

Welcome to *Union Street* (issue #43 and *Obsessive Press* #145), the zine with the transmogriying masthead (this month alerting you to a change in administration). 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. Graphics, this issue come from work created at Go Media, by Jeanne Gomoll. 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, 1993. August 1993 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #86. Members FWA; supporters of raising both consciousness and the Ban.

THE OE THING

[SC] Have you ever woken up the morning after a big night on the town with the suspicion that you did something really foolish the night before, but you can't quite remember what it was? I thought I put those sort of mornings behind me years ago, but I've been experiencing a very long flashback to those times these last couple weeks since I was named OE. I've been gradually coming around to the realization that, in a fit of "I'll do it!" volunteerism unusual for me, I actually chose in writing to run for OE. And the morning after, I woke up to discover that I'm "it". Yikes, what was I drinking?

I'm actually looking forward to taking a turn at OE. It would be wrong to conclude, however, that I've been waiting for a chance to run. I'm here only because we are losing Tracy. She has been a fabulous and popular OE and her leadership will be sorely missed. I can only hope that I will be half as warmly regarded at my departure as she is now.

Tracy suggested that I take this opportunity to spell out my policies and positions before I start stumbling through the real work next month.

The most pressing issue is mailing accounts. I encourage all out of town/state/country members to acquire a local mailing agent. As OE I will not assume mailing agent responsibilities. I will not copy zines, I can not accept electronically transmitted zines (fax or modem), I will not call people to remind them of deadlines. You may still elect to send zines and postage money directly to me and I will send back your apa as Tracy has done. But I will not provide any service beyond that. If meeting deadlines is not a problem for you and you wish to work directly with me, that's OK. If you want any special care beyond that, you must find an agent (see below for Grace policy.)

I will set the following two deadline dates to carry us to the end of this year:

Saturday, November 20 and Saturday, December 18.

I expect to set deadlines for all of 1994 in the October issue.

As far as the deadline itself, I will continue to specify that the final deadline is midnight Saturday on the deadline date for all members. As long as I am working the night shift, I plan to write up the business information and collate Sunday (sometimes early in the morning) so that I am ready to distribute Sunday night or Monday. My personal schedule is that I usually sleep during the day and can be reached in person in the evenings between 5 and 10:30 PM. Plan on talking to our machine on Saturday before 5 PM.

So what about extending grace?

THE GRACE THING

[SC] Grace is referred to more or less in Rule #5. All three previous OEs have struggled with grace trying to decide what "extenuating circumstances" constitute a "satisfactory explanation" for granting a member an extension of their minac requirement. Although the issue has been consistently controversial, the last time Tracy asked for help in trying to nail down a hard rule proposal on grace, the membership (myself included) voted it down and expressed confidence in her "judgment" to decide who deserved it and who didn't. Most members would agree, I think, that our current system of awarding grace is unfair. Yet, the response was clear that we would rather have the OE decide their own approach to grace than resort to legislation. As the new OE, I like the idea that I can decide how grace will be handled on my watch without tying the hands of my successor with new rules.

My policy on grace is very simple. I will offer grace under only three circumstances. First, if you or a close family member (parent, partner, child) or friend is hospitalized during the month, or dies, I will extend grace if you feel you need it. Second, if you suffer some sort of natural disaster like a fire, flood, tornado, etc. I will most likely grant grace. Third, I will consider grace for some other similarly rare, unexpected and catastrophic reason I haven't yet thought of, otherwise I will not. Illness not requiring admission to the hospital, forgetting or misreading the deadline, busy work or personal schedule, postal delays, etc., etc. are unacceptable reasons.

Why so tough? I wish to turn the responsibility for deciding who stays and who leaves the apa back to the individual members. It is primarily your job to stay in the apa. Minac is very modest. One page of material (it doesn't even have to be *original* material) every other month should be easy for anyone who



considers *Turbo* a priority. If getting dropped is something you seriously worry about, take this suggestion. Write up a generic one page minac, make 30 copies and leave it in the care of someone you trust to deliver it for you on short notice. If you live out of town, you might need to find a mailing agent who can come to your rescue. Plan ahead, mail early, mail often.

THE VISION THING

[SC] In spite of all the tough talk above, I want to say briefly that I see this job as providing a service to the members rather than ruling over subordinates. My priorities are to provide timely service, accurate reporting of information and objective enforcement of the rules. I will weigh in with decisions and opinions that I hope will serve the best interests of the whole apa or at least most of the members as near as I can determine. I figure I will be doing a good job if conversation moves away from the mechanics of the apa and toward the issues you bring here to discuss.

