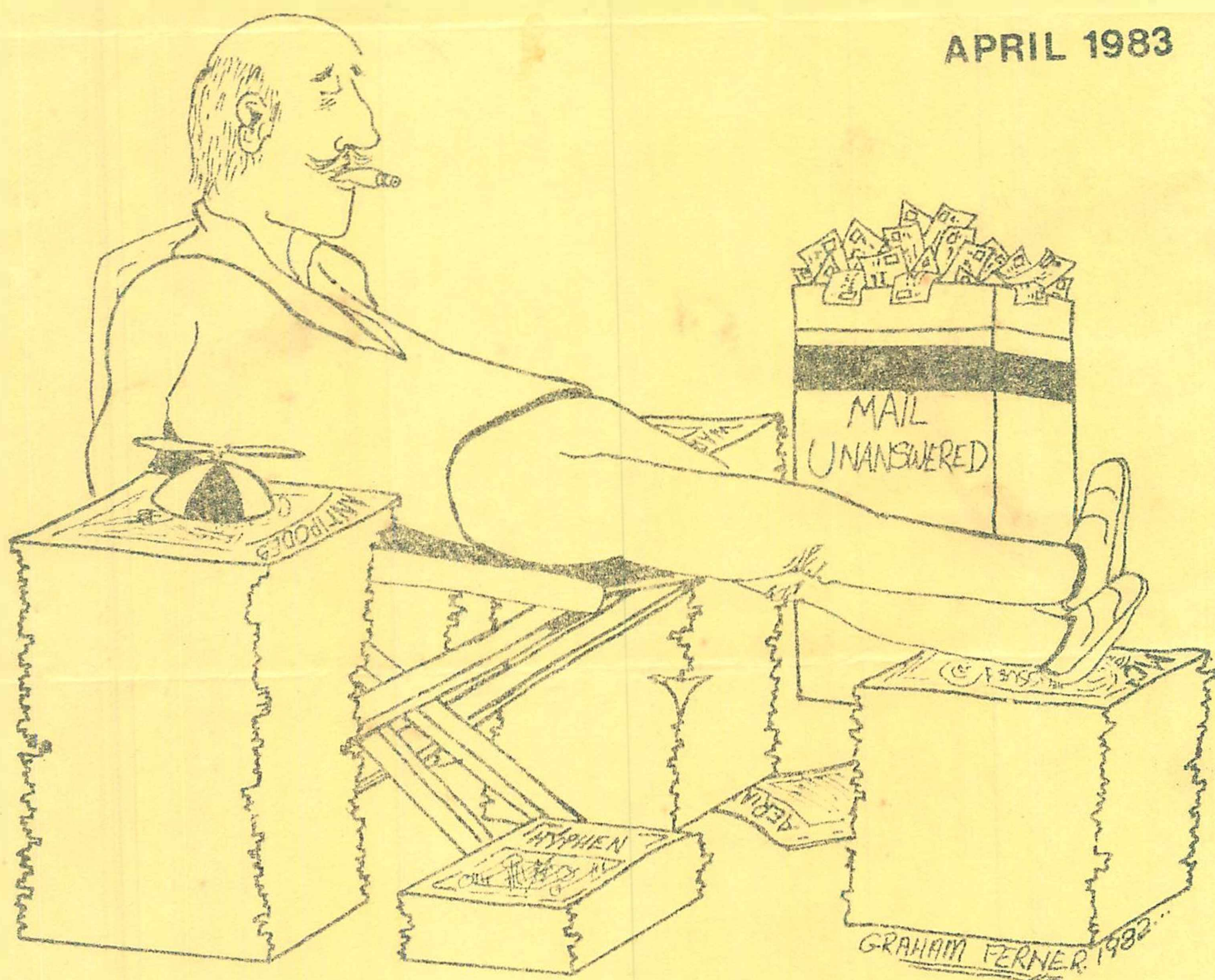


# THE B.N.F.

APRIL 1983



Q36

REGISTERED BY AUSTRALIA  
POST.

