



Welcome to Union Street #57 (Obsessive Press [JG] #159 and Peerless Press [SC] #59), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead (C note). 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, October 1994, for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #100. Members FWA. This APA supports the baseball players' strike.

General

[SC] One hundred issues of the *Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA* is a feat worthy of congratulations to all who have contributed to this long run. I joined *Turbo* in September, 1989 (issue #38). It seems very strange that I have been a member for five years (over half the apa's life.) Jeanne and I are celebrating our 10th Anniversary together this year, and for half that time, we've been doing our joint zine for this apa. It just doesn't seem like it could have been that long.

Turbo ceased being "Andy's apa" long ago. When I consider the number of people who have been a part of this apa over the last eight years and four months, including four OE's, I think *Turbo* has taken on a life of its own. It is no longer dependent on a small group of dedicated friends to breathe life into it every month. It has become an institution with its own life, a significant social force in the local group and an important connection with people far outside Madison—some of whom have never had a formal connection to Madison fandom other than *Turbo*. It's its own monster, as alive and healthy as ever.

I think Andy's plan to use *Turbo* to jump-start a Madison fanwriting renaissance has been reasonably successful. Where he has really succeeded is in creating a pool of dedicated apahacks who would start another apa should *Turbo* ever die out. Congratulations again to one and all who keep this apa going month after month. *Turbo* #200 will be here before you know it.

Kim Winz

[SC] Thanks for the update on all the stuff that's going on with you both (or should I say the three of you) lately. You've sure been busy with big changes in your lives; the approaching birth, moving into the new house and Pete's job change. That's a lot of stuff. You seem to be handling it calmly. I'd be a nervous wreck. Keep us posted as much as possible. I expect it's only going to get busier for you.

[JG] It's fun to read new house and pregnancy stories. Good luck and keep us posted!

Jae Adams

[SC] Thanks for the excellent book reviews. Particularly your pieces on the Bronte bio. and Suzette Elgin's book on touch dominance. It would be interesting to get Jon's view on Elgin's theory. Has he read this book? Suzette is always an interesting writer, although I like her non-fiction stuff better than her fiction. I will be very disappointed if she has to stop publication of her zine *The Lonesome Node* as she indicated in her last issue. It's one of only a handful of the zines we receive that I read right away.

I also enjoyed your "Talking Back" piece. I tend to be rather awkward around little kids because I never spend much time around them. They're often a mystery to me. I always appreciate reading the observations of an expert.

[JG] Your pointed observation of the ironic, rubber stamp effect (of Matt's and my descriptions of our confrontations) might have hit closer to the target if you had attended the later, more heated concom meetings. You chose the phrase, "direct experience," but I can't recall that you attended any but, perhaps, the first and second WisCon 19 meetings.



Indeed, Suzette's ideas about sensory mode dominance attract me as potentially useful handles for slippery personal confrontations. But I suspect that it's necessary to conscientiously practice at multi-mode communication before one is able to reach instinctively for these tools when tensions run high. My tendency is to grab various kinds of lenses, visual metaphors.

I think I resisted the term "power struggle" because I felt that Matt was misinterpreting my behavior as a power grab and all disagreement as attacks upon his power. But, you're right too—of course politics equals power. In fact, the whole conflagration fed upon everyone's attempts to defend their right to voice opinions in the decision-making process.

Tracy Benton

[SC] I completely agree with your opinion of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. It was a delightful movie.

Since I don't work in an office, I found myself undecided about your "Dressed for Depression" piece. It's not clear to me what exactly you would like to see changed. You complained that women are held to a tougher and more competitive standard than men, but you reject the idea of "corporate wear" as boring. I tend to agree that women face the pressures you described, but they also have more freedom to make choices than men. People do make statements about themselves through their choice of clothing. Don't you also draw conclusions about people based on what they choose to wear to work (dirty or poorly fit clothing, bizarre hairstyles, clashing colors or revealing articles)? I've worked in number of places where we had to wear uniforms. That solves a lot of the problems you brought up, but it's a dull solution.

YCT me. I would not want to try to make the case that you should feel like a victim when you don't. It would be ridiculous for me, for example, to tell you that rape is not like other crimes because it's gender specific, extremely common and can happen almost anywhere. But I have long been impressed with the idea that these differences mean the threat of rape effectively victimizes all women. I think writers (men or women) who preach that women should "stop acting like victims" are either trivializing this threat or implying that women themselves contribute to it.

