

Welcome to *Union Street* (issue #33 and *Obsessive Press* #133), the zine with the transmutating masthead (this month apologizes for being so far behind on our mailing comments). It comes to you from Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, whose address is coincidentally 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 lifetime—and hardcopy was printed on a Laserwriter IIINTX 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. October 1992 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #76. Members FWA.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

[JG] My sister **Julle Gomoll** would like to rejoin *Turbo* and thus we hereby officially sponsor her for membership. She's a wonderful person, as many of you already know and she is apt to contribute colorful, cutting edge covers once she joins. Do I hear any seconds?

Scott and I will occasionally frank material by **Bill Dyer** in with *Union Street* until he again rejoins us. We'll also be sending him our *Turbozines* when we're through with them, as we did for **Lucy**. Do you need a formal nomination, **Tracy**, to add Bill to the waitlist? Didn't he ask to be put on the list at your housewarming party when he found out that he'd been dropped? If you are waiting for a formal nomination, please consider this it. Come on people: let's hear some seconds to add Bill to the waitlist. It's really unfortunate that the Post Office delivered his apa contribution late and he was dropped. This apa is one of Bill's important connections to Madison fandom until he actually, eventually, moves here. I would miss reading *Jung Frankenstein*.

WHAT IT IS

[JG] Well folks, it's catch-up time. I started reading back issues of the *Turbo* on the night of October 6—beginning with issue #72. Although individual zines and scattered paragraphs from the last few issues have been shoved beneath my gaze more than a few times ("You've got to read this right now, Jeanne!" "Look what they said about women, Jeanne!"), I hadn't actually been reading the apa cover-to-cover since May. An issue of *Union Street* appeared in issue #72; I helped Scott do the cover for #73; and Scott did a solo (mc-less) issue of *Union Street* for #74. But now we're on must-write, and it's catch-up time. Earlier this week, I went back to the June issue (#72) and attempted to return to the conversation stream, finally finishing up my comments on Friday night, October 10. I apologize in advance if some of my comments to the early summer zines sound as if they're coming from somewhere outside the ball park walls.

Scott, in the meantime, has been writing an essay for your pleasure, in which he responds to **Ross Pavlac**. Brave fellow, that Scott.

STEVEN VINCENT JOHNSON

Turbo #72 [JG] I'm reasonably confident that this response to #72 will fit in fairly well no matter what the current context. This seems to be a frequent theme of your's:

You keep asking us why we refuse to consider other hypotheses for our own or other people's reality than the hypotheses with which we currently work. It seems to me that one could use up an infinite amount of time considering an infinite number of potential hypotheses for an infinite number of events if we were to follow your suggestions. But the nature of experiments and life is that one deals with a limited number of hypotheses and that one spends one's life (or the life of the experiment) testing it and adjusting it (and sometimes tossing them out and starting over). Someone's failure to test *your* hypotheses does not necessarily mean that they're closed-minded, as long as they continue to actively test their own against the events of everyday reality.

On another subject: You were upset in #72 at my earlier disparagement of the idea of a men's-only room at WisCon. You quoted my analogy that it would be like me "...asking for a jock-strap." I apologize now for my seeming disparagement of the entire idea of groups of men working together to discover/create a new way of being men in this culture. I am sorry to have seemed to have been against that notion, because in fact I heartily support it. I must have been unclear in explaining that the reason I lack enthusiasm for a men-only space at WisCon had nothing to do with the idea of men getting together and talking about gender roles and seeking to help one another change. (Men-only-space and men-talking-together aren't inextricably linked in my mind.) My point with respect to the "jock strap" comment was that women and men have been wounded in very different ways by the gender traps set by the assumptions of sexist institutions. Different wounds call for different medicines. The antibiotic that brings down a fever won't do the job of a splint, if that's what is needed. The defensive roles women have learned in our culture have created wounds in many women's psyches that need to be healed before the women can begin fighting the institutions that perpetuate the problems. Many men have also received wounds as a result of the sometimes warped roles they have adopted and need to recover from their wounds before they are whole and healthy enough to start fighting the institutions. Along with other women, I am beginning to understand some of the symptoms of



our particular wounds and am feeling pretty good about the progress we've made toward healing them. There's still a long way to go, of course, but I'm confident that we're heading in the right direction. However, I see parts of the men's movement merely mimicking the techniques developed within the women's movement, avoiding a real examination of the wound itself. Sometimes the image that occurs to me is of a squeamish accident victim with eyes turned away to avoid looking at his injury. His leg bleeds terribly, but instead of tying a tourniquet around his thigh, he copies the doctor bandaging the chest of another accident victim nearby, and wraps cloth around his own chest, ignoring his real wound.

To summarize: Women-only space is sometimes needed as a very specific medicine for a very specific wound. Whether such a response could work for men depends upon whether or not men have incurred the same injury. It is my opinion that as women and men's defensive modes differ within sexist institutions, so too do their injuries. I recommend that men interested in working on gender issues, immediately conduct active triage and consider the best treatment based on their diagnosis.

Turbo #73 [JG] Happy belated birthday, Steve. And thank you for the lovely postcard.

Turbo #74 [JG] Interesting essay on men's support group, Steve. In the spirit with which it was written, I think the bulk of it deserves a spirited response from the men in this group. I hope you get it.

I'll respond to the bit aimed at the women in the apa, however—the stuff about the sometimes critical response by women to the various books published in and techniques being utilized by the fledgling men's movement. One reason for this criticism that you did not consider in your essay was that some of the men's movement discussions echoes familiar arguments, and *sometimes* causes *some* of us to doubt *some* sincerity in those men's groups. For instance, once in a while, we women hear the men saying "You think **you** are powerless; but women hold far more power than men do! You think **you've** been beaten up; well there's husband battering too! You think **you've** got it tough; well we men have a much more difficult life!" The effect is to devalue and discredit the work women have done as feminists. These sentiments imply that the playing ground is level: we're all equally injured by our society: don't complain anymore (we can match you complaint for complaint). Don't ask me to change (you change first) (or, don't change at all; you caused the problem in the first place by demanding changes).

