



Welcome to Union Street #53 (Obsessive Press [JG] #155 and Peerless Press [SC] #55), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead (How hot was it? It was so hot that Elk Krisor said it was warm). 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 Quadra 840AV, and hardcopy was printed on a Laserwriter IINTX printer. Text was created with Microsoft Word 5.1 and laid out with Aldus PageMaker 5.0. The Union Street Logo was designed with Adobe Illustrator 5.0 and Adobe Photoshop 2.5. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, 1994. June 1994 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #96. Members FWA.

General

[SC] For you Katha Pollitt fans out there, *The Nation* recently announced that her new book, *Reasonable Creatures: Essays on Women and Feminism* is scheduled for release in August. She is a terrific writer on feminism, gender and power issues and I encourage any of you unfamiliar with her work in *The Nation* to buy or borrow her new book when you can.

Hope Kiefer

[SC] Forrest is quickly growing out of the "Gal!" stage. I guess we'll have to keep that in mind for future cover/cartoon ideas. He should come up with a new special word or phrase to make it easier on us.

Did you ever get a response from DuCharme about his prominent appearance on the cover of *Cube*?

[JG] So, how did you like using Aldus Home Publisher for *Cube*? Are you doing any artwork with Superpaint?

Kim & Kathi Nash

[JG] Scott and I hope to get to one of the Union Terrace Fridays soon. **Bill Dyer** and his friend, Diane, are coming to town on July 1 and we plan to bring them along then. Bill will be photographing the quilt on Saturday July 2. I'm hoping to reserve the Union's Great Hall for an hour or so Saturday morning, but I may have to ask one of you University-associated persons to help me out if I need to make a formal request for the use of the space.

Jim Nichols

[SC] YCT Karl re: Patrick Stewart. I think he was a pretty good Captain, considering that another actor could have been far more irritating. I thought his character talked too much when he should have been firing phasers and launching photon torpedoes, but that's not Stewart's fault. Neither is "Make it so" and "Number One", both really annoying phrases. I was mainly a fan of Riker and Worf. Of course I should state here that I'm probably the only living admitted fan of Captain Kirk.

YCT me. I can completely understand your lack of interest in being WisCon Coordinator. This year has been an especially tough one and might discourage some people from wanting to take a turn at running the con. I just hope that the rough road we're on this year doesn't discourage you from working on WisCon altogether. You've become an excellent committee head and it would really hurt to lose you.

[JG] Whenever schools attempt to teach a curriculum of values they end up getting in trouble with someone. The Hmong people in Eastern Wisconsin violently object to their daughters being encouraged to think of themselves as intelligent human beings, capable of college training. Hmong marriage tradition sets the nuptial date at the girl's 15th or 16th birthday.

And of course we all know about the objections to a curriculum that teaches tolerance of various sexual preferences, or even conscience- (rather than god-) centered morality.

Thanks for the information. Hmmm, "Grace Notes" would make a pretty decent apa title. I like it and will keep it in mind for future use.

Tracy Shannon

[JG] What I meant by "invisible" change was that the visualization of change accounts for most of the work. Visualizing the world and oneself in a different way; experiencing



dissonance between that vision and reality—these consciousness changes, if conducted on a massive scale affect the world in a real, but invisible way. No physical revolution may take place, but the revolutions within individuals, multiplied, changes the world. That, by the way, is the theme of Alice Nunn's *Illicit Passage*.

Nevenah Smith

[SC] I think you have given new meaning to the concept of writing a "butt-saver" for the apa. By the time I'd finished the third sentence, I had a funny feeling this piece was going in a wrong direction. Yet I kept reading. To the end. Yuck, Nevenah.

You save up these experiences for us, don't you? You have a little file somewhere marked "More Than They Will Want To Know" just for us. Well I guess I could at least say thanks for, once again, showing us a whole new side of you we've never seen before.

