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ANVIL 26, February-March, 1983, is the clubzine of the
Birmingham Science Fiction Club.

Edited by Charlotte Proctor - LoC Editor, Wade Gilbreath

ANVIL is available for LoC, trade, contribution or 6 for \$5
sent to: P. O. Box 57031, Birmingham, Alabama, 35259-7031

ANVIL was typed on an old Royal manual and a new Brother
electric--it was copied on a Rex-Rotary mimeo. The cover
was Xeroxed.

%GUEST EDITORIAL%
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HACKING AROUND

by Meade Frierson III

Fandom has long been occupied by computer types - people who are programmers and so forth. You could tell by the occasional margin-justified zines you would see. The rest of us were print freaks or movie freaks or whatever, who had little contact with computers in our daily life (except, as everyone, to gripe about them and their @#%* bills).

Increasingly, even the low-tech people, wordsmithies and the like are finding the computers more accessible and inevitable. I have a confession. I was the no-tech type until December of 1982. I may still be the no-tech type but I have a computer. I have 16 K at my disposal for about \$140 invested (using my own tape recorder and TV.)

Pause. This is more of a commitment than a toy on which to play crude games (and believe me at 16K, in black and white, without a joystick, they are crude games). This is not a way to balance your checkbook - actually, my manual method takes me 1/3 as long. This is not a way to while away your time "drawing" pretty computer pictures (because at 16K, on black and white, mumble, mumble). This is not a way to do your taxes - actually, my manual methods takes, mumble, mumble.

This is a way to isolate yourself from your family, quite an unexpected detriment when one purchased it think this was a family-type deal. Since it looks like the 10-year old Pong games compared to the 3-D multi-colored zoom-zoom arcade stuff, it loses the younger generation pronto. Since it doesn't have a printer (and if it did, it would look like typing on an adding machine) it loses the wife's interest since it has no use in letter-writing or ATLANTA IN '86 typesetting, etc.

But in sum it is interesting only to me. I am an addict - from the reading I have done, I believe I have succumbed to "hacking"...programming, or playing at programming, a computer to do things for the sake of doing things. The Timex distribution system, the give-away price, and the low-tech techniques of getting it to do something YOU want it to do have led in two years to an "Uncle Clive" (Sinclair) cult in England and a burgeoning one here in the States. Although I am just taking tentative steps at communicating with the cult, I feel very much as I did when discovering SFPA and burgeoning Southern Fandom a dozen years ago. Since it can be "worked" on out of the home, it is giving rise to a cottage industry of programming. I just wrote a guy who sold me a program listing (no cassette, just a nineo'd sheet - not even printed

on his own computer, but separately typed) and sent him back, free, my modifications to his program. I am trying to work up better modifications to one he also wrote on bio-rhythms, but since he doesn't believe in them, I'll probably wait for a later contact.

Enough of me. I have dropped Southern Fandom Confederation and the video apa I started four years ago not solely because I am now a confirmed hacker but also because of good, substantial and legitimate reasons. But something is happening in this land, dear reader; Frank Herbert is selling (well, pushing) computers in a Book-of-the-Month Club book. Old fanzine hacker, Arnie Katz, is a featured columnist on home video/computing. Names from fandom are cropping up. A letter apa from many years ago, The Cult, now has a majority of its members composing their entries on personal computers. If fan groups used to pool for minicos, they will soon pool for printers (I'm saving up for mine--when I quit expanding the horizons of the cheapie and get a full-function color console with disc drive, boards and three-digit-K memory).

There should be a theme in here somewhere - perhaps several. I see the home computer-changing fandom (probably not the way it changed me) - clubzines are partially compuwritten now in Baton Rouge and Atlanta. If fandom can choose a brand like it did with Gestetners - be it Atari, Commodores or whatever - there can be a major comlink between cities, videozines, and all kinds of other goodies. These activities, I fearlessly predict, will no longer be the domain of the high techs - the ordinary verbal-type fan is coming to the fore. I would not have believed all this without experiencing my own conversion.

Trust me.



by Wade Gilbreath

March meeting: 3/12/83:

Linda said, "Should we start?"

"Yes", said V.P. Julie Ackermann.

"Call it 7:45", commanded Prez Linda.

"Yes", said Sec. Gilbreath, taking note of the time.

"We're starting", said Linda to the masses.

The masses took no notice, but continued to mass around the meeting room.

"Harumph! WE'RE STARTING NOW," repeated Linda.

The masses took startled notice and with one voice cried, "Start us, Linda Riley!"

Amid the hubbub, Penny Frierson appeared at 7:50. Receiving their second shock in 5 minutes, the masses halted their hubbub abruptly; Penny had never before arrived at a meeting before 8:00 P.M.

The subdued membership sat quietly as Prez Linda covered several announcements concerning upcoming conventions, the mythical club t-shirt, and the semi-mythical club directory. Then it was time for the mystery program--Ward Smith's survey of SF themes in new music. And an interesting time was had by all.

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@ CON REPORTS @
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by Linda Riley

GEMINI: Constellation II, March 25-27, 1983 (Huntsville, AL)

About 253 fans attended Constellation, which is on its way to becoming one of the quality art conventions in the Deep South. Southern artists were well represented with works by Kevin Ward, Mark Maxwell, Bill Brown, Charlie Williams and several other talented artists. All of the art was of high quality and it was estimated that this show turned over about \$2,000.00.

Joe and Jack Haldeman, the Guests of Honor, made themselves accessible and fans found them both interesting and easy to talk to. Kelly Freas unfortunately was unable to attend because of a dental emergency. However, the ConCon took this in stride and had a special Get Well card for Kelly designed by Charlie Williams and signed by attending fans. This con also had the usual con suite with beer and fountain soft drinks, hearts tourney, good masquerade, and video. There were several excellent panels, including an artists' panel on "How to Break In" (the art business, not jewelry stores), and "Shoot the Chairman" which sounds like target practice but actually consisted of several past and present con chairmen answering questions from the audience about the problems of running a con. Everyone seemed to mix well at this convention. The ConCon was friendly, outgoing and helpful. If there were any problems, they were not apparent.