However, I agree totally with your concluding sentiment—that we all need to give one another the freedom to explore the spaces of our gender. Sometimes the process will cause others some growing pains, but that's life. If we continue to care about one another and care about the potential everyone has to contribute more fully to society to the extent that they respect themselves, we will all benefit.

PAT HARIO

Turbo #72 [JG] My comment to **Michael** that he should employ a euphemism for illegal activities was not meant as a nudge for you to accept the fact that this apa might eventually reach a wider public than you like. It was meant as a simple warning that no one should ever commit anything to print (in an apa, a letter, or wall graffiti) that one wishes to remain absolutely secret. There's a difference between wanting to avoid the lime-light and unwittingly creating self-incriminating evidence.

Turbo #73 [JG] You missed the perfect punchline for your review of the concert. They might have been giants, you could have said, but they weren't big enough for me to see them.

You told me about your experience talking about *Thelma & Louise* with your family, and how weird it was that they had definite opinions about it even though they hadn't seen the movie. It reminded me of the day I talked to my dad about *JFK*. Dad went on and on about it, and I said—several times—"...but that's not what the movie says. You haven't even seen *JFK*; how can you have so many opinions about it?" And Dad said, "I don't have to see that movie. I know exactly what it was about!"

Turbo #75 [JG] I really enjoyed your ReinConation report. Before we left Minneapolis, James White asked me to be sure to forward to him any con reports that were published. I told him that I would—thinking mostly of *Cube* at the time. I told him that I would photo-enlarge them for him so he could read them without the magnifying glass and send them along with the snapshot copies I'd promised. So, would you have any objections if I made a copy of your report for James? Even better, would you give me a copy on white paper of just that part of your apazine with the con report so I could enlarge it and send it to Ireland? How about you others who wrote con reports? **Bill Bodden** and **Tracy Shannon**? Maybe **Bill Humphries** too, but since I didn't really understand Bill's report (Scott just told me Bill's report meshes a ReinConation report with a U-2 concert report, which I didn't catch), I tend to think that James might need an explanation attached.

Turbo #75 [SC] I have long thought that self defense should be required of women's physical education at least by high school. What do you think? It's an increasingly dangerous world out there. It also seems to me that leveling the playing field between men and women that early might help with assertiveness and communication all through life.

BILL BODDEN

Turbo #72 [JG] Yes, Bill, I really did mean what I said about women and low esteem. I really do believe that women suffer more low self-esteem problems that are directly related to the way our culture devalues female-ness, while men suffer a different sort of psychic damage related to the way that our culture values male-ness. Your example of date-stress, notwithstanding, I think I could list a huge number of equally traumatic, archetypal, female rites-of-passage that have stunted many women's sense of self-worth. Furthermore, as a person who has most often been the instigator in relationships, I feel that I have a fairly good understanding of the fear-of-rejection that accompanies the invitation of someone on a date. My opinion is that you men will have to deal less often with the stress of asking for dates as more women with high self-esteem start taking charge of their own lives.

Turbo #74 [JG] I really loved your August apazine. The Zulu history was very interesting (and sonorous too)—though a strange thing to find in an apa, unless of course we all eventually write histories of our favorite places/cultures (Let's see, we've got Madison and the Zulu nation now. What's next?). But I especially liked Part One of your trip report to England. Your descriptions of the people you meet along the way are really quite remarkable. I remember liking your portrait of Spike in your WisCon report. And now you've given us this wonderful word picture of Joseph and Judith. Gosh, I feel as if I know them! Ooops, I do, don't I? But now I know them a bit better.

Turbo #75 [JG] Oooo, what a sensuous memory you have. There's only one thing... Gosh, I hope you aren't upset or anything. But I've been told that there may be some ... uh ... well ... uh ... side-effects ... connected with what I did to you. I'm really sorry, but the fluids involved aren't really supposed to be brought into contact with human tissues. But I'm sure that if you notice anything ... well ... strange ... like discolorations, hallucinations, weird compulsions to play Pictionary ... the clinic will be able to help you...

Turbo #75 [SC] Ahem. Bill, about the only response I can make to this little imaginary fancy is to suggest that maybe you need to get out a bit more. The strain of all this fanac you've been doing lately is beginning to show. Swartz and Tracy really shouldn't keep you cooped up all the time sweating over a hot computer and Gestetner. Take a break once in a while. Go for a walk, smell the flowers, buy a Playboy and just let those built-up tensions "flow" away.

PETE WINZ

Turbo #72 [JG] I can't print these abbreviated comments without some mention of your fabulous, hilarious recounting of the infamous bachelors party. Thank you so much for writing it. What with Scott's well-practiced reticence, and without your chronicles, I may never have heard more than "We drank a little bit too much. We sat on the beach and talked a while. I don't feel so good." It saddens me to think of other lost episodes of excitement and high drama in Scott's life, that I've missed because he is so shy. I liked the part where you convinced Scott and Steve to get out of the pathway of the car by warning them that Elk and I might get angry at them. This piece deserves to be reprinted, for sure.

Turbo #72 [SC] I don't think reprinting it would be a very good idea. That is, most people would not appreciate it if they don't know us. Ah, um, or maybe it would be OK if he added a big FICTION label on top, because it's really too silly to be taken seriously. I don't believe the whole thing myself and I was there. Anyway, it was a funny piece and I know how much Pete's version has endeared him to those of us who were there. In fact I know Steve, and I and maybe WHump all look forward to showing Pete our appreciation next time we catch him alone and unarmed in Madison.

Turbo #75 [JG] You asked me why I wanted men to spend more time teaching themselves how to be less sexist and let women do less of that job. The wording I used in the analogy was maybe a little misleading: I don't mean that every man ought to be responsible for himself, but that men in general ought to help one another out. After all, not every man—or every woman—is at the same stage of self-development.

