



Welcome to *Union Street* (issue #34 and *Obsessive Press* #134), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead (this month celebrating the U.S. house-cleaning). 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 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. November 1992 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #77. Members FWA.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

[JG] I can sympathize with people who hesitate to add another cross-Atlantic membership to the *Turbo* membership list. For one thing, postal delays inevitably cause mailing comment lags, not a good thing in a conversation-dependent apazine. If people are not seconding Lillian Edwards because of that, say no more, I won't ask again. But if it's for lack of knowledge about Lillian, I would like to remind folks that she's a funny, good writer, a fanzine editor, a TAFF-winner, and a very charming person. She needs a second in order to be added to the waitlist.

It seems to me that there should probably be a limit for how long someone hangs around on the official business page waiting for endorsements. But in the absence of such a rule, Scott and I will withdraw Lillian's name from nomination in two more issues if she does not receive another second.

CELEBRATING

[SC] November 3rd brought an end to a long dry spell in politics for us. We had reason to uncork some champagne and party on Presidential Election Night for the first time in sixteen years. How sweet it is. Clinton's victory came in the nick of time for women, gays and other long-embattled minorities. To me his election means an opportunity to finally enact some positive and progressive legislation that might begin to deal with the wide spectrum of America's problems. However, Clinton is no revolutionary. He is the most conservative Democratic candidate to run in my memory. We will not see the sort of fundamental change we need the most, but at least the logjam is broken and we can at last repair some of the damage done during the Reagan/Bush Dark Ages. That's reason enough for a toast right now.

The best news on election night came from elsewhere. In Wisconsin, Russ Feingold succeeded in unseating conservative corporate puppy and dirty campaigner Bob Kasten. The Oregon anti-gay referendum was defeated and four new female Senators were elected around the nation including the first black woman Senator. There was bad news as well, but the tide seems to have turned for the time being. Progress at least seems possible. So, fill up that glass along with us. Cheers.



MIKE DUCHARME

[JG] DuCharme's global second apparently was counted by Tracy as one of Lillian's seconds, which is a bad precedent, in my opinion. "Blank check" endorsements violate the purpose for which the rule requiring members to recommend new members was created. DuCharme, if you can't be bothered to read the apa or to second the applications of new members by name, I think you should stay out of the process. (You cited "democracy" as the reason for your blanket second, but if you were supporting democratic action in the apa, you would support the democratic vote which changed the process with which new members are accepted into the apa.)

[SC] I enjoyed your zine. Your fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants writing style is entertaining, however I must echo Jeanne's criticism. You have to read the apa closer. David Burgess was dropped...a while ago.

KIM NASH

[JG] Fun cover, Kim. We got really excited when it appeared that we had won the Louisiana game...a small prize, only \$5, but it's not every day that we find \$5 pasted onto a *Turbo* cover. (What an idea! The rest of you should seriously consider an all-cash cover. I assure you that it would be very popular!) But then, of course, our hopes were dashed when we peeled the ticket off the page, turned it over, and discovered that it was a "SAMPLE ONLY." Alas!

HOPE KIEFER

[JG] Thanks for reminding me about the fish wallpaper project. I remember now that at worldcon I promised you some drawings. Sounds like fun. Now, I've just got to squeeze it between the *Khatru* reprint project (a 150 page book for Corflu); the new Tiptree cookbook—*Her Smoke Rose Up From Super*—for which I am still waiting for your recipe, by the way; the Tiptree quilt (which Tracy and I are designing); a 200-page book layout (a freelance job due by the end of November, and some stuff for Ellen Franklin. Not to mention a zillion small projects around the house. Oh, yeah, and balancing my checkbook. But I will get to it ... I promise.



You say that you're budgeting for a diaper service. The same day I read your apazine, I noticed an article in the paper about environmentalism and disposable diapers. Apparently, environmental groups have more or less given up on trying to convince people not to use disposable diapers. The EPA's major new guide to reducing waste doesn't even mention the word, diapers. The extreme convenience of disposables isn't the main reason for abandoning the issue, however. Apparently, there are environmental problems with cloth diapers too. Things are not black and white here. Here are the crucial paragraphs from the article: (from the *New York Times Service*)

At first, the debate seemed one of stark contrasts: disposable diapers waste trees, often include plastics that can't be broken down and account for a numbing amount of unnecessary garbage each year. Cloth diapers, on the other hand, which now account for less than 15% of the US market, seemed environmentally benign.