ASFICON 4, April 1-3, 1983 (Atlanta, Georgia)

If it had not been for the programming, this year's ASFICON might well have been a relaxicon. It was small, but appeared to have been planned to that end. There were several good panels which were lightly attended. Bob Maurus, Doug Chaffee and their audience had a very interesting discussion on making a living in fantasy and SF art. Doug also gave his always excellent slide show delineating his career in art. ASFICON had a fairly broad spectrum huckster room (considering the con's small size) with books, comics, weapons, t-shirts, prints, etc. The art show was also small, but here again was an excellent exhibit by pros Chaffee and Maurus along with some very good fan artists.

The usual amenities were present--consuite stocked with beer and soft drinks, hearts tourney, video room, plus a Saturday night dance featuring local Atlanta band "The Spies of Life". The Atlanta folk say there will not be an ASFICON next year: instead, all forces will be combined to produce ISTACON, a super birthdaycon for Anne McCaffrey.

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by Kim Huett

((The pictures accompanying this article have a colorful history, even though they are black and white. They are (1) mimeoed reproductions of (2) E-stenciled copies of (3) Xeroxed reductions of (4) penciled renditions of (5) photographic likenesses. Kim took the pictures, Wade drew them and Charlotte did the rest. For one reason or the other, not all of Kim's snapshots are included, so some of the "pictures" are word pictures, and you must use your imagination. --cp))

"Circulations are warm and fuzzy" so said Marc Ortlieb in his conreport. So they are and so they should be after a hard year's conventioning. That late in the year, after all the regional cons, the national con, etc., few if any feel up to banquets, masquerades, serious panels, etc. In keeping with this mood Circulation 2 was a weekend party with a little programming to give it some direction. Despite its low keyed nature, many of Australia's more active fen turned up to celebrate being fannish one more time.

Circulation 2 was my third convention and the first to which I took a camera. Consequently, I went crazy with said camera, ending up with dozens of lousy shots and a handful of good ones. In the interests of satisfying curiosity among U.S. fen about few down under, I sent copies of my better shots to Charlotte for BSFC. In the true spirit of fannish unselfishness, they decided to share them with all the readers.



KIM HUETT

Terry Frost: Also known as "Jack" Frost, Terry is an ex-Sydney-sider who moved to Melbourne and then Dubbo deep in the NSW countryside. Terry recently discovered the joys of contributing to fanzines besides apas. Since then a stream of articles and very gross cartoons has flooded from his pen. He has my vote as the fan most likely to replace Darrell Schweitzer in Holier Than Thou.

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Peter Toluzzi--Massage fanatic, frisbee thrower par excellence, leading Australian sleaze fan and all round actice, cuddly, aggressively friendly person. Peter is missed by us down under now he has chosen to live in the USA. Life goes on but its not nearly as much fun.

Carole Cranwell---Budding authoress and frequent organizer of any story writing competition or workshop (because she's a sucker for such jobs). Carole is a short petite redhead around whom it is exceedingly dangerous to make sexist or heighest jokes.

Eric Lindsay--Longtime fanzine fan, regular visitor to the USA and computer freak. At the last national convention Eric revealed that there were actually two of him (but refused to reveal whether they were brothers or clones). The American Eric Lindsay drinks, attends cons, drinks, travels around the USA, drinks, acts sleazy and drinks. The Australian Eric Lindsay is chained to the word processor.

Tony Power--Well known Sydney con fan and party thrower. Tony has a reputation for having his camera there and ready to go at any and every embarrassing moment that occurs at any party or con he attends. When it was noticed at the Saturday night party he had fallen asleep, those of us who had brought cameras to the con almost trampled to death those sitting near the door in our haste to record this once in a lifetime event.



TONY POWER -----



Marc Ortlieb--Marc was proving to me here that he isn't really as good a TWAGA member as he would have certain people believe. ((This shot was taken in the bar, but I don't know what that has to do with Those Who Aren't Getting Any-cp)) Now that Marc is moving from Adelaide to Melbourne many people can't help but wonder if he might not just keep on going and move to the USA.

Leigh Edmonds--A noted Canberra hermit, (due to renovations to the house) Leigh decided to attend Circulation as it was only ten minute's by foot from his home. Now the renovations are finished we hope to see a little more of Valma and Leigh at future cons.

MARC ORTLIEB

Womble (Karen Warnoch)--Rather than have a GOH like more energetic cons, Circulations have mascots. This year the job fell to Womble who is a short plump bouncy person well known for her love of fluffy toys, ceramic owls and alcohol. She is a founding member of the "Anything With Lemonade In It Is Safe Organization" (AWLSO).

Gerald Smith--It was at Circulation that it was revealed that Gerald's feet were two of the cutest in Australian fandom. I even went as far as taking a photo of them which Womble later sent to Gerald along with the news of his winning the Cute Foot Award 1982. After this he will probably concentrate on his apas and genzine (Pariah) rather than go to any more cons. ((Merlin, are you listening? Merlin has been heard to say "I never met a foo I didn't like".--cp))

JOHN NEWMAN

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Robyn Johnson--Sydney's resident BNF who due to family problems in England had to travel back there. This meant giving up his flat and having various people look after his possessions. I bravely accepted the job of looking after and organizing his fanzine collection. Trouble is, I'm not sure I'll have the willpower to give it back.

April--by the time you get this, the April Club Party will be history. (Every year, about this time, we get kicked out of our meeting room, and so in the spirit of any excuse for a party.....)

June--L-5 update, Warren Overton. The eagerly-awaited presentation by one of our favorite program-people.

July--Games Fen Play, Eric Ackermann. And you thought they only played D&D!!

--Jane Gray

BOOK REVIEW #

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by Pat Gibbs, Critic in Exile

FOUNDATION'S EDGE by Isaac Asimov (Doubleday 82) 366pp, \$14.95

Last year was an abundance of riches for nostalgic SF fans. Heinlein's FRIDAY, Clarke's 2010 and Asimov's FOUNDATION'S EDGE-- all in 1982. The question immediately arises as to whether the journey back to the stories of yesteryear falls into the "too many trips to the well" category. My vote is cast: Run out and get this book. Of course, if you are on a limited budget, there is always the SFBC edition (it's the April selection) for \$5.98, plus postage.

