

Q36 #4

JULY 1983

NOW MR. ORTLIEB I
WANT THE TRUTH!

I'LL NEVER TELL YOU
WHAT Q36 MEANS,
NEVER!

I WOULD, IF ONLY I
KNEW MYSELF!



NUMBER FOUR

JULY 1983

Produced with increasing irregularity by Marc Ortlieb, of P.O. Box 46 Marden S.A. 5070 Australia, with the aim of reducing the pile of fanzines in the "To be reviewed" section of his filing cabinet. Available for trade, or at editorial whim. Electro-stencils by Allan Bray, 5 Green Ave Seaton S.A. 5023 Australia. A PEPPERMINT FROG PRESS Production.

STAIRWAY TO CLEVELAND

As noted above, this issue is part of an effort to clear my backlog of un-reviewed fanzines. For the benefit of those who haven't seen a copy before, this is a copy of Q36 Numerical, which is part of a transparent ploy to convince the Post Office that I publish Q36 at least four times a year. Thus the disorder, as items registered for posting as periodicals, Category B aren't supposed to be alphabetical.

I am trying to reduce the chaos somewhat in this issue by indicating when I typed the review, and the date on the fanzine itself. It's a start.

Just a reminder though, for those of you who enjoy nasty biting reviews. I seldom write any such, my reviews being devoted to sweetness and light, unless I feel like really ripping shit out of a zine, in which case I take off the kid gloves, and wank away to my heart's delight. (Oops! The terrible influence of living in the same house as two rude, crude and vulgar females is starting to make itself apparent. Anyway, on to the review section.

THE LISTINGS

Van Ikin's SCIENCE FICTION isn't really a fanzine. As it notes in its title, it is Australia's literary science fiction magazine. In a minor way it's taken over from Bruce Gillespie's SF COMMENTARY, to the extent that I gather that Bruce has passed his subscription list on to Van. However, where it misses out is in its discouragement of audience participation. In particular, it doesn't have a letter column, which is particularly frustrating to the letter-hack, particularly as this issue has a few things I would love to bite into, so, not being one to pass up on the offer of a convenient soapbox, I'll write my LOC here.

The issue is worth getting just for Russell Blackford's interview with Damien Broderick. Damien never fails to be entertaining in person, or when writing these sorts of personal reminiscences. It's a pity that the one novel of his that I've read so far - DREAMING DRAGONS - bored me silly. I feel that he's more at home when being less pretentiously literary, as he is in this interview. Not only do we get a fair idea of Damien the person, but we get quite a nice view of Melbourne fandom when Foyster, Harding, Bangsund et al were at their peak.....

The real sleeper in this issue though is Kirpal Singh's piece on Science Fiction and the Plight of the Literary Critic. It's the sort of thing that should win the writer a nomination for the Pat Terry Award. Initially I had thought that it was a serious article, but, when I got to lines like

Science and fiction may be seen to be two lovers, and, like lovers, they have their periodic ups and downs.

I realised the satirical nature of the piece, and went back to discover gems like

As is usual in most areas of human intercourse whenever an apparently new and vigorous subject offers itself for exploration, human beings are wont to put up resistance.

6/6/83

What these super-fans do not seem to realize is that blind devotion does not really help to put sf on a sound footing, rather it has the opposite effect of making it appear like some strange cult.

Anyway, Van needs the money, so subscribe, then see if we can talk him into running a letter column.....

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Featured in this issue are pieces by Alva Rogers, Dick Lupoff, Bob Shaw, Laney, Tucker and Ray Nelson, and for part of the issue Joe has facimiled Bob Tucker's SCIENCE FICTION NEWS LETTER, an intersting piece, which bears more than a passing resemblance to just about any other science fiction newsletter that you could mention.

FANHISTORICA JoeD Sinclari 4522 NW 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33431 U.S.A. Available for the usual, and particularly for old fanzines, or for \$1-50. This issue, #4, is dated December 1982.

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I rather enjoyed reading the zine, but more from the point of view of someone reading of the strange things that people do in Central Asia. It sounded interesting, but not the sort of thing I'd really want to do. I'm still rather staggered by the emphasis on merchandising that appears in media fanzines, and this one is no exception. I'm also a little suspicious of the burgeoning of magazines devoted to obscure, or just plain bad television programmes. There's a review of a BATTLESTAR GALACTICA fanzine in this issue. Sometimes it strikes me that people produce zines on such topics just so that they can say they were the first to do so. It's rather like the Oklahoma Land Rushes...