ON ANOTHER ISSUE

[SC] This is a reminder that the deadline for submitting changes, corrections and additions to the SF³ Directory is September 1. All members and waitlisters of *Turbo* are eligible to be listed and receive a copy of the finished Directory to help you keep in touch with the local fan community and each other. If you have not received/returned an address correction card contact me soon.

TRACY SHANNON

[JG] Good job, Tracy. Thank you for all your work over the last year. And thanks for making this last bit of bureaucracy — the election of a new OE — easier on all of us! Congratulations, Scott.

TEMPORARILY TEXAN

[JG] As some of you know, I've been in Texas for the last month, doing some design work for my sister **Julie Gomoll**, at Go Media. The work is fascinating. My temporary co-workers (Julie, Rachel Matthews, Gwen Manney, **Bill Bodden**) are great. The pay (especially considering the fact that I continue to draw a paycheck from my Wisconsin DNR job, since I am technically on "vacation") made Julie's offer much too tempting to turn down. (I'll be able to buy a Quadra 800 Macintosh system when I return home.) But the weather... The weather is bad. I swear the TV meteorologists down here work only one day each summer. They tape their forecasts once in June, and go on vacation till hurricane season begins. "Highs near 100, low of 79°. Clear skies. No rain." That's what they say every single day. Well except for the one radio guy who tries to inject a little dramatic uncertainty into his forecasts: "We've got a 7.25% chance of rain today, folks! Hey, keep your fingers crossed!"

Not being able to use the thrilling "wind chill chart," Texan meteorologists like to point to their "heat index" chart, which describes temperature along one axis and humidity along the other. It turns out, according to this chart, that a 100° day with no humidity is located in the merely "warm" zone. The worst you can get is "very hot." I think mostly unemployed Texan meteorologists should use some of their spare time to peruse *Roget's Thesaurus*. Off-

hand, I think they might be able to use words like "scorching," "blistering," and "unendurable," on their charts.

But it's not like I'm actually experiencing a whole lot of 100° weather, since I'm working during the day in Go Media air conditioned splendor. But living here in the summer is a lot like living in Wisconsin in the depths of an icy winter: you tend to think carefully about going outdoors, about how much time you're going to be outside, and about the quickest route from one air-conditioned space to the next. Texans don't worry about losing their lips to an icy metal surface. No, they just worry about losing their backsides to the sizzling leather of their car seats.

In spite of long hours at Go Media, I've managed to spend a fair amount of time visiting with folks, trying out local restaurants, and seeing a few sights. Swimming at Barton's Springs Pool was a fine experience: 64° water and so big that I did my usual half mile in only *two laps*! It was the easiest and most delightful half mile I have ever swum. (swam?) I hope to go back at least one or two more times before I leave. Besides exploring great Austin restaurants with Julie, Rachel, Gwen, her partner, Melissa, Bill, visiting **Tracy Shannon**, visiting/working **Ellen Franklin**, and for a very short weekend, the visiting **Scott Custis**, I also contacted Sherri Coldsmith and had dinner with she and her husband, Mike Christi, one evening. Sherri is an SF author, and was one of the first Tiptree judges, and I've known her for a long time through fanzines, but I've never actually met her. She had a letter to the editor in one of Austin's daily newspapers, and I send a postcard to her in Hutto, Texas, wondering if that town was close to Austin, and if so, did she think we might get together before I left? It turns out that Hutto is a mere hour north of Austin. So Sherri, Mike and I got together for dinner and ended up talking late into the night. What great people! They both read extensively, love to talk in depth about books, are (very) left-leaning in their politics, know a lot of SF people to gossip about, and remind me a lot of some of my best friends. I would love to hang out with them and will very much miss the opportunity when I go back to Madison. In the meantime, I'm going to try to arrange to get them together with Julie, who Sherri remembers fondly from one meeting at Armadillocon years ago.

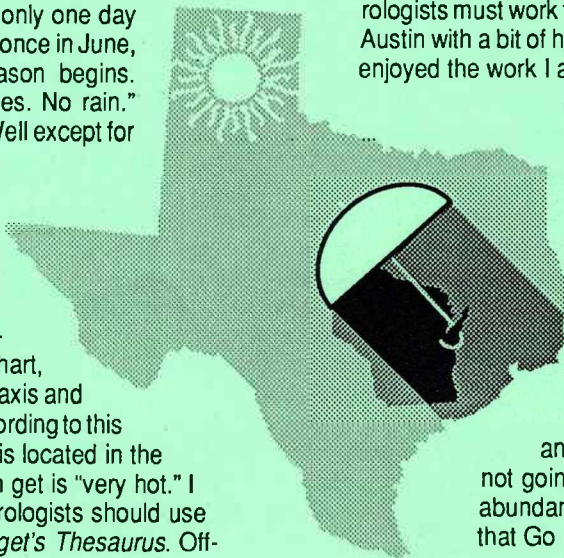
But in spite of wonderful people, exciting work, and great food, I am feeling a bit homesick.

