

As threatened, a letter; yet...

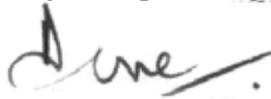
It, F2, is a really entertaining issue of a fanzine. It must have been very satisfying to you to get so many letters (and so many good letters) in response to your first issue. Considering the quantity and quality (my in-built-English-modesty forces me to exclude that which appears on pages 25 & 26) of the response I can't imagine how you managed to refrain from putting out the second issue until now. But I'm glad you did...er, put it out I mean.

The way you've used the letters as springboards to give people like me, who don't know you personally, an insight into Ross Chamberlain is obviously a carefully considered editorial plan of which I heartily approve. There are fanzines where for long-range recipients like me the editorial presence (despite considerable editorial wordage in many cases) is minimal and somehow I can never get really interested in the zine. For me, I have to be interested in the editor before I can really enjoy the magazine. Whilst I realize the way you hope/intend F to go...it seems to me that should you carry on in the same vein you'll basically be producing a personalzine. And those I love. Especially those with a humorous bent (if you'll pardon the expression?). Awry, Kwaliiojah, Scythrop, Susan's Lovezine, and even Yandro are to me personal zines regardless of the number of outside contributors because the editor is very much present. Or editors...I should say. My continuing interest in Fandom is kept alive by reading of people and their lives. Especially people who don't live next door but a thousand or so miles away. Bruce once said to me that a book review in SFC was as personal to the writer as a heart-opening editorial and whilst I admit that that's probably true I can never get away from the feeling that the reviewer is Reviewing for Publication, and it's hard enough battling thru the bloody paper/ink/typer to get to know somebody let alone fighting my way through a thick muslim veil of a book review. Cor, my brain dunn'arf 'urt sometimes!!

That's why I drool over, for example, Bangsund's publications because in some small measure they have echoed and illuminated his life these past seven years or so. Which is why I prefer REG to SFR, and Susan's zine to...er, Algol. I don't mean to knock (for want of a better word I guess) 'sercon' fanzines as I enjoy them, but I'm happier with the (where's the bloody words?) 'fannish' type and this I've never really understood. I find it infinitely easier to, f'rinstance, write to you than...er...who(?)...Andy Porter because, in my case, the only thing I can really talk about with even a tiny bit of authority is me. So all my letters become, basically, private and personal letters from me to the editor. Reflecting my life, me, my family, interests and sense of humour, etc. If the editor isn't interested I get the message and no harm done. If he is, though, it seems to me a worthwhile exchange on a personal level which just so happens to be published for a few hundred (?) other people to read or not, depending how they feel. How do you feel about this? Am I explaining myself adequately?

In fact, what the bloody hell have I been saying? Good question that Dave, er, well I think I've been saying that I enjoyed F2 very much and thank you for sending it to me. When/if you get fed up with my letters just stop sending it. I'll understand. I'll hate you, but I'll understand.

Bestest,



Indeed, this beautiful letter breaks my heart. "I'll understand. I'll hate you, but I'll understand." For that alone, though I know he was saying it pretty much tongue-in-cheek, I wish I could go back in time and get this out a couple of months or so after the second issue was published. For that, but also because I have letters from Susan Wood and John Bangsund coming up soon in these pages... *Sigh*
Onward.

G R E G S H A W

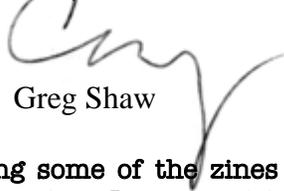
August 1, 1974—Burbank, Calif.

This is a belated response to FANGLE #2, which I received awhile back and have been meaning to acknowledge. The last couple of months have been busy for Suzy and me. We've bought a house, and are getting to be pretty well settled here in Southern California. I've been working myself to death, trying to catch up on all the projects I've started and planned over the last two years, to make way for new things that are opening up, and somehow in all of it there just isn't much room for fandom. I've got a FAPA deadline coming up and unless some miracle occurs I doubt if I'll make it. Too bad... FAPA remains my only link to fandom, along with the two or three fanzines I get every year (which is another reason FANGLE gave me such pleasure...) And reading them always stirs up the old memories and makes me want to get involved again, but another hobby is something I just don't have time for.

Actually it's not altogether true that I've given up fanac. In my "spare" time I publish a fanzine with a circulation approaching 10,000. On reflection, one reason I've drifted so far away from SF fandom is that rock & roll fandom lies so much closer to my real interests & personality. I'm not what you'd call a 'bookish' person; I enjoy SF, but haven't really read a book of any kind in months—I've been too busy writing, about music. And while SF fandom is in its third year of one of its worst slumps (the worst ever, I guess, and one I suspect may be terminal...) It's been a real gas watching R&R fandom develop. I recall writing letters to a few SF fanzines around '71 talking about how I was trying to get something going along those lines; well, now it's in its third generation, there are over 100 active R&R fanzines, and all on their own these kids have 'invented' a lot of the same customs, attitudes, even the same slang, that SF fans did. Quite fascinating. I'm considered some kind of grandfather figure in the field now, they talk in their fanzines of the good old days when my zine was mimeoed and had that true fannish spirit...a couple have even said I'm getting too sercon!

This is probably all very boring to anybody who doesn't know me from my days as an actifan, so I'll cut it short. It's just that for some reason, when I get a zine like yours or the rare treats from Arnie & Joyce, I feel an obligation to explain why I haven't been more active. Anyway, give my best to everybody, and please keep sending those fanzines!

Best,



Greg Shaw

Ah, Rock 'n Roll fandom... I remember seeing some of the zines for that area and era though it would have been at other folks's houses, since I never got into it, myself. With the