But closer scrutiny suggests the facts are less one-sided.

Many of the trees used for disposables are planted just for that purpose. Excavations of representative landfills — including Fresh Kills on New York's Staten Island, the world's largest dump — have revealed that discarded diapers take up from 0.5% to 1.8% of landfill space. Compared with newspapers (which account for as much as 40% of space at landfills), construction debris or food waste, diapers are about as big a problem as used sheets and towels.

Reusable diapers have their problems, too. They can require large amounts of water and detergent to clean. Diaper service delivery trucks burn gasoline and cause pollution.

In some Western states, like California and Washington, where droughts have presented major problems in recent years and where landfill space is relatively easy to find, disposable diapers not only seem to many people more convenient but better for the environment as well.

[SC] I loved your comment to **Ross**. I thought you summed it all up better than anyone else did last month.

VIJAY BOWEN

[SC] What a miserable autumn you've had. It appeared that you had a pretty good handle on all this bad news from the tone of your zine, but it clearly must have been a rough time for you and **Mark**. I look forward to having you back with us when your life is on a more even keel.

JAMES BRON



[SC] The food did indeed sound wonderful. My question is, did you cook it or did you go out to a restaurant? I hope it's the former, because I can still remember your offer from a long time ago to make dinner for any of us who happened to be

in your neck of the woods. I might consider calling your bluff if we make it to Glasgow.

JAE ADAMS

[JG] Yup, you're right, there are DTP programs that are capable of doing things like your chapbook quite a bit more simply than you did with a word processing program, but as you say, it's a learning experience. If you ever get around to learning a program like Aldus PageMaker or Quark Xpress, you will learn faster than someone who doesn't know what needs to be done in the first place.

Arranging type on a curve, or allowing individual letters to jump around isn't difficult at all on a machine, you just have to know which software to use.

[SC] I enjoyed The Chapbook Adventure. Competitive performance poetry is something I've never heard of before. I can sympathize with having to race against a deadline to complete a publication with unexpected complications popping up like weeds. Oh yes, we've been there.

Writing on curves is really pretty easy with some computer programs. Well, actually, you might be surprised!

TRACY SHANNON

[JG] Hope the buzzing noise has gone away. I can imagine it must have been really irritating.

[SC] Thanks and congratulations on the Halloween Party. It was fun. What a turnout. A crowd that size almost justifies renting a hall.

BILL DYER

[SC] This sort of storytelling is my favorite type of writing in the apa. I like to read about people's experiences. Your style is particularly fun because it usually seems like you are having a good time, or at least keeping things in perspective during the rough parts, throughout. Fine piece. By the way, what does **Barb** think of being featured so prominently in *Turbo*?

Thank you for the compliment on our cover, but if you persist in trying to rhyme "my way" with "Iowa" your next zine might wind up lost in the compost pile for a month or two.

UNION STREET



[JG] Normally, I wouldn't comment on my own zine, but I promised last time that **Scott** and I would talk about the joint membership issue, and why we choose to share a membership in the *Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA*.

I would have dropped out of the apa several times already if it were not for the fact that **Scott** and I share a membership. When I first joined *Turbo*, it was as a single member, although — even then — **Scott** was reading the apa when I finished with it. However, when my life got busy, the apa was one of the first things I dropped to make more time for myself. It would have happened again, had it not been for the fact that **Scott** and I share a membership. For instance, this summer, when I was trying to concentrate on publishing an issue of *Whimsey*, I would no doubt have minacked out.

I don't mean to say, though, that it takes two of us get *Union Street* out because one of us doesn't always have the time for it.

To me, it's not an issue of convenience. Doing a truly joint zine with someone, writing about the same things, responding to the same conversation, makes this a unique art form, one that raises its priority in my mind and keeps me interested. I like the process of doing a joint zine. But I'm pretty sure that if I were doing a regular apazine by myself, I would very soon decide that I would rather spend that energy producing a more widely distributed perzine.