A month is a long time to be away. I've missed Scott a lot, and we've probably run up a huge telephone bill keeping in touch.

I'll be glad to get back to Wisconsin, where TV meteorologists must work for a living. However, I will also leave Austin with a bit of hesitation, because of how much I've enjoyed the work I am doing here. Julie put me to work

on one huge project, doing graphics for an enormous publication for the Tucson-based company, Envirotest. I expect that by the time I leave I will have created about 75-100 charts and illustrations. But I won't be around to make final corrections, and this makes me very uneasy. I've got this almost neurotic obsession with *finishing* the projects I work on, and unless I commit myself to another couple weeks down here, that's

not going to be possible. Julie has made it abundantly clear that I am welcome to stay; that Go Media would gladly extend my con-





tract. But that's not possible, so I am having to distance myself a bit from my creations...

The best thing about this trip has been getting to know Julie again, both of us working professionally together. I've always admired her for her professional accomplishments, but it's one thing when you simply tell one another about events over the phone, and another thing altogether when you actually witness events happening. I've often criticized my parents for doing a thing that parents often do: i.e., "freezing" their memories and images of their kids at the time they leave home. And of course, we do the same thing to our parents, too, and sometimes forget that their ideas and goals evolve after they're through taking care of us. But I hadn't considered the fact that we *all* do it to *everyone* we know, when our friends and loved ones move away from us. To some extent I've simply been attaching new information to the out-of-date image I have of Julie when she left Madison 10 years ago. I am very glad now to have spent this time with her now, updating that image, seeing her in her very amazing and powerful role as jet-setting consultant and company president. I've observed some things about the way she operates that astound me, and others that are curiously familiar. ("Ah, that's the way it looks like from the outside when I'm brusque with people who interrupt me in the middle of work!") And pleased to find that the people she and I still like each other a lot. It's a nice bonus to find out that we work together well, too.

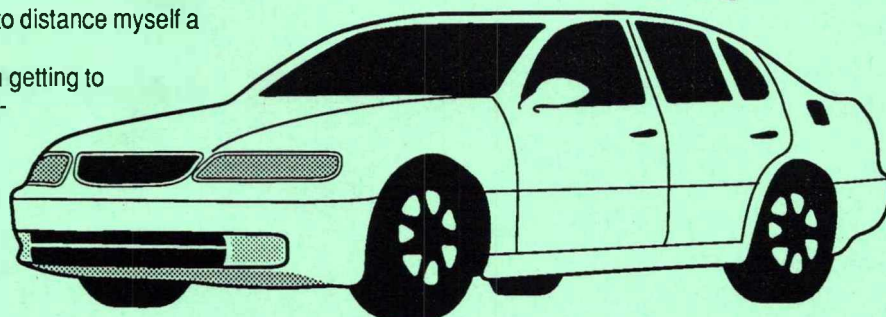
Early in my stay, a waiter at a restaurant asked where I was from and if I was vacationing in Texas. Not quite, I said, and explained that I was using vacation time from my graphic art job in Wisconsin to work as a graphic artist here in Texas. She grinned, and said sarcastically, "That's it! For my next vacation, I'll bus tables at another restaurant! What an idea!"

BILL HUMPHRIES

[SC] *Against a Dark Background* was excellent. Not quite as awesome as *Use of Weapons* and *Consider Phlebas*, but still very good. It's the first Banks' novel I've recommended to Jeanne. I was deeply impressed with William Grieder's *Who Will Tell the People*. His view of how government works and why people feel so disaffected by politics is most interesting.

I hope that your public discomfort with us dissipates quickly. I look forward to seeing you at B'nB and such as much as ever. I wish Julie would come around more often, too.

[JG] No, there haven't been any repercussions from speaking up at the Rodney Scheel House hearings. Of course, the folks that spoke against it — in both the Planning Commission hearing and the City Council hearing — only dashed in and out of the room to make their statements. They never hung around to hear what anyone else had to say. I wondered at the time if they were afraid to sit down in a room where there may have been — gasp! — HIV positive folks breathing the same air, and they didn't want to risk becoming infected. Maybe they simply didn't want to risk having to think and becoming infected with radical ideas.... In any case, none of them know what I look like unless they happened to dash home immediately after the Planning Commission hearing and caught me on the late night news.