PUBLICATION NUMBER  
SBH2725

NUMBER 3

1901

1901

1901

1901



NUMBER THREE

APRIL 1983

Produced at increasingly infrequent intervals by Marc Ortlieb of P.O. Box 46 Marden S.A. 5070 AUSTRALIA. A PEPPERMINT FROG PRESS Production. Available for trade or at editorial whim. Electrostencils by Allan Bray, 5 Green Ave Seaton S.A. 5023 AUSTRALIA.

# STAIRWAY TO CLEVELAND

Those of you who go in for that sort of thing might note a change in format in this issue of Q36 Numerical. This is largely at the insistence of Australia Post. I put out the Q36 Numerical series so that I can produce enough issues of Q36 to qualify for the Post Office's Category B registration. This saves me a lot of money. However, it also means that I have to conform to their regulations, one of which states that magazines comprised of alphabetical listings are not eligible for Category B status. Thus Q36 Numerical succumbs to the Laws of Thermodynamics, and becomes more random in nature. Hopefully future issues will contain the zines in the order in which they plunk into my letter box, but, since I have an incredible backlog, due to intense laziness, there will be no order in this issue whatsoever.

I also intend to keep Q36 Numerical down to twelve pages per issue, which will ensure a more regular appearance. This means that I won't be able to fit all my backlog into this issue, and that Q36 #4 should be out real soon with the stuff that I missed this time, so, if your zine doesn't get a mention here, it's probably being saved for the next issue.

Finally, allow me to state my reviewing policy. Q36 is not a critical fanzine reviewzine. My apologies to Leigh Edmonds, Joseph Nicholas, and Ted White, but I like and enjoy fanzines; all fanzines. True, there are some I like more than others, and I'm not particularly fond of zines that concentrate on film cults or amateur fiction, but I've seen few zines that have given me nothing. Thus it is my policy to accentuate the positive in what I receive, and, hopefully, to leave the negative alone as much as possible. While it may be true to say that a good negative review can be of more use to the fanzine editor than can a waffly good review, I'm afraid, having come under the hammer of negative reviews, I don't like the feeling, and so won't subject others to that sort of thing ~~unless I'm typing reviews on a bad day~~. This is essentially a sweetness and light zine, making superficial comments about the nice things that find their way into my letter box. If you're looking for heavy and meaningful criticism, I'm afraid that you've come to the wrong zine.

## BIG SISTER IS WATCHING -

## AND SHE WANTS YOUR

## MAILING LIST

Are you tired of typing out endless mailing lists for all the freeloaders who receive your fanzine? Well, LynC has the ideal offer for you. Being one of those fans who has shelled out big hikkies on a computer with all the trimmings, she's offering a Computer Mailing List Service to lazy faneds.

Her prices seem quite reasonable. Though these are subject to confirmation, she figures that setting up the mailing list programme would cost you as follows:- \$8-00 per disk, or provide your own. Cost of labels (Unknown). \$1-00 per printing, to cover wear and tear (Subject to change.) \$3-00/hour for initial setting up of the files, but LynC is a fast and ~~accurate~~ accurate typist - unlike me. and 30¢/minute thereafter for maintenance and minor changes.

If you're interested contact LYNC

THE LISTINGS

Just when I thought that British fanzines had all bogged down in interminable arguments between D. West and Ted White, DRILKJIS 6 appeared. This is the sort of fanzine that reminds one of Rob Jackson's MAYA, and is, I feel, an example of what good British fan writing used to be.

The issue includes Ian Watson's 1981 Eastercon speech from Yorcon II, which goes into some of the lesser-known hazards of being a science fiction writer, such as having to receive threatening letters from people claiming that the writer has telepathically stolen the plot to a novel from said people...I wish I'd been there to listen to it.

In his article "Closet Zeor or Sex In The Head", D. West demolishes Jacqueline Lichtenberg's novels, while making a few pointed comments about her concepts on sexuality. To be quite honest, I don't know why he bothered, but I guess the article would be quite funny to anyone who had managed to wade through the Zeor novels. Me, I'm not going to bother, as I figure that there are limits to what I'm willing to undergo in order to understand a fanzine article, and reading Jacqueline Lichtenberg novels is pushing those.

Also featured are pieces by a pseudonymous Dennis Breznev; Kevin Smith and Garry Kilworth. Breznev's piece is a lovely piece of pseudo-science, proving that the Universe thinks. Smith looks at the financial finaglings of assorted British conventions, and Kilworth talks about alien sex. The in word for the fanzine seems to be "fuck", but then that's what British fanzines have become famous for anyway.