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3/7/83

If you like semi-comprehensible gossip, then FILE 770 is the zine for you. This issue takes up quite a lot of space discussing some heavy argument that seems to have hit Michigan fandom, which is all very well, if you're interested in what's going on in Michigan. FILE 770 also continues to contain some excellent convention information, and some readable con reports, plus, in this issue, Ted White dissects a few fanzines. I note a fairly hefty lettercol in here too. I'm really not sure that this is all that good an idea, especially in what is supposed to be a small and frequent newszine. It strikes me that a lettercol could lead to all sorts of strife. Anyway, FILE 770 is the essential North American newszine if you're interested in what's going on in fandom, and the rumours behind the gossip. If you're not into that sort of thing, then you're probably getting LOCUS.

FILE 770 Mike Glycer 5828 Woodman Ave #2, Van Nuys, CA 91401 U.S.A. Available for \$3-00 for five issues in the U.S., and \$1-00 per copy for overseas airmail. This issue is #41, but I can't find a date here.

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Of course, if you want the same sort of details on Australian fandom and its assorted ins and outs, you should be getting Roger Weddall's THYME. Though fluctuating in frequency, THYME keeps one up to date with local scandal. To promote the zine, Roger put together this special issue to coincide with SynCon, the '83 Australian National Convention. It's a pretty obvious sell-out to media interests too, as the front page story deals with the plot of RETURN OF THE JEDI. Hopefully though the next issue will return to common sense, and get back to printing vulgar innuendo about the Melbourne in '85 committee.

THYME 25½ Roger Weddall 79 Bell St, Fitzroy Vict 3065 AUSTRALIA. Available for \$4-00 for 10 in Australia; \$6-00 for 6 in New Zealand; and \$1-00 per issue in the U.S.. This one is dated 30/5/83.

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But enough of these evanescent newszines. Onto something with a little more meat to it. Marty Cantor's HOLLER THAN THOU 15 is my idea of what a real fanzine should be. Let's have no more of this rubbish about delicate and refined writing. HTT is a fanzine that concentrates on entertaining the fannish masses rather than appealing to the intellectual elite who like to mull for hours over each of Chris Atkinson's commas.

Marty announces his marriage in this issue, and introduces his wife Robbie as co-editor. This confirms a suspicion of mine. I figured that issues of HTT were looking too fat. I'd initially put it down to a surfeit of jelly beans, but now it's obvious. The zine is pregnant. Considering Marty's taste in art and putrid humour though, I'm not willing to guess what the progeny might look like.

But on to this issue. There's a fairly minor piece on the death penalty by Richard Weinstock; a piece called HARLAN IS FIVE, by Jeffty, which probably would have made sense had I read the original story; there's yet another piece on Sixth Fandom, and its detractors by Ted White. (I figure that that is pretty much mined out by now. Perhaps it's time to make another of the numbered fandoms trendy. Do I hear a bid for Fourth Fandom?); there's a story which I won't read until the second part is printed in HTF 16; there's a nice piece on bicycling by Skel; and a bit attributing the extinction of the dinosaurs to unnatural sexual practices by Brad Savage. Unfortunately it is too short, and doesn't include the sort of explicit pictures that one has come to expect from Marty. Mike Glycer contributes a fanzine column which is quite interesting. It takes a fairly detailed look at the Nielsen-Hayden's Izzard. Then there is, of course, the enormous letter column. Well worth a read.

HOLIER THAN THOU #15 Marty Cantor 5263 Riverton Ave #1, North Hollywood CA 91601
U.S.A. Available for the usual, \$4-00 for three, or the same
in Australia with money sent to Ken Ozanne. 42 Meeks Cres
Faulconbridge N.S.W. 2776. January '83

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3/7/83

The problems are in legibility. The overprinted inner cover, for instance, may well contain some interesting writing, but I can't read it through the additional layer of ink. No doubt the combination of military mimeoed photos and editorial mean something, but I can't work out what. The handwritten pages, and photo-collages didn't do that much for me either, and the layout of an article by Cyril Simsa seriously interfered with my ability to read it. Add to this the fact that it looked as though some pages of my copy looked as though they had been used as beer mats, and you can see that the packaging isn't all that inspiring.