This is the fourth book in the Foundation Series (and you always thought that it was a trilogy!). In my opinion it is the first novel in the series. I have just finished re-reading the first three books and they really show their origins. If you will recall from SF History 101, the Foundation books were originally published as separate stories in ASTOUNDING, from 1942 to 1950. They were cemented together into three "novels" and published sequentially from 1951 to 1953. The Avonpaperbacks, with those great covers by Don Punchatz, were published in 1966 and sold for 60 cents each! But now I wax nostalgic. The first three books read like novellas strung together on the Hari Seldon Plan. You are constantly bumping into expository material in the middle of the "novel" that is there only for the benefit of readers who came in late. FOUNDATION'S EDGE is a novel with a beginning, middle and end. (The last constructed so there can be a fifth book.)

The story begins 498 years after the creation of the First Foundation. For the benefit of any young readers in the audience: the Foundation was founded by the psychohistorian Hari Seldon in the dying days of the Galactic Empire. He established it to reduce (through the Seldon Plan) the Dark Ages until the rise of a Second Empire, that he foresaw with the science of psychohistory, from 30,000 years to "only" 1000 years. On an isolated planet a group of physical scientists would safeguard existing scientific knowledge from the barbarians. A totally unforeseeable crisis, fifty years before the opening of the novel, had brought out the Second Foundation from obscurity to save the Seldon Plan from ruin. The Second Foundation was a group of psychologists hidden away on a planet at "Star's End", who were the true guardians of the Seldon Plan.

As the curtain rises, a First Foundation Councilor, Golan Trevize, is exiled because he publicly avows the political heresy that the Second Foundation had not been destroyed fifty years previously; but rather was still controlling events so as to implement the Seldon Plan. He can return to the Foundation

only if he actually finds the Second Foundation. Trevize is given the latest technology starship, and the cover story that he is travelling with Foundation Historian, Janov Pelorat, in search of the mythical birthplace of humanity, the planet Earth. Meanwhile on the Second Foundation, the brilliant young psychohistorian, Stor Gendibal, has concluded that the Plan is running too perfectly and therefore some outside force, far more powerful than the Second Foundation, must be at work somewhere in the galaxy. Their two quests eventually intertwine and when they are done the future of the Galaxy is forever changed.

FOUNDATION'S EDGE is the work of a mature writer who is now more comfortable with characterization and dialogue. It is a more well-rounded narrative than any of the first three books, which were populated with stock action figures of 1940's SF. The story is of primary importance in the original trilogy, but in this novel the author is capable of giving the reader a little more than that. The heroes of FOUNDATION'S EDGE are not the wholly admirable (and rather one-dimensional) figures we met years ago when we first discovered this universe. Which brings us to another point, Asimov did not write this novel while tied down to the universe he created over thirty years ago. We are rid of those constant references to "atomics" and the worshipful approach to science. His writing here shows the influence of the "soft" science fiction which has become more dominate since the 1960's. The larger questions of freedom and free will take center stage in this story.

As with practically every Asimov novel that I have read, there is a mystery, or two, at the heart of FOUNDATION'S EDGE. That is why I have not discussed the plot very much in this review. Even though the reader has a parallel narrative with the two protagonists, Trevize and Gendibal, proceeding towards their inevitable meeting; there is no omniscient narrator telling us who is doing what to whom. There is that wonderful discovery that everyone is not what they appear to be and the hindsight that Asimov "played fair" with us and had given us the clues throughout the story, there for us to find if we only kept our eyes open. By the end of the novel the principle plot issues have been resolved. But there are larger mysteries which will be the subject reportedly of another two books. We will have a second trilogy. My bet is that it will be about as good (albeit not as innovative) as the first Foundation trilogy.

One question which may arise is whether one should read the original Foundation books before starting FOUNDATION'S EDGE. I would say that it is not necessary. I had forgotten most of the details of the first three books, which I had not read in fifteen years, and I did not find any allusions which I did not understand. There is a short Prologue which should be adequate for the uninitiated. It would be an interesting exercise to read the trilogy first and see the work of the young Asimov--knocking out another story for Campbell's ASTOUNDING; and then to glide through the seamless narrative of this novel. Enjoy!, and good luck in choosing Best Novel this year in the Hugo balloting.

Z I N E R E V I E W S

by Valerie McKnight.

A FAN TYPOLOGY, Beth Lillian & Charlie Williams, 102 S. Mendenhall, Apt. # 13, Greensboro, NC 27403, \$1.75

This fan spoof is already famous. With art by Charlie Williams and mock-anthropological text by Beth Lillian (the woman who tamed the Terror of New Orleans) it relentlessly describes all those people you've glimpsed lurking in stairwells and dark caverns at cons.

The pictures are beyond price (my favorite is that absolutely menacing Fan Groupie). Frank Brayman pointed out a few odd visual jokes, which I'll leave to aficionados of that sort of thing to discover for themselves. The chilling thing about the caricatures is how much they resemble people I know (and this would be a much more interesting review if I dared to name them).

Charlie and I can't have that many common acquaintances. He seems to have tapped some deep-running stream of archetypal resemblances (Freudian, Jungian, or perhaps non-Euclidian) that gurgles dreamily through the fannish psyche: dark, horrifying, and funny--very funny.

Beth's learned commentary zings everything that Charlie misses. The Engineer Type, for instance, "wears pajamas at night". The Elevator Lizard, the Harlan Clone, the Snow Princess, and all the rest have their darkest secrets remorselessly revealed by the lightning-sharp scalpel of Lillianaesque wit. I predict that a whole new class of fannish slang (and insults) has been born. The introduction hints at many more fan types, so we may be seeing a sequel.

SOUTH ON PEACHTREE # 1, Atlanta in '86, P.O. Box 10094,
Atlanta, GA 30319, Sub. with \$5 pre-supporting membership.

South on Peachtree is the bidzine for Atlanta in '86. It introduces you to the members of the bidcommittee, and gets you acquainted with their histories, talents, interests, etc.

Surprisingly, it isn't the least dry or boring. Most of the content is like any other high-quality genzine. There are two biographies of Central Committee members, (apparently we're going to get the rest of the CC in subsequent issues) which should be of great interest to those who want to know what kind of people are after their precious Worldcon.

There is one article of Chicon anecdotes by the bidcon, and another on general convention memories, with further contributions solicited from the readers. There's reviews, a list of pre-supporting members, the famous peach daiquiri recipe, and a page on how to support the Atlanta bid. The best part is a really valuable article for neos on how to go to cons on practically no money at all.

The zine is quite classy-looking, with a good layout, a Williams cover, and interior illos from some of the best Southern artists--(except for one disgusting cartoon--and you guys know which one I mean).