It's a lovely offset fanzine, well laid out, and well worth getting your paws on. The only problem is that it is dated April 1982, so I have no idea if there are any copies left. I suppose you could always ask.

DRILKJIS 6 Dave Langford and Kevin Smith. Available for the usual or 50p from either Dave Langford 94 London Rd Reading Berkshire RG1 5AU U.K. or Kevin Smith 10 Cleves Court, St Mark's Hill, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 4PS U.K.

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One encounters a certain sameness in oneshots, and BHEER, WINE AND CORFLU is no exception. There is the standard cruddy reproduction, the assorted "Well, now I'm at the typewriter what in hell am I going to say" sillinesses, and the terrible typos. However, as I said in my opening paragraphs, there's always something to be said for any fanzine. In this one, it's the mention of Graham Ferner's pool table with "an amazing sloop." which is apparently partly rectified by a copy of THE STAINLESS STEEL RAT wedged under one leg.

BHEER, WINE AND CORFLU Graham Ferner, Duncan Lucas, Cathi Symons, Peter Hassall and Gordon Heatt. Not available generally.

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Personally I doubt if it is quite correct to describe STRIPS as a fanzine. It started off as a comics fanzine, and virtually a twin brother to Brian Thurogood's NOUMENON, but now it seems more the sort of thing that one would expect to have to pay money for in an alternate bookshop.

This issue is devoted to cartoonist Paul Power's PROFESSOR OM, and, though the strip seems a mixture of super-hero, and hip humour, I'm afraid that I couldn't really get into it. Perhaps I've just become another brain-washed minion of the Marvel Age of comics. However, it is a superbly produced black and white offset comic book, and very good if you like such things. The issue also includes assorted comics news.

STRIPS 18 David Morgan P.O. Box 2896, Auckland C1, New Zealand. Available for \$1-20 per issue.



Gad. I didn't realise how long it's been since I last put out a Q36 numerical until I came across a copy of THYME 18 in the "to be reviewed" file. This was the last issue produced by Irwin Hirsh and Andrew Brown, before Roger Weddall took over. If you're interested in current subscription info, you'd better flick through until you come to the comments on Roger's THYME. This issue is the last in the old format, small, quarto pages, and reasonably frequent. It includes a piece about DUFF candidate Jerry Kaufman, who has since won.

THYME 18 Irwin Hirsh & Andrew Brown. Now under new management.

—○○○—

Hmmn. Looks like it's time for a spate of newszines. Next up is FORERUNNER. Shayne continues to edit this for the Sydney Science Fiction Foundation, or what is left of it now that the ~~Raybarran~~ ~~Worries~~ S.C.A. have taken over Sydney fandom. As with any clubzine, FORERUNNER receives very little support from the rest of the club, and so relies on the personality of the editor. Shayne has the ability to con a good article or two out of people every now and then.

This issue has a piece by Jack Herman talking about how he got involved in reading that funny science fiction stuff. Jack suggests books that could be used to introduce a reader to science fiction, dwelling on ~~HAYN~~ Heinlein, Asimov, Dickson, Brunner, Herbert, McIntyre, Zelazny and Vonnegut, among others. Not a particularly profound article, but an interesting overview.

FORERUNNER Vol 5 Nos 3/4 Shayne McCormack P.O. Box A491, Sydney South, N.S.W. 2000  
Australia. Available for the usual, or \$4-00 for 12.

CC BY-SA

FILE 770 is one of the few "real" fanzines to appear on the Hugo Ballot, and while cynics might put that down to the fact that it is probably the fanzine with the widest circulation, it still has a lot going for it. If you're interested in Fannish news, you can't really beat FILE 770, especially when it comes to the U.S. and Canada. Naturally regional newsletters such as ANSIBLE, SHARDS OF BABEL and THYME do better within their own regions.

This issue contains assorted gossip concerning WorldCon bids, plus the usual run of CoAs, announcements, and convention reports. (Jerry Pournelle's reports on AD ASTRA and WESTERCON 35 make interesting reading, especially his description of the problems that AD ASTRA had with the Ontario Police over a penis shaped cushion.)