If the group decided to abolish joint memberships, it would be OK with me if Scott and I continued to produce *Union Street* together—but as a joint publication of two members of the apa. It wouldn't matter to us whether we got one or two issues of the apa. But I don't know if that would be OK with Scott...

[SC] I would almost certainly drop out of *Turbo* if joint memberships were abolished. I have always gotten more out of *Turbo* than I have invested. For me, it is less about my writing than it is a medium for entertainment and social contacts. Since I don't work on fanzines or WisCon, *Turbo* is a great way for me to keep in touch with busier group members and also meet new people. *Turbo* is a nice thing to have in common with people you don't know so well and it is a great excuse for parties. But I simply wouldn't produce enough to justify holding a whole membership. I do not feel that producing *Union St.* as it is with each of us taking up full membership slots would be fair to people who are willing and able to contribute a full zine for a full membership. Abolishing joint memberships is a logical proposal and I would not be devastated if it passed. But it seems a bit extreme considering the extent of the "problem." I have lobbied for specifying the number of total accounts we would allow to be joint (say six or eight) at any given time. With a simple limit like that, I would not object to how those joint accounts were managed. That is, I wouldn't care if they produced a truly "joint" zine or each contributed their own zines. We might have to put up with a couple of deadbeat half-members we never hear from, but at least *Turbo's* size would be under control.



[JG] **TYPO ALERT: The telephone number printed in the Tiptree Cookbook letter is INCORRECT. The correct number is 608-246-8857.** Sorry. I know, I got my own phone number wrong. All I can say in my defense, is that it's a number. Those of you who know about my problem with numbers understand. The rest of you

are beginning to get the whole, horrible picture. Dr. Bill called me one day with a tale of how he called the wrong number (the one I printed in the last issue of *Union Street*) and terrorized the poor woman who answered the phone—telling her that of course she must be Jeanne Gomoll, or that she must be a friend of Jeanne Gomoll's, or—at the very least—she must know of Jeanne Gomoll. ("You don't know who Jeanne Gomoll is??!! But she's famous!") I called the same number the next day (and resisted the temptation to say, "Hi! I'm Jeanne Gomoll. Any messages?") and tried to explain what had happened. Bill hadn't been the first call about the cookbook. Anyway, I offered to send the guy who answered a free cookbook for his trouble, and after assuring him that it wouldn't cost him a cent, he accepted.

DEADLINE ALERT: Because of the telephone number mix-up and also because we were a little late getting the letters out about the cookbook, we're giving you all a little more time to send us your recipes and anecdotes for *Her Smoke Rose Up From Supper*. New (final) deadline: **December 12, 1992.**

ROSS PAVLAC

[JG] You wrote, "In demanding that women have control 'over their own bodies' and insisting that the man has no say in whether the child should be carried to term, I can understand why some men would say, 'fine, you can carry it to term without checking with me. But if I have no say over whether you have the kid, why should I have any obligation to help out.' In cutting men out of the pre-birth equation, radical feminists have contributed towards men not feeling any obligation whatsoever."

There seems to be a paradox in your comment, Ross. As far as I can figure, the only child a man could refuse to help support would be the child that a woman brings to term. Here's the paradox: the only "ignored" opinion of an anti-abortion father is that there should have been an abortion. I don't understand your point.

To punish a child because the mother simply *considered* the option of abortion (and decided against it) does not seem to be "understandable" to me. I thought that anti-abortionists believed that life (and the responsibility for it) began at conception ... not during the discussion of options. Pro-choicers also believe that responsibility starts at conception: but it is the responsibility to support the mother's choice, whatever that choice is.

[SC] At least your zine was easier to read this time. Once again there was far too much garbage there to respond to comprehensively, so I will make only one point. I see you are a fan of Rush Limbaugh. I think it is revealing that he has become such a popular spokesman for the Right. His success on radio and TV, stories about him in major newsmagazines and the great respect he was shown at the Republican Convention attests to his status. My question is why? What qualifications does he have that certify him as a thoughtful and knowledgeable voice for the Right?

