



Welcome to Union Street #44 (Obsessive Press [JG] #146 and Peerless Press [SC] #45), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead. (We Midwesterners don't generally go in for the most flashy new age stuff). 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—just a IIx or an SE at various points in its lifetime (and that will change soon!)—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, 1993. September 1993 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #87. Members FWA.

News

[SC] In the way of general news, it's been a busy month for us. It's a relief that the end of September is coming so we can look forward to a somewhat quieter, saner fall. Jeanne returned from her month in Texas on August 14th. Her time spent there was profitable in more ways than one. But it was still a long time away from home, working long hours in a very hot and dry part of the country. I was tremendously relieved to have her back.

Less than a week later on Friday August 20, Jeanne left town again. This time with Steve Swartz bound for Reinconation in Minneapolis. Many other Madisonians attended as well. Perhaps a few con reports will surface this month as the con happened on apa deadline weekend. I did not go because I was scheduled to work on Friday night and I couldn't get off. This was actually a good thing as Elk Krisor and I spent Saturday finishing packing for a camping trip to Rock Island State Park in Door County. Elk and I and cocker spaniel Rosy left early Sunday and the plan was to meet Steve and Jeanne at the car ferry at the tip of Door Co. for the 2:15 pm ferry. It was necessary to take an early afternoon ferry because we had to drive across Washington Island in time to unload our stuff onto the last foot ferry to Rock Island at 4:00. Jeanne and Steve had to leave Minneapolis very early in the morning in order to drive across Wisconsin in time to make this ferry. Elk and I arrived about an hour early and sat down to wait patiently. The car ferry was loaded and the clock was ticking down the last few minutes to 2:15 as Jeanne and Steve roared in, gas gauge on empty, hollering at us to hold that ferry. Fortunately the rest of the trip was blessedly relaxed. The weather was beautiful, the water was as warm as I've ever seen it, and the food and beer never tasted better.

We returned to Madison on Thursday afternoon, Aug. 26. One week later on Thursday morning, September 2, we left for Worldcon in San Francisco. We spent Thursday visiting with Jeanne's late brother Eric's partner Danny Field and checked into our hotel Friday morning. I generally enjoyed myself at the con. Any reason to visit San Francisco is a good reason in my opinion. The facilities at the Moscone Center were well organized and laid out. The dealer's room, art show, exhibits and fan lounge were all in one large area. The programming rooms were close by and it was easy to find your way around. But the author panels often were in rooms that were too small. And despite a fine effort by **Andy Hooper**, the fan lounge did not seem as heavily utilized as I would have expected considering their location and set-up.

The high points of the convention for me included seeing people I wish I could see more often. Too numerous to list them all. **Hope** and **Karl**, **Bill Badden**, **Andy** and **Carrie**, **Nigel Rowe**, **Terry Garey**, **Stu Shiffman**, **Spike**, **Bill Hoffman** and many others. The food was fabulous. I spent a delightful couple hours visiting the San Francisco Brewing Co. brewpub. Despite a 45 minute delay, the Hugos were fun. They were well run, moved along quickly, and featured a few surprise winners (**Andy Porter** and **Mimosa**).

We got back home late Monday night September 6. On Thursday, we went out to Milwaukee to pick up Jeanne's new computer system. The next day my niece Daphne and her fiancé came up for a visit. They left early Sunday. Sunday afternoon, Jeanne's parents came out for a visit to celebrate her birthday (did I forget to mention it was Jeanne's birthday on the 10th?) Of course as I write this, we are looking at another busy weekend (the Badger/Cyclone football game on Saturday, apa collation and *Henry IV* at American Players Theater on Sunday) and more relatives from Iowa in town to visit on the following weekend. In between we have to find time to deal with normal life like going to work and cleaning the house. We still have a few items from the camping trip lying around waiting to be put away.

It's been crazy. Next month, I swear, a normal life....

[JG] Isn't this normal?