Imagine a party, a room full of people. Someone speaks up in a loud voice saying, "Shit, those niggers are dumb!" If you were the only black person in the room, how would you feel if all the white people looked at you expectantly, waiting for you to tell the bigot where to get off? Wouldn't you feel more comfortable if some of the other people in the party got angry and told off the twit? I'm exaggerating here, but frequently—to a lesser degree—that's the situation in which vocal feminists find themselves. We're at a party—or in an apa—and some guy laughs and makes a lewd comment about a woman's body, the "the proper place" for women, or suggests that poor women's morality can be subverted for the price of a monthly AFDC check. Silence falls,

and all gazes turn to the known feminist and all wait for her to respond.

You didn't wait for Kim or I or another woman to respond to Ross Pavlac's cockeyed idea about AFDC. You wrote an excellent reply, and I really appreciate it. I think it's a good thing for guys to talk to one another and learn from one another on this topic. Considering all the writing I do in this apa on the topic of feminism and sexism, you must realize that I seriously consider any requests to explain my ideas and position, so you know that I don't deny that women have a role in this education process. All I'm saying is that I like to see men speak up, too, when the opportunity comes.

ANDY HOOPER

Turbo #72 [JG] Thanks for the Madison history installment. This Civil War episode was my favorite so far. You gave me a glimpse into the complexity of the war as it affected my home that I've never considered.

Last weekend, Scott and I drove out of town in a northerly direction to look at the changing colors and enjoy a beautiful, balmy Fall day. We eventually ended up at Mirror Lake State Park, but along the way stopped at the Wallersheim winery which was hosting its annual grape stomping festival. The wine was fine, the stomping was fun, and the tour offered some bits of information that reminded me of your researches. The huge, oaken barrels in which grape juice is fermented were apparently built by Confederacy prisoners in Ohio. They're still used to this day. There's a small bronze plaque that tells the story.

Turbo #74 [JG] Your essay was lovely. It very much deserves reprinting. Thank you.

Turbo #75 [JG] I think your notion to re-write the Madison history from the point of view of a few Madison families is a great one. I can see it now: an epic best seller sold to Hollywood for a movie or TV mini-series. Dustin Hoffman playing Paul Soglin reclining in his zoner's chair, narrating the flashback that begins the story... You'll make us all famous.

BILL HOFFMAN

Turbo #72 [JG] I liked the reprint, the Sue Chance, M.D. article, "Thank You, Ursula Le Guin." Has her writing changed since that essay's publication, now that she's decided to start "laying about mightily with her handbag"?

Turbo #74 [JG] The house (and the house-to-be) sounds wonderful. Next time Scott and I travel to the Northwest we look forward to exploring it.

STEVE SWARTZ

Turbo #72 [JG] Good comments to Owen, Steve. I know (because I remember some paragraphs being thrust at me with the words, "You *have* to read this *now*, Jeanne!") that—as I progress through these back issues—I have some comments from Owen to look forward to, but I've got the feeling that most of what I would have wanted to say will have already been said and said well by the likes of you and Kim Winz.

I also liked your comment to Tracy. I agree with you that caring about others and about one's own happiness should not be viewed as being two sides of a teeter-totter: one goes up, the other goes down. More often than not the two are complimentary. In fact, I would distrust a relationship in which the only way I could



make my friend or lover happy involved the denial of my own happiness.

Turbo #74 [JG] Isn't this one of the signs of the Apocalypse?: Steve Swartz doing his zine on a *Mac* and spending several pages of his apa doing ... *movie reviews!*? Great movies, though. And I don't hear any trumpets, so it must be OK. But I *am* curious about the role played by Lauren Bacall in *Casablanca*. Goodness, I didn't realize so much gets changed when those old films are re-released!

OWEN WHEATLEY

Turbo #74 & 75 [JG] The disagreement some of us had with your essay (and your choice of words) on families may have been basically a semantic one, but it seems to me that if enough people misunderstand your meaning and if they all misunderstand it in the same way, that you've got to take responsibility for having said it, whether or not you meant it. I shared Kim Winz's anger and felt it flare up again when you brought in a third party "expert" to prove that none of us should have taken offense at your essay.

Scott and I no longer own the back issue with your infamous essay, so I think it's far too late to attempt a detailed revisit, but I noticed that both you and Cathy seemed to have assumed that the main problem was that none of us had read your essay carefully in the first place. Let me assure you, the month it was published, Owen's essay was probably the *most* carefully perused piece of writing in the whole apa. It was discussed by large groups of us at two parties that I recall. I know that I felt I was responding to the central issues you raised, not simply to some carelessly flung phrases. I worked hard at trying to understand your meaning and to write a serious response to it.

However, it is possible that you inadvertently punched some buttons with many of us. I've never heard the term "neanderthal feminists," for instance, (and it's an almost meaningless, *ad hominem* phrase) but I probably translated it to the more common US term thrown at me a lot: "strident feminist," which—in my experience—is always used as a code phrase for a person who wants more change than the speaker; with the phrase "more change" defined as anything that actually affects the speaker.

But this is the main thing: You say that you chose the term, "nuclear family" only as an *example*. Well, there may be a basic flaw in choosing for an example a thing that many people view as embodying some of society's basic flaws. While you talk about revolutionizing relationships between the sexes, you ask us to visualize a relationship, that for many of us, carries a horrendous amount of negative personal and political baggage. You choose, as an example, something that describes more than the simple model you may have intended, but—in addition—all the stuff we've got in our heads when we hear the phrase which has become the most popular 1992 (US) political refrain: "family values." The same goes for the use of the terms "mothers" and "fathers." It is impossible to use these terms without gender-specific echoes. You might have used a term like "parenting," but you cannot use "mothering," without calling up a complex, very female image. (It works no better than the use of the masculine generic pronoun. When someone says "A doctor operates on his patients," we must actually struggle against the image of a male surgeon working over an operating table.) When someone says "A mother nurtures a child," one must struggle against the image

of a woman breast-feeding her baby. So, if you want to make a point specifically about the inappropriateness of certain roles being connected with certain genders, your language should reflect that perspective, rather than (at best) muddying the issue, or (at worst) actually reversing your meaning.

