

## Introduction

Welcome to issue of two of Kerles. For those of you who are not Andy Hooper or Jerry Kaufman, the title comes from a character in the Enchanted Duplicator who is 'careless' with the text in his fanzines, letting typos and errors creep in. Why I thought this was an appropriate title for a new fanzine project I will leave to the wittier commentators out there.

The first issue went out to 455 people and of all those copies only one had anything wrong with it. It had a page of one of my colleagues' forthcoming work schedule included instead of the proper page. One out of four hundred and fifty five isn't a bad error percentage for a first issue and normally I would be happy with that kind of record (to wit, Kerles.) However, of all the people on my mailing list to whom this copy could have gone to it would have to be Joseph Nicholas. Not only is he honest and forthright in his reviews but he was also one of the poor unfortunates who received my very first fanzine twelve years ago, which was also pretty crappily put together. And so it goes.

Additionally, of those 455 people, nine wrote back, or emailed, that they no longer wished to receive the zine. I also thought that was a pretty good ratio, considering the eclectic nature of the Attitude mailing list, and its desire to cross-pollinate fandom. In counter balance to this I received 7 requests from fans to be put on the mailing list, so that the address list now stands 451. A quick word of thanks to Bill Bowers for his vetting of my mailing list and suggestions of fans I have missed out.

In addition to Kerles I am also involved in a few other fannish projects which you may care to know about. As a co-editor of Götterdämmerung we hope to put our next issue, number 12, out before the end of the year. A small sampler will be available at Novacon for your delectation. As mentioned elsewhere in this zine I am also putting out my E-Zine TommyWorld again, with the first issue of volume three due out around the end of November. If you want to receive this as an emailed text copy drop me a line on [tommyworld@net.ntl.com](mailto:tommyworld@net.ntl.com) and I will add you to the list. Currently I have 105 people on the list that gets the zine, although again this may change.

Another recent announcement is the launch of a bid to host Corflu 2001 in Belfast. Eugene Doherty Mark McCann and myself have backed this. In its early stages at the moment, we are just keen to hear what people think about the idea. Because Corflu sponsors non-competitive bidding, i.e. those who want to host the con say so. The theory is those who don't think it is a good idea place a counter bid and the whole thing is sorted amicably. In practice those who express the desire generally are given the opportunity to run with it. We realise though that another Corflu outside the US may be prohibitive for a lot of people and others may think it is simply not a good idea. Whatever you think we would love to hear from you at the address below or the email to [corflu2001bid@net.ntl.com](mailto:corflu2001bid@net.ntl.com). The next issue of Kerles will carry a paper-based version of these comments and replies.

This issue is being finished off to distribute at Novacon 28, although there will only be a limited supply available for those not on the mailing list. If you received this zine you will have to make some form of contribution to receive the next one. See below for details.

The mailing list for this zine (451 copies) is made up from three sources: the Attitude mailing list, the Corflu UK mailing list (thanks to both for their help) and my own personal mailing list. This information is held on a computer, which is only available to other editors

or suitable fannish groups. I hope that this zine is one that will interest you, but if for any reason you do not wish to continue to receive it, and therefore be removed from my mailing list, please drop me a line at any of the contact points given.

Issue Two of Kerles, written in November and posted in December of 1998, is available for the usual. This is defined as a show of interest (a letter requesting same, a pint of beer or similar favours...) trade (your zine for mine, no matter how infrequent,) editorial whim (don't ask) or contribution (review – write before hand – letter of comment, artwork – though it might not be used.) Tommy Ferguson, 40 Deramore Avenue, Belfast, BT7 3ER, Northern Ireland. Email [kerles@net.ntl.com](mailto:kerles@net.ntl.com) Phone home: (01232) 293275 or work: (01232) 264024

## Outworlds 70

"So, from the start, what is it you don't like about Outworlds 70?"

"Well there are all those lists. I mean there is a rationale for including lists in fanzines, but only if you examine what they say about your taste, about the current state of movies or films or if they form the basis of an analytical article. Just printing lists of what you've read over the last year..."

"Did you read what Bill said on page 2579..."

"That's another thing, those bloody page numbers are deeply annoying, running continuously from the very first Outworlds."

"Yes, right, but on that page Bill states: 'In this issue, you will find Various & Many Lists. Just another Bowers perversion...' I mean, it is not as if the guy doesn't know what he is doing."