I had hoped that the *Union Street* colophon would need to be re-written this month to reflect the brand new hardware on which this apazine would be produced. (See Scott's comment above about the profitability of my Austin trip.) My brother Dan works at Milwaukee's North Shore Computer store and got me a great deal on a new, high-end Mac system, which Scott and I transported to Madison more than a week ago. Unfortunately, we're still missing a crucial interface gadget which will allow the CPU and monitor to talk to one another. (Apparently Apple changed the pin arrangement on the monitor plug of their Quadra 840avs a couple weeks ago, and although the Supermac monitor engineers immediately went to work on fixing the cords, I'm stuck in the middle



with a temporarily non-working system on my desk.) It should be screaming. Instead, it's comatose. I've been feeling the urge to kick things for no reason.

Hope Kiefer and Karl Hailman

[JG] It was fun seeing you, Karl and Forrest, and really wonderful that we could spend a good chunk of time together. Miss Pearl's was fun!

[SC] Good zines this month from both of you. It was fun to see you in San Francisco. We both look forward to getting you folks back to Madison to stay sooner or later.

Hope, good comment to Kathi Nash. Sorting out our feelings about having children was one of the first issues Jeanne and I discussed. Coming to an agreement on that was one of the vital issues we had to settle in order to move our relationship forward.

YCT me on joint vs. waitlisters. I'm not sure I know which questions you are referring to. The "ghost" contributor issue is all but moot. Andy is the last remaining "ghost" and he will doubtless be rejoining us very soon as a full member. After that, I probably won't offer to copy the apa again for anyone. I haven't changed my basic stance on this issue, but I do appreciate the argument that it violates an individual's ability to control their own output. I would rather go in the direction of urging people to send their zines to waitlisters on their own.

I think it is more interesting now to talk about joint accounts compared to foreign accounts. With a joint account, it is possible to have a member sit out of the apa for long periods without writing, but someone must still produce a zine for that joint account to continue every other month. But foreign contributors can go for three months and only produce minac and then go three more months. I believe that a big reason the apa is consistently thin these days is because a fifth of the membership is required to submit only once in 3 months. I think that hurts us more than joint zines, which must at least submit as often as a normal account even if each joint writer doesn't have to submit as much as a full member.

Karl, you sound really unhappy to be stuck in Philadelphia. I know it's got to be tough conducting a job search from so far away. It's also tough to come up with useful suggestions for you. Forrest is still a long way from starting school, maybe it would be a good plan to go for something in, say, Milwaukee. Then come to Madison when an opportunity arises. It's got to be easier to hunt for a good job in Madison from Milwaukee or even Minneapolis than it is from Philly. I can't really say for sure, of course, but when I read the frustration in your zine I want to go out and drive you back myself. Can't solve the insurance thing though. It'd be nice to have you here before the snowballs hit us in the ass, but spring time is a good season to move, too. Make it soon if you can.

Jim Nichols

[JG] Great zine, Jim!

I was reading *A Fire upon the Deep* during Worldcon, and liked it enormously. I got it signed by Vernor Vinge earlier in the day of the Hugos, and he gave me a copy of his drawing of Jeffi and Flensing in Waiting (which, I think, he submitted to his editors as a possible cover suggestion. Obviously they went with a different image.) What a good story it was! I'm intending to read the co-Hugo winner, Connie Willis' *Doomsday Book* too, but with much less enthusiasm. Willis was at it again at ConFrancisco, talking down WisCon. I think Laura Spiess talked to her about it.

I also liked *Children of the Night*, and in fact I think I was more impressed by Dan Simmons' vampire novel than you were; certainly I didn't think it was a "cheap, trashy melodrama," but then I used to love reading Alistair MacLean, to whose writing you compared *Children*. The AIDS/vampirism connection was inspired, and indeed, Laura should read it immediately.

You wrote that you welcome the egalitarian image of the future, which you think has now become the norm in science fiction. Since SF mirrors current reality, I would welcome such a change too, but I hardly think that our culture's norm has shifted to equality. The fiction I've been reading for the Tiptree Award this year continues to be dominated by images which mirror the inequalities of our culture or that extrapolate them into dystopian futures. These images will go away when we have dealt with their real-life models among us.