KIM AND KATHI NASH

[SC] Kathi, your ranting was in fine form this month. Very funny. For most of my life, when I told my relatives or coworkers that I had no intention of having kids, they'd smile and nod as if to say, "Sure, that's what they all say 'till they have one." After I turned about 35 however, they started to look at me a little strangely as it became clear that I really wasn't going to have any.

Kim, congratulations on the new job. I hope it's smooth sailing from here on out (which will be about another 20 years or so, right?) Unless you hit the Lottery Jackpot, of course.

I liked the contribution from Kelly you franked through. Clever how he worked Z104 into a piece about the family.

[JG] For someone who hates the idea of having kids, you're pretty good at it. I share your aversion to having kids, but think that I probably would be a very bad parent. I lose my patience with most kids faster than almost anyone I know, even with the pheromone-exuding infants. I wonder if this is a trait linked with negative cat affection?

JEANNE BOWMAN

[SC] Hi! Welcome back. An amazing struggle your waging against the system for Jesse. Sorry it's not over yet. Waging war against a bureaucracy like a school district is pretty intimidating for most of us to imagine. So it's great to read about someone who stood up to it and won.

We will be at Worldcon. But only for a few days so working at the con is not going to be part of our plans. However, helping you "decompress" would be great fun. See you there.

[JG] Welcome Jeanne! Great story about your amazonian effort to get Jesse placed in the right school. Congratulations! I hope he's comfortably situated at New Horizon, and the red tape is all rolled up and put away for a while.

JIM NICHOLS

[SC] You spent a lot of time talking about the current state of SF³. The group seems to be "Balkanized" and "falling apart." In your comment to Steve Swartz you talked about our needing a new activity headed by a charismatic leader who could get everyone excited about working together again.

Certainly the group is undergoing change. I have written about how I see this change in past issues. Like Jeanne, I still see a lot of energy in the group and I am not upset that much of it is going into new and unconnected projects involving smaller subgroups of the larger SF³. I see it all as a reaction to years of working together in the large common group projects of WisCon and Janus/Aurora. These projects were successful, sometimes brilliant, long-lasting and involved almost everyone. People also,



gradually, drove each other crazy. Some of the group's nastiest fights and splits occurred around these activities. That's the risk of having everyone deeply committed to a few group projects. In general, I think people here in town are getting along together better in the last few years than they did when I first got involved back in the mid 1980s.

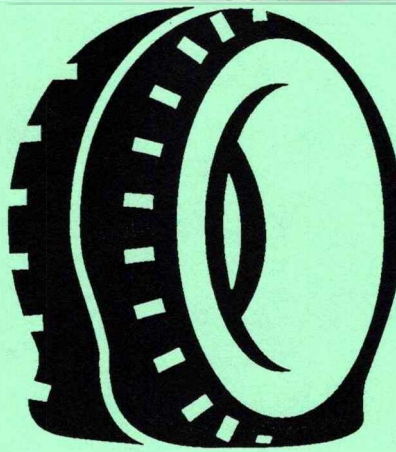
There has never been a lack of leaders in the group. I can name half a dozen strong leaders in town who all currently write for *Turbo*. Leadership is not the problem. If a group of people get together to do a project, a leader will eventually emerge. The problem is getting enough new people involved who want to work together, but don't know each other well enough to know better.

Another fine zine Jim.

[JG] I don't think it's *youthful* energy that the Madison SF group has lost. As for me, I certainly retain the energy I used to pour into SF group activities. In fact, some days, it feels like I have *more*. My theory is that all of us command a certain amount of obsessive energy, but that we (must) choose what people and what activities in which to invest it. This theory goes back to my very first apazine — *Obsessions* — in *A Women's Apa* and is the word I chose for my press name. I wrote then, that I enjoyed my life to the degree that there were projects and people in it that compelled me to obsessiveness: long, late hours laying out *Janus*; inconvenient, potentially dangerous political actions; voluminous letter-writing in order to stay in touch with good friends far away; impossible deadlines accepted and made; giving up sleep in order to read a book; taking risks, falling in love. It seems to me that in the early days of the Madison SF group, we were very lucky in that a number of people — a critical mass of fans — chose to invest a rather enormous part of their lives into the fanzine, the convention and one another. We often joked about doing everything but living with one another.

But, for one reason or another, all of the original members began to make commitments and spend their obsessive energies in their careers, their lovers, their studies ... in their other lives. It turned out to have been a fortuitous accident that such a large group of people came together when they did, ready — in a sense — to begin new lives. Don't misunderstand me, I don't think that the choices many of us made to withdraw from the SF group were bad ones, or even that they were tragic reactions to unfortunate situations within the group. I think that for most of us, the changes we made were healthy ones: we "left" because we wanted to find a way to make a living doing what we learned to love doing in the SF group or because there was something more exciting to learn or a person we loved who became more important to us than the zine or the convention or even friendships within the group.