... Changing the subject for the moment (and attempting to lighten up on you): I was thinking about your complaint that the Tory government now requires that you grade 60% by exam, rather than the 100% coursework-method that you formerly used. You might consider a little go-around that some of my college professors used to employ: Give out weekly (or even daily) "take-home exams." Basically, this means that you give your students the same coursework you always did, but that you call it a "take-home exam" rather than "homework."

Turbo #75 [SC] Here I am complaining about how little our British contributors submit and then I barely manage a presense (and no comments) for three issues. I take it all back. I'm simply not in a position to complain. I would also like to say here that I do look forward to your zines. What's a little controversy among friends? With only a couple notable exceptions, we are all generally receptive to feminist ideas. What's the harm in discussing them? The only problem I'm starting to have with the current discussion is that it is running too long.

KIM WINZ

Turbo #73 [JG] Good for you. Your response to Ross, that it's not fair—or logical—to blame the women and children who were abandoned for the reported AFDC increases was an excellent point. It's hardly a supply-and-demand issue when the ones who create the demand—the fathers who leave their families—are not the ones who actually "benefit" from the supply. I fear that what Ross means is that if AFDC were not available, women would do *anything* (or at least more than they do now) to keep their husbands at home: accept abuse more readily, etc. Alternately, I fear that he believes that the lack of adequate "punishment" (i.e., threatening to starve woman and children to death) encourages promiscuity. I fear that he thinks either of these situations would be a better thing than AFDC.

By all means submit the tomato sauce recipe with or without the lasagna addendum. So far, there's no similar recipe submitted for the new cookbook, *Her Smoke Rose Up From Supper*. The deadline for recipes is November 15. Don't forget the anecdote!

JAMES BRON

Turbo #73 [JG] Funny bit about your train commute. I think I would have been tempted to snap a photograph of the clerk who refused to give you information, his supervisor's name or his own name.

JULIE HUMPHRIES

Turbo #73 [JG] I can't imagine that I would speak any more clearly in person than in print. At least, when I'm writing, I can go back and delete the really angry stuff. I think that if you and I started going over all this stuff in person I'd be even more blunt than I have already been in print. I've written exactly what I meant to say. If you don't think your writing reflects your real feelings and opinions, and unless you are prepared to stand by what you write, perhaps you should think about not writing things that are bound to tick people off.

And beside, if you are going to take back everything you write when people take it at face value, I tend to think that the same thing might happen in a spoken conversation. I'd rather have witnesses. Perhaps we should simply abandon this particular discussion.

Sorry you had such a bad time after your tubal ligation. My experience was such an extraordinarily easy one (with only minor soreness for a few hours), that I tend to forget that I was the only one of six other women in my ward who had the same operation who didn't feel real sick afterwards. The good mood that followed the operation lasted for weeks, and so I guess my memory of the experience has become rather too rose-tinted.

Turbo #75 [JG] Before you try to organize an apa posse to lynch **Steve Swartz**...

This is the history of SF³ publication distribution history: For almost 15 years, SF³ subsidized the publication of *Janus* and *Aurora*. During that time, no SF³ member ever automatically received a free copy of either. Fans were required to subscribe, contribute material (artwork or writing), write printable LoCs, or help in its production in order to get a copy. Later, SF³ began to publish *Cube*. I was its first editor (for 10 or 15 issues) and I decided to give a free copy to any household in the Madison area that wanted one. My goal was to make sure that our activities were publicized among the people who were most likely to need the information. Spike took over the job of editing *Cube* from me, and she didn't like giving it away. Under her editorship, *Cube* became available in two ways: first, by subscription, and second, as a "premium" available with SF³ memberships. If you had been around before Spike took over *Cube*, Julie, you might have felt cheated to be suddenly required to pay for something that used to be free. Spike traded *Cube* for a small number of fanzines, mostly other newazines. **Andy Hooper**, of course, edited one issue of *Cube*, and I think—for the most part—continued Spike's policies. Now it's **Steve Swartz's** turn at bat.

If you notice, Julie, the only "tradition" in SF³ publication distribution policies is that the people working on the publication themselves largely determine to whom they send copies. Steve is turning *Cube* into a genzine. Certainly the October/November issue is as large as any issue of *Janus* or *Aurora*. Steve is trading *Cube* with a large number of other fanzines and soliciting contributions from Madison fans and others. It's a very different zine than the one Spike produced, and it's a reasonable thing, I think, if Steve decides to change the policy of distribution.

Every fanzine editor has a different list of reasons for sending zines out. Making a profit never works out, but trading, attracting egoboo, capturing writers, artists, typists, collators, etc. are all reasons that have long, fine histories. However, the reason you champion—the right of every collector to own their very own copy—is a reason that few (if any) fanzine editors concern themselves. Unless two people who share a household, independently contribute to your zine, or jointly publish a fanzine with which you trade, I don't think it's a fanzine editor's duty to send two zines to any one address.

BILL HUMPHRIES

Turbo #73 [JG] It sounded to me as if you considered P. J. O'Rourke to be a lefty satirist. *Au contraire*, he's really a pretty ratty right-wing sort of guy. I nominate Kate Clinton and Molly Ivins for the title of "left-wing humorists of the year."

Turbo #74 [JG] ... which you obviously agree with, as I see from your re-printing of the Molly Ivins column in your August zine. Good stuff. Great comment to **Allison Dawson** about all the subject matter she could be writing about instead of minac. I agree.