[SC] An excellent zine once again, Jim. Terrific stuff about your history in local bands. I had no idea you were up to this kind of thing. Next time you get something going in town we should get a group together to see you perform. I've never had the pleasure. I can see you and Julie Gomoll having some great discussions about this.

I can see your criticisms of *Children of the Night*, but I liked it a lot more than you did. In addition to Simmons' excellent location descriptions, I liked his discussion of the history of Romania and Vlad the Impaler. His discussion of the fate of the children under Ceauseascu was amazing. He did a great deal of research for this book in Romania (an excellent interview with him in *SF Eye* focused on this). Oddly, I work with a guy who is a native Romanian. He told me one night that all the nastiness about Vlad was false and that he was a great national hero. I was astounded. Your Alistair MacLean comparison was accurate. The book was quite melodramatic, but I liked it as I like a good action movie (the story is almost made for movie adaptation I think) rather than a good horror movie.

YCT Bill H. see my comment to Jae.

James Bron

[SC] Sorry about your grandfather.

I was the one who suggested you and Alison go joint. That is not as far-fetched an idea as you seem to think. You have a three month deadline. For any given issue of *Turbo*, you could each keep it for several weeks and still have several weeks to mail it from one to the other. Since you don't seem interested in staying current, or bothering with mailing comments much, time would not really be much of a factor as long as one of you submitted minac every three months.

I have been looking forward to having you aboard as a regular, committed contributor ever since you started. You're a very good writer, often very funny (as in your description of your new quarters last month) and touching. But it's been frustrating waiting for you to get around to us. I've heard you when you say how busy you've been, and I've been patient. But it might have been better for us all if you'd dropped out for awhile and given someone else a chance until you were ready to come back. Now you say that in November we will see the "new" you. Pardon me James if I say, "I'll believe it when I see it."

Jim Brooks

[JG] I was disappointed by *Jurassic Park* to the extent that it was too nice to the Abernathy character. In the novel, the park's director, Abernathy, was much more slimy than the character

portrayed in the movie. Spielberg obviously found a lot of similarities between himself and that character. Both are showmen, producing spectacular special effects for the kids inside themselves. And Spielberg didn't want to make himself a bad guy. On the other hand I really liked how Spielberg distributed the good characteristics of the boy in the novel between the boy and girl, so that the girl was no longer a total loser (and who I was urging the dinosaurs to eat as I read the novel!). In the film, the boy was the dinosaur expert and the girl was the hacker, rather than the boy boasting both skills as he did in the novel, compared to the girl who only knew how to complain.

Ironically, the novel was more violent than the movie. More people died spectacularly. Except for the fact that Abernathy survived in the film, that didn't bother me much. I did wish, however, for more "sense of wonder" moments like the one when the two scientists arrive on the island and fall down to their knees when they first see the alosaurus. I also missed the "Tyrannosaurus Rexes Can Swim!" scene from the book.

Apa of the Damned is a spin-off of *Turboapa* of several years ago. Some of its members are Spike Parsons, Peter Larsen, Tom Quale, **Julie Gomoll**, **Bill Bodden**, and Garth Danielson. It's an anarchic apa and so there are as few rules as possible. For example, there is no minac and no regular deadlines.

[SC] I agree with much of what you said about *Jurassic Park*. But I also have to admit that I've seen it three times. The book is much better than the movie and Spielberg clearly targeted a much younger, family-oriented audience than would have been able to see a more faithful version. But, as you pointed out, the effects were awesome. I don't think I've been that impressed by special effects since the first Star Wars movie. There were a couple scenes that were just outstanding. Maybe the sequels (and we know they're coming, don't we?) will do a better job of writing. I agree with Jeanne that the single thing that peeved me the most about the film, was how the Abernathy character was handled. Spielberg clearly sympathized with him a great deal and prevented a more fitting and appropriate end for him.

YCT me. Certainly *Turbo* reveals a side to people not always seen in public. That's part of what we are supposed to be doing here, I think.