Bidzines like this are something I highly approve of. Nobody is more subject to rumors, scandals and intrigue than a World-con bidcon. I can remember, a few years back, hearing the Chicon bidcon described in such terms as made me wonder how such monsters of perversion and depravity found the gall to climb out of their holes and lay their sliny tentacles on the sacred convention. Naturally, none of it was true. It's useful to have a zine like this, so that everyone can get the committee's attitudes and purposes from their own mouths.

DYNATRON # 77, Roy Tackett, 915 Green Valley Road NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87107 - For the asking.

Dynatron is a penzine from "an old fool of the old school" as Roy calls himself. It looks it. It's mimeoed in true old-fashioned style (no art) on coarse green paper that looks as though it's been saved since the 40's. I really thought, when I first saw it, that someone had sent us part of his collection by mistake.

But that's all irrelevant. A zine like this depends entirely on its content, and Dynatron has plenty of content. In this issue, Roy tells the story of his trip to the Soviet Union on a special First Fandom tour. His group planned to visit several Russian cities to meet SF writers and explore bookstores. Unfortunately, most of their plans were ruined by a combination of an inefficient travel agency, an indifferent Soviet Writers' Union, and a tour guide who sounds as though he was suffering a mental breakdown.

They actually did get to meet a few writers, and Roy reports on what he found out about Soviet fandom. He also tells about their popular mania for space, which really puts us blase Americans to shame (though perhaps Russians just have more reason to want to leave Earth).

This is an interesting zine, for those of us who like travel stories. Roy writes well in his crusty, old-fan persona. I'm looking forward to his next adventure.

THE LOOKING GLASS # 24, Stellar Fantasy Society, Editor: Ben Fulves, 56 Gordonhurst Ave., Montclair, NJ 07043 -- 50¢

The Looking Glass is a truly superior zine. It's a general interest clubzine of the same sort as ANVIL, only much better. The Stellar Fantasy Society must have a lot of talented members, as well as access to professional printing. My one technical gripe is, there are no credits.

This issue is short, with an editorial, two long articles, and a lettercolumn. The showpiece is Steve Miller's blood-curdling tale of his adventures as curator of the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus' SF collection. It was every fan's dream--negotiating for original manuscripts, indexing all the fanzines in the world; setting up a Freas art exhibit--but alas, the evil forces of Mundania intervened. Not enough important people were interested in the exhibit; just nasty, insignificant people (students). Steve's hours were drastically cut, and he left in disgust. This collection "the largest public holding of fanzines in the country", has languished for years, still accepting and filing donations but without a curator to properly index and organize them. Can this be tolerated? Of course not! I'd like to suggest that the University of Maryland be made a permanent part of every zine's mailing list. Maybe after they're knee-deep in fanzines, they will realize their responsibility for the important history of an American subculture they've been entrusted with. The address is: UMBC SF Research Collection, UMBC Library, 5401 Wilkins Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228.

The other section that mainly interested me was the lettercol. Most of the writers were responding to last month's articles on Lovecraft and Tolkien (an exceptional zine, no?). While I haven't read Lovecraft recently enough to have any opinion, I have some very decided opinions on their criticism of Tolkien--specifically, The Hobbit.

The Hobbit is a book that I recently rediscovered through Nichol Williamson's magnificent, dramatic reading from Folkway Records. While I don't object to people disliking it--just because I have good taste doesn't mean everyone has to--I do object to their doing so for illogical reasons. Got it? Good.

The main objection to The Hobbit is that it doesn't stand alone--in Ben Fulves' words, "...in order to enjoy and appreciate The Hobbit I have to read both it and the entire LOTR trilogy...". Now this is an odd thing to say about a book that was published, enjoyed and appreciated years before LOTR was even conceived. People understood it perfectly from 1937 to 1954--why it should strain anybody's understanding today is beyond me. (Maybe there's some relation to the decline in SAT scores).

Tony Trull objects to Bilbo's being lucky, and also to the "forces at work which the reader was never shown". I don't know about his life, but mine has been greatly influenced by good and bad luck, and by forces which I knew nothing about at the time. Any book which didn't have these factors would be extremely unrealistic. As for calling Bilbo a puppet! Am I the only person who noticed that the theme of the book was Bilbo's growing self-determination?

The only letter that really hurt was Jessica Salmonsens's. It's painful to see a fantasy writer who thinks that "children's book" is a putdown. And her statement "I bet your reviewer gets some flack, though. There are fans who think Tolkien is God and his books various New Testaments" is embarrassing. When a minor writer criticizes a world-renowned one, it's not very becoming to imply that his fans defend him because they're irrational. It smacks of envy.

I could go on about this question for many pages more, but I suppose I'd better stop now. Incidentally, I just looked back through the files and found that Cecilia reviewed the Looking Glass several issues ago. She thought it was rotten. Evidently the content has not always been this good, but I'll be forgiving if the current quality is maintained.

Since there's some left-over space, I'll answer a couple of comments on my previous articles from this issue's letter-column. Yes, Kim, my last review column was definately jerky and incoherent. I plead in my defense that I was an ultimate last-minute replacement, and did the whole thing in about two hours. This time I went very slowly, and put in whole gobs of style just for you.

Don D'Annassa wonders what I had against the songs in The Last Unicorn. I disliked them because they were sentimental, vague, and entirely contrary to the spirit of the story. Peter Beagle had several songs in the book which could just as well have been used; they're mocking and uneasy, but very beautiful. I suppose Rankin-Bass thought the public couldn't deal with anything disturbing, so they put in some sappy lovesongs to pretty the story up. I don't know if I would have disliked them so much in another context; maybe it was their inappropriateness that offended me.

To update everyone on the review policies: each issue I'll review four zines. Like Cecilia, I'll try to do only those that haven't been reviewed in ANVIL before, except in particularly interesting cases. So keep sending them in; eventually yours will be reviewed.

These zines have already been revied in ANVIL: THIS HOUSE, HARLOT, CALLISTO RISING, THE LOOKING GLASS, NEOLOGY, BRSL NEWS, FILE 770, WESTWIND, PRIVATE HEAT, HOLIER THAN THOU, THE PETER PRINCIPLE, NEKROMONIKON, YANDRO, GOBSTOPPER.

