

# FANZINES 21

By Ted White

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CHUNGA #1, Summer, 2002 (Andy Hooper, publisher; Randy Byers, editor; Carl Juarez, designer; no price listed, but send a buck for postage; mail to Byers at 1013 North 36th St., Seattle WA 98103; e-mail to [fanmailaph@aol.com](mailto:fanmailaph@aol.com) or [rbyers@u.washington.edu](mailto:rbyers@u.washington.edu) or [cjuarez@myrealbox.com](mailto:cjuarez@myrealbox.com).)

*Chunga* – the name comes from the Frank Zappa album of 1970 – is a solidly edited fanzine in the tradition of “genzines” (general fanzines, unspecialized in nature) which does not feel like a typical first issue. This is undoubtedly because the three fans involved in putting it out have, between them, decades of experience with fanzines. Andy Hooper’s *Apparatchik* was a major fanzine of the mid-’90s. At times he drew upon the assistance of Carl Juarez. And Randy Byers has been making his name as an important fanwriter since he wrote and published *Travels With The Wild Child* nearly a decade ago. Byers has also had his hand in several collaborative fanzines, but this is his first stint as editor of an ongoing genzine – the next issue of which is predicted to appear “sometime after the 31st of October, 2002.”

Within 26 pages Hooper, Byers and Juarez have done pretty much everything right – down to the little delights tucked away in the fanzine’s nicks and crannies. In addition to a page of editorials, there are eight articles and three facetious “Fanzine Reviews from Planet X.”

In her “Helicon Fanzine Blues,” a brilliant, multi-dimensional piece, Claire Brialey remarks on fellow British fan Lilian Edwards’ “theory ... that good fanwriting has to be by people you know; or, rather, that you appreciate an article far more when you know the writer, or you know where they fit in to your map of fandom, or when it enables you to get to know more about them. Sometimes, in fact, it makes you want to get to know them better in person. I think the main contention here is that good fanwriting is not only intrinsically part of the fannish community but that it also fosters a sense of community in its audience.” Claire subsequently offers “two qualms about accepting this,” but she has summed up an important aspect of fanwriting.

*Chunga* is full of good fanwriting – which, although doubtless enhanced by an acquaintance or familiarity with its authors, is good enough to stand on its own and covers a broad range. Lesley Reece rings the changes on an old Dr. Pepper commercial with “Wouldn’t You Like To Be A Latte, Too?” Randy Byers talks about fear of two different kinds in “Cliff Hangers.” Max (voted Best New Fan in this year’s FAAN Awards) contributes “Tobes for TAFF – What *Have* We Done?” Luke McGuff gives us two editions of “Skiffy Corner,” in each of which he idiosyncratically reviews a SF book (by James White and by Samuel Delany). Hal O’Brien and Andy Hooper collaborate on “A Brief Interview” (political humor, which I cared for least). I’ve already mentioned “Helicon Fanzine Blues.” And Andy Hooper closes the issue out with “Never Forgets,” a reflection on zoo elephants.

*Chunga* is off to an impressive start and I look forward with some eagerness to its second issue.

—Ted White