"Well that is all fine and dandy, but doesn't obviate the fact that it is tedious. The only reasonable use is the list of movies viewed on the letters page which is actually very well designed and laid out. Simply as a counter-point to the text of the letter, and for no other reason than this, it works extremely well. Unlike his linos, for example..."

"Okay, I'm biting, what about the linos?"

"Well it is just that they are very invasive in the text. I like my linos as headers, footers, pull quotes or even, as in Kerles, as boxed quotes – distinct from the text, yet referring to it, even if obliquely. In Outworlds there are linos breaking up the columnar text, so that you have to read left to right, then down and right again, rather than the normal columns. This is nearly as infuriating as Bill's editorial comments and interjections."

"What now?"

"Well right at the start in Bob Lichtman's article there is an 'almost discussion' between Bob and Bill before the article gets started. His other comments before and after other articles describing how he came by them, how the writers were contacted and all sorts of other guff that distracts from what the writer has written."

"Enough, already. Jesus! What about the fanzine itself? What did you think of the writing, the production, the artwork, and the letters? What, in essence, did you think of Outworlds 70?"

"Fucking Amazing."

It is, on one level, just beautiful to look at. Simply as a physical object it is something that I would want in my possession, just to be able to look at the neat layout, the well designed letter pages and the skilful placement of artwork. And what artwork.

It is obvious that Bill's skill in design and layout, and the clear reproduction endears him to his artist contributors as he pulls the best out of them and uses this appropriately. Steve Stiles artwork is always a joy to see but his pieces on pages 2661, 2645 and 2618 are exceptional, a real joy. I think my favourite piece though is Alan Hunter's illustration to Billy

Wolfenbarger's article on page 2613: a depiction of nightmares that is suggestive of the physical process that nightmares put you through but also completely appropriate to the article it illustrates. Bill's crediting of the artist as a footnote on the page upon which the illustration appears is also to be roundly welcomed. This is possibly the best use of artwork that I have seen since Trapdoor 18.

However what stands out is the writing. It is difficult to state which is the best piece in this issue. There are thirty-six separate pieces in this issue, belonging to 33 different authors. A 'Wealth of Fable' if ever a fanzine had any. All of them, no matter my views on the subject, are well written and deserving of praise however there are far too many to details in this review. That said, there are some articles that just scream out for comment.

Dave Locke's remembrance of Jackie Causgrove illustrates just how much fans and fandom affects our lives. Recent articles in Trapdoor introduced me to people like Elmer Purdue, Charles Burbee and William Rotsler, who have had an amazing influence on many fans lives. It is people like this who become important, even to playing a central role in peoples lives and not just their fannish careers, and thence life long friends. This what fandom can given us. I never had the opportunity to meet any of them and from Dave's piece I know I will be the poorer for it. It is clear that Dave is an enriched person for having known Jackie, and misses her immensely. A fitting tribute to anyone.

The best article in this issue undoubtedly must be Ted White's. Although it is clear from an early stage what metaphors and analogies are being explored, the language used and the simplicity of the structure of the article lets the imagination of the reader do all the work. Drawing parallels between the rising of undergrowth and bushes, which are chopped back and mulched to allow new growth to burgeon in its place, is unique and perceptive insight to what fannish fandom has to offer. It would be churlish of me to spoil this by detailing it further. Recommended for the one of the best of 1998.

Andy Hooper's latest instalment of 'Walks Far Fan' takes on an uphill battle. After his piece in The Jezail (insert appropriate fanzine) I was recently in Seattle and, curiously enough walking with Lesley Reece to his house, we passed many of the shops and places he remarked upon. Although walking in the opposite direction was a little confusing at times, Andy's almost casual travelogue of Seattle made for a pleasant journey.

In this episode he and Shelia Lightsey, his companion on the journey, highlight the joys as well as the hazards of travel by foot in a city. As a veteran of cities with very small centres I'm reluctant to do any thing else except travel by foot and the preparation for this generally involves getting back to where I started before dark. For Andy this is a whole other ball game – he sets out with stopping points in mind, places to explore along the way and a desire to rediscover his living place. It is something that I recommend heartily I'm only sorry to say that others can only experience vicariously what he, I and many others have enjoyed in Seattle.