CHOCOLATES OF LUST #2 Phil Palmer, 62 Beaufort Mansions, Beaufort St, Chelsea,
London, SW3 5AF U.K.. No doubt available for something.
Undated.

ON COMPANY TIME 3 Steven Bryan Bieler P.O. Box 1870, Seattle WA 98111 U.S.A.
Available for the usual. This issue dated June 1993

FISSION CHIPS 4 Tom Cardy P.O. Box 5516, Dunedin, New Zealand. Available for the usual. This one is dated approximately May 1983.

[illegible]

4/1/83

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[illegible]

5/7/83

The reviews are of the capsule type that I have tended to do in the past. The Walkers seem to be getting a rather more diverse range of fanzines than I do at the moment, and are showing signs in this issue of shifting their zine in a comicsward direction. My favourite typo for the issue is "This comes from Sandy's none year old daughter."

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QUINAPALUS is the sort of fanzine that Minneapolis fans used to produce, complete with Ken Fletcher artwork, and the words of Dave Wixon.

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I don't really want to say anything about my piece on castration. I tend to lack objectivity when talking about my own writing, as my general feeling is "I liked bits of it, but feel that I could have done it better." The Lockett film would have been okay, had I read the book.

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WEBERWOMAN'S VREVENGE 12 Jean Weber, c/o C.S.I.R.O. GPO Box 1800, Canberra, A.C.T.
2601 AUSTRALIA. Available for the usual, or 60¢ per issue.
This one is dated May 1983.

D Carol Roberts is becoming one of my favourite fan writers, and is certainly a perfectionist in her own FAPazines, which is why I was rather disappointed by her brief contribution to Graham Ferner's new zine SNEETCHE. It's little more than a brief plug for the television fanzine THE EMPEROR NORTON SCIENCE FICTION HOUR that Carol works on.

Generally though, I can't help but feel that SNEETCH has a way to go yet.

— 000 —

Roelof regularly features material on conventions, and has a country by country round-up of events in Europe. If you're at all interested in following international fandom, you should be on the mailing lists of SoB, THYME, FILE 770, and Dave Langford's ANSIBLE. (This issue even gives you info on Australian and New Zealand conventions. You can't ask for more than that.)

— 000 —

GAME CROSSING Terry Garey 2528 15th Ave S Minneapolis, MN 55404 U.S.A. & Mog
Decarnin 512 B Cole St San Francisco CA 94117 U.S.A. Not really
available at all. Sometime in 1983

6/7/83

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SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE is the sort of newszine you read if you're still interested in what those disgusting filthy pros are receiving in advances now-a-days. It has photos of all the biggies. This particular issue features Clarke, Asimov and Del Rey on the front page. The zine is also a useful guide to recent releases and current markets. It does though, tend to stick clear of the sort of muck-raking that most fannish newszines wallow in.

As far as production and the like go, SFC can't really be faulted. It's a lovely professional little zine, which, though a touch more fannish than LOCUS, is cast in a similar mould. If you're seriously interested in sf goings on, you should be getting either this, or LOCUS. (Besides, this way you get to see the stories that Merv Binns paraphrases in AUSTRALIAN SCIENCE FICTION NEWS.)

SCIENCE FICTION CHRONICLE Andrew Porter P.O. Box 4175, New York, NY 10163-4175
U.S.A. A year's subscription will set you back \$28-20 if
you want it airmailed to Australia. FEBRUARY 1983.

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HARLOT may not be the perfect fanzine, but it'll do until something better comes along. Despite the fact that the co-editors live five hundred miles apart, it still has a cohesiveness lacking in many single-editor zines.

Mind you, there are some things that I'd like to see improved in the zine. For a start, I'd like to see lots more writing from Anne Laurie and Avedon. Then I'd like to see HARLOT become more regular, but until that happens, I'll just have to be content with the fact that both of them put out personalzines.

