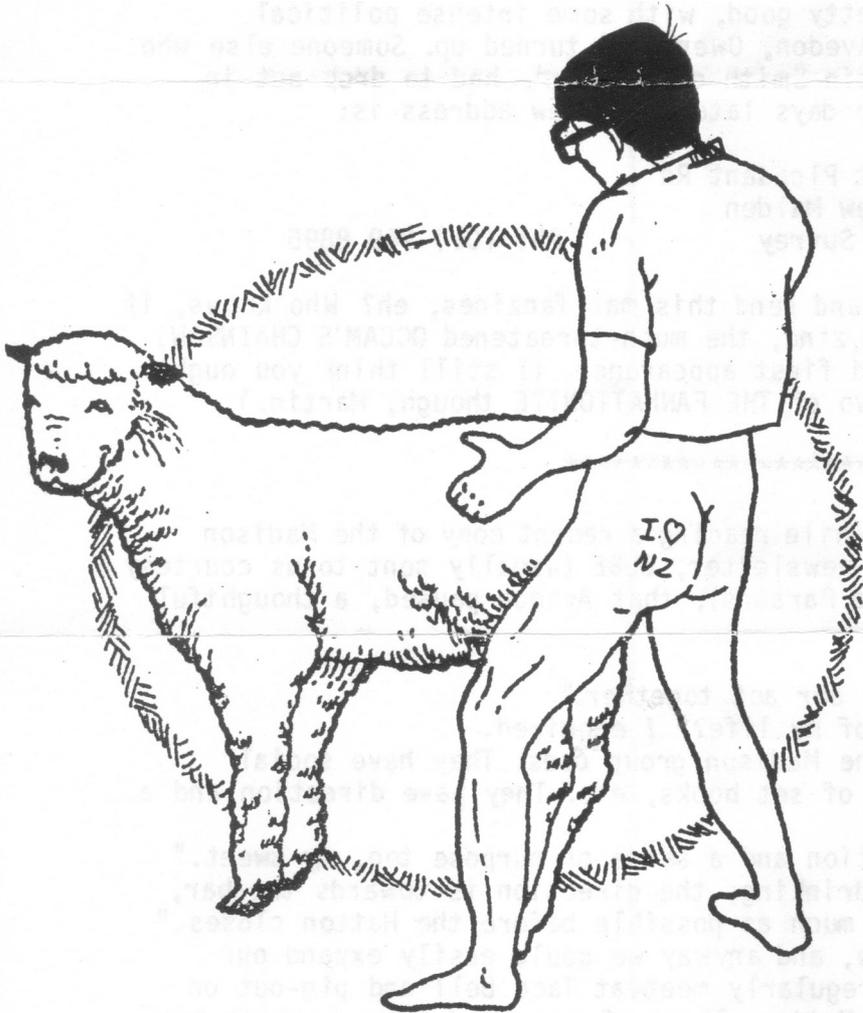


THE FANWATTONITE

THE INFREQUENT NEWSLETTER OF THE HATTON GROUP



SHEEP FANCIER IN LAUNDROMAT SHOCKER!

Well-known sheep enthusiast Nigel Rowe has been less apparent than is usual of late and has even started to let fannish commitments slip. At last Thursday's Wellington he showed great interest in joining experienced Vinç Clarke and nubile Rob Hansen in a PULP 'collating session' on Sunday but he didn't show, missing out on the princely repast of microwaved baked-bean pizza that followed. On Monday the antipodean one called round on Avedon and me at the rolling acres of 144 Plashet Grove, abased himself before the majesty of my newly-sorted fanzine collection, and explained this dereliction of duty:

"I was doing my laundry."

As mitigating circumstance he offered in feeble justification for his actions the fact that he'd had to work the last ten Saturdays in the extremely unlikely role of bait

for the vice-ring operating out of the cosmetics counter at Harrods. Accepting his excuse where millions, with great justification, wouldn't have, and concerned by the depletion of precious bodily fluids his job entails, we forgave him and fed him the baked-bean pizza he'd missed on Sunday. Mr Rowe has expressed an interest in producing the next issue of this snappy little group newsletter, engagements at the cosmetics counter permitting, and if he does indeed get it together it should contain an explanation of just what he intends doing with the scads of cash such salacious overtime is generating. Look out for it.

GROUP BIZ: Thanks to Owen Whiteoak and his bright idea of holding a Hatton meeting on the final Thursday of June, it being on this occasion one of those rare months containing five Thursdays, the numbering I used when listing future meetings last issue is now incorrect. This now being the seventeenth meeting then numbering, as from that last meeting in June, is now as follows:

continued...

16 - 30th June 1988
 17 - 14th July 1988
 18 - 28th July 1988
 19 - 11th Aug 1988
 20 - 25th Aug 1988

Actually, that last meeting was pretty good, with some intense political discussion, but only three of us (Avedon, Owen, me) turned up. Someone else who was going to be there, 'bloody Martin Smith of Croyden', had to drop out in order to pack prior to his move two days later. His new address is:

73 Mount Pleasant Rd
 New Malden
 Surrey

Ph: (01) 949 8895

So jot this down in your filofaxes and send this man fanzines, eh? Who knows, if we bombard him with enough his own zine, the much-threatened OCCAM'S CHAINSAW, might finally make its long-planned first appearance. (I still think you ought to practice first on an issue or two of THE FANHATTONITE though, Martin.)

GETTING OUR ACT TOGETHER It was while reading a recent copy of the Madison group's newsletter, CUBE (usually sent to us courtesy of its editor, the formidable Spike Parsons), that Avedon paused, a thoughtful expression on her face, and said:

"Y'know, we really ought to get our act together."

"Whatever do you mean, o light of my life?" I enquired.

"Well, look at all this stuff the Madison group does. They have social evenings, literary discussions of set books, etc. They have direction and a sense of purpose."

"We have social evenings, direction and a sense of purpose too, my sweet."

"Yes, the socialising involves drinking, the direction is towards the bar, and the purpose is to drink as much as possible before the Hatton closes."

"You wound me, o knees of my bee, and anyway we could easily expand our activities. Why, Martin and I regularly meet at Taco Bell and pig-out on Mexican fast-food before every Hatton. Then, of course, before meeting him there I usually go for a swim. Perhaps we ought to make this a group activity. I'm sure you remember my idea for the Mind & Body SF Appreciation Society?"

"Let's not get into that, please. No, I still think there's mileage in the Madison group's idea of discussing a set book."

"Could be, o whiskers of my cat. I see in this letter that the book is WATCHMEN. Y'know I remember introducing Spike to WATCHMEN when it was still being serialised. Makes me feel quietly proud to see the Madison group take it up."

"Yes, well, I had some other books in mind."

"Like what, o pyjamas of my cat?"

"THE DIALECTIC OF SEX by Shulamith Firestone, Valerie Solarnis's SCUM MANIFESTO, the SISTERHOOD IS POWERFUL anthology that Robin Morgan edited (with particular reference to Pat Mainardi's seminal piece, 'The Politics of Housework') and Morgan's own ANATOMY OF FREEDOM. What d'you think?"

"Listen, about this idea of all of us going swimming....."