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SCOTT CUSTIS & JEANNE GOMOLL

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This issue of *Jornada Post* is brought to you by Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53704. 608-246-8857. Jeanne's email is ArtBrau@gdinet.com; Scott's email is sec@gdinet.com. This is *Jornada Post* #1, Obsessive Press #276, Peerless Press #145. *Jornada Post* was created using a Power Macintosh G3, InDesign 2, Illustrator 9.0.2, Photoshop 6.0.1, and a Laserwriter Select 360. Display font is Rennie Macintosh. All contents copyright © 2003 by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, July 2003 for the Turbo-Charged Party Animal #205.

A New Title

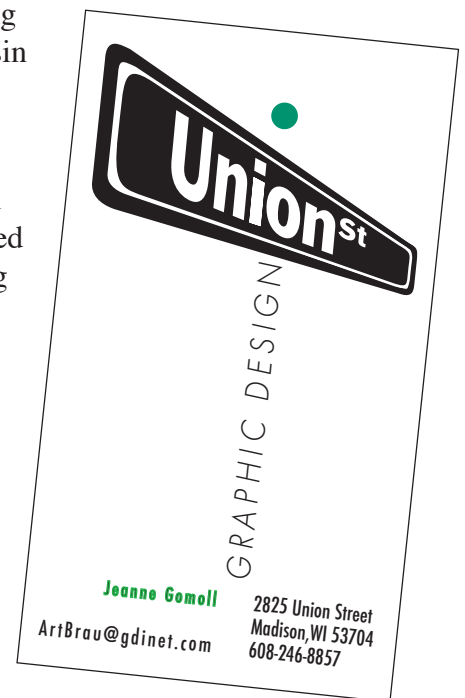
[JG] We like it. Hope you do too. *Union Street* had to go since I have appropriated it as my business name.

Pink Slip, Part II

[JG] Since last issue of the late, lamented *Union Street*, the date of my DNR demise has approached so close I can feel it. The abyss approaches. I still can't see if it's safe to dive in. But dive I will. I've decided not to go in to work on my last day (August 1). I'm going to hang out with my sister Julie since she'll be in Wisconsin for our brother Steve's wedding (August 2).

I've been busy, too busy to get very worried or dwell much. I designed business cards for "Union St. Graphic Design" (though I've already shortened it to "Union St. Design"), am investigating getting my own domain, have printed many copies of my resume, printed letterhead and mailing labels. I've begun putting stuff together for a web page, and hope to get that up and running in early August. I want to be able to point folks to my on-line portfolio. I'm taking a course in running a business and have met with a financial manager to see if my plans make any sense. (He seemed to think so, and also seems to regard me as a hot client for himself. We'll see.

Lots of good advice from him.) I've opened a business banking account, have been looking for someone to do bookkeeping for me one or two hours a week, and am reading about how to use QuickenPro to keep track of things. Anyone know anything about how useful job tracking software is? There's a free one ("Project Timer") available for the Mac. I've ordered a Mac G5 and a Xanté printer, plus assorted pieces of software upgrades that I'll need for System 10, which the new G5 will have pre-installed. We will also have an airport hub that will allow both Scott and I to go on-line and print via radio waves. I haven't made the decision about whether to get a slide scanner right away or not. I may just wait till the first job comes up with lots of slides that need to be scanned.



The prices can only go down on these machines. Whooh! Can't wait for the new, very hot G%! I still need to order a DSL connection. Must do that on Monday. There are three new books on beside me that look like they will be very useful indeed: *2003 Artist's and Graphic Designer's Market*, *Business and Legal Forms for Graphic Designers*, and *Graphic Artists Guild Handbook: Pricing and Ethical Guidelines*. I've got to get a handle on my rates and marketing strategies! I think I'm going to join the Graphic Artists Guild. Looks like I can get good advice on business insurance and various legal matters there, plus it looks like a great place to network, get advice and graze for jobs.

I need to do some serious work examining the market here in town, finding out how much artists like me charge, what kind of work is plentiful, what kind is scarce, that sort of thing. I need to finish writing my business plan, but I figure I'll do that as I learn at the business class.

At the DNR, I need to follow up on the contract that's being written for graphic services. We artists have a lot of support from DNR staff; many of them are promising to direct jobs to us. And I need to send out a follow-up letter to my clients with a business card tucked in.

At home, I've got a LOT to do. Scott's brother has promised to come out to upgrade the electrical service in my office. And then I've got to move a bunch of stuff out of my office to make room for more critical job-related stuff in here. This will involve shelving moving from the basement to the attic and my to-read shelf exiled upstairs. I've already got 6 or 7 jobs that I will need to work on right away in August, so I need to get set up pretty quickly.