It is the consistently high standard of writing in these articles, which makes me wince when I come across rich brown's defence of Harlan Ellison and Seventh Fandom. I'm more than aware how little I know of fannish history, thanks to the TimeBinders List server, but as a veteran of Belfast fandom over the years, I can appreciate a good argument when I hear one. Having picked up a lot of fannish history in my 12 years in fandom, a brief knowledge of Harlan and the mad dogs of Seventh Fandom seems almost background or intuitive knowledge – just like Greg Pickersgill and Joseph Nicholas were the 'mad dogs' of British Seventies fandom.

It is quite irritating therefore to read rich, who is otherwise an excellent writer, defend Harlan Ellison in such a convoluted and, to be frank, tedious, way. True he does state his personal preference for Ellison's work, declaring him to be:

"...the finest writer ever to come out of science fiction {and later...} Harlan has no superior and only a handful of peers in the field."

In his analysis of the whole argument about Harlan in about four paragraphs concentrating on one mixed metaphor of a teenage boy – the aforementioned mad dogs – that really seems to miss the point. And somewhat excessive, as does the re-telling of Harlan's Water bombing incident. The police were called, a woman's virtue was under threat, and there was hotel damage. To say this was one of the turning points in Harlan's choice to absent himself from fandom seems spurious if false, and if true makes Harlan and rich lesser men than I thought.

Just to be clear, I'm fully aware of the vicissitudes of historical revisionism and especially viewing historical incidents through modern eyes, and it isn't that I'm decrying what rich is writing about, the validity of what he is saying or even that there is an argument at all. It is just that his manner of retelling the stories involved, and his analysis of those incidents in defence of Seventh Fandom is excessively anal and written with a deathly prose style.

Of the other articles I really enjoyed the two travel articles from South East Asia are notable, as is a short one pager from Langford. Skel and Mike Glicksohn also contribute highly enjoyable fare.

"So you really enjoyed the issue. Thought the design, layout and reproduction were top drawer. Thought the artwork, well executed, appropriate and clearly credited. The articles were well written and funny, and of universally good standard. So what was all that guff, and bitching at the start of this article?"

"Well, it is just that some of the more minor details annoy me at a level that itches."

"You're a right picky bastard, aren't you?"

"It has been said."

(Ed. Bill Bowers, 4651 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45238-4503, USA Available by editorial whim or \$7.50/£4.60)

## Banana Wings 11

In Victor Gonzalez's Squib 3 I wrote a review of Banana Wings Eight. In that review I wrote:

"Banana Wings 8 [is] another one of those Brialey/Plummer co-productions..." as the back of their latest effort proclaims. I don't want to appear that I'm damning Banana Wings with faint praise – but this is a competent zine, well laid out, with decent writing and a few splashes of humour. It all works well, fits together nicely and is something that I would point to if anyone asked me what a fanzine is. It sums up fandom for me, what happens in my little fannish world and why I'm still involved."

The fact of the matter is that there is very little that I like about the writing in this zine, and that hasn't changed with the current issue, number 11. There is another article from Claire about Europe and her work. What really astonishes me is that Claire states that on one of her many trips to Europe, which I appreciate can be a drag unless you make the effort, "Even Paris would be bearable if I were there with fans." I know this is taken out of context of the rest of the article, wherein Claire states what she likes about fandom and what she hates about Paris, but it also sums up what I feel about this fanzine, and the other sin the run. Claire's attitude about fans and beings with fans is completely the opposite of mine: I can think of a least likely bunch of people to visit Paris with than a bunch of fans. Even the ones that I really like and hangout, hell live with, is till wouldn't want them to go to Paris (or, for that matter) anywhere else.

Fandom is, I suppose, Just a goddamned hobby to me. It is important in my life, so much so that I will have a long and heated conversation with the husband of my ex girlfriend about the importance of fandom to fans. Not tot he rest of the world, I hasten to add. Fandom is just a social thing, a way of interacting with people and in the great scheme of things is probably up there with my new toe nail clipper: it cuts my toe nails extremely well but has the added benefit if collecting the snippiness inside it to be disposed of at leisure and not to be caught on piece of newspaper that then spills them out as you transport them to the bin. Fandom is part of my social life and has the added benefit of fanzines, letters and the odd convention.