Turbo #75 [SC] I enjoyed your ReinConation/U2 column. U2 might not be radical, but I think these days it might be considered a victory of sorts just to see a band of their stature that is openly political. It's not the 1960's, so any big name band that puts forth the idea that politics is important and not boring or icky gets a cheer from me. I also liked your budding Gonzo writer. More from this source please.

TRACY SHANNON

Turbo #73 [JG] Thank you for sending house-warming invitations. You know, I watched and watched that space for the housewarming party announcement, but nothing ever appeared... (Good parties by the way, since by now you and Michael have staged both a housewarming party and a birthday party for you and **Bill Bodden**.)

Turbo #74 [JG] Have you considered the ominous possibility that John Peacock purposely submitted a jinxed cheesecake recipe for revenge on us Turborchargers? No, that's too paranoid. What we should do is ask him (or perhaps **Hope** already has) whether there is some mistake/typo embedded in the cheesecake recipe as printed in *The Bakery Men Don't See*. It's too bad I didn't read your zine earlier. We could have double-checked the information and perhaps corrected it in time for the second edition of the cookbook...

I like to describe Lake Michigan to out-of-staters (not as you did, as the "long skinny Great Lake"), but as "the trunk of the palm tree that is the Great Lakes."

Perhaps your landscaping lava rocks all started out red, but they turn black with exposure to the sun and weather. Possibly they're only painted red and the red stuff gradually wears off?

What a weird experience. I read the part about how **Pat Harlo** and **DuCharme** arrived to drop of their apazines and bribe, except I read it this way: "... **Mike DuCharme**, hand delivering his zine. And his bride too, I might add." I thought you were having a bizarre fever-induced dream in which Pat and Mike had gotten married and you were focusing on how cool Pat looked in her suit compared to your sleepware. I kept waiting for it to get *more* bizarre (possibly turning into a Hepburn/Tracy movie) and for you to wake up, but when you didn't I had to quick re-read the early part of the paragraph to make sure that I hadn't missed more than I thought I'd missed these past couple months. Whew!

LYNNE ANNE MORSE

Turbo #73 [JG] I loved your description of how it feels to learn new language skills. It sounds to me as if part of your knack comes from the ability to jump into a new language without having to constantly compare (to translate back and forth) between the new language rules and your native language rules. Maybe that's what the radio program on language learning meant by ambiguity skills. In any case, you obviously have ample career opportunities in the translation business doing something that is a lot of fun for you.

Turbo #74 [JG] And another great essay, this time on the calligraphy conference. (You got your heart's desire, that **Jae**



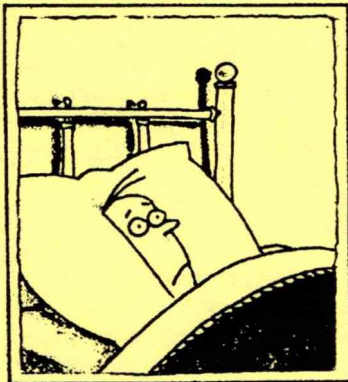
would write a calligraphy con report in the same issue! It's too bad you two didn't get to know each other while you were still in town.) Lovely essay. But I wish I could have seen some of the work you did. I'm a visual sort of person, y'know.

KATHRYN BETH WILLIG

Turbo #74 [JG] We hope you're out of the hospital and feeling better these days. Congratulations on the new Mac Powerbook. Acquiring one of those would certainly improve my sense of well-being! I'm curious about whether you will use your Apple IIGs less frequently now that you've got a Mac.

JAE ADAMS

Rude awakening
457



...This was quite a shock to me, too.

Nobody really cares what your G.P.A. was.

Turbo #74 [JG] I don't find your writing "hard," to use your term, but I often find it overly ambiguous. For a while, for instance, I wrestled with the idea of responding to your child care article in *Cube*. After the first read-through, I emerged with a impression that you were really slamming non-parents. However when I read it through again, I couldn't find any specific statement supporting that sentiment. (Or, I wasn't sure if you were making a joke at one point or were being sarcastic toward non-parents.) And in general, I sometimes have difficulty figuring out just exactly what your opinion is. You make allusions to, metaphors about, and suggestions, but frequently one can make a case for your supporting both sides of an issue.

When you are describing experiences or artwork—such as in your two pieces in this August issue on women's bodies and the calligraphy convention—I really, really enjoy your writing. I get a lot out of it. But when you are entering conversations, joining disagreements, I usually have a hard time figuring out your opinions, even when I'm sure—on some level—that we disagree or agree, there's no concrete textual evidence.

I did, as I said, enjoy the pieces on weight-lifting and calligraphy. Wonderful stuff. You and I must have just missed meeting each other in the YWCA Bodyworks. I worked out there three times a week for a couple years, and shared your enjoyment of "the gradual building up of the numbers providing its own reward." And I think I know the woman who was teaching the weightlifting class for prospective cops. Did she have very light, almost white blond hair? Did she make tremendous whoofs of noise when she exhaled? She was my hero when she was

working out, just about the time I started at the Y, and I helped celebrate her passing of the police physicals. She mentioned then that she'd like to get a program started for women interested in a career in law enforcement.

I also enjoy the new models of beauty that women serious about athletics are offering to our culture. I also saw *Pumping Iron II*. I thought Bev Francis' story was tragic. There was a study done somewhere, someplace (I used to cite this; it's old.) that compared people's definitions of women's beauty (or rather the range of their definitions of women's beauty). The study compared the opinions of people who watched a lot of TV with those who did not, and not surprisingly, the TV watchers tended to identify a very narrow range of characteristics which they were willing to define as beautiful. We get used to a very limited list of visual cues that are equated with beauty. Americans are not yet very comfortable with a list that includes developed muscles in women.

