

Welcome to *Union Street* (issue #29 and *Obsessive Press* #128), the zine with the tansmogriying masthead (this month reminding you that we're responding to Turbo issues #68 and 69). It is published by Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, who must now pay for their diet coke and reside at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704-5136. Phone 608-246-8857. *Union Street* was created on a Macintosh computer—a IIx or an SE at various points in its existence—and hardcopy was printed on a Laserwriter IINTX printer. Text was created with Microsoft Word 5.0 and laid out with Aldus Pagemaker 4.2. The *Union Street* logo was designed with Adobe Illustrator 3.2 and Adobe Photoshop 2.0. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, 1992. April 1992 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal Apa #70. Members FWA.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

(SC)(#69) On Proposed Motion #1. At the WisCon Turbo meeting, there was considerable discussion over the need to tighten up requirements for attaining membership in the apa. Several suggestions for proposals were made. A number of people complained that it is unlikely they would have attempted to join Turbo themselves if they had had to meet more stringent admission requirements. Others were uncomfortable with the idea of judging candidates' submissions or voting on people for membership. In the end, a tentative compromise proposal emerged and is the one up now for discussion and vote.

In my view, this is the weakest of the suggestions we discussed but it may be sufficient as a start. We need more control over who gets placed on spec. Turbo is not quite the unknown backwater apa it once was. It is over five years old, has members from around the country and overseas and has no difficulty attracting potential contributors. This has been great for keeping up interest and the quality of much of the writing, but it also increases the likelihood that we will attract the occasional jerk. In addition, Turbo has been in business long enough to have endured a few writers that many of us would rather not see return. As it stands now, once a member (any single member) puts someone on spec., that's it. If that candidate is willing to wait it out, that person will become a member. There is no stopping them and the rest of us have nothing to say about it. I think that system is much too wide-open. The proposal as stated is not tough enough to suit me, but our experience lately has not been too bad, so perhaps this is enough protection for now. The idea this proposal represents is that members need to exercise care in placing people on the spec list and that there must be more than just one person who thinks a given candidate will fit in. The only small change to this proposal I would like to suggest is that the OE have the final word on any candidate to the spec list, even if properly seconded. There should exist an ultimate brake on any nomination and the OE is the proper person to have that power.

(JG) I'm pretty much in agreement with Scott on this issue, though I'm not concerned that the requirement of nominations and seconds is too *weak* a rule. Considering how much like pulling teeth it is just to get people just to write "yes" or "no" in response to a proposal, I trust that written nominations and seconds by most people in this

group will reflect adequate thought, sincerity and real recommendations (as opposed to "passing a message" along to the OE, as many new member nominations have been in the past). With this rule, members will have to take responsibility for their nominations; they won't be able to say "I just passed this person's request along. Don't blame me." So...I'm fully in favor of this motion.

(SC) On Proposed Motion #2. A waitlist such as we have might make more sense if we required people to jump through more hoops to gain membership (vote of the membership, first submission, payment of fees, etc.). Currently we don't do anything like that, so we should dispose of the waitlist as proposed. I only hope that in the future we don't have to re-establish a waitlist in order to exercise more control over spec. candidates.

(JG) I'm also in favor of motion #2.

MICHAEL SHANNON

(JG)(#68) Yes, I figured that you would feel that I was misunderstanding the point you were trying to make to me. As I wrote in #28, I wasn't at all sure just how you disagreed with my earlier points. (This is getting much too tortuously complicated. I can hardly remember the essay I originally wrote after the Thomas/Hill hearings that jump-started this whole conversation. How can I expect anyone else to remember?) The point here, however, is that most of what I wrote last time was included in order to clarify and enlarge upon my original points. Rather than respond directly to your arguments (I couldn't, since you didn't tell me where and how you disagreed with me), I simply expanded upon my original points.

You repeat your argument that "not everyone who is accused is guilty. This is an attitude that I think has gotten far too common these days." If that is what you think that I am doing (or that most feminists angered by the Thomas/Hill hearings are doing), I strenuously object. I am sure that you could find quite a few carefully considered reasons in my zines as to why I think the hearing was unfair to Anita Hill—other than the fact that she is a woman or a person of color.