[JG] I remember reading *Dressing for Success* when it came out. Although I don't think I ever made use of specific tips from that book, I did learn a good lesson from it. Whether you dress "fashionably" or "professionally" or whatever, it's useful to know that the manner in which one dresses is liable to make a statement (which will vary according to who interprets it); that in any given interaction one's appearance might add "bonus points" to a presentation or will create an impression that will have to be overcome by the rest of the presentation. Whether impressions based upon personal appearance, much less upon arbitrarily defined concepts like "fashionable" or "professional" style, are reasonable or not, it's useful to be aware of the mechanism.

I'm glad you liked *Larque on the Wing*. I seem to be reading more fantasy than usual (for me) lately. I just finished *The Innkeeper's Song* by Peter Beagle, and loved it. What a gorgeous, amazingly lovely story. And an unexpected gender-bender too. I picked it up because Gerald put it on the list for the next Borders' book discussion. The main

theme of the book concerns relationships—how love thrives best without assumptions and expectations and dies quickly with too many of them. The novel's point of view floats from character to character—whoever has the best view of the action, and so you get to know the whole cast of characters intimately and love them all, with the exception of the bad wizard whose lack of viewpoint chapters portends ominous conclusions about his relation to humanity. The story grabs you and doesn't let go, and I don't want to spoil any of the plot for you. I must say, however, that I found myself uncharacteristically fascinated by a chapter which mostly described a physical battle between two characters. Usually I just skim past that sort of thing (sword fights, fisticuffs, etc.); this time I found myself thinking that if I could choose any passage to read out loud—out of context—to someone, it would be this chapter.

I liked your punning reaction to **Karen Babich's** minac form.

The Coke ads have been really interesting this past year. I read in a marketing magazine that Madison Avenue is really pissed at Coke for taking its business away and giving it to west coast movie types. Madison Avenue thinks that Coke's new advertising campaign is way too scattered, with each commercial sending a different message, and not enough hammering on the main message, i.e. product identity. But I'm fascinated. The polar bear ads, the honeymoon suite, the exhibitionist construction worker—they're all produced by different studios. I think we're witnessing the way more and more successful ad campaigns will fight consumers tendency to zap commercials with remote controls.

Me [Bill Boddien]

[SC] Feeling old at 29? Certainly I felt I had "been around" by the time I turned 29 (I'm 38), but not quite "old" yet. I started to feel I was getting old more recently as I've been weighing career options and school choices. I can no longer think about going back to school for a long time and still have lots of time left to devote to a career. I have to think in terms of what is reasonable in the working life I have left. That makes me feel old. Once upon a time, I could imagine going to grad. school and still be young enough to launch a long career. Not true anymore.

I don't think men face a biological clock. You can father children almost without limit. All you have to do is find a willing partner of childbearing age. You can have a long-term relationship with one woman and still have children when/if that relationship ends. Men have lots of options.

I thought the "Hats in Warfare" article was very funny. That should teach us not to call your bluff. When you say you can write about Hats in Warfare, you deliver.

[JG] Do you ever think about raising a kid yourself if it doesn't turn out that a female partner wants to share that job with you? (I'm curious to know what similarities your ringing biological clock shares with some of the women I have known who use that phrase.)

Funny stuff about history and hats. Reminds me of the woman historian in Margaret Atwood's *The Robber Bride* who wrote a paper on the interaction of warfare with the evolving technology of men's flies' construction.

Vijay Bowen

[SC] I cannot recall WisCon ever featuring a panel on race in SF or fantasy either. Who would we invite to be on it? It would be a pretty useless panel to have a bunch of white people sitting around trying to cough up some insight. But that is pretty much how I see the whole issue of race in fandom and SF from our perspective out here. We can't even start the conversation, you know?

I was deeply moved by your response to my short barrage of (possibly) insensitive questions. Not just your answers, but the difficulty it obviously was causing you to respond. Yet at the end, you left the door open a little ("By then, perhaps, you'll have more questions for me.") Well, Vijay, I have a million questions. I just don't know if I should be making you have to deal with them here in the apa. But please understand what I said before, out here amongst ourselves we can't even start the conversation.

One problem I see with how I have approached the subject so far is that it is tough for me to ask you questions about race without casting you in the familiar (and probably tiresome) role of a spokesperson. How do I avoid that and still carry on the discussion? Perhaps the best thing is to keep it personal (therefore risky) and avoid large generalizations.