FILE 770 Mike Glyer 5828 Woodman Ave #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401 U.S.A. Available for \$3-00/ 5 or \$1-00 per issue airmailed to Australia.

— 00 —

ANVIL is the clubzine of the Birmingham Science Fiction Club, and it is an example of a clubzine that has benefitted from the presence of a good and enthusiastic editor. Mind you, when it comes to ANVIL, I will admit to being very biased as I'm very fond of the BSFC people.

Mind you, any fanzine that can open with a piece by Bob Shaw has to do something drastically wrong if it thereafter gets written off. The Shaw piece is a lovely story about his experiences with a Victor Mature type trenchcoat, which is easily the equal of similar pieces I've seen published in books by Secombe or Jasper Carrot.

The fanzine is rounded off by an assortment of book reviews, letters, con reports, and fanzine reviews. ANVII tends to spotlight one or two fanzines, and give them a fairly detailed going over, while merely listing the others received. Mind you, I do wish they'd list the addresses of the "also received"s.

ANVIL 22 Charlotte Proctor for BSFA P.O. Box 57031 Birmingham AL 35259-7031 U.S.A.  
Available for \$3-00 for 6, or for the usual.

—○○—





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The article describing the consequences of an atomic attack on Auckland was informative. Mind you, the fact that Nigel has included the words "to be cont" at the end of this installment doesn't really help. The piece can't be more than fifteen hundred words. Surely it could have been printed in toto in this issue.

000

Ben proves that publishing amateur fiction isn't always a bad thing. The Western horror story by Eldon K Everett is simple, but very effective. This issue also includes a holiday report by Ben, and an interesting article on a writer called M.P. Shiel. I will admit that I've never read any of Shiel's works, and I don't feel particularly inclined to do so. However, the article was quite fascinating, especially when it touches on the kingdom of Redonda.

IBID 40 Ben Indick 428 Sagamore Ave Teaneck NJ 07666 U.S.A.. Limited availability.  
Ben produces ninety copies, with fifty going to the Esoteric Order of Dagon,  
an apa devoted to Lovecraft and his ilk.

—○○—

Now, before anyone starts throwing things, let me explain. While I am quite au fait with the idea that anything an sf fan writes about is fannish, I still sometimes get the feeling that there should somehow be a connection between fannish writing and either the fannish community, or - gasp - science fiction. Chris's pieces on her time with the social services contain neither. For that matter, the Bob Shaw piece mentioned in ANVIL doesn't either. Both are superb pieces of writing though, so what am I complaining about?

The other piece of note in this issue is Peter Nicholls' "Philip K. Dick: A Cowardly Memoir" which is very literary, and probably would have been quite good had I gotten up the intellectual energy to read it.

Despite assorted nitpicking, I feel that TAPPEN is the most consistently good fanzine I've received recently, and if Hugos were still going to real fanzines, this is one of the fanzines that would be getting them.

TAPPEN 4 Malcolm Edwards 28 Duckett Rd, London N4 1BN U.K.. Available on editorial whim.

---oOo---

It's a pity that Graham Ferner's AERIAL doesn't appear more regularly. While not the sort of fanzine that sets the world on fire, it contains a pleasantly jumbled mix of articles. To an extent, it falls into what I'm about to dub "The Holier Than Thou" trap, i.e. there seems to be little coherence in the zine, but then, I'm not sure that that is altogether a bad thing.

One problem that Graham has is that the reduced format doesn't seem to reproduce well. I don't know whether this is the fault of the electrostencil machine or his duplicator.

This issue features a nicely silly fannish piece by Bruce Burn, an introduction to fanzines, aimed at thosefortunates who have yet to be sucked into fanzine fandom, and the usual zine reviews, letter columns etc. Graham has been running a series on strange cocktails for those who enjoy ruining their livers as well as their eyesight.

AERIAL 5 Graham Ferner 44 Murdoch Rd, Grey Lynn, Auckland New Zealand. Available for the usual, or \$3-50 per year.

---oOo---

There's been a lot of talk recently about what a fanzine should be, and there is a school of thought that feels that the ideal fanzine should be a monthly. These folk are called masochists. Two fine examples of the species are Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden, and they put out IZZARD. (Evidently one of the reasons for IZZARD's appearance is that the small regular fanzine that Ted White and Dan Steffan were putting out, PONG, had defuncted, and it was suggested that Patrick & Teresa became the torch bearers.)