--V. McKnight

WE ALSO RECEIVED:

Apple Catch-up
Marc Ortlieb
P.O. Box 36
Marden, SA 5070
Australia

ASFC/AWN
Joe Celko
Box 10558
Atlanta, GA 30310

Back to the Source
Marc Ortlieb

BRSFL News #22
P.O. Box 14238
Baton Rouge, LA
70898

ChatsFic News
Rt. 5, Box 315-A
Cleveland, TN 37311

DASFAX
11500 W.38 Av. #19
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033

The Dillinger Relic
Arthur Hlavaty
819 W. Markham Ave.
Durham, NC 27701

File 770
Mike Glycer
5828 Woodman Av #2
Van Nuys, CA 91401

FTA/Phoenix
Box 1772
Victoria, BC
Canada V8V 3E1

G'Nel #31
Marc Ortlieb

Grunge #2
Sean Abley
932½ Peosta
Helena Mt. WA 59601

Holier Than Thou #15
Marty & Robbie Cantor
5263 Riverton Ave. #1
N. Hollywood, CA 91601

Illusions #5
1810 S. Rittenhouse Sq.
Suite 1903
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Photron #17
Allan Beatty
P.O. Box 1906
Ames, IA 50010

NASFA Shuttle
4112 S. Memorial PKY-G
Huntsville, AL 35802

Rhetorical Device #11
Clifford R. Wind
#206 308 Summit E.
Seattle, WA 98102

Science Fic. Review #46
Richard E. Geis
P.O. Box 22408
Portland, OR 97211

Shadow of a Fan #12
Irvin Koch
2040 Stanton Rd. #G14
Atlanta, GA 30344

Smart-Ash
5587 Robinson Rd. Ext.
Jackson, MS 39204

Stellar Advertiser
25 Parkway
Montclair, NJ 07042

Thyme #19-22
Roger Weddal
106 Rathdowne St.
Carlton, 3053
Australia

Transmissions #127-130
Robert Teague
P.O. Box 1534
Panama City, FL 32401

Wahf-Full #10
Jack R. Herman
Box 272
U. of Sydney 2006
Australia

WESTWIND #67-68
P.O. Box 24207
Seattle, WA 98124

The Wretch Takes
to Writing
Cheryl Cline
1621 Detroit Ave.
Apt. #23
Concord, CA 94520

Zinerevzine
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6 Vine Street
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LA1 4UF, U.K.



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#  T H E   A N V I L   C H O R U S   #
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There is a time to sleep, a time to eat, a time for to have... well, a time for various other things. Yes there is even a time for editing the ANVIL Chorus. And this is it. --wg

Harry Warner, Jr. As predicted, herewith the comments on the 423 Summit Avenue 25th ANVIL, a trifle later than I'e hoped. I Hagerstown, MD hope everyone who works on ANVIL watched the start of the Wagner Ring telecasts, popularly known as Dallas on the Rhine, because Das Rheingold had more anvils being utilized simultaneously than ever before on TV.

Once again, the cover is eye-catching and worth extended contemplation. I don't pretend to know if it's supposed to represent a specific scene in some fictional series or just an imaginary situation. But I like the unusual pattern which depicts the sky, as well as the fact that the elevation on the right and the landscape in general have contours somewhat off-balance, somehow, as if the chorp ((the what??)) dimension were added to the usual three dimensions on this alien planet.

I hope a lot of ANVIL readers follow Frank Brayman's instructions and contact congressmen about the space program. But I think such communications will be much more effective if written in simpler and plainer prose than the sample letter. Politicians in general are cynical about anything that gives evidence of being part of an organized write-in effort and they're usually quite impressed by letters that sound and look like the honest outpourings of the writers. The former are too often inspired by non-altruistic reasons and any letters that sound too literary or contain more information that the average person knows could be interpreted as pressure from union members who are more interested in getting work than in forwarding the space program. (This is also true at the local government level. When I was covering the county commissioners' meetings in Hagerstown, I used to marvel at how sympathetic they were to a group of three or four persons who came in to present their case for some cause or other, talking informally and sincerely, and how differently the commissioners reacted to a petition signed by several hundred persons. People will sign their name to anything, they reasoned, but if they give up an afternoon to attend a meeting and discuss the matter, they're genuinely concerned.)

There is one other way to back the space program. Many members of the Senate and House schedule in many cities in their constituencies specific dates when they or their staff members will meet with the general public, and talk over whatever problems the people may want to bring before them. In some cases, the congress members seem to prefer to hear only about purely local or regional problems but others are willing to hear opinions about national affairs on these occasions. Any fan who made his opinions known in this way might do more good than by writing a letter.

Steve Bullock's little article was amusing. It probably contains as much truth as humor, too. Down through the years, I've heard a lot of complaints about fanzines that contained no material about science fiction or fantasy. But by now, conventions are threatening to create the same laments, offering as they do more and more elements that would be found at conventions of many mundane organizations.

Merlin Odom got his point across Swiftly in A Modest Proposal. He might have extended his consideration of the fannish Olympics to take into account some of the ramifications of his proposal. What, for instance, would Howard Cosell have to say about fandom, if he were assigned to cover the competition after the ABC network won television rights? When the time came to give out the medals, how would the stoned, intoxicated, and otherwise incapacitated winners manage to climb up on the little platform where the gold medal winner is supposed to stand?

Chattacon sounds like a pleasant event in general in Ceceilia Martinez's description. Has it ever occurred to anyone to do research on how many Rusty Havelins are active in fandom just now? I find one of them doing something important at almost every con I read about, and it's obviously impossible for just one Rusty Havelin to be in so many cities almost simultaneously.

The loc section makes me feel more alienated than ever from most modern fans, even fanzine fans. Everyone else seems to be mad about pizza, and I'm sure that eating pizza would be for me one of the most painful and slow ways of committing suicide because of the condition of my stomach. At a time when I don't even dare to drink water full strength, and must dilute it to protect my health, other fans go out on pizza-eating expeditions. Maybe I should start painting pictures of bridges and old mills like all the other old people instead of engaging in something as strenuous as fanzine fandom.

You're either generous or foolhardy to publish all those addresses of your artists. I don't think many fanzines have provided that information in recent years for fear other fanzines will offer more egoboo or invitations to wilder parties to the artists and thus steal them away. Come to think of it, I don't think there were many more than six artists in all fandom when I was a neofan (specialist artists, that is, although lots of fans who were best known as writers or publishers did some drawing of a very inferior nature, because fan artists were so scarce in the old days).