How about education? Harvard, Yale, Princeton, or maybe a masters or doctorate degree in something? Rush never finished college. He even flunked Speech 101 because he wouldn't outline his speeches.

Does he have significant work experience in government, business, the military or foreign service? Rush has only worked in radio and was a failure at that (fired from four radio jobs) until the advent of Shock Jock Beat Up Your Listeners radio pioneered by Howard Stern.

What does his personal life say about him? At 41, he's been divorced twice and has no kids. He grew up in a comfortable upper middle class family in conservative southern Missouri. Easy to see where his hostility toward women, the poor and alternative families comes from.

Maybe he deserves respect for some outstanding intellectual or personal achievement. It wasn't until he hit the big time that his first and only book was published. He is not a sports hero, astronaut, cop, teacher, or anything else. He's just a loudmouth comic with a knack for beating up people over the telephone. Quite a spokesman.

Oh yes, have I ever watched or listened to Rush? I have encountered him a few times. A couple weeks ago I was treated to a few minutes of his biting wit on TV. He was sharing with us a picture of Bill Clinton's daughter—the one with the braces—observing that he thought she was even uglier than Amy Carter.



ALISON DAWSON

[SC] Congratulations and thanks for an absolutely fabulous contribution. I really enjoyed it. Trouble is, I want more. Much more. More often. I know I'm greedy, but what can you expect? You can't just toss us a big juicy steak and then expect us to settle for a few Chicken McNuggets for the next six months. I'm teasing, of course, but it appears that you have plenty of potential material—and I want to hear about ALL of it. Oops, sorry, no pressure intended.

Were you hinting to **Kathryn Beth** that you and **James** might be coming over to visit?

CATHY GILLIGAN

[JG] Good quotation from Pamela Sargent. I heartily agree with her.

[SC] I will be taking Programming 1 and Data Processing Techniques in the spring so I expect to see you now and then at Truax. My current class is at the Downtown campus. Glad you liked the cover. I think you're kidding me about not getting the joke but, just in case, I was referring to your delightful driving adventures rather than the title of your zine. Excellent comment to **Pat Hario**.

Hi **Greg**! See if she'll sell you a whole column of space next time.

STEVE JOHNSON

[SC] Congratulations on the article and the TV spots. I'd like to see your video of the interview. Fine article. Your mother just made up the Robert Allen stories? It seemed like such a good idea to me, that I just assumed at first that she was reading these stories to you. Did she used to read SF?

PAT HARIO

[SC] Salt and lime really *do* improve the taste of straight tequila.

STEVE SWARTZ

[SC] **YCT Vijay**: I'm starting to hate that term "bonding." Almost all my past drinking buddies were men. And what, for lack of a better term, "bonding" we did that was fueled by alcohol seemed to be gender specific. I think it was mostly a phase. I don't have the motivation to use alcohol in that fashion to the degree I once did anymore. The cost in hangover pain and embarrassment is too high. What drinking I do these days is more event driven rather than a need to seek a closer relationship.

I think your approach to **Ross Pavlac** is the best one. Seeking to come to grips with underlying motivations of both his writing and our responses will be more effective and positive in the long run. I am debating whether to delete comments I made to Ross above because they will do little to improve things. On the other hand, I have wanted an excuse to vent a bit about Rush Limbaugh for some time.

Everyone who rushed to judgment last month on **Julie's Cube** complaint in issue #75 should be sure to read and re-read **Jeanne's** and your comments to Julie last month.

JIM BROOKS

[SC] This is the first time I've gotten a chance to comment to you. Welcome. You know, in a dress and wig your appearance is very, shall we say, striking. I liked your zine, particularly the way you've jumped right into the conversation.

BILL HUMPHRIES

[SC] Thanks for the pirate radio piece. I loved it. I should have figured you'd come up with some wild corn-fed radio shit. The baseball angle was great. I had to laugh too, when I read your comment to **Ross**. You gave it the old college try, but face it Bill, there is just too much crap to tackle point by point. And last month, there was even more.