For many people, fandom seems to have offered a social community of people with similar interests and experiences. Many fans came into fandom at a young age after being mostly rejected socially by their peer group at school. But it sounds like you chose to step out of the black community to some extent to enter fandom—which is not full of people whose race or experiences mirror yours. In fact, when you consider that you also are a woman and have, shall we say, adventurous sexual tastes, you seem to be an unlikely fan. You are a reader and a writer, which certainly puts you in the mainstream of fannish interests, but you could have pursued those things easily outside of fandom. In addition, SF as a genre often avoids racial themes or deals with them poorly (a result of the lack of writers who are not white.) How have you found fandom and SF rewarding and worthwhile? Would it not have simply been easier to keep your recreational interests wholly within the black community?

In order to gain recognition, women fans organized to get feminist zines published and panels started. Currently gay and lesbian fans are doing the same. Will fans of color one day follow this path? Or is that already happening outside the Midwest?(OOPS, there I am asking you to be a spokesperson again. Sorry. But I've always been curious.)

[JG] I very much agree with you (in your comment to **Jim Nichols**)—that it is possible to create an environment that fosters intimacy, or—for that matter—that discourages intimacy. And that whether one does it consciously or not, the manner of one's behavior toward others nevertheless creates environments that either foster or discourage intimacy. A scary thought or a powerful one, depending upon how you look at it.

Heather Brooks

[SC] Your schedule is pretty full these days. Good luck with your classes although it sounds like you have things pretty much under control. The part of your zine about buying a race

car threw me for a loop. When do you expect to find time to race? I mean, after this year, you'll be going off to college right? You're going to take your race car with you? Do you like working on cars? I always hated it, but when you're a kid with a part-time job and a used car, it's pretty hard to afford a mechanic. These days I take the damn thing out to the Ford dealer, even for oil changes. I'm not a grease monkey. I'm not a farmer either, but that's another story.

Bill Dyer

[SC] Of course I wish you good luck on your new relationship. I guess this means you won't be moving to Madison anytime soon. Drat. A 640 mile day trip would seem a bit much for Jeanne and I, but it depends on what you're used to. In your case, I seem to recall that you used to travel something like 900 miles to Madison for a weekend. I take it that Diane is a patient person?

So you've moved in, is she reading the apa yet (Hi Diane! Bill has always seemed a little weird to us, but nice. What? You've noticed?)

[JG] Good luck to both you and Diane on all the big changes in your lives. And how nice of you to move without asking us all to come up and help you lift boxes. I look forward to meeting Diane some day.

Whenever we kids used to ask my dad if we were "almost there," or asked how long it would be until we got there, he'd always answer "...in two hours," even if we were turning into the driveway at that same moment. Enough people in fandom have heard me tell that story before (which is why I kept it brief here), that the phrase has caught on: every once in a while I read it in fanzines or hear it in fannish conversation. What a concept: my dad has achieved a sort of fannish immortality.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] Thanks for the worldcon report. The consensus in the apa about Conadian seems to be like one of those Jim's Journal cartoons—"I went to worldcon. It was OK." Jeanne and I are becoming less and less interested in worldcons. They are too big, too expensive, too hard to find the people you want to spend time with, we've seen it all before, and there is less and less access to the pros (not that I'm that nuts about hanging out with pros, but that's part of the point of enduring all the other hassles, I figured.)

I am looking forward to more details about your photography plans. I wish you luck and success. I didn't mean to seem horrified by your thoughts of leaving medicine. I was hoping to express understanding of how difficult and important a decision you were facing and I wanted to offer support for whatever choice you wound up making.

Jim Frenkel

[SC] Great zine. When pressed for time, it's always a wise decision to focus on comments. That's what I think anyway.

I'm very glad that things seem to be working out for you here in Madison, at least with respect to Jessie and Josh. I hope Madison has been a good choice for you and Joan as well. I



know I've complained to you several times that we don't see enough of you guys. Partly that is simply a function of our schedules. I hope the apa helps us a bit to stay in touch.

I thought your comments to Diane about how New York has changed since the sixties was very interesting. You write about it with obvious sympathy for the city. You know it's not fashionable these days to love big cities. They are usually depicted as the source of many of our nation's ills rather than victims of neglect. I don't know how long that attitude will prevail, but I see hard times ahead for awhile yet.