Ironic moments: My dental

hygienist, who claims to be able to detect evidence of life stress in people's gums, looked at mine and said, "Wow, you obviously have no stress in your life." I said, "No, none at all." On the other hand, Scott and I went out for meal at Hong Kong Café the other day and my fortune cookie predicted a "change of jobs" in the near future.

My Brother's Wedding Invitation

[JG] Here's my artwork for Steve and Linda's wedding invitation. It started out with a generic wedding couple silhouette, but gradually Steve and Linda asked for changes to make the couple look more like them until the couple looked *exactly* like them. The Eiffel Tower is not actually printed; it is embossed on the actual card and looks very cool. (They fell in love in Paris; I wasn't inserting a political comment, really. And Steve gave Linda a long-stemmed red rose when he asked her to marry him. That's the symbolism.) I'm having one of the cards framed along with a silk rose as a wedding gift for them.

WisCon 27

[SC] It has been more than a month since the convention ended. Even after this much time it is difficult for me to sort out how I felt about it all. As Chair, I am immensely pleased by how successful it seemed to be, yet as a longtime volunteer I can't quite escape a persistent feeling of melancholy. From an organizational standpoint, I had a very good year. We had a simply fabulous, genuinely international, Concom. Being the WisCon Hotel Liaison was far more work for me than being Chair, but being Chair carried with it a much greater weight of responsibility. The biggest, toughest job the WisCon



Chair has to perform is making sure all the jobs on the Concom are filled. I was faced with two significant challenges in this regard early on. Our venerable Consuite organizer Hope Kiefer decided that she needed to step back this year. In addition, Child Care became a challenge when our longtime provider lost her certification and our Concom contact person, Dan Dexter, couldn't deal with finding another vendor to replace her. Both of these changes posed serious potential problems for the convention. Hope's vision of what the WisCon Consuite should be has become a tradition. People have grown to count on our vast food and beverage offerings, but the work involved in putting it all together and making it happen is considerable. Child Care has also become a reliable tradition at WisCon and seems especially essential at an event that calls itself a feminist SF con. I was fortunate to find solutions to these challenges relatively quickly. The brave and eternally upbeat Dave Devereau-Weber stepped forward to take charge of the Consuite, promising to keep Hope's vision alive, much to our relief. And I asked Karen Meisner, a new arrival to Madison with a child of her own, to tackle the search for our next child care vendor. She took on that responsibility with enthusiasm and did a fantastic job.

Another job challenge that worked out particularly well this year was the addition of another Concom newcomer, Carrie Ferguson, to assist Karen with publicity. The Concom has not invested so many people on WisCon publicity in a number of years. Carrie proceeded to brainstorm some very appropriate and effective new strategies. She is a dynamite new volunteer.

The other big new challenge this year was The Gathering. The idea to replace Friday afternoon programming with a sort of British style fair/fete was first put forward at the Dead Dog party at WisCon 26. As so famously happens at WisCon, people got excited and started throwing out ideas. Amy Hanson took the point position on planning this event when it was decided that Broad Universe

could use it as a means to raise money in its efforts to promote women writers in SF. Amy was a font of energy and ideas and she worked closely with Jeanne and I and the local Concom throughout the year hammering out a thousand details. In the end it worked out quite well and we all learned a lot. Amy and Broad Universe were pleased enough to want to do it again next year.



Our Guests of Honor, Carol Emshwiller and China Miéville were excellent. I vaguely expected

China to draw some extra people to WisCon since he had only made a couple prior US appearances, but it turned out that Carol may actually have had the biggest impact on WisCon's attendance. We found out about mid-year that Ursula Le Guin and Molly Gloss had decided to come back to WisCon to see their friend Carol as our Guest. This set off concerns on the Concom right away that Ursula's presence could radically increase attendance and even eclipse our guests if we didn't handle it correctly. So we decided to simply list Ursula as one of our attending luminaries and not direct any special attention to her in our promotions. That may have helped keep attention on Carol and China, but I still have little doubt that the fact that Ursula was coming prompted some folks to decide to attend who otherwise would not have.

WisCon 27 was successful from a variety of standpoints. We sold about 780 memberships, the most since WisCon 20. The Gathering was a financial success for Broad Universe as well as a popular success for WisCon. The expansion of the Art Show space worked well, but it was the dramatic increase in the quality of the art that drew much praise this year. In addition, the Tiptree Award had probably its biggest fundraising weekend ever, raising around \$7000 at the auction, bake sale and t-shirt sales. Without a wedding to cramp our style, the weekend ended up with no significant security issues to hash out and the hotel was so happy with our room pickup that they are ready to assign WisCon an even bigger chunk of their rooms next year. They consider us one of their best customers and they want to keep us happy. On top of all that, the surveys seem to

confirm the impression I had all weekend that attendees were having a great time.

So what is there to feel down about?