After the amount I could bench press gradually plateaued and they told me I'd have to start visiting Bodyworks more than three times a week if I wanted to improve any more, the fun went out of it. My style started to erode (and I started spending too much time chatting with Spike). I decided to take a break for a while, and began swimming every day. Which turned out to be a wonderful thing: swimming revealed itself as *my sport* more than weightlifting ever had. Kate Clinton, the comedian, recently made a joke that I loved: She wasn't into the feel-the-burn-thing. She said, "No pain — no pain."

You ask that we not drop the **discussion on joint memberships**. OK. Good idea. Well I'd like to start with a query. I want to know what advantage(s) people in joint memberships find in them, especially those who are nonetheless submitting two zines most months. Possibly, if we had a list of the perks, we could figure out a way to distribute those advantages and at the same time avoid the disadvantages of a 30-member apa mailing out 36+ virtualzines. Do people choose a joint membership to avoid extra postage costs of having two zines mailed to them? Do you think it's a good idea to have more zines? Is it a personal thing? Is it a convenience to be able to rely on someone else to supply minac once in a while? Scott and I will answer this question ourselves next time, and hope all the rest of you joint-ees will do so as well. Then maybe we can begin proposing solutions.



I loved Clint Eastwood's *The Unforgiven*. I went ga-ga over *Thelma and Louise*. But I can't for the life of me see how you will get these two films together in a review ... well, except that both are re-working of familiar genres. I'm waiting...

Turbo #75 [JG] ...but I guess I'd better stop holding my breath. You say in this issue that you haven't even seen *Thelma and Louise*. !?!

My brother, Steve, and my sister-in-law, Betsy, have two kids, a 5-year-old girl, Sarah, and a 3-year-old boy, Eric (named after my brother). Earlier this year the four of them visited my sister Julie in Austin. Steve and Betsy left the kids with Julie for a couple days and Julie got to know Sarah better.... One day, Sarah was staring at Julie's legs and suddenly asked, "Are you a boy?" "Sarah! Why do you think I'm a boy?" Julie asked, stunned. "Well, are you?" Sarah asked again. "No! I'm a girl." said

Julie. "Why did you think I was a boy?" "Because you have hair on your legs," replied Sarah.

Later, Sarah seriously told Julie that she thought Julie ought to get married. Julie paused, thinking that they were about to embark on a discussion of her relationship with Rachel, why she can't marry Rachel, and what all that means. But she asked, "Why do you think I should get married, Sarah?" Sarah sighed with exasperation, "So you can get a ring!"

Amazing the stuff kids absorb.

KATHI & KIM NASH

Turbo #74 [JG] Congratulations on the new house, and (Kathi) on surviving and recovering from knee surgery, and (Kim) finding a new job. Why is it that the tone of Kathi's description of the house search and the application of anesthesia comes out sounding so darn similar?

VIJAY BOWEN

Turbo #74 [JG] How far west are you planning to move?

I like your term, "lurkers," for the non-members of an apa who nevertheless read it regularly.

You have my respect and admiration for clearly and honestly explaining your feelings to Julie. You are a very wise person.

Turbo #75 [JG] I liked your comment to **Kim Winz** about womenspace. Indeed, certain kinds of conversation among women does change drastically whenever men join the group. It's weird and sometimes really aggravating to watch a conversation pulled away from the very productive direction it was going before, or to see it roadblocked altogether. I don't think this necessarily has to happen: a group of strong women can refuse to change the subject and continue to focus upon one another, but I've only recently been able to carry that off successfully. No, I don't think this phenomenon only happens among New York fandom.

Your comment to **David Burgess** made me very glad that he missed the deadline.

JIM BROOKS

Turbo #74 [JG] Welcome to the apa, Jim Brooks. A pro-choice trucker, imagine that. Or isn't that very unusual? Do you find that the politics of truckers tends toward the right or left or is it all over the road? So to speak. In any case, it sounds like you've got some great stories and I'm looking forward to hearing some of them.

LUCY RHONUR

Turbo #74 [JG & SC] Welcome back! Now that you won't be taking our *Turbo* backissues, we'll be lending them to **Bill Dyer** until he regains his membership.

Turbo #75 [JG] So what does "thedal" mean??

LAURA SPIESS

Turbo #74 [JG] Those were some pretty raunchy poems for a person supposedly professionally interested in cleanliness and health. Funny.

DIANE MARTIN

Turbo #74 [JG] My siblings are all fairly successful. Well, you know that. I think you've met most of them. Depending on your criteria and if your criteria leans toward financial remuneration, I could be counted as one of the least successful of all of us. I've got the feeling that even my youngest brother Danny will soon pass me up income-wise. He works for North Shore Computers in Milwaukee as a technician, but is already talking with a group of his co-workers about the possibility of setting up their own consulting business.

On the other hand, using any other measurement of success, we're all doing well. I love being a computer artist, and working for the state suits me right now. I don't think I'd be happy working for an ad agency or freelancing. Of course, Rick was a consummate, skillful and much sought-after cabinetmaker. My brother Steve's career has taken off like a rocket: he was a salesman/engineer for Allen-Bradley, did fantastic work at the Denver office and then the Pittsburgh office and was recently promoted up to a high level management position in the Milwaukee home office (making mom very happy to have one of her kids return to their home town). And many of you know Julie, and her incredibly successful design business in Austin.

So, I haven't recently felt the guilt you say you sometimes feel about being more successful than my siblings. Before Julie took her life into her own hands, when she worried that her lack of a college degree labeled her as a failure, I got the feeling that she sometimes wished that she didn't have the rest of us there for "comparison." I worried about Danny for a while too, wondering if my parents' opinion that he just didn't care to *try* was an accurate assessment, and whether he preferred not to compete with the records of his brothers' and sisters' successes. But as soon as he discovered that he was good at something he liked to do, he seems to have gotten over the angst of his early twenties. He's even fallen in love and has moved in with a woman.

I'm very relieved that they've all found work and loves and that I don't have to be careful of their disappointment if I show too much of my happiness. It can be a touchy situation.