This issue starts brilliantly, with an editorial by Anne Laurie on the lack of decent new sf editors, and then an editorial by Avedon about making conventions more attuned to literature and written sf. It continues with Gerri Balter's piece on young pretty women, which is good, but which I'd already seen in Gerri's apazine. There's also a rather nice piece by Pat Mueller, on knowing how things work. Nice to see a few women getting mechanical. That way I won't feel so bad about not being mechanical. The Infraview by Kevin Smith is a rather nasty rip-off of Arthur Hlavaty's more serious such project, but still funny for all that. The lettercol is, of course, varied and well fed. A nicely balanced zine.

HARLOT 3 Anne Laurie Logan P.O. Box 191, E.Lansing MI 48823 U.S.A.. Avedon Carol 4409 Woodfield Rd, Kensington, MD 20895 U.S.A. & Ken Josenhans 605 S.Grand, Lansing, MI 48933 U.S.A. Available for the usual - one trade zine to Avedon and one to Anne Laurie. This one dated March 1982 Gad, and I thought I was slow in posting zines out.

Page 100 of 100

Just to prove how behind I am in these listings, here's UNCLE DICK'S LITTLE THING nos 5 & 6. These deal with Chicon, and assorted gossipy things around there, and the fact that I haven't seen a copy since this rather hints that either Dick has removed me from his mailing list, or that he's yet another example of post-Worldcon burnout.

UDLT is a gossip newszine, which tends to be less formal than FILE 770. It would, I'm sure, be interesting to see Dick's interpretation of the Michigan fracas reported in FILE 770, as he's a little closer to the action. One wonderful feature in #6 is a series of dead aardvark drawings by Greg Rihn. Mind you, the man obviously knows precious little about cricket. The batting stance adopted by the character weilding an aardvark on page 6 would lead to all sorts of unpleasant dismissals.

UNCLE DICK'S LITTLE THING Dick Smith 710 S. Scoville, Oak Park IL 60304 U.S.A.
Available for the usual, or interesting gossip.
Dated sometime in 1982

7/7/93

The trouble is that Kevin isn't Roy, and doesn't have Roy's methodical nature. He's trying to force himself into that pattern, and it doesn't work, because he has a rather gosh-wow approach, whereas Roy's zine always projected an air of studied seriousness. There's also the fact that the current incarnation of the WASFFAN is trying to unite the different groups in W.A. fandom, thus, along with some fairly fannish zinereviews, one finds a long piece on Peter Davidson's recent visit to Perth. I'm afraid that Kevin's multiple editorial didn't really appeal to me either. Still, Kevin is new to the game. Hopefully, when he develops a little more confidence in his abilities, he will go on to a style more in keeping with his own personality.

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As with all clubzines, the quality depends very much on the enthusiasm of the club, and, all things considered, this isn't a bad issue at all. However, the lovely offset is totally negated by the decision to use the script typeface. I personally find this the least attractive of type faces, and, to do a whole zine in it is not really on. Hopefully we'll see another issue of NEMESIS before the end of the year.

---oo---

ANVIL 27 Charlotte Proctor & Wade Gilbreath P.O. Box 57031, Birmingham AL 35259-7031
U.S.A. Available for the usual, or \$5-00 per year. This one dated April/May
1983.

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LETTERATURE

Well, yes, even reviewzines get the occasional letter, and, after the bomb squad has gone over such letters, I occasionally even read them.

JAMES J STYLES I especially enjoyed your latest "THE BWF" Q36 #3. Still chuckling
5/723 Park St from the cover, I flipped through several pages and was assaulted by
Brunswick the pithy review of young Ygor's "REGA REVIEW".

Vict 3056
AUSTRALIA
12/5/83

Well first I laughed. Then I guffawed. Then I grinned happily for several minutes as I compared this review with the others. I guess there's some kind of twisted egotist in me; where any mention is good, bad or good.

I can answer your query. Yes, you did receive "REGA'S REVIEW #1" as an example of a "real crudzine". The cover was meant to be eye shocking and visually and blatantly uneasily dubious. Due to poor artwork it only managed to be off taste.

JACK R HERMAN
Box 272
Wentworth Building
Sydney University
N.S.W. 2006
AUSTRALIA
5/10/82

(Re Q36 #2) I won't take issue with much of the review section, except to note that the self-deprecation re MAO articles was a little coy and to cavil with your use of the term "fan fiction" for what is amateur fiction. As far as I'm concerned, "fan fiction" is fiction by and about fans. Anything else, from second rate copies of Trek stories, to fifty second repeats of old pulp gimmick stories, is amateur - in all senses of the word - fiction. I will publish the former, but not the latter.