Do you collect news articles just for *Turbo*? They are very interesting.

Julie Gomoll

[JG] Great cover, wonderful zine, Julie. ... And all the more impressive for the fact that you whipped the cover out in just a few moments. You are the example I call to mind when people complain that they can't make minac. Your commitments are among the most onerous of anyone's, and yet you continue to take your commitment to the apa very seriously, and to make time for it. Bravo.

[SC] YCT **Bill H.** I have been recommending Iain Bank's latest book *Against A Dark Background* to Jeanne and others who have been underwhelmed by his other stuff. This book is action packed, funny and features his first female main character.

YCT **Ellen.** I can see where someone might describe your writing as analytical and detached if they didn't know you, but I see it as relaxed and enthusiastic. I hear your voice, I know you're happy to be here and I think it shows.

YCT me. Yes, I can be bought.

Would you care to second **Dr. Bill** to the waitlist? He needs another nominator.

Lynne Ann Morse

[JG] Is it possible that the people in your "story" are seeking to affirm the self-confidence they see in the young woman's artwork and to encourage her to develop it? Maybe they think there is little or nothing other people can do to bolster another person's self-confidence, that it can only be developed from within. Perhaps the villagers' reaction is not a cruel demand to be "paid" for their care, but simply applause for the young woman who they believe is finding a way to solve her problems...

Bill Bodden

[SC] It's nice to know that you miss us and that you think we have a good group up here compared with other places. I've been hearing a fair amount of criticism of the Madison group lately, and I'm growing tired of it. It's nice to read good things for a change.

Good comment to **Laura S.**

YCT me. I have written before that I believe the waitlist is the lifeblood of the apa in some ways. A waitlist of interested contributors acts as incentive to the members to protect their positions in the apa because they know that there are people ready to take their place. If there is no waitlist, there isn't much incentive to drop people for minac. A waitlist also seems to indicate the health of the apa. A waitlist implies that the apa is worth getting in line for. The lack of a waitlist invites the question of whether the apa is really worth it if no one else is interested. You are quite right when you say we need to be careful who we invite to join. But I think it is also OK to actively be on the lookout for good new contributors. So, who are the "potential candidates" you mentioned? The waitlist is getting short; I'm ready for new names.

Vijay Bowen

[JG] I share with you the tendency to be much more careful about my choice of words and phrases when I am angry than at any other time. In fact, I think that **Jim Nichols** should change the target of his warning about being careful what we write from angry comments to sarcastic/humorous comments. Attempts at sarcasm/humor are far easier to misinterpret than anger, I think.

And I appreciate the way you quote people's statements as preface to your responses. I think it's ironic sometimes, that the people who write the most superficial mailing comments seem to assume that everyone else is reading with perfect concentration and recollection. They write the least anchored or prefaced comments.

[SC] I will let you know when I'm ready to pass on the old *Turbos*. Right now they are sitting peacefully in my attic, untouched as of this writing. With the schedule I've had lately, who knows when I'll get to them as planned.

I found your comment to **Jae** about verbal and non-verbal communication interesting. Do you find that writing is a more direct method of communication for you? Do you prefer writing to talking? In-person communication involves all sort of non-verbal signals and speaking styles. If you have to contend with that plus several speech deficiencies, then written communication must present some clear advantages. You are a very fine writer. You're even enjoying some commercial publishing success. Has writing always appealed to you as a superior means of expression?



I try to write like I talk. I consider it a compliment if a reader tells me that they can hear my voice when they read my stuff. But in your case, maybe writing is closer to your true voice than your verbal self. Am I way off base here?

Julie Humphries

[SC] Congratulations on the new job.

Pat Hario

[SC] It's always handy to know someone in the neighborhood who knows how to swing a sledge hammer—or at least thinks it's "fun." I'll keep you in mind.