Kim Winz

[SC] Layoffs? What happened? It wasn't too long ago you were writing that you thought it was unlikely that layoffs would extend to you because you worked in an area that was considered too valuable. How has that changed? There is a trend in business these days toward "downsizing" whether it actually makes sense or not. Could that be going on with you?

I've also been wondering how the baby will affect your thoughts about moving in the near future. If you wind up getting laid off, what are the job prospects for you in the Durham area?

[JG] I can certainly understand your concern about how you are going to teach values to your child. Obviously, it's a matter of enormous interest to new parents. My comments were drawn from my own youthful observations of my father, who—although he was not religious (a non-practicing Lutheran)—verbally endorsed my mother's (Catholic) religious instruction of us kids. Dad was fairly transparent: he told us to go to church with mom, sent us to Catholic school, but he avoided any religious conversation himself, and only attended mass with us on Easter and Christmas. I declared myself an atheist at the tender age of 11, a decision possibly made easier because I knew that my father wasn't religious.

I'm very glad that I absorbed this sense of personal choice from the fact that my parents disagreed on the subject. I think I may have avoided some of the Church's peculiar warping effects by maintaining a distance. On the other hand, I formed my values based more on the way my parents *lived* than from the formal training offered by priests and nuns. If religion had been centrally important to both mom and dad, I think my beliefs would have been shaped in a very different way.

The point I'm trying to make is that it seems to me that parents should concentrate on teaching their kids the system of morality upon which the parents themselves have built their lives. Enrolling a kid in religious training won't take too well if the kid notices that the parents don't incorporate religious tenants centrally within their own lives—if, for instance, mom and dad seldom mention god, or never seem to find time in their lives for sincere prayer. Or if (as seems to be the case with my brother and sister-in-law) the kid notices that mom and dad's interest in religion diminishes as they get older.

By all means, Kim, explore. But do it for *yourself* first. Kids *know*.

Pete Winz

[SC] I have my doubts about the wisdom of dissolving your joint account and taking on a full individual account as incentive to write more. If you don't have the time or interest to write more now, I don't see how forcing yourself to meet a bi-monthly deadline will help. We have several writers now who, repeatedly make no time for *Turbo* until the last minute every other month. Personally I would rather see a thoughtful zine from you now and then such as the one you had last month, than more slapped-together-last-minute minac.

Jae Adams

[SC] Your zine this month felt to me like half of a conversation you might have had while walking along the lake with your friends Sue and Barb. An interesting hodgepodge of serious concerns (Art Attack) and lighter fare (recipes).

You can count on a vote of confidence from me anytime.

The airwaves these days are thick with warnings about skin cancer for those who spend too much time in the sun. There has even been speculation that deep tans may become unfashionable because people feel forced to stop sun bathing for health reasons. I've largely given up seeking a substantial tan out of fear that it's not good for me. But I've grown up liking tans and I probably always will.

[JG] Perhaps the thing to do with regard to the billable vs. fun art conundrum, is to do art you want to do and then figure out who might like to buy it and how to let them know you've got it. I agree that it's stifling to attempt to make art that can sell in a certain marketplace. That's the reason I gave up on displaying art at SF Art shows. I realized that my preferred style is illustration, and illustration per se, does not sell well at cons, unless the subject matter conforms to the fashion of the day—Trek portraits, unicorns, cats, etc. I certainly do not believe that selling one's art inevitably kills the fun; in fact, sometimes it's quite liberating and invigorating to receive monetary feedback. However, forcing oneself to create the kind of art *does* kill the fun.

Vijay Bowen

[SC] Since I've been OE I can't remember a month when your zine came in at the last minute or otherwise had me concerned about arrival. You had nothing to worry about this time either. When in doubt, you could give me a call (I'm almost always civil on the phone) and see if it has shown up yet before dashing off minac and paying a huge rush postage charge. I have no intention of letting you slip out of the apa that easily.