The fact that you call them "traps...which a man can fall into through no fault of his own," doesn't sound particu-



larly different from my characterization of what I've heard lots of guys saying recently, "that male-female interactions these days is a battlefield strewn with sneaky, invisible traps for men." (So once again, I am partially at loss as to why you are objecting to what I wrote.) You listed as an example, however, legislation that makes rape convictions easier to obtain. And that's not at all the sort of thing I was referring to. If you remember, I was writing about the guys who are upset that they can't ask for dates, make lewd comments to, or pat their women employee's or co-worker's asses anymore without risking a sexual harassment suit. And when guys say that it is unfair that they should develop sensitivity in that area, indeed I have absolutely no sympathy with them.

PAT HARIO

(JG)(#68) It wasn't until after WisCon that I realized that you and Scott had never signed the peace treaty. When will the ceremony be performed?

Good idea about requiring bedroom slippers at next year's New Year's celebration.

I can hardly believe how little Diet Coke I've been drinking lately. I wonder if I've always cut down on soda consumption in the winter, but that—without a reason to document the rate of Coke usage—I just never noticed it before... There's more to it than the seasonal differential, though. Since I get up much earlier than ever before in order to go swimming, I seldom stay up much past 10:30 pm, and so I don't drink as much Diet Coke at night. One can is the average. And then swimming gets me thirsty for fruit juice, not carbonated beverages. I don't think we'll see the end of the birthday Cokes until after **Kathryn Beth Willig's** guess, April 2. But she's going to end up with the closest guess anyway.

(JG)(#69) You say you tore into me at the Turbo meeting at WisCon? Wow. I hope you won't take this badly, Pat, but I never noticed, you being such a "nice" person and all. All I can remember was—at times—a remarkably lively discussion, considering the hour. Real, honest views were expressed and discussed. That's good, I think. Next time you "tear into" me, give me a hint, OK? Maybe you could snarl or something.

My Random House Unabridged dictionary dates "het up" from 1920 or 1925, based on the term "heat up," and meaning to be indignant.

(SC)(#68) It is a relief to be done with the "war." It's amazing how much momentum this thing picked up from so many contributors. It might be difficult to get them to stop. We should sign and pub a treaty ASAP. It would also be nice to set out conditions in writing. After your little slip up at the Hoffman dinner ("I Owe the World an Apology") I feel that reminding you of our agreement is in order. I know you were only responding to a question from a noncombatant, but I still believe that constitutes a skirmish. Temptation should be avoided in the name of peace.

DIANE MARTIN

(JG)(#68) Your table of contents wetted my appetite for more of its topics. I hope you get back to a few of them in future issues of *Mostly True Facts*. I'd like to hear what you have to say about swimming, for instance, since I've gotten back to swimming daily laps myself. And "the Beltline at Night," "Answering Machines" and "*I, Claudius & Jim Gibbons*" are attractive too.

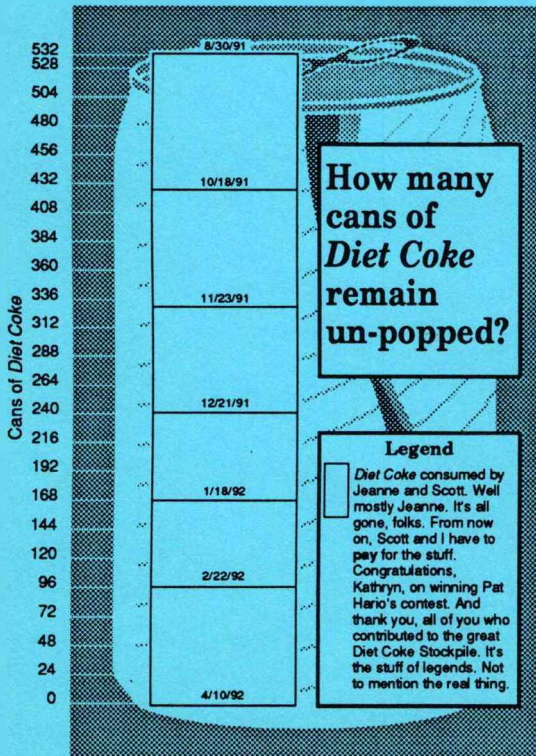
Interesting stuff, Diane. I admired how you are working out your ideas about relationships and your insights into how your attitude toward work has evolved in your life. Thank you, too, for your review of *The Summer Queen*. I hope to give you some of my own reactions to it soon, though I think I'd better first re-read *The Snow Queen*.