This is the feeling I get reading through he rest of the zine. Mark's article about collecting, is linked in with many snippets culled from various books and conversations he has had and will be familiar to anyone who unopened boxes stored in houses. I for one know what that is like with various boxes of stuff in Ireland, the UK and Canada, to name but a few disparate areas. Yet this is such a quintessentially fannish endeavour, books, boxes and books I boxes, that it is hard to get an angle, or a rise out of the subject. Indeed it seems, like Claire later on a similar subject, the effort isn't made. The impact, and the shared experienced, appeared to be assumed and that the gaps where a point should be made, or an analogy drawn is just left blank for the reader to fill in.

Undisputedly this is Mark and Claire's fanzine. The similarity of their lifestyles and habits, as well as their writing style, pervades the zine throughout. Where the guests come in I had hoped for a different viewpoint, or perspective; something to life the prosaic into prose. Steve Jeffrey gives it a go, but his subject matter (or commission?) isn't up for his efforts.

Convention reports, as Steve himself suggests in the letter column, are twisted eels of a subject. There is straight reportage, but why bother? There is the personal perspective, usually as Steve notes, from the bar, which definitely has potential but always depends on

the person. Eugene Doherty and Victor Gonzalez do this well in Squib 4, Mark McCann less so in the recent Götterdämmerung. Without a shadow of doubt though, are oblique con reports – Michael Ashley in Saliromania on Corflu UK is a classic. It has very little to do with Corflu UK and more to do with Michael. However in this way we learn what the convention was like through references, innuendo and wry asides.

All of this leads me to the unfortunate revelation that Steve chooses the reportage method of describing Eastercon. Given the limitations though, Steve does manage to entertain and the article rattles on nicely:

"In fact, Intuition seemed determined to divide itself into a fractal cascade of divisions... It sounded insanely ambitious, or just insane and ambitious. Hubris hovered; nemesis lurked.

It shouldn't have worked. It couldn't possibly have worked.

On the whole, it did. Remarkably well."

A bit like his convention report, actually.

Of the other guests, two are Maureen and Paul Kincaid Speller – more of which anon – and the third is Elizabeth Billinger. O Pioneers! is Desert Island fandom, writ large. The premise (from an original idea by Steve Jeffrey...) is that you are a Mars Colonist on a one way trip with ten personal items to take:

"This is the catch. You have to explain, briefly, who those items, what they mean to you, or what memories they hold."

Skipping over the fact that is not 'the catch' but the single and only reason for doing Desert Island Discs or similar, the idea behind the format is to elucidate upon the person who is doing the choosing or the describing. Commercially this is usually a 'celebrity' and the assumption is their choices will be reflection of the personal life of a public figure. We will get to know more about them. In fanzine, this is simply not the case. I don't know Elizabeth, except as a name associated with the BSFA. To the best of my knowledge I've never met her. Reading this article, I'm not sure that I would.

Maureen and Paul are two wonderful people, and I was extremely happy that Maureen own TAFF, I thought this was the top up fix to TAFF that Martin initially gave. Paul is a quiet intellectual who like exciting and vibrant Whiskey. I spent some time at their home and they were warm and wonderful hosts. Having got the pleasantries out of the way, and making trebly sure this is not taken personally, I just don't share a lot of their interests.

Maureen writes exceptionally well about John Wyndham, but apart from acknowledging his place in SF history and really enjoying Chocky my interest with the author ends and her article didn't engage me. Paul, on the other, reviews fanzines – hell, Lagavullin and fanzine reviewing, how close could I get? What we do though, we do differently. Paul reviews fanzines with a wider brief – the role in modern fandom, relationships to the past, how zines have been transformed and what the latest batch say about the state of fanzine fandom. He notes that the current batch of US zines are full of enthusiasms and yet hark back to the past. The new British zines are short, snappy and tend to want to reinvent fandom every time the wheel comes around. I get the impression he thinks the former is good and the latter is bad. Personally I think both are valid.

The telling phrase in this issue review is almost an aside:

"As an aside, I note that Langford quotes from a Greg Pickersgill review of Dave Womack's fanzine, *Viridiana*, written in 1970:

'Jesus Christ I'm reading this thing now and I can't believe it. It is worthless. It gets Brit fandom a bad name it hardly deserves, bad as it is. Every copy out to be sought out and burned, with Womack securely roped down in the middle. My fury knows no bounds.'