In any group, you will find people who throw themselves, body and soul into a project, and you will find people who help out once in a while, who are part of the community, but who do not contribute enough energy to maintain the group by themselves. They, of course, are throwing themselves, body and soul, into some other personal pursuit or relationship or job somewhere else, and think of this group as a place to relax or as a minor element in their lives. Our group needs both kinds. We need the obsessives to spark the energies of others and to get things done. We need more laid-back members to weave the friendships that make us a community.



Right now it seems like we have very few members, who are obsessively involved in and leading any of the group's central activities. I suspect that the most energetic, devoted members are actually involved in the "satellite" groups, the MadMediaCon, the quilt project, the Tip-tree project, and the apa. I wonder, sometimes, if the vacuum of energy in the group (characterized by the small number of people interested in working on the WisCon committee, the *Cube* situation, or any activities labeled as group-sponsored) actually scares some people, and they've decided that if they're going to do

a fanzine, or a convention, that it's better if they do it on the outskirts of the SF³, because they might get sucked in and sucked dry within the group.

On another subject Scott's comments were not vengeful, I don't think, simply exasperated. The situation he was (finally) commenting upon had gone on in the apa for several years. I was very grateful to get a public affirmation of support from him, and I thanked him for having written what he did.

KATHRYN BETH WILLIG

[SC] Sounds like you've been through a hell of a time, Kathryn. You left us sort of hanging last month since you were still in the hospital at the end of your zine. We are all looking forward to news of your recovery and return home.

I am thinking very seriously about buying a Powerbook in the next month or so. I will have to choose between a 145, 160 or a 165c. Do you have any advice for me about the 145? I will mostly be doing word processing.

[JG] I hope you're feeling better these days, Kathryn.

KIM WINZ

[JG] I'm sorry for whatever part I had in causing you to retreat "out of the line of fire" here in the apa. I've missed your contributions a lot.

I hope you get to take advantage of the New York City condo. I know that in your situation, Scott and I would immediately plan a weekend trip or two out there to see some Broadway plays. What a great opportunity!

I agree that the insurance industry is a huge rip-off. With all the discussion this past year about national insurance, I've been thinking a lot about it. I just don't believe that insurance should be a profit-making industry. It seems to me that insurance is basically an extension of neighborliness. We all hope that nothing terrible happens to ourselves or the people we love, and that when something bad happens to someone, that we all chip in and help out, knowing that tomorrow it might be us who needs help. Iowans send food down to Florida after a hurricane, and Floridians send food up to Iowa during the flood. Insurance is the institutionalization of that impulse in a world in which we all aren't neighbors and don't all trust one another. The fact that there is a very greedy middleman inserted into that process is what makes insurance not affordable to so many people, and the insurers say that if they can't afford to pay, that means they don't deserve the coverage. Bullshit. It would be as if I wanted to give a charitable donation to Women's Transit Authority (WTA), but the only way possible was to give it to a middleman who subtracted a fee and

then passed it on to WTA, and then only if WTA were keeping up with their fee payments to the middleman. It's almost an extortion racket.

No, I didn't realize who Jory was till very late in *Sideshow* either. She didn't remind me at all of the character from *Grass*, although it's been pretty clear that Tepper has been brewing an extensive, cohesive universe that forms the background for almost all her novels. That's been fascinating.

[SC] Welcome back. I've missed you. I would also like to apologize if I caused you to back out for awhile due to one of my recent shooting sprees.

I don't think grace should be related to how frequent or regular a contributor you are. I think grace should be related to how long the waitlist is. If there is a large group of anxious writers waiting for a chance to participate, then grace should be rare. If there is no one on the waitlist, or even a few vacant membership slots, then grace should be generous. Since I have been associated with *Turbo*, we have usually had people standing in line waiting to get in. That is why I feel a tough grace policy makes sense. If that state of affairs changes, I will probably lighten up.

Sorry about your grandfather. Sorry also about your car. I've wrecked plenty of cars, but never a brand new car. That must be really aggravating.

How's IBM going? Sounds to us like they are laying off almost everybody. I know you've written before that you are in a pretty safe division, but every time I pick up the newspaper business section IBM is kicking more people out the door.

LAURA SPIESS

[SC] Lake Iowa? Ha, you wish. About the only way the Badgers would ever have of beating Iowa in Big Ten Football is if the state became a lake. And what a beautiful lake it would be, too.