(SC)(#68) I'm glad you didn't get through your whole list this month. Leaves plenty of interesting things to look forward to. I never thought about deciding which of my past jobs was the most educational, most boring, difficult, etc. I'm still in the evolving employment stage. I haven't found my niche yet. You deserve congratulations on making a success of your work. Having that sort of overall job satisfaction is more important to me than just money or power or prominence.

LAURA SPIESS

(JG)(#68) I'll be looking forward to hearing what dream you had the night before *your* Vagabond Cafe dinner, Laura. Scott's and mine certainly felt a bit like an anticlimax after hearing what it was like in your dream, though I think I enjoyed it more than I would have had Scott and I exchanged wedding vows for dessert.

(SC)(#68) Electing to stay neutral in this conflict was a strategically (tactically?) bad plan considering your location. Jeanne and I tried our best to keep hostilities confined to our side of East Washington Ave., but Swartz was a maverick factor. Coming in from out of town, with few long term ties to local fans, he once vowed to devastate the whole area rather than surrender. Fortunately, cooler heads have prevailed.



HOPE KIEFER

(JG)(#68) Whew! What a harrowing winter utilities story! It made me quite glad to be a consumer of piped-in, natural gas. I'm sure I would have experienced my share of "learning experiences" too, if I had to keep track of the fuel level in a downstairs tank. We may someday lose that freedom if Scott and I replace our old gas-burning furnace for a corn-burning one as planned. We're living in the perfect geographical area for corn fuel, and besides that, it's something like 99% efficient—so you don't even need a chimney, you can just vent out the side of the house like a clothes washer—and it's environmentally progressive. **And** corn is a very cheap fuel; we'll end up saving big bucks by switching. The downside is that one would of course have to keep track of the level of corn kernels and make sure one refilled the bin on time. I bet Scott will be incredibly good at keeping track of that. Still, Wisconsin wouldn't let MG&E allow us to entirely disconnect, so we'd always have the option of good old natural gas for emergencies.

(SC) (#69) Covers to reflect the apa's latest obsession, sex. Great job, Hope. I have to admit though, I didn't think you had such a firm grip on the subject of kinky sex. Karl's assistance wasn't in the form of stories from his sordid past was it? Or maybe this is just a glimpse of just how "worldly" you've always been.

(JG) (#69) [on the covers:] HOPE?!#*?!!

ARBUTHNOTT & WHEATLEY

(JG)(#68) (to Owen:) Re the wedding quarantine proposal: **Diane Martin** and I have discussed issuing an urgent warning to avoid sharing towels with the afflicted. I don't know what to do; I'm just plain scared. After all, I've produced wedding invitations for four local fannish weddings in the last couple years. Who knows how the marriage virus spreads?

Sorry if I sounded so aggressively dangerous. (And I'm afraid I'm likely to sound even more aggressively dangerous in these comments to you. Brace yourself.)

Last month, I was pretty ticked off by your statement that I attack attack when I "perceive a man making what seems to [you] to be a perfectly sensible comment on the issue." If you think I am, as you say, "a careful, intelligent and sensitive reader," maybe you should consider that I would not attack someone for making a "perfectly sensible comment." Maybe, you and I simply disagree on what is sensible and what is not.

Second: actually, I still do see the assumption you objected to lying at the base of Michael's argument. He has indicated that, in his opinion, all of the reasoning—which led myself and others to conclude that Anita Hill was telling the truth—can be distilled to the blind belief of a woman's or a minority person's word over that of a white man. That sweeps a lot of stuff under the rug., inconsistencies of evidence, lack of motivation, and more. I think the whole Thomas/Hill episode can be far more reasonably interpreted as the ploy of assumptions that grant powerful, mostly white men, the benefit of the doubt over any woman's accusation, even if it means twisting any woman's reputation and testimony to accommodate the assumption that she is capable of any crime, any lie.