...I'm being too soft, too gentle, I allow my sweet nature to flow through these fanzine reviews far too much. A little more Iron is what is needed."

Fanzine reviewer, heal thyself...

In the end the guest, try though they may, don't help with the overall average tone of the writing. I'm afraid there is nothing in *Banana Wings* that grabs me and shakes me by my Gester's and screams in my face: 'Read me and rejoice!' Unfortunately the reason for this is given in a footnote to another article from Claire:

"I should probably clarify the 'we' in question is not the Intuition committee. Sadly, our nice simple idea never got that far. It's just a fishlifter thing."

*Banana Wings*: it's a fishlifter thing. Sadly, not my thing.

## Squib 4

"Get it right, to I'll fucking kill you."

Mark McCann hasn't written much recently so this must be D West. There's a lot of him about in this issue of Squib, and at twenty-six pages (the biggest issue to date) that is a lot of D West. This quote is from the first page pastiche of James Ellroy doing Victor's trip report. Although the pastiche ostensibly ends at the foot of the page what follows is a trip report in the style of Ellroy.

Victor treats us to conversations in pubs with the Leeds Mafia, conversations in hotels at conventions and conversations which, frankly, only occurred in his head. Recounting tales of incidents involving the painting of Joseph Nicholas, the Weston's marriage guidance counselling tactics and the labelling of a host of British fans as 'waistcoat fans' does tend to produce a sporadic report. However I don't think there was any other way of doing it. To misquote Steve Jeffrey: 'It shouldn't work, but it does.' Exceptionally well.

Jae Leslie Adams then reviews 'The Getting Laid At Cons: A users Guide' panel at Corflu UK. This was the last panel on Saturday night before Christina Lake's birthday party. Given these circumstances you would think everyone would be tanked up and the panel would quickly degenerate into adolescent giggles and innuendo. And this is exactly what happened.

Jae notes: "The British idea of a panel seems to be a quiz show panel, where everyone gets a chance to show off quick wit. It has taken me weeks to figure this out. It was not at all clear at the time." And later, in conclusion, "this sex panel...showed how very foreign people can be while apparently speaking the same language." You see there is benefit to travel. TAFF is a good idea. The two fandoms should inter mingle. And we really should have Corflu back in the UK.

I wasn't at the con, but even reading between the lines of the programme book, ya just gotta know that any kind of sex panel, at any kind of British convention, is quickly going to become completely tedious, pointless and not a lot of fun. Jae had hoped to deal with the topic seriously and constructively, even suggesting past panels where this had happened. In UK fandom though the only way to deal with items like this is to go into them blind drunk, stoned or naked. Preferably all three. However I don't see British fans being especially up to this challenge. As Eugene Doherty noted in his own Corflu UK report: "We got back in time for the panel on Sex in Fandom which I found intriguing because the idea of the two mixing together had never occurred to me before."

Eugene is well known throughout the city of Belfast (well the four or five people at the Belfast SF Group anyway) for his wit and sharp retorts and this article is so full of the presence of Eugene that I could have been by his side throughout the entire convention. It has been remarked that this report focuses a lot on the same areas as Mark McCann's report in Götter but as Eugene states himself: "I feel a bit like Mick Jagger when he went to write his biography and had to ask the other Stones what happened in the sixties as he couldn't quite remember all the details (i.e. anything)."

Julian Headlong's 'A Counterblast To TAFF' misses the point. Entirely. TAFF is not about sending one of our mates over to meet the rest of our mates who they haven't seen in years, to even think of winning TAFF one must have the Chutzpah to actually think that anyone to vote for them, let alone nominate them. In the past this has been derived from

writing fanzines or articles, doing artwork or whatever. Recently the fannish credentials for running for TAFF have, quite rightly, broadened out into Con running, on-line fandom and the like. However the prime directive is that this person, regardless of what fannish activity they partake in, must have paid sufficient dues to deserve the honour. It is about honouring our most valuable contributors, people who take part and give to fandom more than what they take out of it. To win TAFF is an honour. It should be respected for such.

More power to Victor's elbow for printing this I hope this, and the panel it has inspired at Novacon, raises the issue above the humdrum. Squib is more than just an entertaining read, but even at that is head and shoulders above most zines today.