I was also impressed with your comment to Jae. I think the source of a lot of anger toward women in our society is a direct reaction to the progress women made in the 60's and 70's. Men have felt threatened by the change in the status quo and feel a need to strike back. To remind women "of their place." Backlash. I think it is true through much of history that periods of civil rights progress are often followed by periods of fear, rebellion and backtracking.

[JG] The phrase Silverberg used to describe Tiptree's style was "ineluctably masculine," not "ineffably." Let's keep our jibes accurate.

Nice review of recent feminist history. It's good to recall the actual events; various forms of the backlash sometimes (temporarily) obscure solid accomplishments of the women's movement. We hear, in various forms, that it never happened, it was silly, it was a lot of fuss over the activities of a tiny minority, it was a fad, it wasn't necessary in the first place, it should never have happened, etc. So, it's a good thing to remember once in a while that it did happen, it wasn't silly, there were a lot of us, it's still important and it's not over.

Whoops. I think I'm over my 100-word limit.

Pat Hario

[SC] Thanks for the worldcon report. It sounds like you had a good time, but I guess I'm glad I didn't go. It just didn't sound like it would have been worth the money, the effort to drive up and the time off from work and school to go.

As I wrote to Bill Hoffman below, I think Card had a bigger agenda than just the confines of the Mormon Church. He clearly supports wider public action against gays and lesbians than just a witch hunt within the church. I think he not only wanted to make it clear what the church's position should be, but to urge the membership to action against gays in society at large. It was interesting that you tried to tie in the community discussion with this. To me this has a lot to do with the politics of community. Many church communities are very hierarchical and do not accept much input from the membership unless it is in line with current teaching. They are not struggling to define themselves, they have to simply follow the rules. The leadership is free to look outside the community to society in general. In this case they've decided their values are superior and should be adopted by all. Remember for the Mormons, homosexuality is already a closed subject. It's wrong, period. Only the choice of how to best stop it is worthy of discussion. The real issue for the Mormons is how to get their values into law covering everyone.

YCT Diane, I thought your point about different definitions for effort, quality, time and length was accurate. I will defer further comment until I see what (if any) response you have to Jeanne's response to Diane.

[JG] Why shouldn't we hold George Stewart (author of *Earth Abides*) to a higher standard? Harper Lee wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird* in the same time period as *Earth Abides*, and didn't seem compelled to support a racist view of the world in *her* book.

You wondered about the situation/event that caused Orson Scott Card to write his screed against homosexuality. I wonder if it had anything to do with the religious right wing's change in strategy this past year. Apparently—(according to an article commenting on right wing politics I read somewhere. Sorry, no hard source.)—the religious right wing has mostly given up on abortion as a rallying issue. The addition of non-reactionary members to the Supreme Court clinched their acceptance of defeat on that front, according to my foggy source. The new hate targets are homosexuals. Conservative activists are being urged to make their opinion known on the subject of homosexuals, who apparently lend themselves more easily to demonization than women who choose abortion (and who so often turned out to be wives, daughters and friends). I hope they loose this battle for the same reason—that gays turn out to be spouses, children and friends.

...Which reminds me. Construction on the Rodney Scheel House begins this month. Scott and I have been promised invitations to the event. If anyone here in the apa wants to know when the groundbreaking celebration happens, let me know, and I will pass on the information to you when we get it. You should call me, since this will happen before the next issue of *Turbo* is published.

I liked the movie *Parenthood*, although I interpreted it more broadly than simply as a story about parenting. I thought the story expressed its message well—that life is crazy, that unpredictable things happen, and that we may as well learn to ride with the punches rather than attempt to control the uncontrollable. I think I share the main character's illusion that it's possible to control more of one's life than is actually possible, and the film was a good reminder for me, and an amusing one at that.

Bill Hoffman

[SC] Great pictures. Was that first one Pat Cadigan?

Scott Card has a right to believe whatever he wants even if it is sick and twisted. The crucial part of his article to me is his attack on homosexuals in general apart from his religious beliefs.

"This applies also to the polity, the community of citizens at large...Laws against homosexual behavior should remain on the books...to send a signal that those who flagrantly violate society's regulation of sexual behavior cannot be permitted to remain as acceptable, equal citizens within this society."

I thought it was important for SF fans to understand that this guy not only rejects gays in his church, but he supports secular action against them as well. I have seen much discussion in the Left press lately comparing the current hysteria against homosexuals with the anti-communist hysteria of the

last 45 years. The communist threat is gone, so the Right needs a new rallying cry. Gay-bashing is obviously a good prospect.