Third: You seem worried that I will fail to be nice to men who are potentially most sensitive to the issues that are important to me. That fear seems a little silly, considering the fact that you have witnessed plenty of conversations in this very apa in which I have discussed feminism in what I think has been a fairly civilized manner with both women and men. Obviously, I am not a separatist. I live with a man and am openly complimentary of his and some other men's capacity for humanity. I can only ask that you try to understand that many women are *reasonably* frustrated with the assumption on the part of some men that it should be women's duty to take care of men's emotional growth, and be the sensitive person in interactions. I'm a great believer in the educational theory, sometimes referred to as the self-fulfilling prophesy. (If you treat kids as if you think they are smart, they will do better than they will if you treat them if you think they are dummies.). Traditionally, guys may have floundered when talking about or dealing with interpersonal relationships, but I think the situation only gets worse when women buy into that expectation, and treat them like they have emotional dyslexia. ("Here, let *me* do that, you're just a man.") I think it's reasonable (and less insulting) to treat men as if they adult human beings, capable of perceiving human distress or joy and of acting accordingly.

Re your comment to Lynne Ann Morse, I thought your comparison of her calling all men "potential rapists," to calling all women "potential shits" rather spurious in itself. There is a reason relating to *survival* for the occasions when women must assume all men to be potential rapists, and no such urgent reason to assume that all women are "potential shits." If a woman is walking down a deserted street at night, she risks her life if she chooses to trust a man who stops his car, pulls over and asks her sweetly if she'd like a ride. A much better analogy is that we all—when driving, for instance—should assume that the other guy won't stop on time, or may be drunk, or may not see us. For our own survival, we sometimes need to assume the worst and take action accordingly. Another example: in this day and age, none of us can safely engage in unprotected sex with a new partner: we all need to assume that a they may carry the AIDS virus in their bloodstream. That's not an insult; it's simply a sad reflection of reality, just as is the fact that it is sometimes necessary for a woman's survival to assume any man she meets is a potential rapist.

TRACY SHANNON

(JG)(#68) I liked the zoo signs a lot, especially all the puns in *Braumeisterus Extrordinarii*.

Scott and I had better luck than you did on Valentine's Day finding a nice, romantic place to eat. I made reservations on noon that day, but as it turned out, I don't think we'd have needed them. The place was never full while we were there. Where, you ask? A most unusual place, at least when it comes to thinking of it as a good restaurant. We went to the Argus, which has been our favorite bar for quite a while. I had lunch there a couple times and discovered that they have a good chef, and so we decided to try out their dinner special advertised for Valentine's Day. We both thought our meals were spectacularly excellent. I highly recommend the place, especially when you think every place else is crowded.



(SC)(#68) Congratulations on a sensational job at WisCon. It was fun working with you. I liked Turbo Zoo, too except for those awful...you know what.

(JG)(#69) Changing our name from feminists to equalitarians would simply result in the latter word eventually getting a bad reputation too. People keep protesting that the Tiptree award isn't a feminist award per se, but I call it a feminist award. I've used the dreaded word on Tiptree publicity and I use it in talking about the award. I don't think that use of the word feminism limits the focus of the award; it simply indicates how broadly (no pun intended) the word feminism applies.

After reading your essay, "Insignificant Musings," I wondered if it was a good thing that you and I didn't get to go to the play, *Into the Woods* together after all. One of the most enjoyable things I find after reading a book or seeing a play or movie, is the taking-apart process. Looking for themes, underlying messages and motifs, symbolism, etc... I used to love lit classes for that reason, and being unable to endure the end of lit classes—cold turkey—after college, I kept taking classes in the English department for three semesters after I graduated, and then started a (feminist) reading group with a group of similarly addicted grads still living in Madison. Anyway, this should perhaps serve as a warning to you that I'm one of those evil people who might ruin a good play for you by wanting to discuss its significance afterwards...

BILL BODDEN

(JG)(#68) Have you ever seen the books, *Growing Up Catholic* and *More Growing Up Catholic*? They're real hoots. I'd be glad to lend them to you.

Scott and I are eager to read the first installment of "Living with Steve and Elk." We're sure it will make for fascinating reading. Will you and Steve soon be publishing a joint apazine like Pat and Steve did?

(SC)(#68) Although I am deeply envious, it is welcome news that you are heading off on a trip to England. I'm sure you will have a fabulous time and we will get a trip report (you do *good* trip report). If you are taking requests from the folks left at home, here's mine. Drink a number of pints of fine English ales and carefully remember the taste so you can tell me how close I come (or badly I miss) to duplicating it when I try my hand at brewing some this summer.