"The apa is not always the best place to do conflict resolution." That should be stamped in bold letters somewhere on every issue. Amen.

There was much wisdom in the rest of your comment to Steve Swartz, although the trouble with talking about "X" is that many innocent people are going to wonder if you're talking about them (you weren't talking about me/us were you?) Sometimes writing things out helps to clarify issues of contention and the rest of the apa can function as witness to the discussion. But usually it doesn't work too well when the issue is mostly personality conflict.

[JG] I hope you enjoy doing *Cube*. I worried a bit after reading your comments on your feelings about the Tiptree cookbooks that you feel that you were excluded from the process, and I wondered if that meant that you felt I was a bad guy in that situation. (If so, you do know, don't you, that this is the very first time I have heard you mention a word of this feeling?) So I make this offer, assuming that you may not respond, but here goes anyway. I offer you the

same deal that I made to Steve Swartz. I told him that if he got all the artwork collected and the text of *Cube* entirely prepared — proofread, spell-checked, etc. — that I would lay it out. If the text is all in one word processing file on a disk, I usually took no more than an hour or two to lay it out, even when *Cube* got very long. Well, let me know.

ELLEN FRANKLIN

[SC] Welcome. I hope *Turbo* serves to bring you closer to more people in the local fan community. Perhaps by getting to know about you here, people won't have to spend so much time with introductions in person and you can get right down to comfortable banter. I think we're lucky to have you with us and I hope you can find the time to stay awhile.

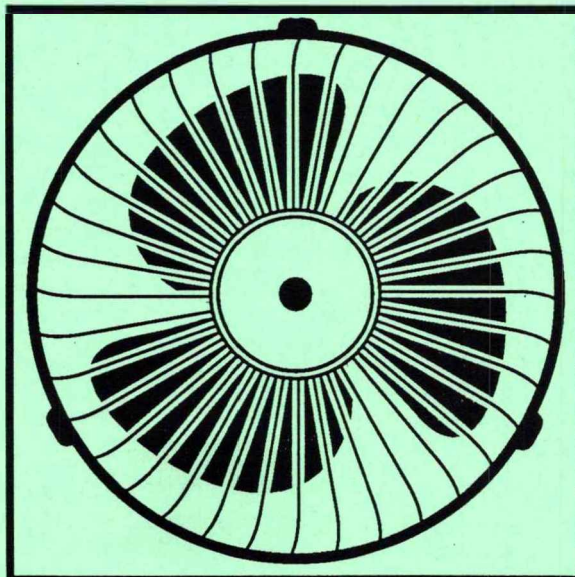
That was quite an introductory zine. You shared a lot of information about yourself that was both impressive and a little intimidating. The schedule you keep, the responsibilities you juggle and the interests you indulge leave me a bit tired just reading about it. Can you find the time (or patience) for those of us (specifically me) who operate more in the slow lane? I like the attitude you have about yourself. In another apa I belong to, most of the contributors grouse and complain about doing introductory zines. They consider it a boring hassle. After reading yours, I think it's a matter of how one sees oneself. If you're bored and dissatisfied with your life, you will hate introducing yourself by writing about it. If you are proud and excited about what you're doing, it's easy and fun to share it. I want to read more from you, learn from you and, maybe, snag your attention once in awhile.

[JG] Welcome! Very nice introductory issue. It seems to me that people in the group are going to be surprised to find that they have a lot to talk about with you — and also, that you will be surprised in the same way. There are a lot of very interesting people in this group who don't reveal themselves easily.

I don't have a copy of the last *Union Street* here to check, but I am reasonably sure that when I talked about what I didn't like about makeup, I was very careful to talk about makeup worn by women every day, the kind of makeup that melts into the woman's identity, until she's frightened to let anyone see her without it because she thinks that she is ugly without cosmetic assistance. As you and several others have talked about here in

the apa, lots of women wear makeup occasionally, for special effects, for fun, for drama. And I don't think that cosmetics worn with those motives is anywhere near as personally harmful to the wearers as the everyday sort. However, I still wonder why makeup is so gender-connected, and I tend to avoid it — even for special occasions — as one more "typical female" activity that confirms my role to people who need gender role reassurance.