HOPE KIEFER

Turbo #74 [JG] Congratulations again to you and **Karl** on your pregnancy. I hope everything's going smoothly and reasonably comfortably. Your's was one of the zines that people pushed in front of my nose and said, "You *have* to read this **now**, Jeanne!" I'm glad I found out before you strolled into the Tiptree party at worldcon looking so obviously pregnant.... Thanks again, by the way, for your baked contribution to the party. I sent a check for a little over \$600 to Pat Murphy the other day for money raised there (which included the money from cookbooks sold at Dreamhaven's worldcon table and the fanzine lounge, plus money raised at the auctions at worldcon and ReinConation). We did fairly well considering the Tiptree party lasted only two hours at a time very few people were back from supper. Compared to Chicon, at which there was a bake sale party every night, the opportunities to sell cookbooks were fairly limited. Thank goodness for Dreamhaven! They've been really good to us. I'm going to put an ad into *SFC* and *Locus* soon, and we're going to start offering the cookbook to bookstores too, at a discount. I wrote to Pat, however, that I really think we need to find a bake sale czar who will at least be responsible for the worldcon bake sales. Those things can't be put together at the last moment with minimal effort. You can't even do it easily at a small con. Well you



know that! Do you have any suggestions? With you pregnant and Karen Babich getting married, I've got the feeling we need a new General. I'd be glad to pass names on to Pat, or you could write to her yourself if you've got a candidate in mind.

BILL DYER

Turbo #74 [JG] There's something very refreshing about your writing style, Bill: clean, clear, not cluttered. I'm thinking of your definition of feminism in your comment to Lynne Ann. I liked it.

You should have found your zine franked into this issue of *Turbo*. We will be glad to continue this service and to send you back issues when we're done with them.

KAREN BABICH

Turbo #75 [JG] Congratulations!

ROSS PAVLAC

Turbo #75 [JG] Many months ago, my sister Julie was visiting my folks in Milwaukee and she and Dad began arguing about politics. My dad was defending Quale. This was just after the vice president was quoted saying that he thought the major language of Latin America was Latin. Julie finally laughed, trying to defuse the argument, and said, "Dad, you'd jump all over any of us if we came up with a statement like that! Why are so easy on Dan Quale?" Dad thought about it for a moment and then answered, "I've got higher standards for my kids." ...Boy that

stopped *that* conversation. Julie was stunned, and so was I when she told me about it.

The thing is, Ross, I don't much enjoy reading your zines anymore. I keep contrasting the tolerant, humorous way you interact with our mutual friends (and me) at conventions with your intolerant, very unkind written opinions about gays, unmarried mothers, poor people, and women. It seems to me that you exhibit a higher standard of behavior for yourself with friends than you do in your political beliefs. So, I'm going to make as a brief reply as I can make to a couple of your most outrageous statements and move on...

You chide feminists for hypocrisy because the major feminist fund-raising groups are not supporting anti-abortion women candidates. Come on, Ross! Get real! I am a feminist. I've written over and over again in these pages that I equate feminism with the availability of the same range of choices for women and men. So, of course I am unwilling to support a candidate—female or male—who promises to *limit* women's choices.

I know that you hate using the word "choice" and prefer pro-abortion. But you are twisting the truth much too far when you say that "the vast majority [of the far left-leaning media] ... think abortion is wonderful..." I get the feeling that you think that if a woman (without your beliefs) gets pregnant, she giggles and says "Oh, goody! Now I can have an abortion!" The statistics which support choice by a landslide, support the idea of choice, not specific, allowable reasons for abortion. When asked whether government should be involved in a woman's decision to carry a fetus to term, a majority of Americans say "no."

Ross Pavlac on Pat Buchanan

by Scott Custis

"And we stand with him [George Bush] against the amoral idea that gay and lesbian couples should have the same standing in law as married men and women."

—Pat Buchanan, Republican National Convention

These remarks are not addressed strictly to Ross, but to everyone in *Turbo*. I read his contribution last month with interest—and a little eyestrain at the quality of the reproduction. Yet I have to admit that I found some of my fellow contributors' spoken comments about it even more interesting. When I brought up the subject of his zine, some people suggested I just stop reading his stuff. Others questioned the need to respond or debate since Ross does not seem interested in dialog and that his views are so extreme and so offensive that debate is simply pointless. Another suggestion was to approach him via personal letter or computer mail, presumably to keep this nasty business out of the apa.

I've rejected all these ideas.

I will agree at least that trying to debate with him would be mostly useless. But I am going to continue reading his stuff and responding to it in some fashion. I feel I must. I am a member of this crude, but personal, written communication network we call the apa, and I won't let such hate-mongering, bigotry and homophobia go on unanswered. I want to give no one the impression by my silence that I agree with his sentiments or find them acceptable or tolerable. Yes, tolerable. I can't censor Ross'

zine, and I wouldn't dream of suggesting we do that. But I do not think this extremism is shared by anyone else here and I think he is fast approaching the point where he will no longer be welcome. My message to the rest of *Turbo* is that silence is not the proper response. Standing up and stating "Ross, you are wrong. What you write is personally offensive and hurtful and I no longer look forward to your contribution." is what is called for. Ross should find another group of writers whose philosophies he shares.

"And Hillary has compared marriage and family as institutions to slavery and life on an Indian Reservation."

I could not begin to respond point by point to his ravings of last month. I wish here only to address his praise of Pat Buchanan's speech of August 17th at the Republican National Convention. As you see, I've excerpted statements from his speech. There is no distortion or context removal. You will recognize these statements if you heard the speech. I have the text of it in front of me. My objective is simply to show to the rest of *Turbo* what it means when Ross call this man's remarks "brilliant."

"Hillary believes 12-year-olds have the right to sue their parents."

I remember listening to his speech and being appalled at the hate and bigotry he was spewing. But as I looked at the text of his speech I found the actual wording somewhat milder than I

remembered. Still plenty wacky as you can see, but something was missing. Finally, I figured out what it was.

