

FANZINES 32

By Ted White

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This time around we're going to look at four fanzines, each of which has had previous issues reviewed here.

MIMOSA #30 (Rich & Nicki Lynch, P.O.Box 3120, Gaithersburg, MD 20885; email to fiawol@cpcug.org; \$4.00 a copy) is the *final* issue of *Mimosa*, coming after two "best of" issues (#s 28 & 29) and it features 21 (!) contributions plus editorial and no letter column, in 68 pages. This is *Mimosa*'s swan song and goodbye, but it is so jam-packed with material that none of its contributions stands out; all are swamped by the surrounding material. That's a shame, because much of the material deserves more attention than it will get here. I'm reminded of a friend who had a story published in a fat Barnes & Noble mystery anthology – his story was but one among 100, all new and none over 3,000 words long. "I wish I'd sold it somewhere where it stood a chance of being noticed," he lamented. *Mimosa* #26 was reviewed here in February 2001 and #28 in August 2002.

THE KNARLEY KNEWS #101 (Henry L. Welch, 1525 16th Ave, Grafton, WI 53024-2017; email to welch@msoe.edu; \$1.50 or adequate response) has been plugging along steadily, six times a year, and has now passed its 100th issue. By keeping his sights low and relatively unambitious (averaging 20 page issues) and by maintaining a regular stable of contributors and columnists (Gene Stewart and Rodney Leighton contribute columns to this issue), Welch is able to produce a consistent fanzine on a regular schedule. What *The Knarley Knews* lacks in excitement it makes up for with an ongoing community of readers and contributors. *The Knarley Knews* #86 was reviewed here in April 2001.

ARGENTUS #3 (Steven H Silver, 707 Sapling Lane, Deerfield, IL 60015-3969; email to shsilver@sfsite.com; published once a year for \$5.00 a copy or "the usual" – letters, contributions, other fanzines in trade) has been developing as a fanzine faster than an avowed annual schedule might suggest. Silver has abandoned the running heads which cluttered the first issue and *Argentus* has evolved into a looser and less-pretentious but more solid fanzine which has established its own distinct personality. This issue has 56 pages (counting covers) and nine articles before the letter column. Following the letters is *Argentus*'s special feature, the "Mock Section" in which fictitious books or movies are reviewed. This time four fictitious places are visited in "Travel Reports." *Argentus* #1 was reviewed here in November 2001.

CHUNGA #5 (Andy Hooper, Randy Byers & Carl Juarez, 1013 N. 36th St, Seattle WA 98103; email to fanmailaph@aol.com, rbyers@u.washington.edu, or cjuarez@myrealbox.com; \$3.50 a copy) is also maintaining a roughly bimonthly schedule, although Byers was the most recent TAFF winner and managed to squeeze in a trip to England. *Chunga*'s 34 pages (including excellent covers by D. West) are the best-designed and best-looking of these four fanzines. The five articles include two by Brits (Dave Hicks and the long-vanished Graham Charnock – what a delight to see him in a modern fanzine!), and maintain a high standard complementary to their visual presentation. In other words, *this* is what a really good fanzine is like. *Chunga* #1 was reviewed here in September 2002.

—Ted White