On other matters, Ron Clarke has his figures wrong. On the basis of purchases in Sydney between July and September 1981, the correct cost for mineo (50ppx200 copies) is

10 Reams White A4 Paper @ \$3-76/ream	\$37-60	(Not \$45-00)
50 stencils @ 16¢	\$ 8-00	(Not \$9-10)
1 bottle corflu	\$ 1-50	(Not \$1-90)
Ink - 2½ tubes @ \$4-00	\$10-00	(Not \$20-00)
4 Electrostencils	\$ 4-00	(Agree)
	<hr/>	
	\$61-10	(Not \$80-00)

Additionally, of course, the offset user has to use WhiteOut to correct his masters at twice the cost of corflu (at least). In essence, offset is 33% as much again more expensive than mimeo, leaving aside capital cost and ease of use.

And, from the otherside of the ~~Tashan~~ fence we have

GREG HILLS As you know, I've been using offset of late, having bought
c/o 21 Shakespeare Grove my own machine (with electrostatic platemaker and plate
St Kilda primer). I can amplify on some points Ron didn't cover
Vict 3182 well.

AUSTRALIA
10/5/83

For starters, I paid \$700 for the platemaker, which is very competitive with the price, in New Zealand, of a good electrostenciller. It's not a very reliable device, witness some recent abortions, the fault of the platemaker, but when it works properly I get excellent results. (The dealers will yet rue having sold me a sour machine.)

Second, the plates come in two compatible sizes, "12s" at about 25¢ each, and "16s" at about 42.5¢ each. Both are suitable for printing A4 pages, though the larger 16 is better, as it covers the whole metal drum, reducing stray transfer of ink to the blanket to a minimum.

Third, while NZ and Oz prices differ, my costs for 100 copies offset, using electrostatic plates, and not Ron's primitive Direct Image, are also comparable with the costs for 100 copies mimeo using either wax or electrostencils, or a combination.

Indeed, over here, electrostencils - if you own your own machine - cost less on average than wax stencils.

Fourth, when was the last time you printed a zine on 45gsm - bank - paper? I've done several that way, offset.

Fifth, correcting errors after the plate is made. Embarrassed? A wipe of the cloth and your bungle is erased. Within ten seconds the plate is ready to print. I've used the famed electrostencil corflu. It's worthless. I got better - but still highly unsatisfactory - results with ordinary corflu.

Sixth, colour changes are simpler with offset. No replacement of rollers or floppy silkscreens. Just wipe out the ink trough, run the machine with a cleaning sheet instead of a blanket, with a squirt of chemical to help it along, and you're set for a new colour.

Seventh, it is possible to leave the machine so set up that all you need do to start your day is slap a plate on the machine and set it running.

There are drawbacks. It's a lot more difficult to operate, and very easy to get lousy results, as I know too well. For short runs, the cost of crudsheets is significantly greater than with mimeo, as it needs about ten copies to get things going right, and the paper must be clean. Furthermore, the offset printer is noisy. It rattles the floor boards. It's heavy too. Mine, about normal for tabletop, weighs in at 250 pounds. Apart from that, it looks like a big duplicator without the crankhandle.

Overall, while mimeo is certainly better for the casual fan, offset is better for those who want a little more printing power. Modern photocopiers are better still for those who do only short print runs, and can be picked up for about the same price as a good used mimeo/electrostencil system.

Thanks Greg, but, considering your own later points, Jack's comments, and my personal experience, I'll stick with mimeo. It's pretty much hasslefree. I can use it without having to undergo major technical training, and it is convenient. While I do like to keep control over my zine production, I'm not that fascinated by the actual printing process, and can't see myself ever doing enough printing to justify going offset.

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Last stencil typed 10/7/83. Q36 K will follow real soon now. Then I'll get to work on a huge Q36 numerical, in the hope of killing the backlog completely. Please note that only my post office box is a current address. I have moved out of Kensington Park, and will be moving to Melbourne in January.

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Q36

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S.A. 5070
AUSTRALIA

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