WisCon appears to be continuing its long decline toward irrelevance in the local group. It was once said about Madison SF group social functions that they were always threatening to turn into meetings. We were so famously sercon. Then we went through a period where it was unfashionable to discuss WisCon at parties because it was feared that arguments would erupt if certain WisCon-related controversies came up in conversation. Better to avoid the whole ugly subject.

These days even that is not so much of an issue. Today people don't talk about WisCon at parties partly because they simply don't know much about WisCon. Even people on the Concom are not necessarily well versed in what is going on because they don't attend meetings and only skim the minutes. I was explaining what The Gathering was going to be and how it was going to work to some Concom members right up to the beginning of the convention, for example. I have had people complain to me at recent social gatherings that WisCon is getting too big. That it is getting too hard to hook up with friends at the convention. The convention is dominated by writers and pros, more and more fans are feeling too intimidated to sign up for programming. The convention is focusing too much attention on writers and not enough on fans. In other words, WisCon is not like it used to be. I agree that WisCon has changed, but I see the changes as mostly positive.

The thing that aggravates me the most about these sorts of complaints, is the irony. Twenty seven years ago, when this group founded WisCon as the first and only feminist SF convention, they must have hoped to have some impact on the SF and Fantasy genre. They must have dreamed that someday, if WisCon was truly successful, their goals and values would be taken seriously by the writers, editors and publishers in the field. It could be said they wanted to change the world, in a way or at least a part of the world they cared a

lot about. The irony is that finally their convention is succeeding. WisCon, most spectacularly in its last 9 years but really over the course of its whole history, has become an important regional SF con. It is one of the best run SF cons in the country, maybe in the world. It is spinning off organizations like the Tiptree Award, Broad Universe and the Carl Brandon Society that are dedicated to changing the field of SF and Fantasy. And the convention has been steadily influencing more and more young writers and academics who will undoubtedly have a big impact on the fiction we read in the future. Some of "our" writers these days are getting recognition at the top of the field, and are beginning to have an impact on what is regarded as good SF and Fantasy. Yet just as WisCon is gaining prominence and having an impact, the local group seems to be losing interest.

At **Kim and Kathi's** lovely 4th of July party, Jim Frenkel complimented WisCon 27. He said he had a great time and felt it was wonderful con. Yet, completely unprompted by me or Jeanne, he wondered whether local people really understood how fine a thing WisCon was. Sadly, I had to agree. In spite of our success recruiting people from around the country and around the world to work on WisCon, without the enthusiasm and support of the local group, WisCon will not survive.

WisCon Retreat

[JG] We've been trying to plan one of these for a couple years now mostly because we never seem to have time to talk about long-term issues during regular WisCon meetings. This year we've finally gotten our plans together early enough to make this happen. Here are some of the topics that will probably get discussed over a two-day weekend:

* WisCon serves a niche market of the SF community, though each year our focus changes somewhat. Where are we heading? Where would we like to go?

* How do we envision WisCon carrying on as the key organizers grows older or move on?

* We are changing from a primarily-locally based conglom to an international committee. Do we want to do this? How can we make it work if we decide the answer is yes?

* How might we make volunteering more appealing to our attendees?

* A lot of fund-raising goes on at WisCon. Its success is inspiring other groups to suggest fund-raising events for WisCon. Do we want to put limits on these activities? Set guidelines?

* Presuming that WisCon continues to make money, what long-term proposals would the WisCon conglom like to make to SF3 about how it gets spent?

* The attendance numbers have risen each year for the past three years and we're at the point now where we will have to choose between moving to a larger hotel or figuring out ways to put a cap on our growth. What are our options?

* At WisCon 21, 80% of the WisCon committee positions were filled by people from Madison. By WisCon 27, local fans filled under 60% of the positions. With WisCon 28, we have our first coordinator from outside Madison (Victor Raymond). Ten years ago, we were a convention run by local people for local people. Then we saw the fraction of non-local people attending increase sharply, and now the people working on the convention come from all over the world. Our main growth in attendees from WisCon 26 to WisCon 27 was people from outside the Midwest, mostly from states with relatively small SF populations. Is this shift OK, or should we try to go back? And if it's mostly OK, what do we need to do to make it work better. Some Madison people have complained that all the "boring," "hard," or "uninteresting" jobs wind up being done by Madison people and the non-Madison folks get the "plums." On the other hand, some non-Madison people complain that they feel like second-class citizens -- the locals wind up making all the major decisions, leaving the outsiders truly outside. [This point is taken from an email by Jim Hudson.]

If you have suggestions about what needs to be talked about and would like to hear more about the Retreat, please send an email to Jeanne. We have about a month and a half before the Retreat happens and would welcome input from everyone.

Comments

[SC] Although I have been diligent in reading the last four issues of the apa, I have little hope that I will be able to comment thoroughly on all of them. But, not wanting them to go by the wayside completely without response, I have decided to fuse a few remarks together below just to hit some highlights that may still be relevant. My apologies to all of you for my long absence from these pages.

