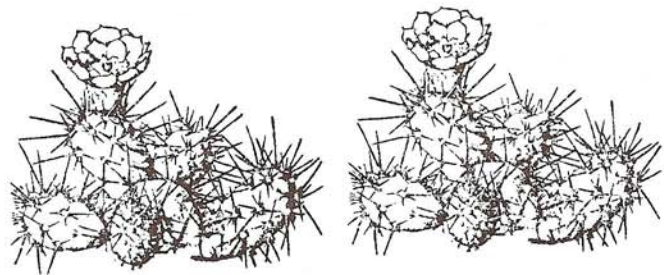
TAPE OP #11 (US\$3.50 from Tape Op, Box 507, Sacramento, California 95812) A trade publication for the person operating a basement recording studio or small record label company. Interviews with producers, underground cassette culture, how to splice open-reel tapes, and techie stuff about microphones and home studio machines. For the DIYer recording music on a shoestring budget.

THE THOUGHT #113 (The Usual from Ronald Tobin, Box 10760, Glendale, Arizona 85318-0760) Anti-authoritarian in the style of THE GEIS LETTER, only more verbose and not as clearly written as Richard Geis' articles. A review of the movie THE MATRIX that mixes in the author's psychoanalysis of his dreams; I bailed out after the first few paragraphs. Abortion, gun control, and all the favourite topics of the self-oppressed.

BOOKS ON FIRE (probably available for mail art from Lois Klassen, Box 608, Hamiota, Manitoba R0M 0T0). A nicely-printed show catalogue of a mail art exhibition in Brandon, Manitoba. This is the documentation for a mail art project of the Renegade Library, with 730 individuals contributing. The editor mentions that " ... *the Renegade Library participants outnumber the citizens of my home municipality.*". Brief introductions explain each type of mail art in the exhibition: art books, add-and-send-on, assemblings, children's art, books as art, and

collaborations. Much of the catalogue is listings of the participants, but without their mailing addresses. It would have been better to have their addresses included since one of the uses of this type of documentation is to allow mail artists to make new contacts. The Renegade Library demonstrates that you don't need to live in the big city to actively participate in the Papernet.

THE TEN PAGE NEWS #25 (The Usual from Owen Thomas, Box 9651, Columbus, Ohio 43209) Interesting zine of a bookish editor who counts 3,000 books in his library. Book reviews include a hilarious one called "If the Answer to the Title is "No, of course not", Should One Bother to Continue Reading?". Fond reminiscing about school libraries, and zine reviews.



To support Toronto's bid to host the 2003 World Science Fiction Convention, send C\$20.03 or US\$15 to: Toronto in '03, Box 3, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1A2.