You're rant about the Majestic was on target. I suppose we should be satisfied that we have an "art" theater at all in a city this size. My particular peeve with the outfit that runs the Majestic these days is that they also own at least one other theater in town. I find myself playing the game of trying to decide whether I should suffer through a movie in the cramped, peeling, broken-down Majestic because it's the only place I will get a chance to see it. Or whether I should wait and see if it's popular enough to have an extended run at their other theater. This is particularly an issue with subtitled movies. *Like Water For Chocolate* would have been much more pleasant at the Orpheum than squinting at the small, angled screen at the Majestic.

You are one of the few people to see my lunge for the OEShip for what it really was, more control for the Madison Eastside SF Power Group. Jeanne, Michael, Laura, Tracy, you and me will soon hold sway over the rest of the group and, maybe soon, the whole World! Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha...

Jae Adams

[JG] I've re-read "Diary of a Mad Housewife" several times, and each time I am more impressed by the depth of emotion and the exquisite skill of the writing in it. I send you my best wishes and the assurance that if you ever bring up this topic at B&B, that I will not nervously change the topic of conversation. I also offer this anecdote:

During the mid-1970s, I lived with a man named Dave in an apartment on Gilman Street. We had graduated from the University together, and were best friends through three tumultuous emotional years. Dave was there for me while I healed from being raped; I helped Dave work through his realization that he was gay. We helped each other grow up. And that was a good thing. But it turned out that our lives met in a line tangent to our suffering, and as we zoomed off in other directions, we shared less and less. It got rather ugly, and in fact I finally had to hire goons to help me move my stuff out of the apartment when I left. But before that, the image of the moment I knew that we were done, crystallizes in the memory of an evening when I brought home a copy of *Janus*, the fanzine on which I was excitedly working, gaining self-confidence, skills and joy. I ran up the stairs and burst into our apartment, laughing and eagerly talking about the zine — perhaps about the letters received from Suzy McKee Charnas and Harlan Ellison — and suddenly noticed that Dave was not listening, was in fact, turning away to avoid looking at the magazine I held out in my hands. He'd been refused entrance to graduate school several months earlier and could not share my happiness with the changes in my life.

To me, the essence of partnership is the sharing of changes. Without that we stealthily become new people that no longer know one another.

[SC] I thought your "Diary of a Mad Housewife" article was compelling reading. The core of the problem seems to be that you are not getting enough emotional support from Jon and that there is a significant lack of communication. You write about it very powerfully and there is little I can say in response. But at the same time you brought up a lot of interesting related observations. As is so often the case with your writing, I find a lot going on between the lines. The whole issue of women having to take charge of the emotional health of the family. The confusion society has in dealing with women who are married, or committed to a relationship, functioning on their own in social situations without their partner. Your struggle as an artist to maintain a sense of self respect when you are not earning money from your art (and being supported by your husband). I was also, of course, curious about the "new" friends who are keeping their distance. What and who do you mean? You've given us a lot to chew on, Jae. As always, it seems.

Excellent comments to Lynne, Kathi, and Hope.

YCT Jim N. about talking about the apa in person. The impression I got from your comment was that you felt it should be OK for apa members to discuss with each other what they write. I agree. I always thought it was rather weird that there is such an obvious reluctance to talk in person about apa issues. Now that I have been in *Turbo* awhile, I understand that one problem is that everyone doesn't read the apa right away. Often people read their own comments right away and then set it aside until the deadline approaches. Some don't read it then, either. It can be embarrassing to tell someone who is quite proud of a long piece they wrote that you haven't read it yet two weeks after it came out. Jeanne and I, as a joint account, got into *Turbo* partly so we could spend time talking about it at least with each other. But these days, I tend to hold on to it for most of the month and Jeanne reads and writes her stuff in the last few days. We sometimes don't know what the other thinks about apa articles until we are laying it out on the last day. Of course it is rude to talk about the apa around people who are not *in* the apa. But I think it would be great if we all informally agreed to read the whole thing the week it came out and came to parties/BnB prepared to talk about it if it comes up (to quote Pat here, "Yeah, right.").

Of course you realize that many of the out-of-town contributors think the Madison people sit down together, pour over and dissect the apa in great detail, and leave them out of these fabulous face-to-face discussions. I'd like to maintain that fiction if only to inspire them to move their butts back here where they belong.