[JG] Why couldn't one use the spooky action of quantum theory to do faster-than-light communication? How about this scenario? Wouldn't this work...?

Two groups of starship rebels flee the deathstar commander. The captain of one group of rebels suggests to the captain of the other group that they use photon polarization to rendezvous. Somehow they develop a process in which identical photons are created in the neighborhood of each of their ships, and are checked at given increments of time. "If we discover your photon to be vertical, we will know you have gone one direction," says the captain. "If your photon is horizontal we will know you have gone the other direction." (Direction choices would have been plotted earlier.) After years of fleeing from the deathstar, and regular course changes with each photon check, the two groups of rebels rendezvous (eventually) and slip from the deathstar commander's clutches.

Since no one else could possibly have access to these particular photon pairs, no one can "listen into" this strange form of communication. It would be, at least, an airtight kind of cryptography. Right?

Bill Humphries

[SC] I was always opposed to a U.S. invasion of Haiti, but I think I would have preferred that course to this "negotiated" nonsense we're stuck with now. At least an invasion would have meant the Haitian military would have been defanged. As it is now, there has been no significant change in the power structure down there. The army and the five families still run things and Aristide will be walking into bear trap that's set and ready to snap shut as soon as the U.S. leaves.

[JG] Haiti seems to be turning out better than I expected it would. Maybe I'm being naive, but the video footage of villagers stealing guns from the police and handing them over to the American soldiers made me feel hopeful about the situation. Minimal violence, so far. And maybe a peaceful handing-over of power.

Lynne Ann Morse

[SC] Actually I'm pretty opinionated and I often have the problem of jumping the gun and saying (writing) what I think before I hear all sides. My main reason for holding back with Jae's piece was that I think she is a very subtle writer and it is very easy to misunderstand what she is saying, or to have a variety of opinions about her point of view. So I figured I'd wait and see, for once, how many other people had the same reaction I did. This approach to controversial issues is often a wise one that I have seen you use effectively. I usually don't have the patience.

Your response to my question about progress in your therapy was helpful to me. I was kind of focused on goal reaching and getting "fixed up." One can certainly engage in

therapy for self-exploration, and the knowledge gained can be seen as "progress" whether it helps you with a problem or not.

Powerful rebuttal to Scott Card's article. I was a bit amazed at the energy you put into this, but I could soon see it was very important to you to set these issues straight. I liked the fact that you engaged him on his own religious turf (so to speak.) It would be all too easy for us to dismiss his religious rationale and focus on the secular politics (as all my responses have done.) Great piece, Lynne. And a line for Pat at the end, "Joining a community should never be mutually exclusive with being your true self."

[JG] I can't help it; I keep thinking in terms of goals. OK, I will accept that you don't, but as I read your zine, various "meta-goals" kept occurring to me. Your description of your struggles seem to suggest that you are trying to find a way to be whole, to be happy, and that the lessons you are attempting to learn are pathways to wholeness, to happiness.

I too, was impressed by your response to Orson Scott Card's essay. Thank you.

Kim & Kathi Nash

[SC] Kim, I thought "Kim and Kathi Hang a Door" was one of the funniest pieces I have read in *Turbo* in a long time. I don't know if non-home owners will get as much of a kick out of it as I did, but I thought it was hilarious. It's great to have that particularly nasty sense of humor of yours back again. We've put two storm doors on our house in the last few years. We hired someone to do it for me both times.

Kathi, in general I agree with you about funerals. A few years ago it seemed I was going to a funeral every month (like weddings, they sometimes come in bunches) and the idea of having a party or wake instead of the usual dreary ceremony was a welcome one. But I also know that grief can be a weird thing that people handle very differently. I don't think a celebration would always be a good thing. For some people, having a few drinks would only make things worse. We all know there are few things worse than a crying drunk. In my own case, I would want a party instead of a sermon and organ music.

[JG] Funny, funny story about the screen door, Kim! It was fun! Sounds like a new catch phrase.

Michael Shannon

[SC] Your moving story fortunately did not feature any real disasters. The last time I drove to Austin I made motel reservations in advance. It meant I didn't always get as far as I could have in a day, but I didn't wind up without a room when I needed to sleep either. I'm glad you made it OK. I'm looking forward to the latest update from you.

Scott & Jeanne
14 October 1994