I never really anticipated this zine having a letter column. Like all fans I enjoy receiving letters, emails and comments, however the focus of the zine is the reviews. I also want to keep the page count reasonable, so that distribution can continue the way it started. With those thoughts in mind, here is a much-truncated bevy of comments. I'm sure that you can work out what is, and what isn't, me.

Jerry Kaufman : "Thanks for sending along Kerles 1. I'm making the big assumption that it's named after the character in The Enchanted Duplicator, which is pretty tasty on a number of levels. First, it's a character from the best writing ever produced by Irish fans. Second, it's a character that seems to reflect your damn the typos, full speed ahead, printer's devil-may-care attitude. Third, you do have a few silly typos here, you know. Like headlining 'Crifanac 1-3,' when you only review issues 1 and 2."

{Correctomundo! You are one of only four fans who got the reference and took the time out to tell me – and yes, as I've said it is wholly apt for the reasons you give. In essence the Crifanac review was of the first two issues, but the third one popped into the post box as I was putting the issue to bed. So I thought, what the hell!}

"Speaking of which, I don't see that Crifanac is all that reminiscent of APAK, aside from the frequency and slender page count. I don't believe that APAK was trying to be a newszine. It often filled that function because news was an easy thing to fill pages with, and there seemed to be a need for a zine that would report on changes in people's lives and fannish circumstances. Other than that, APAK threw its net wider and came back with fat fish to chew on, bits of Seattle scenery (and South Pacific), things that people were doing outside fandom, and so forth. I also found the writing generally more flavourful in APAK, since the writers didn't usually try to achieve a "fannish" style. (By the way, I liked Mark McCann's review of Saliromania. Very good sleight of hand, that, pulling an indirect review out of a Britrail toilet.) Jerry Kaufman (JAKaufman@aol.com)"

{My review of APAK was of the first couple of issues and, as the zine has developed, my view of it has also changed to something approaching yours. Also some correspondence with Arnie has enlightened me on their approach to the zine. I hope to do another in depth review of APAK as it comes of age. Northern Ireland Railways, believe it or not, will be flattered with the distinction, as they use rolling stock which even the English railway companies think unfit for human transportation.}

Joe Mayhew : "I received a copy of KERLES 1 today and in the hoary fannish tradition, I am sending you a Letter of Comment. Your extensive review of TRAP DOOR 18 was not accompanied with a bibliographic citation in "The List." If anyone wished to contact Bob Lichtman, they'll have to wait until your next issue.

I suggest you include the Title, Editor, address, etc at the head of each review. Was it your intention to demean MIMOSA (a five-time winner of the Hugo in recent years, when you wrote "I will be sorely disappointed if Trapdoor ever receives a Hugo: it would illustrate a huge dumbing down of the zine"? Earlier you say you have not seen the printed version of MIMOSA (I have not seen the electronic one). I hope you will revise your opinion of it upon actually becoming familiar with it." Joe Mayhew (JTMayhew@worldnet.att.net)

{First off, Robert Lichtman's name and address were given in The List. I have given some thought to listing the editor and contact address with the review but, for the moment, have

decided against it. I shall revisit this idea in later issues. As for the Mimosa reference, I do think you are being arbitrarily contrary. Not everyone chose to interpret my remarks in that vein, to wit.}

Steve Green : "It's not just that Robert Lichtman would have to "dumb down" TRAPDOOR in order to win a Hugo, he'd have to dramatically widen its distribution (c.f. LAN's LANTERN) and in doing so severely damage the editor-reader rapport. Paraphrasing Bruce Gillespie, TRAPDOOR allows Robert "to speak to his friends"; I reckon you can only really do this when you have a print run of 200-350 (I assume you intend to whittle down your own list from 450?). Regards, Steve Green ghost.words@virgin.net"

{After Frank's remarks next, this is going to sound churlish but I do intend to whittle down the foreign names on my list whilst the UK ones will probably stay on for a lot longer. This has to do with firing the mail for the UK editions through work, and the actually having to pay for the foreign ones. Sorry, it is basic economics. You know how to stop your name being dropped...}

Frank Lunney : "Enjoyed the first Kerles. It was interesting in that you seem to have an acceptance of US fannish fandom a lot of other Brits don't have or at least won't admit too. It's tough, sometimes, getting out of that "fool American" bag, even when out drinking every other member of a convention just to prove that getting drunk isn't that difficult." Frank Lunney, 7601 Powder Valley Road, Zionsville, PA 18092, USA

