SHE'S 3

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To Xtine and Derrick Ashby's for a combined decomposing dog and ramp-warming party. This was one of the new generation of Melbourne fan parties, starting at around 4 in the afternoon and finishing when the last unwelcone guests are thrown out at about 10 pm. The N*H*W tradition started last year with Leigh & Valma, I believe; will they stop at nothing in their ceaseless quest for egoboo?

Whatever the general nature of the party, something must have gone right because afterwards John Bangsund asked me whether Melbourne fan parties were always this good. 'You call that good?' I asked unbelievingly (and unbelievably), but had to admit that it wasn't too bad, despite the presence of a hopelessly addicted doper who recently moved from Adelaide.

The sad part of the evening was a revival of the old feud between the Duckists and the Trainists. Generally the adherents of these old Melbourne religions (though this is perhaps a rather generous description of the heretic Duckists) have kept themselves to themselves in recent years, but for some reason the balmy weather, or some other phenomenon, lit the fuse for a momentary reversion.

The superficial slickness of Duckism naturally appeals to the young, but in the long run the greater pulling power of Trainism is recognized by all but the most unenlightened. Trainists such as myself look forward eagerly to the day when everyone recognizes that the heretics have an idol with feet of web whose main skill lies in the laying of eggs.

MINAC'S MARAUDERS (reference, Scribe JH?)

When I started contributing to APPLESAUCE (if this is not too strong a description of these little notes I occasionally sling your way) I really had not planned on so vicious a campaign of minac. But then I hadn't thought enough about Chunder!, either.

Almost all members of APPLESAUCE have seen at least one copy of Chunder! (if you haven't and want one, write: try to include your name and address) since I usually send out a few on spec each time, and the membership list of APPLES is a source (but naturally) of potential readers. Lately, however, samples have been harder to come by, and that's one of the aspects of the game I really hadn't been prepared for.

I have never really liked the idea of large-circulation fanzines (and my idea of a large-circulation fanzine is one with over 100 readers); fanzine are for communication between people, and a one-way street is hard to re-orient yourself in. Once a fanzine has a circulation of over 100 (or less, for that matter), the flow of information from readers to publisher/editor becaomes (or should become) overwhelming. Surely many fans send out tens or hundreds of copies of their fanzines to people who never reply (but who may read the things with interest), but that approach has never appealed to me, and neither has the idea of accepting subscriptions. When one is publishing some sort of service (like AUSTRALIAN OF NEWS) then subscriptions may be the sensible

way to reach the size of audience need to maintain the publication. When Chunder! was started it had this service function: Leigh Edmonds' FANEW SLETTER had just vanished over the horizon, and there weren't really too many fanzines around (Chunder! is just over a year old (in the present incarnation, of course), as I have just realised, and the seventeenth issue is just about complete today), much less ones which could distribute information. Soon after ASFN got started, but its emphasis is very different from that in Chunder!, which has been much more, as was intended, a place where what is going on in Australian fandom is described and debated. This structure, though intended, was and is not my whole intention and recently Chunder! had begun to incorporate other elements which I think are desirable. This has been helped a lot by the appearance of good newszines from Perth and Sydney which to some extent reduce my urge to report what is going on in those places.

But not entirely. I really would like to carry more reports of what fans all over Australia are doing, but people simply don't write up what happens. Some 'happenings' are easy to report - conventions, which I have always given a fair amount of attention to, writing 'em myself when necessary, but also printing conreports by George Turner, Roy Ferguson, Peter Toluzzi, Jack Herman, Leigh Edmonds, Mike C'Brien, Chas Jensen and Elizabath Darling, and reports from Adrienne Losin and Catherine Circosta will, I expect, appear in the next issue (I think I only forgot Paul Stevens in that list, but I'm always uncertain as to whether I should mention his name in APPLESAUCE). And reporting on apas isn't too tough (but I've still fallen back on Marc in this area - and he does it so well), but fanzine reviews I haven't yet been able to cope with satisfactorily. In the May Chunder! I use the approach which I believe is appropriate, but it is extremely wordy, and it means that I fall far behind, and will probably miss out on some of the fanzines which I really should describe at length.

But what is missing is the report based upon ephemeral but either important or interesting events. These can only appear when someone at the site thinks of reporting it in a fanzine (and I would like to think that Chunder! has been sufficiently eclectic in the past for its role in this kind of reporting to be recognized). What I would like to print in Chunder!, of course, is not a flat description of occurring events, but a report which is in itself attractive to read.

Well, one way or another, poor old Chunder! has grown. The reader sees the increase in the number of pages - 24 in the April issue, and down to 20 in May because I postponed a couple of pieces and didn't deal with the fanzines adequately - but not the increase in circulation. This year I have run out of each edition before I wanted to (i.e., I haven't been able to circulate as many on spec as I would like), and I shall need to run off something like 175 of the next (May). About 120 of these go to Australians, with the overseas readers accounting for most of the circulation increase this year. When Chunder! started it was something like 6 pages a month distributed to 60 readers, and a little arithmetic will show you why I don't have quite as much time for APPLES as I would like.

My present job doesn't help - especially in the last couple of weeks which have meant working Saturdays and travelling to Geelong and Pendigo at night. Not fun.

Nevertheless, there is one thing I would like you to know:

G*L*Y*E*R FOR DUFF