Type in text is a very different thing than type in headlines. You want to draw the eye to heads, you want to speed the eye along in blocks of text. That's what I meant when I said that I





think that text should be set with boring type. Probably I shouldn't have used the word "boring." Text type should be chosen in such a way that the feeling of the letter shapes contribute to the overall aesthetic of the whole, yes. And people who choose type well are skilled artists. I only aspire to this skill at this point. Most people aren't even aware of the subtle choices that are made when a book is designed and type, spacing and leading is orchestrated with book's genre, message, thematic content, readership, paper weight, color, white space, and graphics. And the reason most people aren't aware of this artform is that when it is well done, the book (or the brochure, or whatever) is read and the effect of the text type choice is a largely *unconscious* one. When the reader is constantly distracted from the meaning of the words by the shape of the letters, (unless the reader is themselves a designer who has trained themselves to pay attention to letter shapes) the text design has failed.

KAREN BABICH

[JG] I noticed your mention of Dan Simmons' novel, *Carrión Comfort*. I wondered if you had read another book by Simmons, *Summer of Night (Nights?)*. There is a character in both books who you get to like a lot and in fact you think is one of the main characters, but who unexpectedly dies in the middle of the book. The character in *Summer* is a kid. But the character in *Carrión Comfort* felt as if it was that kid, not dead at all, but who nonetheless gets killed by Simmons at about the same stage as the other novel.

I love it!: a button that says, "Jesus is Coming, look busy." How about, "If you kids don't stop arguing, Jesus is going to come back and really tan your bottoms!"

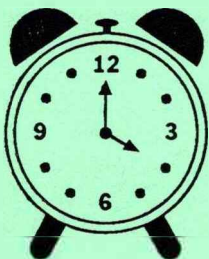
VIJAY BOWEN

[SC] I enjoyed all the information you brought last month about apas. Although we haven't printed addresses on the business page, I think it is a good idea and hope to start doing that sometime (with everyone's permission, of course.) In the meantime, there is the SF³ Directory in which I try to list everyone in *Turbo* including foreign members. Unfortunately it only comes out once a year and a month-to-month listing would be more current and handier.

Thank you for the support or, at least indifference, to the apa copying issue.

I was also interested in your idea of sending extra zines to waitlisters. I may initiate more discussion of this plan. I like it better than raising the copycount another five or ten because, as I mentioned earlier, I think a waitlist is a healthy thing. Raising the copycount will only inspire me to look for more people to add to the pipeline.

[JG] I agree with you. I've never been at all concerned about privacy issues in the apa. When I belonged to other apas and I used to write more essay-like material, I used to send out extra copies of my zines to other friends too. The only reason it never occurred to me to distribute copies of *Union Street* was that Scott and I have always focused on mailing comments, almost exclusively.



BILL BODDEN

[SC] Great story about the Palmetto Bug and your comment to *Nevenah*. Very nice illos. by "Chloe." That's a very pretty name actually. I like it better than some other old fashioned names like Mabel or Violet.

YCT me: thanks for the support.

I also liked your moving adventure. I drove to Austin alone back in 1988. I estimated on a map how far I thought I could travel each day and made motel reservations before I even left Madison. That way, no matter how long it actually took me to get there, I always had a room waiting for me. Once, in Oklahoma City, I got in an hour early and spent the extra time enjoying a leisurely meal and a few beers. Maybe you'll consider doing a road trip back up here sometime in your new car. Showing off a new car to your friends is one of the main benefits of spending all that money. Plus, you could probably work in a stop at Graceland.

[JG] I'm having a bit of a problem reading your zine tonight, Bill, especially the last page, for some reason. If I remember, maybe tomorrow at work, I will have asked you for another copy of your zine. Scott, the sweetie, xeroxed a copy of the apa for me to read while I am in Texas, and your zine was the only one in the apa that didn't xerox well.

You aren't seriously comparing male circumcision to female genital mutilation are you? In Africa, genital mutilation means the cutting off of the *entire* clitoris, minimum. It also often means the cutting off of all labial tissues and the sewing up of the vaginal opening, which is then cut open every time her husband wishes to engage in sex. Certainly there is an argument to be made about whether there are any health advantages connected to circumcisions, but that hardly compares to the terrible ongoing risk and loss for women who have this operation performed upon them.

I'll be interested in hearing from you what you thought of *Sideshow*.

PAT HARIO

[SC] Your fear/strength discussion was interesting and successful. A shrewd choice of a comment hook. I especially liked the summary you provided last month. Well done.

YCT me. I did not mean to give the impression that I agreed with the idea that anything not specifically forbidden in the rules was OK. On the contrary, I agree with you. It was as a response to that opinion expressed to me by someone else that prompted me to embark on an open discussion about apa copying. Thanks for the compliment on my explanation although I notice it fell just short of support. That's OK. I wanted to dispel misconceptions and, hopefully, show people how this could be a beneficial thing.

YCT Laura. Be careful, Pat. You came awfully close to complementing her an a rather nasty pun.