Steve Jeffrey: "I only admire (and grumble, argue or agree with) people like Paul Kincaid or Andy Hooper who take fanzine reviewing seriously, who care to sift the wheat from the chaff, whose skin is not so thin that they feel obliged to pussyfoot around the fact that a fanzine by their friends isn't really as good as it might be, or will not only say that another fanzine or piece of fanwriting is damn good, but why it's good, in a way that makes you say "Oh yeah, I wish I'd seen that." Which leads me into part of this first issue. If hadn't read Andy Hooper's review of Saliromania in Crifanac 4, I wouldn't have had the faintest idea of what it was like from Mark's "review" (I'm glad you put it in quotes like that in Kerles, because whatever it is, it isn't a fanzine review.) Maybe it's a clever parody of Ashley's concerns and style; maybe it's not. From this end, it's somewhat hard to tell, but it doesn't encourage me to look further one way or the other."

{After the four reviews in the zine, and as I didn't have a loccol, something a little different was needed to break up the mix. As you point out it was not meant to be a review and not meant to direct people to Michael's zine either. Sorry it didn't work for you.}

"Unlike your review of Crifanac 1-3, which I have read, and in which you do express some of my unvoiced concerns: that it's a nice zine, but it's not really worked out what it's for, or it's not really hitting the bases yet. (CF 5 has just, as predicted, arrived in the post, almost simultaneously with this issue of Kerles). Is it an Apak substitute? It doesn't seem to have the same feel or agenda. Is it a focal point fanzine, whatever that is? Discussing this with Maureen Kincaid Speller, she buttonholed Paul on the subject, who reckons a focal point fanzine is one that somehow captures or encapsulates a fannish feeling of the time. It's something that happens; rarely is it something you can try and set up in advance. It's probably not even possible anymore, now that fandom, and fanzine fandom is so wide and fragmented that it's barely possible to keep up with all what's going on. And one of the problems - and this is something else I've been discussing a lot with Maureen - is that

there seems little tendency these days for fanzines to react to and debate or argue with each other. Maybe the material isn't there. Arnie's fannish concerns, in crifanac, don't seem much different from those in Wild Heirs, and fannish genealogy or estimates of the size of different fandoms, while diverting, aren't exactly burning issues. It's almost like a point looking for a focus, and maybe the focus isn't really there at the moment." Steve J Peverel@aol.com

Arnie Katz : "I think the idea of a fanzine review fanzine is great! I guess Ethel Lindsay's HAVERINGS was the longest-lived of such zines -- and a fairly decent one at that. Naturally, I await the next issue with baited breath." Arnie Katz. Wildheirs@aol.com. {Good company there, thanks Arnie.}

WAHF: Murray Moore, Lloyd Penney, Pete Crump, Arnie Katz, Evelyn Murray, Bob Lichtman, E.B.Frohvet, Harry Cameron Andruschak, Lyn McConchie, Robert Lichtman, Alan Sullivan, DM Sherwood, David Redd, Alasdair Mackintosh, Lindsay Crawford, Gary Farber, Cliff Stornel, Gary Wilkinson, Sheryl Birkhead, Dave Langford, Pamela Boal, Fiona Anderson, Brendan Ryder, Joyce Scrivner, rich brown, Cheryl Lee Thompson, Garth Spencer, Michael Lowrey, Arthur Hlavaty, Eric Lindsay, Wm Breiding, Bridget Bradshaw, Bill Bowers, Peter Halasz, Nigel Rowe, Robert Lichtman.

## Kerles 2 - The List

Crifanac 4-8. Arnie Katz (330 S. Decatur, Suite 152, Las Vegas, NV 89107. USA) and Ken Forman (7215 Nordic Lights Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89119. USA) Rattles on its fannish way. Continues with its determined fannish air, news, views and COAs. Getting to be an absolute requirement.

Did I Say That Out Loud Too? Debbi Kerr, 38 Bankfield Terrace, Burley, Leeds, LS4 2RE. UK Debbi's done Belfast already and here is a previous incarnation. Lots of fun.

Squib 4. Victor Gonzalez, 905 N.E. 45th St., #106, Seattle, WA 98105. USA Squib gets lizzardised, and all the better for it. (Reviewed Inside.)