I'll try not to delay by four weeks my next loc. Illness and some personal obligations have kept me partly hors de fanac for the past month

((Delayed or not, please keep writing if you can. I don't wish to embarrass you, but the club has always greatly appreciated your support of ANVIL from the very early days. I know I have.))

Buck Coulson
Route 3
Hartford City, IN 47348

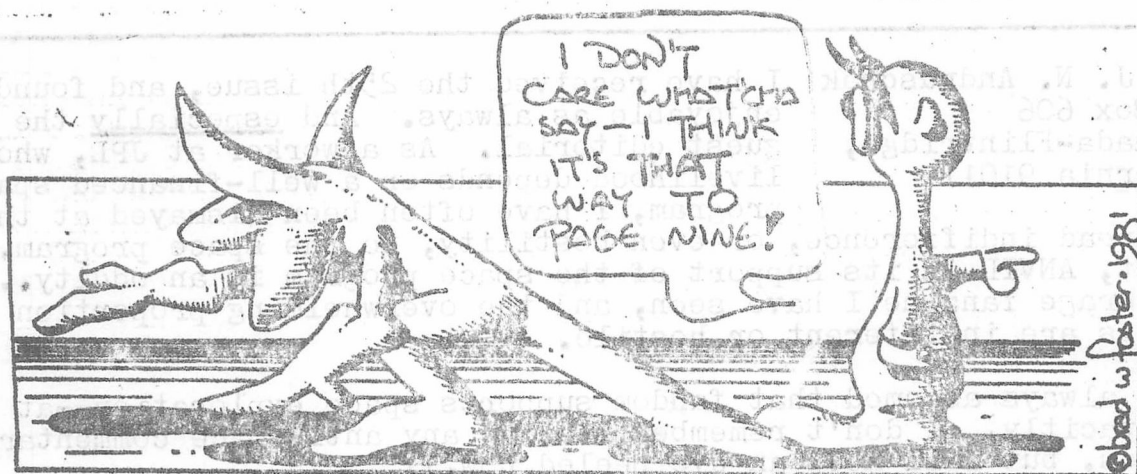
Valerie McKnight may be my friend for life... One small correction; Anne-Louise's parents are, not were, Kipling fans. Sort of, anyway. Sandra Miesel can quote some Kipling and has done some research in our volume of Kipling's Verse: The Definitive Edition, but she's not enough of a Kipling fan to have the volume herself. Difference in intensity of admiration. John makes snide remarks about poetry of all types... but attends filksings occasionally.

Of course Tasmania has a government, even in this universe. Alabama has a government, doesn't it? (Though sometimes, with Alabama, one isn't sure...)

Re-organize fandom? You have to have an original organization before it can be reorganized. Anyway, Merlin left out several possibilities; the hand-cranking mimeo championships, judged on (a) speed and (b) endurance. Could come under marathons, I suppose. The communication and cryptograms field; deciphering postal regulations. The 7:00 Relay--teams of two to carry an unconscious fan out of the party room and into his/her own hotel room. Extra points for getting fan into bed instead of dumping the body just outside the door. (Oh; that should be 7:00 AM Relay...)

I just wrote a highly personal con report, but I realize that Bloch has a good point. Still, when one didn't go to the con program, and a fan asks for a report, what's the answer? (For that matter, it's becoming impossible to attend "most" of a con's program, due to multiple-track programming. At a fairly refined guess, if a fan attended program items every hour they were on from the first to the final day of Chicon IV, he/she would have seen between one-third and one-quarter of the program. So any and every report on that con will be biased by the reporter's personal prejudices.)

((Does Alabama have a government? As a life-long native, I have often asked myself that very question. I've concluded that Alabama has less a government and more a redneck equivalent of the Roman Circus.))



Marc Ortlieb This is yet another letter from your perennial pro-
P.O. Box 46 vider of guilt with the typewriter that refuses to
Marden acknowledge the difference between "n" and "h". It's
S.A. 5070 still TOO BLOODY HOT here, though it is retreating to
AUSTRALIA something a bit more reasonable. It was only thirty-
two point something today. I guess you heard about
the bushfires we've just gone through. Not good. I'm trying to
frame something of the feeling into an article at the moment, but
I'm not sure how to go about it. It is strange to realize that
while one is sitting relatively comfortably in a safe area, less
than five miles away there are people dying trying to put out fires.

The fire never got into the suburbs as such, but it reached the edge
of a suburb about two miles from me. Though there was never any
danger that the fire would have reached my place, it was still scary
to look into the hills just above where I live, and to see the fla-
mes and the huge plumes of smoke. No way would I ever live in the
Hills either here or near Melbourne. Fires of the scale of those
we've just had mean that there is no such thing as a safe hills home.
The Eagle On The Hill, a pub surrounded by bitumen car parks, with no
overhanging trees, was burnt to the ground. The wind just picked up
flaming debris, and carried it hundreds of feet. (It was worse in
the pine forrests of the South East of the state. There, evidently,
there was a burning wall of resin up to a hundred feet ahead of the
actual fire front.)

Ta for the ANVILS. I'm afraid that I won't have time to LOC this
bunch for a while. It was a sneaky trick sending #s 24 & 25 so that
they arrived on exactly the same day. The letter from Harry Warner
in 24 managed to swell my head to the point that I had great diffi-
culty getting it out of the staffroom door. Mind you, I then
thought of the three articles I'm supposed to be writing for diff-
erent people, and which I haven't even started, and that soon restor-
ed my sense of perspective.

((One dry summer, the suburb I lived in then was threatened by a
series of brush fires. They never got out of hand, but I well re-
member my uneasy fear as I watched the malevolent red glow that
filled a portion of the night sky to the north.))

Harry J. N. Andruschak I have received the 25th issue, and found it
P.O. Box 606 enjoyable as always. And especially the
La Canada-Flintridge, guest editorial. As a worker at JPL, whose
California 91011 livelihood depends on a well-financed space
program, I have often been dismayed at the
widespread indifference, or even hostility, to the space program.
In fact, ANVIL in its support of the space program is an oddity...
The average fanzine I have seen, and the overwhelming proportion of
apazines are indifferent or hostile.

((I've always assumed that fandom supports space exploration--at
least tacitly. I don't remember reading any anti-space commentary
in zines, but I'll keep an eye peeled now.))