In answer to your question for the apa. I read rather slowly so I don't get through as great a volume of books as many other people. In a month I might read two to five books, depending on what other reading I have to get through. So I don't often reread books because there are always so many good ones around I haven't read the first time. I have recently reread *The Left Hand of Darkness* and *Lathe of Heaven* in preparation for Readercon. Other books I intend to reread at some point include E. L. Doctorow's *The Book of Daniel* and Twain's *Huckleberry Finn*.

I had to laugh a little when you asked us to describe the atmosphere we write our zines in. 90% of my stuff is produced at work. Some folks here might point out that I have little business complaining about people who don't write much since I can write my zine on company time. I would respond that I would much rather write at home on my own time, but I can't really justify taking time away from stuff around the house when I have time to write at work. My

contributions would be the same, the only difference would be that the yard wouldn't always get mowed as often.

I would be a lot more comfortable at home. As it is, it's three o'clock in the morning and I'm writing on my Powerbook which is propped up on a tiny typewriter table along a hallway. I am facing the hub of five hallways, four of which lead to treatment units of 14 to 20 (hopefully) sleeping patients each. My coworkers are out here too, each monitoring a hallway along with a security guard in a glassed in station who controls the sliding barred iron gates at the end of each unit hallway. A radio is usually playing rock and roll a few feet from me. I never used to like music playing when I tried to concentrate on something. I have since learned to ignore it. Each treatment unit has two "seclusion" rooms at the end of the hallway just inside the gate. These are bare rooms for patients who lose control and need to be locked up for their safety or safety of others, usually overnight. Often they are awake at night and agitated. Often they are loud (yelling and banging on the door), sometimes they're at it all night. Sometimes they will urinate on the floor or smear feces on the walls or door. There are large solid glass and steel fire doors that separate the seclusion rooms from the rest of the unit so other patients won't be disturbed, but since we sit outside the unit, there is nothing between us and the seclusion rooms except a barred gate. We get to listen to the noise or smell the shit all shift.

I'm not complaining. This has been my job for a long time and for the most part it is OK. But it would be nice to sit at home and write this in front of our big screen computer while looking out on the backyard. Maybe a cool drink or fresh coffee nearby and soft music in the background. Mornings after a good night's sleep are the best writing times for me. I'd love that.

[JG] If Paul is interested in the baseball park cards he can buy a whole set, cheap, from Dover Publications, Inc., 11 East 2nd St., Mineola, NY 11501. Send for their free catalog.

The book I have read over more often than any other book is Joseph Heller's *Catch 22*, because of its convoluted structure that reveals more ideas and information about the world with every reading, and because of its wonderful, cynical sense of humor about the world that nonetheless allows room for individual hope. But, like Scott, I don't often re-read books. There are too many books out there I've yet to read...

I most often write my zine at home, in front of our big screen computer while looking out on the backyard. Maybe a cool drink nearby and soft music in the background. Most often it is very late at night, frequently while Scott is working, wishing he could be sitting in my place. Tonight breezes are blowing through the window and from a fan perched on top of a file cabinet next to my desk. It's a hot night and I've already switched on the air conditioner upstairs in the bedroom so I can sleep comfortably.

The Jean/je conspiracy could also include any Johns, if we had any in the apa, since Jean is French for John. It's hard to believe we have no Johns here...

Scott and I recently quite caffeine for good. I quit because of a particularly awful experience a month or so ago, when I had a cold and was drinking as much orange juice as I could. Accidentally, this concentration on orange juice (no pun intended), resulted in abstention from Diet Coke and caffeine. I suffered a 3-day migraine headache—withdrawal symptoms. Afterward, I decided that I never again wanted to go through that again, and I didn't want to be dependent upon a substance whose withdrawal would bring about such pain. So I quit. I drink de-caf diet coke now, but more often, mineral water.

Alison Dawson

[SC] I liked your zine despite the parts that were rendered almost unreadable by a poor typewriter ribbon.

Sorry, Alison, I did not mean to slander your whole family. It appeared that Brian and the effects of his antics on you and your family justified drastic action to retain your sanity.