IZZARD is a nice nattery fanzine belonging to the school that suggests that the best fanzine writing has nothing to do with sf, though it will have marginal connections to fandom, especially when it comes to arguing about what makes a good fanzine. It's a very entertaining fanzine ~~that contains a bit too much Ted White for my liking.~~

This issue has some interesting comments about people living off ~~WorldCon~~ WorldCon budgets.

IZZARD #1 Patrick & Teresa Nielsen Hayden 4337 - 15th Ave NE, Seattle WA 98105 U.S.A. Available for the usual (letters preferred) or \$1-00 per copy.

---oOo---

One of the disadvantages of xerox is that some will only copy one side. Thus, when I got THE HARD ONES 6, I thought that I had a really mammoth Western Australian fanzine, only to discover that it was the usual number of pages, just more sheets.

The very best thing about THE HARD ONES is the artwork by Des Waterman. He has a twisted style, and a strange pre-occupation with Jones The Cat, from the film ALIEN. Des's work would fit quite nicely into STRIPS.

Otherwise, the zine tends to concentrate on film reviews of assorted types, which don't appeal to me excessively, but then, I am, as Gary puts it, a Boring Old Fart, and have a badge to prove it.

THE HARD ONES no 6 Gary Barber 409 Wanneroo Rd, Balcatta, W.A. 6021 AUSTRALIA Available for the usual, "or maybe if I like the smell of your burning eyeballs after a napalm drop". Eeeesh!



One of the nice things about ANVIL is the lettercolumn. I haven't seen many clubzines that sport a particularly active LoCol, largely, no doubt, to the fact that most clubzines are rather infrequent. ANVIL, however, has managed to keep a regular schedule, and so reaps the rewards.

This issue also has a convention report, which was most entertaining, by Cindy Riley, along with some of her artwork. Cecilia Martinez produces a beautifully scathing review of Canadian zine CALLISTO RISING, which was quoted on the cover of the next issue of CALLISTO RISING. Nice to see that people maintain a sense of proportion about these things. (This issue, by the way, is edited by dlburden)

ANVIL 21 dlburden for the BSFC P.O. Box 57031 Birmingham AL 35259-7031 U.S.A.  
Available for the usual, or \$3-00 for 6.

---oOo---

Themezines tend to suffer one major problem. It's hard enough to get people to contribute anything to a fanzine, much less to get them to contribute on a particular subject. However, the train issue of Eve Harvey's WALLBANGER 6, comes out well. True, it's not all about trains, but it does have a fascinating article by Chris Bailey who once shared a house with a train driver.

WALLBANGER is a nice informal British fanzine, without the agonising over the nature of fandom that characterises some other, otherwise impeccable Britzines. There is a piece on the growing trend towards violence at conventions, but that's something sensible that needs saying.

WALLBANGER 6 Eve Harvey 43 Harrow Road, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3QH U.K.  
Available for the usual, or 20p in stamps.

---oOo---

ANSIBLE is currently my favourite fannish newsletter, though there's not really that much that one can say about it, other than, good as it is, it's a pity that it's absorbing fannish energies that might otherwise have gone into producing another issue of TWLL-DDU. This zine gives you the British slant on news, and covers happenings in Europe and the U.S. as well. Langford attracts a talented mob of news gatherers too, including Joseph Nicholas, Ian Wilson and ex-Aussie Judith Hanna.

ANSIBLE 28 & 29 Dave Langford 94 London Rd, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU U.K.  
Available for £1 for four issues, though the costs are likely to increase. Airmail costs more.

---oOo---

I don't know why James Styles sent me a second copy of REGA'S REVIEWS. After all, I already got a copy in APPLESAUCE. This is what a real crudzine looks like. It's printed in ditto, with the cover upside down. The cover itself is poorly drawn, and in very dubious taste. The inside repro is virtually unreadable, which is probably a good thing, considering James' recent right wing ravings.

Now, what was I saying about this issue being a sweetness and light issue of Q36 numerical? The contents are out-of-date APPLESAUCE mailing comments. There you are now James. Were those the sort of comments your masochistic little heart was beating for?