So Bill is it worthwhile to bother to criticize people for how they manage their apazines? People comment to each other on content all the time. But you were talking about frequency and length of contribution as being important. I am gradually coming around to the notion that those issues don't really matter. I see myself as one of those people who probably get more out of Turbo than I put in. However, if a person(s) is holding down a legal membership and meeting the mandated minac requirements, what right have you got to complain that they aren't doing enough? This is supposed to be a free forum. The fact that someone values the apa less than you do or doesn't have the time or the desire to invest as much time as you do is not something you have any say over. You have a right to feel cheated, I guess. Certainly I've agreed with you that we have people in Turbo who should quit and give a more dedicated contributor a chance but what is the difference between someone who contributes a little

stuff once in a while to someone who contributes mass quantities of drivel? Both situations are equally undesirable. The real answer was brought up at WisCon. We must be more careful who gets put on spec. and eventually attains membership. Because once in, they can't be ousted for badly managing their zine.

KIM WINZ

(JG)(#68) What an amazing description of Connie Willis' comments at Chimeracon. Pat Murphy and Suzy Charnas weren't too surprised to hear about her reactions to feminism in general and the Tiptree Award in particular. Apparently, she's pretty vocal on these subjects wherever she goes. The amusing thing was, when this topic came up, was that Connie Willis apparently has a story out this year ("Even the Queen"...? I'm not sure.) that could conceivably end up on the Tiptree short list, or even win the award. Wouldn't that be ironic.

It was fun seeing you at WisCon this year, especially the surprise chance to talk to you at the post-dead-dog brunch on Monday morning.

CATHY GILLIGAN

(JG)(#68) No, I'm not trying to say it's wrong for a man to ask a woman for advice on emotional issues. However, I would like to see more men helping one another out, and less of the assumption that women are the experts and in fact the ones whose *job* is the emotional stuff.

Great, funny article about journal ms resubmissions.

STEVE JOHNSON

(JG)(#68) I thought your story of Max and your dad was sweet, Steve. Thank you. Also, I think it's a very good thing that you are documenting the stuff going on with your family and your mother's health. I'm sure it's helping you deal with things and also will be enlightening to have around in the future when you need to go back and remember.

BILL HUMPHRIES

(SC)(#68) Loved "Intercepted Memos Department". You are one of those people who've made very good use of the O/S vs. US war in your zine. Almost worth keeping the thing going just to see what you'll come up with next.

(JG)(#68) Great memo, Bill. Pay no attention that the war is officially over. The left press is *still* talking about Vietnam. Hell, you can carry on about the US/OS war for years!

MATRONS?!!*!#??

(SC)(#69) Intriguing research on corporate litigation. Would make a great article for the left press. Another example of the Big Lie. Those rare big money judgements received by individuals from big companies get lots of press. But how much press attention is given to boring accounts of corporations routinely suing corporations. So the public tends to buy Quale's lies and distortions. Also enjoyed your comment to Ross. Excellent reprint. Where was it from?

KIM AND KATHY NASH

(SC)(#68) Nice trip report. I liked the sea shell bit. Dave's story was quite disturbing. I would very much like to know more about the legality of such treatment. I am cooking a stout as I type this. If it comes out as I hope, it will be mighty chewy. Stout is one of the hardest styles of beer to screw up, but I've made a number of changes to my procedure this time that may affect the outcome.

STEVE SWARTZ

(SC)(#68) Great illo. I need only clarify a few points on the war. I'm confident that the Turbo membership will be able to determine for themselves who is right.

- 1) We did not surrender. We came to a mutually agreeable negotiated settlement with Pat.
- 2) You were not included in the negotiations because you quit the field of battle (your own former ally will attest to that). Your acceptance or rejection of a surrender that does not exist is completely irrelevant.
- 3) It is true that you never fired a shot in print. Why you let your partner carry on the fighting alone is anyone's guess. Lack of wit? Character? Weaponry? All of the above?
- 4) Local fans have now heard enough of your uniquely "tasteful" apa cover ideas that I doubt anyone believes any longer that you needed my help to come up with an edible panties idea.

And one more thing while I'm at it. Brewing beer for you to drink (or with you for all our friends to drink) is something that would fill me with the greatest pleasure. Cheers.