Good luck on the plan to return to school. My advice is to go for it. Take a risk, you'll survive. I was too conservative about my "career" and it's gotten me nowhere. I should have taken more chances. After all, James should serve as a good safety net. He's in the fish business after all—a damn good career choice in Scotland I believe.

Liked the cartoon. Are you a vegetarian?

[JG] It looks like you did a good, massive zine, this time. Unfortunately, I couldn't decipher most of it because of the bad repro.

Ellen Franklin

[SC] Whenever I think about your messy legal situation with your former client, I am struck by the clear injustice of the situation. As is so typical with our justice system, it is not a matter of who is right or wrong, but who has the most money to spend. Your client wins because he can outspend you. Another example of capitalism at work. Market driven justice.

It is a relief at least to hear that you are recovering from the experience and getting back on track.

I am looking forward to telling people to come to next year's WisCon partly because we will likely have the best hotel experience in a long time (ever?) with you as our liaison. The Concourse has always been a schizo experience for us. Great location/hotel problems. It will be great to be in that location at that time of year without the hassles.

Lovely tribute to Malvina Reynolds.

[JG] I've heard both you and Julie castigate yourselves for failing to recognize the untrustworthiness of clients. While I think it would be a good thing to cultivate awareness of certain personality traits, the fact remains that some people hide their lack of ethics behind a good-guy smoke screen, and you can't blame yourself without doing more self-damage than already accomplished by the initial insult. Or worse, you might prevent future occurrences by withdrawing trust from all interactions, a cure worse than the disease.

I think you are doing the best thing, putting it behind you by throwing yourself into the next job, reaffirming your skill and creativity with a new project.

Good comments to Bill Humphries, although you don't convince me that killing NAFTA would have meant the end of any possibility for a treaty that would accomplish the good parts of NAFTA. The need would still have existed, and perhaps we could have then pushed for a treaty drawn up along the lines of the European Common Market, minus the attacks on environmentalism and unions.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] A fascinating and daring zine, Lisa. You are facing some really tough decisions. After all the work and time you've invested, how can you think of leaving medicine? It seems amazing that you would consider walking away from it. Is this your only option? There is no place you could see yourself practicing that would relieve some of the stress? Maybe you could go into research or more specializa-



tion? I have no idea of course whether these are realistic options.

I am well acquainted with the feeling of hating a job and how that job can screw up your life. My job today is tolerable, but I've had jobs that were painful. You need support if you are thinking of making a change like this and I want to offer that support. If you think it is time to do the artist/photography thing, then by all means go for it. You already know that you have extraordinary drive, intelligence and determination (how else can anyone become a doctor?) So I think success is less of a risk for you than it might seem. People these days often make radical career changes after many years in one line of work. Once upon a time I think it was considered unthinkable to get as far as you've gotten just to give it up and do something else. Today people recognize that change is often necessary and that people would go crazy if they didn't do it. So do it. Don't waste another day being unhappy. We'll be here for you.

YCT Jim N. #92 I have to reserve final judgment on Harlan Ellison until I've read more of his stuff, but from what I've seen of his behavior I'm not much inclined toward sympathy for him. He has suffered some wrongs, but he has been colossally rude himself, often for no real reason.

[JG] What an amazing and moving piece of writing your last zine was, Lisa! You face a dilemma all of us must hope *can* be solved—if not by you, then eventually, by others—because our society desperately needs physicians whose compassion survives the tragedies they witness on a daily basis. I hope you find a way to balance your experiences as a doctor with your psychic need to survive, and that if that proves impossible, that you find a career that nurtures you better.

I lent most of my backcopies of Suzette Haden Elgin's *The Lonesome Node*, to **Jae Adams**. I've asked her to forward them on to you when she is through with them. In the meantime, if you are interested, a subscription can be purchased directly from Suzette, Box 1137, Huntsville, AR 72740.