Snufkin's Bum 3. Maureen Kincaid Speller, 60 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 5AZ. UK More news from Maureen.

Banana Wings 11. Claire Brialey, 26 Northampton Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7HA. UK & Mark Plummer, 14 Northway Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 6JE. UK (Reviewed Inside.)

CosmoPlokta Vol. 3, no 3. Steve Davies, 52 Westbourne Terrace, Reading, Berks, RG30 2RP. UK & Alison Scott, 42 Tower Hamlets Road, Walthamstow, London, E17 4RH. UK. More fun and frolics from the Plokta crew, including an Eastercon review and photos too horrible to describe. Recommended.

The Knarley Knews 71. Henry L & Letha R. Welch, 1525 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017. USA

Gegenschein 80-82, Eric Lindsay, PO Box 640, Airlie Beach, Queensland 4802 Australia.

Starfire 9. Wm Bredling, PO Box 2322, Tucson, Arizona, 85702, USA

Outworlds 70. Bill Bowers, 4651 Glenway Avenue, Cincinnati, OH, 45238-4503, USA A really big fanzine, in all sense of the word. (Reviewed inside.)

Fables of Irish Fandom Vol. 1, by John Berry, published by Ken Cheslin, 29 Kestrel Road, Halesowen, West Midlands, B63 2PH, UK and John Berry 4 Chilterns, South Hatfield, Herts, AL10 8JU, UK.

Olaf 1. Ken Cheslin (as above)

The Incisors Report Vol. 2, Numbers 1, Issue 3 & Number 2 Issue 4. Official Newsletter of the Toronto in 2003 Bid Committee Edited by Peter and Athena Jarvis c/o Bid Address PO Box 3, Station A, Toronto, ON. Canada, M5W 1A2.

Vanamonde 258-272, John Hertz, 236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, USA

ERG 141. Terry Jeeves, 56 Red Scar Drive, Scarborough, YO12 5RQ. UK

Derogatory Reference 89. Arthur D Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers, NY 10704. USA

Dreamberry Wine. Mike Don 233 Maine Rd Manchester, M14 7WG UK Mike continues to offer second hand books, at exceptionally cheap prices with book and zines reviews, plus a lively lettercol and forthcoming release. Excellent resource.

Fanthology 92 (\$5), PSI-PHI 10 (\$4) and Best of FRAP (\$7.50, or \$15 for all three. Postage included in all prices) Edited by Robert Lichtman, PO Box 30, Glen Ellen, CA 95442. USA I snapped all three of these and can tell you they are well worth it. Get 'em now, before they go forever.

The Monocle Vol3 issue 9. Eugene Doherty, 110 North Parade, Belfast, BT7 2GJ, Northern Ireland. UK More nonsense from Belfast's answer to that age-old question: Why?

The Mongolian Bird (many issues, none numbered) Alan Sullivan, 30 Ash Road, London, E15 1HL UK Appear to be either an APA zine or the Croydon club zine. Either way, write for availability. Intermittently funny one pager, very typical Croydon/HHGTTG fare.

Load of Bollocks 17. DM Sherwood, PO Box 23, Port Talbot, SA13 1DA UK Apa Zine, seems to be limited availability, write for info. Quite literally, a descriptive title, with news clippings, thoughts and opinions from DM.

Quipu 9. Vicki Rosenzweig, 33 Indian Road, 6-R, New York, NY 10034 USA. Personal zine that is consistently entertaining and usually quite personal.

Opuntia 37, 39.5, 40, 40.1, 40.2 & The Canadian Journal of Detournement 27 & 28. Dale Spiers, PO Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7 A couple of stand out issues here. CJD 27 is hilarious, one of the funniest I've yet seen. A Blondie cartoon with the caption altered to read: "You are not cool because you have a pierced navel." Optunia 37 about Public Letter Writers was fascinating. Good stuff.

Bento 9. David Levine & Kate Yule, 1905 SE 43rd Ave., Portland, Oregon 97215, Usa. Available for the usual. A5, digest sized bundle of fun.

The Royal Navy Swiss Gazette #3. Garth Spencer, PO Box 15225, V.M.P.O., Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada V6B 5B1. Loks to be available for the usual.

Barmaid 2. Yvonne Rowse, Evergreen, Halls Farm Lane, Trimpey, Worcs, DY12 1NP. UK