(JG)(#68) I've been meaning to dig out the apazine in which I wrote up the experience of getting my tubal ligation. I have been told it was both useful and funny to read. But this zine is getting far to sprawling to reprint it here (and no, I don't think *Cube* would be the appropriate publication for that). However, I do want you to know that as far as my experience goes, operations for the purpose of turning off a woman's fertility are not easily procured, especially if the woman is young, unmarried, childless, healthy or any combination of the above. The situation has improved in Madison from the time (1972) my roommate was made to wait an entire year (with interviews once a month) to prove she was really serious, even though her heart condition would have made pregnancy almost certainly lethal for her. When I had my tubal done in 1980, I only had to go in for three interviews over a period of three months. I didn't have to produce a spouse's permission, which some doctors required at the time (which would have meant that I would have had to get married before one of these doctors would have even considered me as a patient). My doctor was a nice guy, and I'm pretty sure I convinced him of my sincerity during the first talk. But we still went through the motions. The last session included the requirement that I watch a very gory videotaped version of the operation I was requesting before the doctor finally gave his permission and I was added to his OR schedule.

There are all sorts of marks in the margin of you zine, Steve, in the paragraphs in which you were talking to me about my definition of feminism and post-feminism. And the

subject comes up in other people's questions in the several zines in Turbo #69, too. But I fear that I'm not up to another long, definition discussion right now. In fact I can't decipher some of the marks in your zine's margins anymore. It's been a while since I actually read your zine. I will say, however, that the process of examining the way gender affects my life and the lives of other people in this culture, and the process of attempting to discard assumptions and think things out fresh for myself and then to make choices based on the fresh stuff—not society's assumptions and expectations—has been one of the central elements in my life since I was 18 or 19 years old. It is all a continuing, dynamic, engrossing focus in my life, one that I don't feel like filing away as "finished" or as a "dead end" or "round one." I will continue to call myself a feminist and be saddened by people who have chosen to discard the term not because of their own feelings about the movement, but because they are reacting to what other people have re-defined the word to mean. I think that *whatever* word we choose to use for equality between the genders will be turned into a dirty word by those who perceive that movement to be a threat to their power or security.

MARK MANNING

(SC)(#69) Welcome. I confess that after reading Fish Pickle #0, I started reading the apa back to front for awhile before diving into Fish Pickle #1. However, I was very pleased with #1 and look forward to more. I enjoyed your comment to Ross.

YCT me. So a new Women's Party would have to turn out to be as corrupt and unworkable as our two current major parties? Are political parties unworkable by definition or are you saying that women simply couldn't do it better than the men have?

(JG)(#69) Welcome, Mark! Good to "see" you again, and thanks for keeping me on you fanzine trade list. You're still on mine too; I just haven't pubbed my ish in a long time.

LYNN ANN MORSE

(SC)(#69) Since Jeanne and I share an apa, we have to do this little dance every month to decide how we can both read and comment on the same apa in time. That's not as easy as it sounds. A month usually starts out seeming like a long time. One of us will take control of the apa and hopefully give it to the other in time. One of us will do comments on the Mac and the other will add. This alternates sort of randomly. I have time to work on Turbo at work, but I don't like to because I have to make comments in longhand. It's tough for me to get time to type comments on the computer at home. So I usually get it all read, but I often don't write as much as I'd like to because I get tired of hand writing comments. We also shoot for about a four page limit (we are rarely successful, but I'd hate to think about how big these suckers would be if we didn't even *try*.) The goals I shoot for in writing comments are changing. Lately I'm more interested in focusing on issues that are of particular interest to me rather than try to comment on everything that is substantial. We have a lot of good writers in the apa these days and I can't do justice to them all. My other main goal is to make it clear that I do read everything. I think people appreciate knowing they are being read even if they don't always get a comment.

(JG)(#69) Oh dear, I don't remember the \$2 and I can't remember if I actually sent you the directory or not.



Well just in case, I'll send another, and when (soon, I think) another is published, I'll send you that one too.