TRACY SHANNON

[SC] Great "new" zine. Are you going to explain the title for those of us too lazy to look it up?

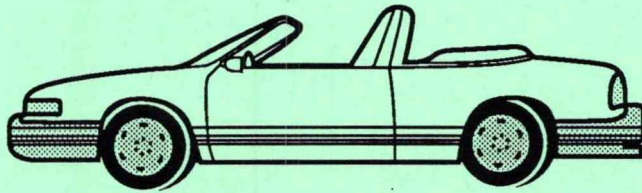
Good piece on 92 FM. I also play a bit of radio hopscotch even though I like the new 92. As Isthmus pointed out, the combination of short play rotation for their popular songs combined with a lack of commercials (because they are too new) means you hear a lot of the same songs over and over through the day.

There was a note of sadness in much of your writing last month ("The Doomed Dept.", "Envy in Green..."). Quite understandable, but still unsettling to those of us on the sidelines. I look forward to the day you're once again cutting loose at us with more of your trademark deadpan zingers.

[JG] Among all the duplicated first names you found in *Turboapa*, you forgot about the two Jeanne's.

I loved your (other) remark to **Jim Brooks** about the Turboapan he should dress up as at the next Halloween costume party.

Scott and I have tickets with **Ellen Franklin** and Jim Hudson to see the Madison Civic Center performance of *Sunday*



in the Park with George. I know it's a risk, and a poor company could completely ruin it, but I'm ever hopeful. I love that play. If you go, we should all get together afterward.

JAE ADAMS

[SC] Interesting observations in your Seven At One Blow piece. In order to engage most effectively in the sort of written conversation between A and B and ultimately CDEF..., I think you have to contribute almost monthly. **Pat H.** is still getting commentary on her "fear/strength" discussion, but many of the best comments were made in the first issue after she brought it up. Same with the "ghost" contributors issue. The hottest discussion was in #84 and a little in #85. By #86, I predict it will mostly trickle out. It's rare for a particular discussion to last more than two or three issues unless there is a controversial rule proposal.

This is the sort of interaction Jeanne and I most enjoy in the apa and the reason we contribute every month. We hate to miss a month because we don't want to catch up on two issues of the apa and because we always feel that we wind up getting left out of the conversation for an issue or two. I suppose if I lived out of town I would tend to jump into discussion a bit more carefully. It helps to be able to go down to the Bn'B on Wednesday and talk controversial stuff over face to face. I think the level of face-to-face contact we have affects how we comment to each other in writing.

I decided not to take seriously your idea that we should increase copycount for the purpose of ultimately spinning off apas cell-mitosis style. As you pointed out, starting a new apa is mostly a matter of finding an OE and a few writers. That can happen anytime. Making that a goal or function of *Turbo* would not really be in our own interest.

[JG] Interesting comments on how people's voices come through in their writing. Many people have told me that they hear my voice very clearly in my writing. I suspect that it must be easier to hear the voice of someone you already know well when you read their work, than it is to get to know someone through their writing (as you and I are doing in spite of the fact that we live in the same town), and then to try to translate that familiarity to face-to-face understanding. For me, reading your writing has clarified your style of in-person conversation, which I sometimes found disconcerting. (I'm referring here to the stuff I wrote sometime ago about concluding statements — or the lack thereof — in your writing.)

All those proposals to make English the official US language are just plain silly, not like making the Mac interface the official US OS. Who's a fanatic?

CATHY GILLIGAN

[SC] Dick can name anyone he wants Bozo of the Week by virtue of the First Amendment. But he couldn't accuse someone of defrauding the public without some proof however.

Can we look forward to wedding details soon? September is getting close.

Do you have any information on a new season of Capt. Smiley adventures this fall?

MICHAEL SHANNON

[SC] You've been doing some fun stuff. I would also have opted for saving my pants in the same circumstances.

You didn't say what type of bikes you were riding. Harley's perhaps? I always thought Harley riders were kind of uppity about folks who ride Japanese bikes. Thanks for the cycle information. Maybe next year. One of my top fall priorities is brewing some beer (finally).

BILL DYER

[SC] Welcome back.

You really need to get a handle on this mailing thing, Bill. You advised folks to pay attention to **Karen's** mailing advice, but your zine was still late. Good comment to Karen anyway. Now that you are a member again (and *can* vote) can I still count on your support for our shadow contributors?

HOPE KIEFER

[JG] What did you think of the results of Mike Glycer's fannish survey of beverage preferences? Diet Coke came in first (and I didn't even vote!); Classic Coke snagged second place, and Diet Pepsi dragged in a distant third.

— Scott & Jeanne