Turbo apa #201

[SC] This issue starts out very well with another wonderful cover by **Georgie**. Wow. In her zine Georgie writes to **Maureen** that peaceful demonstrations in the U.S. are disregarded and will have no effect on this administration. I disagree, peaceful demonstrations have a long and honorable track record in the U.S. in the struggle for women's suffrage, labor rights, civil rights and opposition to the Vietnam War. It worked against all those administrations and it could work against this one as well. **Greg** provides interesting reviews of *Gods and Generals* and *Daredevil*. We have not yet seen the first film and I am not sure you've convinced us to see it. We skipped *Gettysburg* due to wildly mixed reviews. We saw *Daredevil*, which we thought was alright, but I couldn't really tell from your review whether you liked it or not. **Tom** writes about his mom's condition which we all now know ends sadly. On a much happier note, he's still infatuated with J.J., which is a very fine thing. **Lisa** dazzles us with a zine featuring a collection of shorter pieces that were all nicely done. I wish her the best on the novel project. In her comment to Jeanne on WFC, I think there may be more Madison people involved than it appears. Some folks who are working on it are not in the apa and others are not exactly jumping up and shouting about it. I spoke with Meg a couple times

at WisCon and she is moving steadily forward with planning. I think her current plan to use the Concourse as the main site for the event is a wise one. **Paul** writes a simply brilliant critique of the impending Iraq war. I have to thank **Jim** for reading Harry Turtledove so I don't have to. What little curiosity I had about his work is gone for good I'm happy to say. **Ruth** wrote a vivid description of her car accident. We should all breathe a sigh of relief that it turned out as well as it did. **Jane** submitted a fine intro zine. I hope it doesn't turn out to be her only contribution as I was looking forward to a bit of back and forth with her in these pages after WisCon. Finally **Jeannie** weighs in with some well earned invective toward Dubya as well as commentary on some less serious subjects (like penis size?)

Turbo Apa #202

[SC] I loved Ver The Helmscat. In fact I have greatly enjoyed all the opening missives from **Comrade Jerome** in the apa lately. I think they are hilarious. If **Don Helley** still needs seconds, Jerome, you can count one from me. Sorry to have to miss Odyssey Con this year, our Spring convention schedule was packed. I expect to be there next year, in fact I would like to buy memberships and a t-shirt sometime if they are still available. We'll make arrangements. Thanks to **Greg Rhin** for a zine packed with good stuff including con reports, a film review, a detailed justification for Robert Lafollette as a Great American and comments. To this I can only say in response to his comment to Jeanne on WisCon guests of honor, that Greg was invited to vote on WisCon's guest of honor not because he was a program participant but because he and **Georgie** were official members of the Concom working on Opening Ceremonies. That's a big job they did wonderfully well and were deserving of voting privileges in my view. Thanks as always to Georgie for the lush and thought-provoking

comments in her zine. Excellent piece from **Lisa** on the anthrax scare at the emergency room that turned out to be a crushed French fry. I also tended to sympathize with the annoyed citizen who objected to turning French fries into freedom fries. I feel lucky the same nonsense wasn't attempted in the cafeteria in my own state office building. **Kim**, seems to have recovered from the lobster cracker incident judging from his masterly performance at the grill on the 4th of July. **Vicki**, I find myself always hoping her zine will bring good news of a new job. Nothing yet I see, but hope springs eternal. **Velma**, in her comment to Greg she mentioned Pabst Blue Ribbon beer. Frankly I am mystified by the resurging popularity of this brand which is contract-brewed these days. When they closed the last Pabst plant in Milwaukee, hundreds of workers lost jobs, but they also lost pensions. Many workers who had worked their whole lives for the company lost everything. The label owners in California had no sense of responsibility for them and now they market the brand to clueless kids who think it is trendy. How sad. Oh, and it tastes bad too. **Soren** submitted a fascinating hodgepodge of pieces in his zine that I greatly enjoyed. **Andy's** labored defense of the war in Iraq is losing credibility fast as we sink into the (utterly predictable) "post-war" quagmire, just as Bush's lies are catching up with him. In a turn for the better Andy nominated Hal and Ulricka O'Brien which I would be delighted to second. **Jae** published another chart (which I used to do too, at the end of every year.) She seems to be happy not to be OE anymore, which is good news I guess. I don't think being OE has to be all that bad an experience. Our first handwritten zine in a long time came from **Tom** in New Orleans, a place I have always wanted to visit. My sympathies on the passing of his mother. **Hope and Karl** round out the issue. I was pleased that they included the newspaper article, which was interesting, but which also featured a really, really good picture of the family.