REGA'S REVIEW James Styles 342 Barkly St Ararat Vict 3377 AUSTRALIA. Available, no doubt, for something equally disgusting, such as a used football sock.

---oOo---

Whew. Back to the good stuff. EPSILON 13 is one of those bloody good British fanzines that has unfortunately been drawn into the nature of fandom controversy initiated by Ted White, Richard Bergeron, D. West et al. (It's getting pretty bad when you have to be on the mailing lists of at least six different fanzines to keep track of all the different branches of the discussion.)

[illegible]

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Much of this issue is taken up by an article looking at Soviet Deep Space Probes, but there's also an interesting polemic on Survivalists.

CAREFULLY SEDATED 1 Catherine Crockett & Alan Rosenthal 117 Wanless Ave, Toronto,  
ONT, M4N 1W1 Canada. Available for the usual, old fanzines,  
or \$1-25.

—oo—

THIS HOUSE is what one might call a transitional fanzine, as original editor John Purcell is gradually phasing out his involvement with the zine, and Matthew Tepper is taking over. Thus, while it includes John's traditional report on what he did while others were off at the WorldCon, it also contains a large number of reviews, and author articles, which seem to be Matthew's forte.

As with any zine relying on that sort of material, THIS HOUSE suffers if one hasn't read the books being covered, or if one has no interest in the books being covered. I'm not going to read Matthew's piece on Asimov until I can get my hands on a copy of FOUNDATION'S EDGE, and I'm really not that interested in Hubbard's BATTLEFIELD EARTH. Though I will admit to reading crud novels, indeed there are some who would say that that is all I read, I tend to prefer crud disaster novels. They are far funnier than crud space opera.

A nicely set-out zine.

THIS HOUSE #14 John Purcell 3381 Sumter Ave S., St Louis Park, MN 55426 U.S.A.  
and Matthew Tepper, 125 Oak Grove #41, Minneapolis, MN 55403 U.S.A.  
Available for \$1, the usual, sunflower seeds, or something with a  
duck in it. (How about a crocodile?)

—○○—

Hmmn. Yet another copy of ANSIBLE. I must get back to producing this reviewzine more regularly so that embarrassing things like this don't happen to me. This one delves deep into the great 1984 EasterCon debate, and includes several wonderful Langford lines, such as

"CHRIS PRIEST WRITES! (Slap on the wrist to the smart alec who said "Yes, but not very often.") "

See. Vaudville never really died. It just migrated to fanzines. (Where it got misspelled.)

Get the REAL dirt on Brit fandom. Subscribe to ANSIBLE.

ANSIBLE 32 Dave Langford 94 London Rd, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU. U.K. Available for money. Send Dave a few quid, and he'll tell you how many issues you'll get.

SECRET

And speaking of "Oh no, not again!" Here's another FANZINE FANATIQUE. I think Keith has found his bottle of corflu. This one is much neater, and there's even a bit of white space between the reviews, though I still think that he should invest in a typewriter that doesn't scrunch the stencils up quite so much.

In addition, this issue has a piece on cutting stencils, a piece on censorship, and a rather strange way of presenting LoCs. Over all this issue shows more evidence of care and planning than some of the recent issues have.

~~FAMZINE/FAMATIQUE~~ ZINEREVZINE Keith & Rosemary Walker 6 Vine St, Greaves, Lancaster  
LA1 4UF U.K. Available for trade, I guess. ( Sorry  
about the confusion over titles too. The new name  
was carefully hidden on the inside front cover.)

—○○○—





Okay, let's get rid of my issues of this one all in one swowel foop. THYME, under the editorship of Roger Weddall has already undergone assorted transformations, and, since Roger has been down with assorted lurgis of late has settled down to the sort of leisurely schedule that used to characterise John Foyster's CHUNDER.

However, THYME certainly has aroused a lot of interest in Australian fandom. Roger has shown that he's quite willing to knock over the occasional sacred cow. Later issues have shown a slightly tamer Roger. Perhaps he's getting more mellow with each successive issue.

