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NUMBER 1 · JEANNE GOMOLL; MEMBER, FWA

Hello there Madison fans.

 An introduction to the author as an apa-contributor. My first time was also the first time I had ever heard about an apa. This was A Women's Apa, or AWA for short. I went on and on in Obsessions (my apazine) for at least four pages introducing myself, telling the story of my life up to that point, and making pointed allusions to two books I'd read recently. The two books were The Three Marias and Monique Wittig's Les Guerilleres, both of which were about groups of women writing personal journals as groups--individuals writing personal entries into the community journals, and the journal itself becoming a work of art, and the books themselves. Of course, I figured that this was what AWA could do, and I had High Expectations.

And of course, I was rather far off the mark about what happens in apas.

Still, I enjoyed the five or six years I contributed to AWA. The other apa I joined was CRAPA, which was an acronym standing for Cascade Regional Apa, made up of people that I'd met in some of my visits to Seattle. I thought of CRAPA as an easy way to stay in touch with those people. And that was a more reasonable expectaion to have about an apa. Until most of the original members dropped out, I did just that, and in fact I stayed around a little longer too, until the topic of conversation more and more tended to converge on Marxist politics and Dadaist art. It got too weird for me and I dropped out.

Now I do Whimsey which seems to combine the best of both sorts of expectations that I carried with me into the apas I joined. As editor, I can mold articles and letters into a whole that seems more cohesive than an apa can be. I also get a great deal of high quality feedback (less of the "Gct the nerd" sort) than I ever did in the apas. I still get to meet people through their writing since I get long, interesting letters about people's lives as a result of the sort of zine Whimesy is, and all in all, I never expected to seriously consider joining an apa again.

After all, I said, why should I join an apa of Madison people? I can get to know these people face to face. We can have all the conversations in person that are possible in print. And to tell you the truth, I still don't know if that isn't basically still a valid point. However, after reading the first issue, I had to admit that there is a lot about many of you that I might not have discovered in any of the face-to-face conversations happening at Nick's, and had it not been for your contributions to the apa, I might have missed certain aspects about you entirely. Kim Koenigsberg's contribution, for instance, surprised me, like a drink of water surprises when it turns out to be gin, instead. Wow! So I asked Andy if he needed a cover for the second issue and did the cover so I could receive the next issue, and take some more time to decide whether I really wanted to try apahacking again.

So far I don't know. Andy's keeping me hanging. He hasn't gotten around to giving me a copy of #2 yet.

A sloppy introduction to the author who is interested in keeping this zine short. I'm a long-time fan, as fan time goes. I come from the Milwaukee area, but I didn't discover fandom until after I'd graduated from the UW Madison in 1973 (with a degree in geography) and had been freelancing (art and typing) for a while. A few years after I'd gotten involved in fandom, and somewhat as a result of the artwork I'd done for Janus and other fanzines, I got a job with the DNR and became an "official" artist. They call me a "graphic artist 2".

The bottom drawer of my file cabinet at home is filled with copies of fanzines in which my work is published, and I'm about to start filing more stuff in a second drawer. I've written dozens of articles and drawn hundreds and hundreds of drawings. Being a number-phobe I don't keep track of the number of cons I've attended, but there have been a lot of them. And this year I'm running for TAFF—the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund.

Outside fandom, I'm a liberal, or strident, radical feminist, depending on what end of the political spectrum you happen to be looking at me from. I'm a voracious reader of mostly fiction. Lots of science fiction, but not predominantly so. I tend to be somewhat of a loner, enjoying time by myself, most of the time, more than partying. After a worldcon, I'm apt to avoid gatherings of four or more people for a month or so, in fact. But generally, from shy beginnings, I've turned into a pretty confident, social person since moving to Madison away from my family.

And there's more, but I've got to save room for mailing comments.

But, oops, I haven't got the last issue, have I? Perhaps I can fake it... After Kim's "Bakery Hell" of the last issue, and various hints some of you dropped about your planned "_____ Hells" that you could and would be writing about in the next issue, I imagine that I would have enjoyed Pete Winz's "Civil Service Exam Hell" of TCPA #2. How I would have thrilled to his story of having forgotten to bring the two number two pencils to the exam site, and how the sea of little hollow circles swam up to flood his vision as he bent over his test sheet. I'm sure it would have been a nightmarish tour d'force. And Mike DuCharme's "Iowa Hell"—his retrospective tale of the grim and reactionary little town where he worked as a librarian, surely would have been a story worthy of Dante. The spies sent to fingerprint the petty cash box, the little strings tied onto the books to discover whether Mike was illicitly reading on the job, would have made a terrible image. Oh, and Richard Russell's macabre tale of "Illogic Hell" about how he is surrounded by illogical people who won't behave rationally, would have reminded me of Robert Heinlein's "Them," except for the fact that it was so much longer than that classic little story. Andy Hooper usually writes in a fear and loathing style and so I expect that his "Hell" story would have contained the usual frantic, digressive flashes of brilliance that usually season his pieces. What ever he wrote, "Apa Hell," "Computer Maintenance Hell," "Hairy Hell," or "Cooperative Living Hell," I'm sure that I would have loved it. Somehow I think he'd have come up with some different titles though. I'm really sorry to have missed the great "Office Hell" that Diane probably came up with, and can just imagine the wonderful thing that Laura's "Sump Pump Hell" apazine article must have been... And I wonder if Jim Cox actually wrote "Rambo Hell?" Or was that a dream I had? More likely he wrote a great smear on his heritage, "Mormon Hell." But I've already heard about that, so I guess I'm not too upset for having missed it. But gee, I hope I get to find out for sure before the forth issue of this apa comes out. It might be nice to write some MC's about zines that I've actually seen.

Oh wait a minute, I have seen part of #3! Nice cover.

Jeanne

Jeanne Gomoll, 9/20/86