Turbo apa #203

[SC] Once again **Greg's** zine was a mixed bag of interesting stuff, particularly his review of Scheherezade and response to **Vicki** re: "girly" drinks. In Iowa in 1974 it was also legal to drink at 18, the year I gained majority. But I was also one of those men who acquired a taste for beer before getting fully legal because it was the easiest thing for underage partiers to get our hands on. Had I waited to start drinking until I was able to go to bars legally, I doubt I would ever have started drinking beer at all because I did not care for it at first. **Georgie** gives us a rundown on their busy convention/party schedule: OddCon, Costume Con, Corflu and Pat's Going Away party. I would like to second her assessment of **Hooper's** play at Corflu as "brilliant." I couldn't agree more. I thought it was amazing. Thanks to **Ruth** particularly for her Odyssey Con report because I couldn't make it this year and I appreciate the reports on how it went. I hope the job search is productive, it seems we have a lot of unemployed *Turbo* apans at the moment. Apologies to **Jae**, we did not end up writing a report on Seacon after all and it is all too fuzzy and far away now to do it justice. We had a real good time there, however, and we've been scratching our heads ever since trying to figure out why we haven't managed to get back to England since Jeanne's TAFF trip in 1987. Her point to me that writing good fiction takes practice is perfectly reasonable and sensible. I agree that instant success is way preferable to practice. **Lisa's** great piece on Baseball and Teeth was delightful. I love this stuff. I also want to point out the wisdom in her suggestion to **Jerome** that the key to workable deadlines may not be in selecting a date, but in selecting a day of the week. Jae introduced the 21st of the month deadline. All the other OE's wanted a particular day of the week as the deadline and published the year's deadline dates in the business pages. I always had the deadline on a Saturday, for example, because that worked best for me. **Andy** writes again this month mentioning Jerome's rocky start as new OE. Jerome may be discovering that running the apa is not as simple as it looks. We hope things smooth out. Later we vicariously accompany Andy and

Carrie for a walking adventure that I thoroughly enjoyed. Whenever I finish a piece like that from Andy, I have to wonder how he pulled me along so effortlessly. He makes it look so easy. And Carrie, we really must hear from her more often than once in 8 months or so.

Greg Rihn,

[JG] Another themed book discussion group! Some of the books that might be on my list of spiritual influences would be:

The Zen of Motorcycle Maintenance for the idea that one should immerse oneself in the moment of whatever you are doing. Also, an essay in Allan Watts' book, *This Is It*.

Monique Wittig's *Les Guérrières*, and Doris Lessing's *Woman on the Edge of Time* for the idea that fantasy is an incredibly useful tool for imagining different futures, different courses of action. Lessing's book contains the additional insight that one cannot subsist on fantasy, but can merely visit for refreshment and inspiration.

Joseph Campbell's books on universal human myths.

I envy you the ballet. It sounds like an exciting experience.

Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] What a useful insight you shared about how you live your personal life in the same manner as your professional one: "to oblige." I generally keep a stronger hold on objective priorities (witnessed by the fact that my first reaction to the sound of the telephone ringing while I am working is to curse softly under my breath). But recently the stress of my "transition," as they call it at the DNR, my pattern has changed. I find that I am simply doing whatever appears next in eyesight. Whatever is on top of the pile when I finish something else. Whatever appears If I am looking to my left ... or on my right if I am looking right. I feel these days like I am charging through thick underbrush, randomly choosing one direction or

another, with no assurance that *any* direction is the most efficient route. I wake up in the morning from stressful dreams about what needs to be done next, so maybe I am subconsciously organizing myself. But my priorities certainly aren't being defined by those around me, that's for sure. Soon, though, my clients will probably have more power over my schedule.

Ruth Nichols

[JG] How is the job search going Ruth? We certainly are in the company of a huge number of laid off people here in Madison. I also have attended some meetings at the Displaced Worker Center and one of the instructors (at the intro meeting for the new business class) said that 10 years ago a group like ours might have included one or two laid off workers. In contrast, most of the attendees of that day's class had been laid off.

Tracy Benton

[JG] I miss you already. But I'm not ready to follow you to Live Journal.

Jae Adams

[JG] I loved all the catch-up comments. Thanks, Jae.

What a great title, "Bad Food, Worse Weather, Mary Fucking Poppins." Love it.

I very much agree with your advice to Scott re practice and writing.

It turns out we will soon have another choice of trans-Lake Michigan travel. There's going to be new high-tech hydrofoil car ferry between Milwaukee and ... I forget. But it sounds pretty cool, certainly much cleaner than the old coal-burning monstrosity that Scott and I took last summer.

I enjoyed your musings on **Lee's** suggestions for possible *Turbo* awards. I thought your motives for publishing the attendance chart was quite clear. It is perhaps not evident to those who have never

shouldered OE duties how worrisome the final moments before deadline are for OEs as they wait for those submissions to arrive.

