

FANZINES 28

By Ted White

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BURSTZINE #2, April 2003 (Michael A. Burstein & Nomi S. Burstein, P.O.Box 1713, Brookline, MA 02446; e-mail to burstzine@nomiburstein.com; PDF files of this fanzine are available from its website at www.burstzine.net; printed copies available “for either a printed fanzine in trade, a letter of comment, or via surface mail for US\$3.00 (and please add US\$3.00 for non-North American addresses).”)

Burstzine is a modest genzine with a twist. Simply but well produced, it occupies 24 pages (including covers), 21 of which are double-columned in an easily readable computer-set type. *Burstzine* is printed on folded sheets twice letter-size and saddle-stapled to the conventional letter-sized fanzine. Michael’s editorial opens the issue and is followed by four articles. Nomi’s editorial (in smaller print so it all fits on the inside back cover) closes the issue. There are no letters, but these are promised for #4, the projected “all-LoC issue.”

All but one piece in this issue is oriented to a common theme, “fans and our parents,” and Michael says he received so many contributions that the theme will be extended “into issue #3. #5, he tells us will launch a new theme.

To a large extent articles about fans and their parents are articles about How I Discovered Fandom (with or without parental help). These have a limited appeal when read en masse (see my December, 2001 review of *Contact!/Spirits Of Things Past* by Dick Smith & Leah Zeldes Smith), but the three here do offer some variety of experience, opinion and approach. The best is David B. Williams’ “Napoleon, Tucker, and Me,” which links a number of disparate facts to reach an amusing punch line. Janna Silverstein’s “My Parents and Fandom: A Personal Alternate History” is more conventional (pun intended) and Steven H. Silver’s “Xenogenesis” is littered with footnotes (46!) – even the title is footnoted.

The longest piece (at 9 pages) in the issue is the only one not directly connected with this theme, but a parent remains its dominant topic. This is “...And In This Corner, The Florida Health Care System! An Ongoing Battle,” by Mike Resnick. After a brief introduction it consists of copies of Mike’s correspondence with various people involved with the care of his dying father in Florida. Most of the correspondence concerns late-tendered bills and questionable billing practices by various health concerns. This is *real* correspondence (I assume), so it is not presented for humorous effect – which is fortunate, since it’s not only not funny, the endless re-recitations of previously stated facts and complaints (we see only Resnick’s side, no letters from those to whom he is responding) gets fairly tedious halfway through. His father’s death would seem to moot most of these issues, but the last letters are to an oblivious Social Security Administration.

Michael’s editorial deals with a perennial issue for fanzine editors and their editorials: schedules and Why This Issue Is Later Than I Said It Would Be. *Burstzine* #2 comes about 6 months after #1, but the Bursteins hope to get out “one issue per season.” I hope so too. Four issues is a long time to wait to see one’s letter of comment in print.

—Ted White