David Palter
1811 Tamarind Ave., Apt. 22
Hollywood, CA 90028

Thank you for ANVIL 25. After some thought, I decided on an appropriate title for the cover illo. It could be called "The Whorled World". In any event, the effect is once again striking.

Merlin Odom's suggestions for possible fannish sporting events are quite intriguing, although I don't think that they can become the exclusive focus of fandom as he modestly proposes. Nonetheless, I would like to catch a Degenerate Scum Freestyle swimming event sometime (but would not like to actually compete). I would also suggest that in such a competition it would be essential to have one or more qualified lifeguards present.

I applaud Frank Brayman's guest editorial (and yes, I have written to Congress). If there is one cause that most truly and clearly deserves the support of fandom, it is the cause of space advocacy.

Don D'Amassa
323 Dodge St.
East Providence, RI 02914

I breezed through the current ANVIL and found it enjoyable, particularly the presumably unconscious pun that described LUCIFER'S HAMMER as "earth shattering".

I was, however, amazed at part of Valerie McKnight's review of THE LAST UNICORN. I thought it was a lovely film too, but I take umbrage at her remark that it was spoiled by the pop songs. AMERICA described as mediocre drivel? Sigh. I'd be curious to know whether she objects to pop music in principle or America in particular, as I suspect that is a fact relevant to her criticism and should have been part of the review. I think it important that reviewers clearly indicate where their personal prejudices may affect their comments. The inclusion of pop songs in general in this particular film perfectly matches the tone of the novel, of course. I believe one of the butterflies even sings part of a Beatles' song in the novel.

((Perhaps Valerie will respond in the next letter column. I don't know why, but I've never thought of you as someone interested in pop music. It shows what a dimensionless picture one can form of a person you know only in print.))

Brad W. Foster
4109 Pleasant Run
Irving, TX 75062

So, what is a Schlotzskys? Hmm, have to think about this for a minute. Taken as individual components I don't think it sounds too impressive: three kinds of meats, two or three kinds of cheese, lettuce, tomato, black olives, dressing, and the topper is the bread, which they bake themselves and is great! One of the big ones is usually a meal, although I'm such a pig I could probably down a couple of 'em in one sitting if I didn't know I'd be paying for it later with terminal stomach pain!

Finally, with "My First Time", a serious, unbiased bit of reporting on conventions.

Yet another great Fox cover--wish you could print the text pages with whatever copier you used on the cover, great repro. And something has just dawned on me with this cover. I think Steve's work affects me so much because he used a subject very few other fan artists do--landscapes. Most of us draw our funny little characters and let it go at that, but Steve is continually inventing whole worlds in his larger pictures. Nice, nice, nice...

Sure, I think you could pull off the fan Olympics. As for my own physical participation, I volunteer to sit in the chair and hold the stopwatch while the rest of you run around for pizza or whatnot.

In the Chattacon report, liked the line: "some of the other pros seen out and around.." sounds like someone happened to look out a window and saw these people who just happened to be in the nearby vicinity!

I'm going to have to remember Harry Warner's line about how he could write different sentences all starting with "I haven't read..." Really is depressing when you think about it, how short time is for so much. Was really knocked home when in one of the "Cosmos" segments Sagan was in a library and marked off a few feet of shelves pointing out that even with continuous reading that was all anyone could handle in a normal lifetime. I like to point out that to people when they berate me for not yet having read some particular favrote pf tjeors/

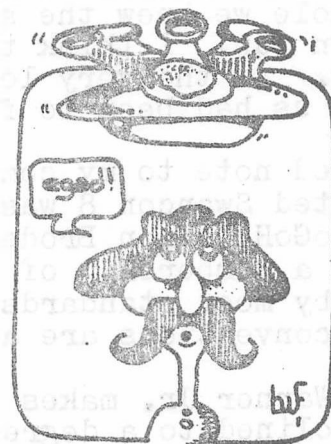
We;;. I don't like mad-slasher movies or Andy Griffith reruns, but then I do like really bad sci-fi flicks like "The Creeping Terror", so what do I know?

((Everyone has, I guess, his own peculiar interests. I remember a friend in high school who collected turtles. His parents' backyard was filled with man-made ponds, odd-looking turtle shelters and literally hundreds of turtles. References to turtle soup--and there were many, of course--always elicited a chilling response. Why I'm talking about this, I don't really know.))

Kim Huett	It's good to see ANVIL again after too long a
GPO Box 421	break and with a Steve Fox cover yet! The more
Sydney, NSW	I see of his work the better I like it. If cer-
2001 Australia	tain plans come to fruition I plan to ask him for
	a piece of cover art myself.

A pity that I couldn't use the editorial but I do my best with Australia's Space Association.

Valerie doesn't have the same touch as Ceceilia when it comes to reviewing but the potential is there. I think what she said was good but she will need a little more practice in how to say it. Her writing came across as too jerky for comfortable reading and tended to lack an overall coherence. However, neither of these are serious faults so I am looking forward to seeing more from Valerie in the future. After all the best solution in the long run may be for the two to alternate the column between them. Thus we can look forward to a decent sized fanzine review column while neither of them is overtaxed.



One thing that Valerie couldn't know was that Seth and John Playford are friends and cooked that article up between themselves. It was, I think, an attempt to spoof both Trekkies and anti-trekkies but as things turned out it wasn't terribly successful.

Since I was a full-fledged fanzine fan before I attended my first con and many Australian fen at cons are also fanzine fans to one degree or another my first con experiences were very different to those Steve Bullock wrote about. I'd say it took me all of ten minutes to fit into what was happening. This didn't make it any less overwhelming. In fact, knowing who most of these people were only made it moreso. In other words I had an experience usually reserved for DUFF and TAFF winners these days. There is nothing like meeting twenty people in succession that previously you only knew by the written word. What's more, understanding what it was all about helped me appreciate the experience a good deal more than most first-timers.

I really liked Merlin's idea about a Fannish Olympics but regret to inform you that it isn't an entirely new concept. For some years now there has been a fannish Olympics held during the annual Perth convention, Swancon. This doesn't spoil the idea, of course, but I think I must point out to you that because of this, Australian fen are better prepared to participate in this than most. With a little support from local business we could send across teams of world-beating standards that I suspect would be a serious threat to the morale of US fen. On the other hand we could end up with an American Cup situation in reverse.