Your comment on **Paul's** "Life on a stick," reminds me of an overheard bit of conversation that convulsed both Scott and I at this year's Art Fair on the Square: "I am NOT going to eat ANYTHING ON A STICK this year!" one woman angrily declared to her nodding partner.

Yes, it never occurred to me, but **Maureen** and **Paul's** house layout DOES resemble Scott's and my house. More narrow, but similar.

The subject of what to call members of *Turbo* brings to mind the various decisions of Tiktreet judges about what to call themselves. I've heard Tiprites, Tiptees, Tiptrons, Tiptrees, Tiplers and the Tiptrust. I'm sure I could remember more if I paused longer in this paragraph. Did your fellow judges come up with a name for yourselves?

Lisa Freitag

[JG] Scott once played baseball with his young nephew in what he surely must have thought was an idyllic sort of "coaches pitch" game as you described. However, unbeknownst to Scott, the child had been intensively coached and was far more advanced in the game than Scott suspected. Also, the nephew had a wickedly strong batter's arm for such a little kid. So I sat in the living room with most of Scott's relatives, watching Scott through the picture window as he slowly tossed the ball in a gentle arc to his nephew who stood only five or six feet from Scott. The next moment Scott was flat on his back, holding his hand to his face, groaning miserably. Nephew was racing around an imaginary diamond as Scott's brother (the secret coach) stood by laughing his head off. Siblings can be so cruel.

Another wonderful story. Thank you.

Andy Hooper

[JG] I liked reading about your and Carrie's hikes. What a great activity to share with one another, a

good time to talk, get exercise, see beautiful sites. Thanks.

Mailing Comments, Issue #204

Greg Rihn

[JG] Thanks for the WisCon report, Greg (and **Georgie**, **Vicki**, **Jim**, and **Ruth** too)!

Scott, my father and I visited the Art Museum and saw the Brook Stevens exhibit just a couple days after you and **Georgie** saw it. (We also visited the same museum a few days before you did, and also before the Steven's exhibit opened.) The thing that most impressed me about the Stevens exhibit was how he radically changed the look of our world by paying attention to the design of the *outside* of machinery. Refrigerators used to sport exposed motors and motors themselves were ungainly conglomerations of necessary parts that Stevens streamlined and placed into a slick, shiny *package*. Stevens imparted a mysterious glamour to machines by hiding their innards.

The highpoint of our earlier visit (the day after WisCon with **Maureen** and **Paul**) was the "Beaver Map" in the special exhibit of early North American maps. Have you seen it? I would really like to have a copy of the illustration from this map; it seems to me that it was really a sort of visual science fiction. The explorers came back from the New World and described the huge earthworks that beavers built and the huge lakes their damns created. They probably brought a few dead beavers and pelts with them, but the map-maker who created the illustration for this particular map could only imagine HOW beavers actually achieved their stupendous engineering works. Thus the drawing shows beavers all standing on their hind legs, many of them wearing tool belts, cooperating as they carry logs on their shoulders, or measure out distances. There are the worker beavers walking single-file over ramparts and crew-boss beavers consulting building plans and directing the work. It's hilarious. It's science fiction from a time when the New World was

even more mysterious than outer space is to us. Next time I go back, I've got to note down some information about it so I can find a copy someday.

Did you notice the actor who played the Keymaker in *The Matrix Reloaded*? Randall Duk Kim from American Players Theater. You pointed out some darn good points of illogic in the movie.

Beethoven's eighth symphony is one of my favorites too. I don't know why, but I really like the sad, dirge-like second movement.

Goodness, you and Georgie go to see a lot of fascinating, cultural stuff. Good for you!

[SC] I appreciate your comments on WisCon. As the (now former) Chair of the convention I have a great interest in what people thought of it. I'm glad you had a good time. Congratulations to you and **Georgie** and Tracy and Bill on a wonderful Fancy Dress Party. Sunday night of the con was the biggest party night for Jeanne and I as we tended to turn in fairly early the other nights. We finally got a chance to enjoy the whole party scene. I was very relieved to be finished with the GoH speeches/Tiptree Ceremony and I was in the mood to party by the time we showed up at your place. It's the first place we thought to go when we arrived on the 6th floor.

Thanks also for the great job y'all did with "Real Stories of the Information Highway Patrol." I was watching the audience almost as much as I was watching you guys and I felt everyone was enjoying it.

We liked *Matrix Reloaded*, but felt it was not quite as tight a story as the original film. Still, we will be up for the final installment this fall. I thought the people of Zion were oddly buff too, but it was nice to see such racial and sexual diversity in the crowd. The fact that they were all beautiful may just be consistent with the movie's persistent need to place style above all else.