Julie Gomoll

[SC] I hope you decide to recommit to *Turbo* with the energy you showed when you started back with us. *Turbo* may not be the best place to bring "the intense stuff" but it is a community of friends that I believe you might find rewarding to keep in touch with just the same. There are certainly individuals here that you can turn to for the deeper issues outside the apa.

[JG] Ditto.

Karl Hailman

[SC] Congratulations on the state ranking. Keep in mind there is a state hiring freeze on (thanks to Tommy T.) Some state tests are given on an annual schedule to establish hiring lists whether they actually have openings or not. I don't know if that is the case for the test you took, but it's possible that you may rank well and not get called. Keep at it though, the state needs skilled help and they are sure to get around to you sooner or later.

Did you notice that the forth city on the "hostility index" was Des Moines, Iowa? What bullshit. However, a few weeks ago Jeanne and I went out to dinner with Steve Swartz and Elspeth Krisor. They were treating me to dinner for my recently past birthday. During the course of the dinner, the "hostility index" came up and I spent a considerable amount of time suffering under Steve's harrassment because Des Moines was number four on the index. We could all name the first two cities on the list, but somehow no one could remember the third city. I realized later that all of us had a genuine

loss of memory except for Steve. You see I found out that the third city on the index was Cleveland, OHIO. As I am from Iowa, Steve is from Ohio. He knew it all along.

Pat Hario

[SC] MFBPA stands for Most Favored Beer: Pale Ale? Is this true? I would have bet it had something to do with baseball or bowling. I didn't know we had many Pale Ale fans other than myself.

You are too a "real" beer drinker, Pat. You're just not a "good" beer drinker. However, I think that small deficiency is made up for by knowing a good tequila when you hoist one.

I have decided the best way to deal with our notorious punsters (Nichols, Tracy, Brooks, Jeanne) is to put their bad habit on "extinction." The more attention you give their punning, the worse they behave.

Congratulations on the trivia contest. 23rd out of 527 is nothin' to sneeze at. Watch those Ice beers, they'll sneak up on you. I'm afraid the ones I've tried are just too light bodied for my taste.

Jeanne and I were meeting pretty regularly at the Argus on Mondays after she got off work. I'm taking a summer evening class for a few weeks so we will probably resume this practice again later. It was such a regular Monday afternoon thing that the bartender got to know us by sight. I would come in early, get our seats and order a beer. When Jeanne came in he would automatically make her one of his excellent Bloody Marys (with lots of stuff in it like Tabasco and olive juice and even a little *beer*.) It's nice to be regular at a favorite bar. Alas, that bartender has left, but that only means we have to "break in" a new bartender.

YCT Hope, I think you are making progress towards trusting us more. Look at your colophon. Once-upon-a-time I think you were reluctant to print your address or phone number in your zine. Today you even encourage us to "give me a call." I'd call that progress.

Bill Humphries

[SC] YCT Andy, refresh my memory Bill. Why are you also in this apa's doghouse?

Fine piece on Hillary Clinton. There seems to be an uncomfortable fine line in the left press when it comes to criticizing Hillary. They often seem to have trouble criticizing her work without also attacking her because she is a woman. This shouldn't be a difficult thing, yet it seems to be. As you pointed out, there are plenty of good reasons to be unhappy with positions she's taken, but she also is deserving of respect. I prefer an activist First Lady to someone who insists on being a homemaker model for the country. She is smart, active, powerful and competent. I think there is room for discussion on what sort of power the First Lady (or First Man) should have in any given Administration, but I respect the fact that she has reminded us by example of what is possible in a politically active role. Whether people feel threatened by her because she's female or an unelected official is the question.

[JG] I also feel confused about this American appetite for torture as appropriate discipline (always, of course, of "them," not "us," witness my very conservative dad who commented recently that he would have no trouble living in Singapore because he doesn't break laws). Letterman had a funny comment embedded in a top ten list last week: the number one way Clinton could improve his popularity rating would be to cane Rostenkowski.

Jeanne & Scott
15 June 1994