Your question of where I've taken my feminism from a general statement of principals *is* a very broad one, and as I say to **Steve Swartz** in this zine, far too huge to tackle in a mailing comment. It seems to me that the answer to your question would have to encompass my whole life. I've woven my ideas, revelations, and lessons learned, into the way I live, but the fabric isn't hemmed, and it's still growing, changing in hue, material and trim with every new experience. This sewing/textile metaphor is a bit weird for me, considering the fact that I don't like sewing or knitting or anything like that, but to continue anyway... The "shredding agendas" part of being a feminist—the negative, angry part—is certainly not what I weave into my feminist life "fabric." Rather, it is part of the process, as it is in the making of a rag rug. Old, torn clothes, no longer useful, are ripped up and their material is used to create a rich, beautiful new thing. In my life I try to examine our culture's behavior codes, rules and traditions and think about what purpose they have in maintaining the status quo and the patriarchy. Nevertheless, I expect that I have unquestioningly accepted a whole shitload of cultural assumptions and gobbleygook, and still have a long way to go. Our society has a long way to go. The process of examining, re-evaluating, and of knowing and respecting oneself well enough to make choices based on self-awareness rather than conformity is an on-going one.

JULIE SHIVERS

(JG)(#68) I'm more than eager to be proven wrong.

(JG)(#69) It's quite wonderful to see you do well, as you did bowling, and be happy about it. It's less wonderful to read your words "I can't," "I don't know how to...", "it makes me feel inferior...", "I'm stuck with...", etc. These are examples of the writing of a person who has low self-esteem. What would you call them?

(SC)(#69) What a set of bowling scores! BIG bowling scores (OH NO!) BIG BIG bowling scores! (ACK!)

KATHRYN BETH WILLIG

(SC)(#69) The joint membership discussion we had at the WisCon Turbo meeting almost killed us all. We were still "discussing" at 3 am. A lot of heat generated, but not much light. Some folks suggested letting everyone go joint who wants. Others advocated banning all joint memberships. Most fell between those positions. I was hoping for some sort of moratorium on new joint accounts until we could discuss this and get more feedback, but even that modest idea got no support. It's a wide open discussion. Nothing on the table. Your suggestion is as good as any other, but how do you feel about joint memberships in general? Are they fair? Are they necessary? Are people abusing them? Do you care?

(JG)(#69) You ask if avoiding ugly rivers of white space is the only reason for the typographer's rule against double spaces at the end of sentences. Haven't you heard the maxim, "Type one space, save a twig"?

If you put your re-definition of a joint membership into the form of a proposed motion (but one that would prevent any current members of the apa from losing their memberships), I would vote for it.

BILL DYER

(SC)(#69) Thank you for the compliment on my beer. No thank you for the wretched puns. I've heard lately that electroshock is effective in treating Obnoxious Pun Syndrome. Are you familiar with that theory?

ANDY HOOPER

(JG)(#68) Your fanzines just get more fannish every day, Andy. Now your apazines are looking like old *Pongs*... Thanks again for the Madison history. I've really enjoyed reading them all.

(SC)(#69) The battle of Feb. 17th was every bit as humiliating as you detailed. I will never forget the moment I was standing in the doomed command trailer, pouring rain obscuring viability, as I demanded Diet Coke from, what I thought was, the enemy. I was confused by their response, "Will a Diet Pepsi be OK?," followed by laughter, followed by explosions and machine gun fire. I spent most of the battle taking cover under Ella's Merry-Go-Round.

BILL HOFFMAN

(SC)(#69) You are the coolest general of a large scale feed I have ever seen. Doubly so since some of the solders you were directing had only a vague idea of what they were making. Splendid-no, spectacular-dinner. Anytime you're in town and feeling up to it, we're ready to do it again here. On another front, Jeanne threw in \$20.00 toward a new Braun coffee maker with all the available bells and whistles a few weeks ago. I'm quite happy with that. Just so you know.

(JG)(#69) That's right, I'm trying to buy my way out of this brewing duty nonsense. I maintain a carefully protected ignorance as to how to deal with the bells and whistles.

What a wonderful, wonderful meal—and a fine, though exaggerated, version of the events too. But...you only bop to Madison for WisCon and "every time some unwise couple gets legal"? That seems rather unfair. I would think that a better reason to travel might be every time some *wise* couple decides to stay *illegal*! For instance, Scott and I may have a "7-year, common law" bash in a couple years. Would you come to Madison for that? More to the point, would you direct another feast for it?

JAE LESLIE ADAMS

(JG)(#68) I get a bit riled with all SF is labeled as "juvenile," not because I think that juvenile is a slanderous description, but because I think it's an inappropriate label. Also, I think, when used to refer to a whole genre, the label juvenile is *meant* to be an insult.

I liked "The Crash" a lot.