THYME shares Roger's interests in European fandom, and so there's a reasonable smattering of European information here, as well as the interminable changes of address that Australian fandom seems to be undergoing. Roger has a fairly good news network, and has regular segments on Perth and Melbourne news in particular, with occasional reports from Sydney and Adelaide. A nice way to find out about Australian fans.

THYME 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23 Roger Weddall, 79 Bell St, Fitzroy, Vict 3065 AUSTRALIA  
Available for \$4-00 for 10 (Australia) or \$1-00/issue  
airmail to the U.S., or \$10-00 for 9 airmailed to Europe.  
Contact Roger if you're confused by this.

---oOo---

I like fanzines that tell me about conventions, and so really enjoyed SOUTH ON PEACHTREE which is a bid promotion fanzine being put out by Mike Rogers and Sue Phillips on behalf of the ATLANTA IN '86 WorldCon Bid.

The zine includes lots of brief impressions of ChiCon IV, a wonderful guide on how to attend conventions for less than fifteen Altairian Dollars a day by Dan Caldwell, and other assorted stuff, much of it about the Atlanta bid. A nice fanzine put out by a nice WorldCon bid. (Is my bias showing?)

SOUTH ON PEACHTREE Mike Rogers & Sue Phillips, P.O. Box 10094 Atlanta, GA 30319  
U.S.A.. Available for a donation to the bidding committee.

---oOo---

In WAHF-FULL, Jack Herman has made it his policy to discuss real things, as well as to look at film and other branches of the media in a more meaningful manner than one tends to find in fanzines devoted to a particular film or series. In this he has been generally successful.

WAHF-FULL 11 continues the nuclear debate, has a capsule look at science fiction on television, and includes a lovely piece of faan fiction by Leigh Edmonds. (I can see why Jack printed it. There's a lot of the feel of EARTH ABIDES in the story, and Jack has made no secret of his fondness for that particular book.)

The lettercolumn continues to be lively and interesting, largely because Jack is maintaining a regular schedule.

WAHF-FULL 11 Jack Herman Box 272, Wentworth Building, University of Sydney, N.S.W.  
2006 AUSTRALIA. Available only for the usual.

---oOo---

If you're interested in some of the best Australian fan writing, combined with superb sercon articles, and a sense of fannish history, you really can't go past Bruce Gillespie's re-print edition of SF COMMENTARY - FIRST YEAR 1969, which features SFC Nos 1-8. This has been typeset, and collected together with introductions by Bruce, and is printed in lovely clear offset. Indeed, it's more a soft-covered book than it is a fanzine, and though it is expensive, you certainly get value for money. I'd hate to try a word count, but this is over 150 pages of close set type.

SF COMMENTARY REPRINT EDITION: FIRST YEAR 1969 Bruce Gillespie G.P.O. Box 5195AA  
Melbourne Vict 3001 AUSTRALIA. \$40-00.

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COVER by Graham Ferner

## ERRATA

Oops. I found the follow up list that Lync sent me, with regards to the cost of using her computer printing/mailling list service.

Setting up \$5-00/hour. \$1-00 per five minutes for minor changes. \$5-00 per disk, or provide your own. \$1-00 per print run. 2¢ per label.

If you're interested, you can contact Lync via my post box, i.e. P.O. Box 46 Marden S.A. 5070 AUSTRALIA.

## APOLOGIA

As you will note, there are a lot of very old fanzines mentioned here. There will be more in Q36 #4 and in #5 until I clear my backlog. I'm afraid that I've been terribly slack in my reviewing of late.

I hope to have quite a few Q36 numericals out this year so that I can get up to date with my list. Q36 #4 should be out in early June, as soon as possible after I get Q36 K out of the way. So, if your zine doesn't get a mention here, it is being held until either #4 or #5. Note that, at present, there is no real chronological order in the reviews. For instance, I've reviewed SOME LUCK/IT FIGURES #2 before dealing with #1. This state of affairs will continue for a while. Please bear with me.