Jeanne and I are starting to notice a trend at the movies, particularly the big Hollywood blockbusters. We have always been in the habit of staying all the way through the credits. Almost everyone else in the theater leaves right away. What we have noticed lately is that if you stay through the credits, very often the movie makers will reward you at the end with an extra little scene. Maybe they do this because the big films have so many people to credit that it can take more than five minutes to get through them all. We just noticed this again when we went to *Pirates of the Caribbean* but we have noticed it more this year than we have ever before. The funny part is that word does not seem to be getting out because no one stays through the credits to find out. We went to *Pirates* more than a week after it opened and no one stayed through the credits except us. So folks either still don't know, or don't care, about the extra scene they are missing.

Very impressive opera schedule. We don't get to see very much opera. We are perhaps just a little jealous.

Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] You are an excellent moderator, Georgie. I like that you've convinced yet another fan that doing panels can be fun! Good work!

I saw an episode of a so-called reality TV, make-over show that I actually enjoyed quite a lot. It runs on the Bravo station and features a group of 6 gay men who are portrayed as style supermen and sent in to rescue a straight guy from a fashion disaster in one day's time. Each show has a goal (to get an artist ready to put his artwork on display at a gallery, or help another guy throw a belated birthday party for his wife, etc.) The supermen/experts each have a specialty -- one is an expert in fashion, others in hair, home decoration, personal style, cooking. I forget what the sixth guy's expertise is. But the show is very funny. The guys are hilarious. I may try to see a couple more episodes.

[SC] Thanks for your WisCon report and

congratulations to you as well for the play and the party. You guys did a lot of work and we appreciate it.

Vicki Rosenzweig

[JG] How lovely that Ursula showed up at the Earthsea discussion. If her name had been in the program for that panel we would have had to schedule it in one of the ballrooms, but this way, the people who really wanted to talk about the books got rewarded with her presence and feedback.

[SC] Thank you also for your WisCon comments. Yes, I will confirm for you that the convention next year will be May 28-31. In order to avoid these sorts of issues with the hotel, several years ago we went to specifying "Memorial Day Weekend" instead of particular dates when we reserved the hotel in our letters of intent for future WisCons. That way we only have to set specific dates when we start taking orders for the next year. The hotel is always bound to host us on the holiday weekend whenever it happens to fall in May.

Sorry to hear that you are still looking for work. I hope you get some good news on that front soon. I am told that the recession has been officially over for months, but I have yet to see many signs of better times anywhere around here.

Velma deSelby

[SC] I send you my sympathy for your loss and congratulations on your gain. Great pictures.

Kim and Kathi Nash

[SC] I just wanted to say thanks for throwing a lovely party on the 4th. It was relaxing and the weather was cooperative, you should reserve weather like that every year.

Best of luck to Kim in his scramble to stay employed. In some ways, Jeanne's clean break with State employment is simpler than having to play this roulette game trying to stay employed. I hope you are both able to weather this storm.

Soren deSelby

[JG] Well, I am really glad you bounced. And glad you had friends to catch you.

I've been admiring the black and white art you print on the first page of your zines. It manages to look metallic and shiny. Very nice.

Thanks for letting us know about Velma's mother's death. I'll be thinking about Velma and hoping she's OK.

Congratulations on feeling good about your writing!

[SC] It's good news that you have started writing a story (novel?) and are sticking with it. I was reading today about a writer who completed four novels while holding down a job at Random House. He basically said that it was important to him to write just one or two pages every day. I have no ambitions to write fiction, but I would like to write more non-fiction than I currently do. I find that waiting to write until I have a big stretch of time is just not going to happen. I should take a lesson from you and try to do some writing every day.

Maureen Kincaid Speller

[JG] I like that... Life divided between the periods before and after WisCon. Sounds familiar.

[SC] After the end of your classes you wrote about making use of your time before the start of classes again in the fall. I was in a similar place with WisCon. Once WisCon 27 ended, I wanted to use this summer to get many things done before we starting winding up the WisCon merry-go-round again in the fall. Jeanne's layoff and plan to start a new business has largely derailed that faint hope. The attic and basement are not getting cleaned. The yard is nearly out of control and the next phase of house fix-ups are mostly on hold while we focus on the new challenges ahead of us. I don't know where the quiet summer I was looking forward to is disappearing.

It was wonderful seeing you and **Paul** twice this past Spring. I miss you guys already and it has only been two months since you were here. The next visit seems impossibly far off. At least we have the apa. Your zines are especially vivid for us since we have seen your home, met the cats and strolled around the neighborhood.

Jim Nichols

[JG] Joint memberships in *Turbo* have never been defined in the way you think they ought to be defined (as one shared zine per joint membership). I don't think I would vote for such a definition if it was proposed, since I think there are other perfectly good reasons for joint memberships other than doing a shared zine. For instance, saving postage and/or trees by getting one apa rather than two are fine reasons in their own right.