I think Jim Cox (of Channel 4's "Midwest Review of Books") may be a Burroughs fan. Jim used to be an active SF3 member.

(SC)(#69) YCT Kim Winz. Are you saying that if Joanna Russ had not made some comment to Connie Willis about her panty hose that Willis would not have run down WisCon for being too feminist? Or are you taking the position that we are overreacting to Willis' criticism or that she has a right to trash WisCon even if such criticism is not accurate?

I enjoyed your reflections on your experiences at WisCon and look forward to a discussion of the child care complaints. Also fun reading about your lawn and gardening adventures. It's probably a good thing you don't live next to us. We do yard maintenance somewhat haphazardly and we have fewer excuses than your neighbors. Then again, we look pretty good compared to some of *our* neighbors.

VIJAY BOWEN

(JG)(#69) There is a secretary at work whose writing occasionally crosses my desk who still uses big circles to dot her "I"s. It's amazing, but as you imply, the habit sometimes seems to suit certain personalities. And it does in this case.

I am flabbergasted at the strength you show in writing about the terrible things you experienced as a child. You have become a fine person in spite of it all, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for your self-awareness, strength and honesty. You give excellent reasons for making separate personas to deal with various aspects of life. Do you think this ability/necessity to create personas is a direct result from having to disassociate from early traumas. Do you expect to continue creating personas, or do you expect some day to integrate them into one?

DUCHARME

(JG)(#69) So, you were pretty disappointed, I bet, by the lack of WisCon reports in the last apa. But then we keep expecting you to do mailing comments in your zines...

I know what you mean by missing swimming. It's been almost impossible to find anyplace to swim downtown during my lunch hour. There were other reasons that I stopped swimming about a year and a half ago (I hated taking my wig off in front of the sometimes rude college women, and then too I got tired or guilty or something about signing up for 1-credit courses at the University so I could swim at the SERF.), but an easily accessible pool was high on the list. But I finally gave up my mornings (usually devoted to sleeping late) because I miss doing laps so much. I'm doing 2/3 of a mile every weekday morning and some weekend mornings now, and will gradually increase that as soon as the weather cooperates, loosens up my schedule a bit, and allows me to commute by bike rather than the bus. It's so wonderful to be back swimming!

KAREN BABICH

(JG)(#69) *Funny* story about how you fooled Geoff with postcards from all over!

(JG) We've been busy around the house, Scott and I. Gone is the old, ratty, yellow rug that some of you may remember with queasy stomach or throbbing head, depending, from last New Year's Eve. Scott and I ripped it off in one unbelievably, gigantic piece (the whole living room and dining room), carefully removed the nails and rolled it up for **Pat Harlo**. You may experience an uncomfortable sense of *dejà vu*, someday at a party held downstairs at Pat's house. The furniture moving and the ripping and rolling took place on Thursday and Friday nights. Saturday, I rented an electric sander from A to Z and started sanding the moldings, window frames, banisters, trim, and door frames in the dining room and living room. Since these areas were painted in gloss white, the surfaces needed to be "roughened up" before applying more paint. The job was rather horrible, far more work that we expected, but it was mostly over very early Saturday morning. After washing the walls we started painting and with **Steve Swartz's** help on Sunday, and **Pat Harlo's** help on Monday we finished the job late on Monday night. (The fact that both of them were recovering from difficult evenings the night before did not seem to impair their performance a bit.) Tuesday morning the floor sanding guy arrived and by the time I got home from work had sanded off great, huge stains and caused Scott and I to smile a lot whenever we glanced into the empty living room and dining room. Anything would have been better than the grungy yellow rug, but this was better than anything. After the natural stain was applied and the protective coatings were laid down on Wednesday and Thursday, the floors glowed with gorgeous, buttery hues. We're really happy about how it turned out and may well have to formally join the most popular Madison religion that worships natural wood floors.

MORE OFFICIAL BUSINESS

(JG) I hereby officially nominate for apa membership and praise the name of Jim Nichols whose address is 1231 E. Dayton Street, Madison, WI 53703-2405. Jim is a Madison fan who has been known to volunteer for work for SF3. That gets my vote in a lot of ways. Anyway, he's been overhearing conversations about our apa on Wednesday nights and would like to join us. He's a nice guy. He doesn't have much fannish publication history, but I say lets see what he comes up with. So would anyone like to second my nomination?

See you next time.
Scott & Jeanne