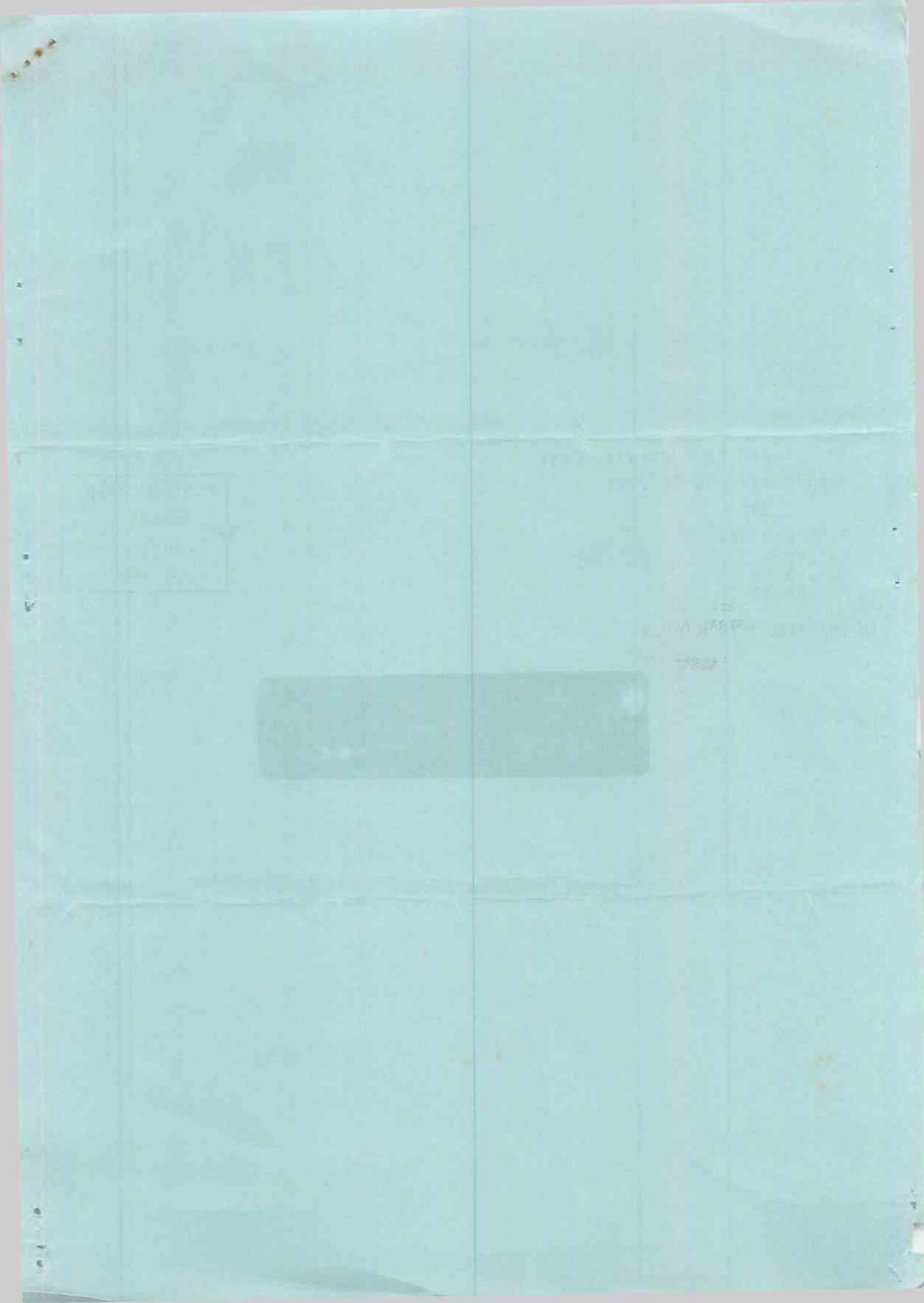
## DUFF

Not that this really has anything to do with Q36, but, as Australian DUFF Administrator, I thought I'd take this opportunity to mention that nominations for the 1984 DUFF race, to send an Australian fan to the 1984 WorldCon in Los Angeles, are now open. Nominees need three Australian nominators, and two from North America. They must also provide a 100 word platform promoting their candidacy, a \$5-00 bond, and a promise to attend the 1984 WorldCon if they win. The closing date for nominations is June 13th 1983. Send them to me at P.O. Box 46 Marden S.A. 5070 AUSTRALIA.

THIS FANZINE SUPPORTS MELBOURNE IN '85 AND ATLANTA IN '86

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Registered by Australia Post  
Publication no SBH2725

Q36

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