"This, my friends,—this is radical feminism. The agenda that Clinton & Clinton would impose on America—abortion on demand, a litmus test for the Supreme Court, homosexual rights, discrimination against religious schools, women in combat units—that's change all right. But it is not the kind of change America needs. It is not the kind of change America wants. And it is not the kind of change we can abide in a nation we still call God's country."

It's all code words and phrases. It is not so much what he says, as much as what he means. His statements are often vague generalities, but he manages to communicate a lot between the lines. When he says,

"We also stand with President Bush in favor of the right of small towns and communities to control the raw sewage of pornography that so terribly pollutes our popular culture."

he is advocating censorship of library books by local school boards.

"We stand against putting our wives and daughters and sisters into combat units of the U.S. Army."

This clearly is about denying women high rank in the military because combat unit experience is often a requirement for achieving promotion. But why bring up such a relatively minor issue at the National Convention? Because it is also code for striving to keep women in their place. His supporters understand him to be saying here that women don't really belong in the military, or

business or the work force at all. His earlier cited remarks about homosexual rights are not about granting them special privileges, but equal rights. An interesting position for someone like Ross to support after claiming in his article for the latest *Cube* that, "I also have a number of acquaintances who are homosexual; I defend their right to live free from persecution." Well Pat Buchanan doesn't.

The most racist and ugly part of his speech came at the end. Buchanan brought up the subject of the L.A. riots. He said he went to L.A. just after the trouble ended. Did he go to the devastated neighborhoods to talk to the people there? No, he went to the Army compound and talked to the National Guard troops. He briefly recounted a story of how the troopers saved a building full of old folks from "the mob."

"And the mob was heading in to ransack and loot the apartments of the terrified old men and women inside. The troopers came up the street—M-16's at the ready. And the mob threatened and cursed, but the mob retreated because it had met the one thing that could stop it—force, rooted in justice, and backed by courage...And as those boys took back the streets of Los Angeles, block by block, my friends, we must take back our cities, and take back our culture, and take back our country."

No mention of the cause of the riots. No sympathy or even direct mention of those who suffered the most from the riots. Instead high praise for the military fighting a faceless, frightening "mob." And who are these faceless monsters? Who are we fighting in the streets against and why? Who do you suppose he means we have to take back our cities from?

I know who he means—and so do you.

Ross calls Buchanan's speech brilliant. I have another word for it, for him and for his supporters.

Fascist.



J A M E S
T I P T R E E , J R .
A W A R D

P O B O X 1 6 2 4
M A D I S O N , W I
5 3 7 0 1 - 1 6 2 4

1 September 1992

Turbo Cooks—

We're planning a new cookbook—this time for main course recipes! Just as *The Bakery Men Don't See* was named after a Tiptree short story ("The Women Men Don't See"), the new cookbook has warped Tiptree's short story title, "Her Smoke Rose Up Forever." The main course cookbook will be called *Her Smoke Rose up from Supper*. This new cookbook will be produced in time for WisCon 17, in March 1993, where the second annual Tiptree Award Ceremony will take place.

We hope you will contribute a recipe to the *Her Smoke Rose up from Supper* cookbook. Here are the ground-rules:

1. **We will accept only one recipe per person.** A lot of people have expressed interest already in contributing to the new cookbook, so we expect to receive quite a few recipes. You will have to choose your favorite recipe.
2. **In the case of multiple recipes for the same dish submitted by different people, we will only print one.** If there is time before the deadline, we will contact the person who submits the duplicate recipe and ask them to send us a different recipe. So, get your recipe in early!
3. **Please send along a short anecdote with your recipe.** Anecdotes can describe the first time you made this particular recipe or the person who gave it to you. We hope to get lots of cooking stories involving moms, grandmothers, or women friends to fit in with one of the ideas behind the Tiptree Award. That is, we want to celebrate the accomplishments and memories of women whose work is often forgotten.

The anecdote should be limited to a character count of 1,200. (200 words or less). We may edit your copy down, if it is longer. On the other hand, if we get material like Eileen Gunn's "Ideologically Labile Fruit Crisp," [see *The Bakery Men Don't See*], we are likely to figure out a way to make it fit. However, we're anticipating quite a few recipes and don't want to let the page count to get out of hand.

4. **You can send us the recipe and anecdote in several forms:** typewritten or on computer diskette or floppy. If you don't have access to a computer, don't worry, we remember how to type, but if you can send it to us both ways—on paper and on disk—you would make us very happy. We will have a typed copy in case something goes wrong when we attempt to translate your computer file. And a computer disk would save us a lot of retyping and potential typos. Don't worry about the format, DOS, Macintosh, or whatever: we can translate practically anything. Save your file in whatever word processing application you use, and then—just to be safe—save it again as text.
5. **Deadline for recipe submissions is November 15, 1992.**
6. **If you know you will be sending a recipe, we would appreciate it if you sent us a post card as soon as possible, telling us what you are planning.** This will help us plan the final book: we can begin to gather graphics, and make formatting decisions. But final copy must be received in Madison by the deadline.
7. **Mail your package to SF³, PO Box 1624, Madison, WI 53704-1624.** If you have questions, call Jeanne Gomoll, 608-246-8445.

Thank you! We're eagerly looking forward to reading and trying out your mouth-watering recipes!

Best,

Jeanne Gomoll

P.S. Another plan is in the works. Elspeth Krisor (or, Elk, as she is better known) has been talking about making a Tiptree Quilt. Right now, the plan is to display and sell it at the 1993 worldcon in San Francisco, with all proceeds going to the Tiptree Award. Elk would like to design it and piece it together in a quilting bee party here in Madison. However, she would like to find a way to involve others. If you are interested in participating on this project, send a note to Elk in care of the SF³ address. Let her know if you have any ideas for the quilt's production. Elk will contact you soon with the latest quilt news when plans are finalized.