

FANZINES 4

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By Ted White

THE KNARLEY KNEWS (Henry L. Welch, 1525 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017; e-mail to welch@msoe.edu; available for trade, contributions, letters of comment or \$1.50 a copy)

The Knarley Knews is published bimonthly and the current (February) issue is #86. That tells you something right there: this is no fly-by-night fanzine. In some respects one can say this fanzine is typical of many individually-edited fanzines, in that it reflects the personality, interests and friendships of its editor. But in reflecting a specific editor's interests and milieu it is also unique to that editor – in this case Henry Welch. Welch stands a little to one side of fandom's major cliques and social structure, a self-professed anti-elitist, choosing his own personal path and friends – and for that reason his fanzine is perhaps an easier entry point for those new to fanzines. There are no secret hand-clasps and no inside jokes here.

But Welch puts plenty into the 24 pages of his fanzine: an editorial in which he talks about his life; a rather pugnacious fanzine-review column by the rather pugnacious Rodney Leighton; "Witchard's Armagnac," an idiosyncratic column by Gene Stewart; "Zazerath's," a review of Tad Williams' *City of Golden Shadow* by Derek Miller; a meaty 13-page letter column; "Sue's Sites," a short editorial by Henry's mother and "Fanzines Received in Trade," a one-page listing of fanzines received (with one-sentence descriptions) which occupies the inside back cover.

The whole thing is attractively published (double-columned computer-set type, photocopied) with a scattering of art inside and a cover by Hugo-winning fanartist Teddy Harvia. If I had to use one word to sum up this fanzine it would be "non-confrontational." Despite the presence of firecrackers like Leighton and Stewart, Welch keeps his fanzine down-home folksy and family-friendly.

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NO AWARD (Marty Cantor, 11825 Gilmore St., #105, North Hollywood, CA 91606; e-mail to martyhoohah@netzero.net; available for "the usual" – trades, letters of comment, contributions – or \$5.00 a copy)

Marty Cantor used to published a fat fanzine called *Holier Than Thou* back in the '80s, but after dropping that title he started *No Award* a decade later. (The choice of title allows him to make the facetious claim that this fanzine has been on every Hugo Award ballot for years.) A 30-page "genzine" (or generally-oriented fanzine), the latest issue (#8) is produced on a computer but printed by a modern Gestetner super-mimeograph which produces a look close to that of photocopying. The material is solid, with Milt

Stevens' review of Delaney's *Dahlgren* taking top honors. There are columns by Thom Digby, Mike Glycer and Len Moffatt (the latter's a memoir of his life in fandom), an essay-length fanzine review by Joseph Major and a 7-page letter column, plus lots of little extra bits fitted in here and there. *No Award* hasn't been around as long as *The Knarley Knews*, but despite a slightly fussy layout it is better-edited and offers more to its readers.

More reviews next issue.

--Ted White