Alison Dawson

[JG] You may be willing "to spend as much time feeling stressed out and unhappily inadequate as it takes to..." eventually become an active member of *Turbo*. But that isn't really the problem, is it? The comments you've been getting have been more to the point of whether the *other people* in the apa are willing to spend a lot of stressed-out and unhappy time waiting for you to finally make a commitment.

[SC] I hope you are finally getting some inkling of the level of frustration we are experiencing out here towards you. Your May contribution may have been intended as sarcasm, and some of us saw it that way, but it was a poor time to respond to honest criticism with humor. I felt last month that you did a poor job of answering my question as well. Diane Martin gives you another chance to answer the same question (in October or another one page minac in November?)

I don't buy the notion that you are intimidated by us. You have written fine pieces for us in the past and you've gotten good feedback on them. There are many contributors starting out here just as you are. This is the first apa I've ever been in and the first extensive fanzine writing I've ever done and look at me. I'm the goddamned OE! Who ever said I knew what I was doing? I sure didn't. The difference between the other beginners and you, Alison, is that they are trying. You are coasting.

I found it quite amusing that you felt that it was the unfortunate rules holding back the waitlisters. Setting aside that point for a now. Let me just say that you would still be getting criticized for lack of interest and involvement even if the waitlist was empty or there were no restriction on how many people could join. That's because this is a community. And any community requires investment from all it's members to continue and remain healthy.

laura spiess

[JG] No, don't worry, I didn't like *Glory Season*, although I found it sort of horribly fascinating that Brin considers this a substantive contribution to the feminist discussion in SF. I also shared your dislike of the ending of *Time Like an Ever-Rolling Stream*. We should talk about that book sometime.

In any case, that pretty much disposes of the theory that we always take diametrically opposed positions in literature.

Diane Martin

[JG] I'm glad you wrote the comments you did to **Bron, Dawson, Arbuthnott, and Wheatley**. Your comparison of their participation in the apa with a person who never meets the eye of the person with whom they are talking is exactly right.

When I compared you and Dick entering the Madison SF group to the entrances of Spike and Steve Swartz, my goal was not to suggest that you were ever a "menace." I meant to suggest that *any* dynamic person who enters the group is at first regarded by us with some distrust, but that after time, the group accepts the

newcomer and incorporates their eccentricities into the fabric of the community. I assumed that the idea of Diane Martin as a disruptive influence would strike people as a rather incongruous notion, but I hoped that I was pointing the way to the corollary — that eventually Spike and Steve (if they stayed around) would become equally familiar...

I hear and, I think, understand your concerns about involving the apa in painful discussions — which might happen if you were to be more specific about who is making you feel uncomfortable by their behavior in the Madison SF group. But, several people (including myself) are confused and hurt by your veiled complaints. I can only speak for myself, and so — although I suspect that several other apans share my sentiment — I'll restrict myself to personal reactions. I worry that you are referring to me when you make generalized references to "some people" who are active in many SF³ activities, but if you are, I fail to understand exactly what upsets you. You have brought up this nebulous complaint several times now, and I wonder if you realize how stinging your words' feel to those of us who are included in the group at which you wave. Imagine the effect that might be generated if I would write this similar statement:

"There are a couple people in this apa who like cats who are making me really upset by the way they treat me. I don't want to say exactly who they are or what they are doing, but I must express my feelings about this. I've talked about my anger with a few other people who share my feelings on this issue, and none of us want to say anything more about it."

It seems to me that if a discussion on these issues isn't appropriate in the apa, then it was also inappropriate to *begin* the conversation. I would hope that if something really bothers you, that you would be able to bring it to the person directly involved and talk to them (me) about it.

I too was "rebuked" with the so-called punishment of the positive option plan by one of my book clubs, for the sin of returning too many books. Oh please, no, not the *comfy pillows!*

[SC] Superb comment to our British contributors. Dare we hope for a truly thoughtful response?