Linda is a REDHEAD!!! I have a fatal weakness for red hair. Atlanta in '86, here I come! A pity but Forged Minutes was far too brief this time. I mean I was really left up in the air. At least tell me if anybody went for pizza after the January meeting or were you all too stunned.

Hmmm...sounds like the Chattacon concom had the same trouble as the Swancon 8 people. The people in charge just weren't organised enough to hold the con together properly. Luckily in our case we didn't have hordes of semi-fen to contend with. There may have

been a fair number of young and/or inexperienced fen there but on the whole we knew the score so where the concon fell down we made our own fun. I think this way we ended up getting the best of both worlds. At the very least it was one of the most enjoyable cons any of us had been to for quite a while.

An added note to my comments about congoing in Australia. As I predicted Swancon 8 was like starting all over again as counting the ProGoH Damien Broderick there only were 11 eastern states fen out of a membership of at least seventy (probably more but still small by most standards). In people, atmosphere and attitude Perth conventions are a whole world away from the eastern affairs.

Harry Warner Jr. makes some good points about why fanzine fandom has declined to a degree in recent years. In Australia the problem has been made worse by the introduction of more stringent rules concerning category B. The worst part of which is that to be eligible one has to publish at least four times a year. Very annoying if somebody like me only wants to publish when enough good material is at hand which could mean only two or three issues for the first few years. However, Terry Frost and I think we can get around this ruling by sharing a category B registration. As long as there is a common title on both fanzines (apart from our own titles) and both zines are posted from the same post office we shouldn't have any trouble with the post awful. This way I only need publish twice a year to keep my end of the bargain but can do more if I want. The best part is that the only deadlines are self-imposed.

I agree with Sheila Strickland about Wade's comments giving the lettercol more depth. These replies give the reader a lot of feedback on what the editor is like which is a great help when writing. Also the egoboo of a personal reply is great!

Garth Spencer would be well advised to only speak of what he knows and leave those areas in which he had no knowledge (i.e. American influences in Australia) well alone. It is true that many aspects of the USA's culture do enter Australia but then that is also true in regards to the UK's culture. However, Australia and Australians had developed their own individuality by the time this began occurring, so have never been in danger of becoming ersatz Americans. What has happened is the community has taken these influences and altered them to suit itself. So while the Australian character is altered each time something is added, so is whatever is being added. Australians on the surface seem very similar to Americans but culturally they, I doubt, could ever be mistaken for them.

As for the invitation, I will certainly take it up if Atlanta wins their bid for '86. If they do I intend to make it across there one way or the other. Atlanta in 86!!! It's 12:55 AM on the 24/2/83 and time I went to bed if I'm to be in at work by 8:30 AM today.

((This is the kind of letter that is tough to edit, but the best kind of response to a fanzine. It's very difficult to blue pencil portions of a long thoughtful letter and in this case I could not.// Yes, we did have a pizza run after the January meeting.))

Frank Brayman
433 Meadowlark Pl.
Montevallo, AL 35115

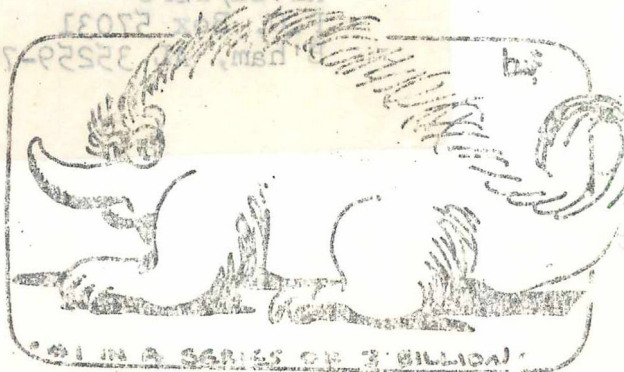
Garth Spencer's LoC in ANVIL 25 bemoaning U.S. domination of the Canadian scene has a familiar tone. I'm reasonably familiar with Canadian attitudes and conditions, since I spent the first 28 years of my life within easy pistol shot of the Canadian border. I have numerous relatives and acquaintances in Canada. Moreover, I'm familiar with the establishment view, since Canadian TV network news was the only unbiased news source available during the Vietnam and Watergate cirses.

Put simply, Mr. Spencer's LoC is a small-bore expression of the same pettiness shown by Prime Minister MacKensie King in 1940, when he let it be known unofficially that King George VI and a British government in exile would be unwelcome in Canada. The attitudes expressed are most often shared by the following types of people:

- (1) Nationalists of the "love it or leave it" variety.
- (2) Businessmen who compete with Canadian subsidiaries of U.S. corporations.
- (3) The official guardians of cultural purity (censors) in Ottawa.
- (4) Art Farts in Toronto and Montreal, similar to those who dominate the American "intellectual" community.
- (5) Would-be artists, actors, authors, etc., who can't make a living in either Canada or the U.S.
- (6) Some combination of the above.

Most Canadians have more important things to worry about, such as making a living in today's uncertain economy.

It is not my intent to make light of legitimate concern by thoughtful Canadians, that too much of their country's development is financed by outside capital. I'm not trying to start a border war by denigrating the achievements of individuals or the Canadian nation. However, the "American Octopus" theory is the self-serving creation of a noisy few. It would be as reasonable to postulate, since Gordy Dickson, Kelly Freas, William Shatner, and Douglas Frazer of the UAW are Canadian born, that there exists a Canadian conspiracy to infiltrate and dominate the United States.



We also heard from: Diane Fox and Robert Newsom.

Faux pas department: Last issue I miscredited a piece of art... the illo on p.27 was done by Alexis Gilliland, Hugo winner, DUFF candidate, and all round good guy. (If you sent me more art, Alexis, I would recognize it...)

Next meetings: May 14 and June 11, Homewood Library, 7:30 P.M.

Art credits: Steven Fox, cover; Alexis Gilliland, p 5; P.L. Carruthers-Montgomery, p 6, 11; Wade Gilbreath, p 8, 9, 10; Colin Langeveld, p. 18; Brad Foster, p. 21, 25, 27.

Many thanks to Merlin Odom, Stuart Herring and Gary Fowler, without whose help this ANVIL still wouldn't be out.

I'm getting quite a poetry file...and the poets are getting restless. Last time I printed poetry, no one commented on it. Would you, Gentle Reader, get me off the hook and let me (and the poets) know how you feel about poetry in fanzines? I've got to either print it, or give it back to them. --cp

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