[SC] Interesting report on your trip to Ireland. It is too bad that the driving part was such a bad experience. I can understand however as Jeanne and I rented a car and drove across the English countryside for part of her TAFF trip back in 1987. Driving on the left side was not so bad when we just traveled down the road, but the roads tended to be narrow and the roundabouts were weird and scary (Jeanne was navigator and she simply told me when and where to turn, which helped a lot.) I actually got to prefer the roundabouts over trying to negotiate a traditional intersection when we were all on the "wrong" side of the road. Anyway, I was happy to get back on the train.

Regarding *Turbo*, no other OE has had any difficulty distinguishing between joint and regular memberships, whether the joint members chose to pub separate zines or not, and neither should **Jerome**. He just didn't check it all out or ask enough questions before he started doing stuff. He can still figure it out and keep track of it just like everyone else did. As you said, the distinction is important for voting, minac and mailing apas, so he shouldn't treat this casually.

Regarding WisCon, I nominated China to be our Guest of Honor because I thought he would make

a splash at WisCon and I think he did. He was supposed to stir things up. I would like to promote more people like him for the convention because I think WisCon should be a place that welcomes radical writers in SF and Fantasy.

Ruth Nichols

[JG] The plans for the refurbished kitchen sound great. I've always heard that kitchens are about the most expensive rooms in the house to remodel. I hope your careful planning pays off and you can make it happen.

[SC] Good luck to you too on the job search. It's a difficult time to be looking for work in Madison these days. The kitchen remodeling sounds exciting. We got excited about the possibilities for our kitchen after talking with the contractor who worked on our upstairs bathroom. The kitchen is way down our priority list right now, but at least he left us with some cool things to think about. I hope your plans become a reality real soon.

With respect to the apa and joint vs. regular memberships, I refer you to my comment to **Jim** above. Regarding delivery of the apa, I agree with you that members are responsible for arranging the delivery of their apas with the OE. **Jerome** should not have to guess how people are going to pick up their apas or whether he should mail them or not. He shouldn't have to drag them all over town with him in case he meets someone who gets one. But at the same time, he needs to keep track of how many memberships he's got and who he has given/mailed issues out to and who he hasn't. When he first started out, he told us that he didn't need to keep a checklist of who picked up apas. Now he knows that he needs to do that. He seems to want to learn everything the hard way. Well, they don't call it the hard way for nothing.

Hope Kiefer

[JG] We can add one more missing Disney mother to the list. Neither of the main characters of *Pirates of the Caribbean* have living mothers.

[SC] Hope, I'm glad you had a better time at

WisCon this year. At the convention, Dave was talking about "next year" but I don't know if he was serious about wanting to do it again or not. He didn't come to the wrap up meeting. I know he had a somewhat rough time, but I think he learned a lot. Victor Raymond will be the Chair of WisCon 28 and I know Victor is very interested in our Consuite operation. Maybe he can help Dave get a better handle on it.

Jeannie Bergman

[JG] So, do you like Adobe InDesign? I love it. And there's interesting news from Quark Express, which is about to (finally) release an Mac OSX-capable version (6). The Adobe products must be making more inroads in converting Quark users than I would have thought. After finishing version 6, Quark has just laid off all its developers. Looks like Xpress might be a dead-end product. Long live InDesign.

Good luck in your house-search. Scott and I will keep an eye open. There are probably many houses in our neighborhood within your price range.

I mix up dreams with real life all the time. Sometimes when I hear something really outrageous on the morning NPR show, I hesitate before I talk about it because I suddenly realize that maybe I didn't actually hear it at all.

[SC] Embarking on a house hunt is cool and exciting. Best of luck to you. The housing market in Madison doesn't look to be in much danger of cooling off anytime soon unfortunately. We were in the market for six months before we found our place, but by the time we saw it, we knew just what we wanted and we were able to recognize it when we found it.

Tom Havighurst

[JG] Another Turban out house-hunting. Good luck to you too! Are you looking in any neighborhoods in particular?

You do not appear to be obsessed about your mom's death. Really. I hate it when the person who

does the eulogy has no clue what the deceased person was like. I've been to the funerals of at least two people who were atheists in life, but whose eulogies mentioned god in nearly every sentence. Makes me really angry. Better to have silence.

[SC] Good luck to you, too on the house hunt. It is really great news that JJ is moving to Madison. I hope she likes it here, I know she is leaving a rich fannish community in Minneapolis. I have no doubt that you are worth it however.

It is perfectly natural to want to write some more about your mom's passing. My mom died more

than 20 years ago now, and you are right that grieving doesn't happen all at once. My mom was never a part of my life here in Madison. So I don't often think of her here, but when I go home to Iowa, memories can come at me in a rush. Food is a good one for that. My sister will often make stuff from my mom's cookbooks because she inherited mom's old recipes. So at Christmas or Thanksgiving, it is not unusual for me to encounter a dish my mom always made and it will really bring back memories. Even after all this time, it can be surprising how much comes back with the right reminder. Those moments can be sad, but they can also be sweet.