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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: Jeanne@unionstreetdesign.com; Scott's email is Scott@unionstreetdesign.com. This is *Jornada Post* #5, Obsessive Press #282, Peerless Press #149. *Jornada Post* was created using a Power Macintosh G5, InDesign 2.0, Illustrator 10.0, Photoshop 7.0, and a Xante AW1200 printer. Display font is Rennie Macintosh. All contents copyright © 2004 by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, January 2004 for the Turbo-Charged Party Animal #210.

New Years 2003

[SC] They came, they saw, they partied down once again. We hosted about 40 folks at New Years again this year (almost exactly the same number of guests as last year), though the make-up of the crowd was significantly different. There were a few regulars we missed from past years (like Pat Hario who was sailing out of Bali on the next leg of her world tour as we were raising our glasses to the new year) as well as some new faces (like Jeannie and Fred who were getting their first chance to check out the scene.) As always the evening went by in a blur for Jeanne and I. It seemed like we were only just getting a chance to properly greet everyone and say a few words before it was midnight and time to sing and raise hell. This was followed by midnight dinner, menu as follows:

Chilean Orange Turkey Sandwiches
Mustard-Dill Pasta Salad
Porta Bella Mushroom Quiche
Spinach & Gruyere Cheese Quiche
Quiche Lorraine
Thai Rice & Mushroom Salad a la Jim Hudson & Diane Martin
Cabbage Dish a la Darlene Coltrain
Chocolate Rum Cake of Death a la Tracy Benton
Frangelico Cheesecake
Baklava a la Kafryn Lieder

We didn't get it together in time to offer a tasting competition this year, but we had planned to bring out a game called "Who's in the Bag" that we customized for this crowd. Unfortunately, by the time dinner was over the party decompressed quickly and by about 3:00 am, Jeanne and I found ourselves in a deep discussion with our last hardy guest, Joan Vinge, who stayed and talked with us until 4:00. We had a fine time and we are glad you all could come, but both of us ended the evening feeling like we didn't get near enough time to talk to everyone as much as we wished. Maybe next year...

Before Turbo 209

[JG] I am so behind! Georgie, I'm so sorry to hear about your layoff. As you can imagine, I really do sympathize! I hate how Republican priorities are affecting friends and institutions I care about...

Turbo 209 **Don Helley**

[SC] Thanks for the fanciful cover this month.

Andy Hooper and Carrie Root

[SC] Carrie, I enjoyed your comments on your trip to Hawaii and the hiking you did there. I have always wanted to travel to Hawaii and hiking about near a volcano would be especially cool. Congratulations also on the job change. I hope the new responsibilities permit you a more flexible schedule as well as more job security, which is something that seems to be getting much more scarce these days.

[JG] I'm feeling slightly guilty for having pushed you, Andy, to do more mailing comments and then, in the months that followed, for having totally failed to respond to any of your comments. I'm finding the most unexpected things to be difficult since I started working at home. At the top of the list are finding time to read for fun and attending to non-work-related priorities. Sorry about my silence. All I can say is that I will try to be better in the future. But I don't know if I really want to go back and respond in much detail to what I recall as your somewhat angry and bitter comments about WisCon. Obviously I feel really good about the direction WisCon has taken since number 20; it's been the direction I've been most interested in going, ever since I got involved in the Madison SF group and we started WisCon. And I love the fact that such an enthusiastic community has chosen WisCon as its "home." If I recall, you chewed Scott and I out a bit for our disappointed commentary on some of the local fans' loss of interest in WisCon as an inevitable result of WisCon's sharpened focus feminist SF. While I agree with Scott that the situation seems a bit ironic, given that this focus was in fact what many of WisCon's founders were aiming at from the beginning, I don't think I'm very disappointed at the result. I wouldn't be interested in putting much work into a general-interest convention or into a convention focused on Tolkien or films or whatever, so I can understand those who leave the concom for similar reasons.

I love hearing about your travels, Carrie and Andy, so often phrased in terms of how and where you walked. Hope you get a few more trips to Hawaii, Carrie!

▣ **Tom Havighurst**

[SC] I laughed through most of Al Franken's last book on Rush Limbaugh. I expect I will read his new one at some point. I read something that Franken will be hosting a show on a new "liberal" talk radio network. Maybe he will be able to pull something like that off and make it successful.

[JG] I haven't read Al Franken's book yet, but I hope to eventually. I admire him for what I've read about the extensive research he (and his graduate students) did for the book. Have you heard that he's going to be centrally involved in a new liberal cable station?

Careful about making up "stupid, sweet nicknames." You start calling J.J. a cute name sort of as a joke, definitely with an ironic tone, but then after ironically calling her that name a few more times, you suddenly find yourself using the cutsie word or phrase for real, with no hint of irony in your voice. This is one of those lessons in the "you'll get what you wish for" category.

I also heard the one about all non-Catholics getting at least one chance to know the Truth and to convert. I think a nun explained this to me when I was in grade school, and the image that came to mind then, and that floated to the top of my consciousness when I read your piece, was of a group of Africans in the Congo finding a torn page out of the bible and going "Wha--?" The Catholic Church and I grew apart, but I do not share your wish to integrate my early devoutness into my current consciousness. I think the Christian mythology got integrated into my sense of wonder and tendency to appreciate SF and fantasy.

▣ **2003 1st Run Movie list**

(* = Scott's ten best of the year.)
(! = Jeanne's faves)

Chicago!*
Adaptation!*
The Hours!
About Schmidt
The Pianist
Daredevil
The Quiet American!*
Tears of the Sun
The Hunted
X-Men 2
Identity!
Matrix: Reloaded
Finding Nemo!*
Terminator 3
28 Days Later
Pirates of the Caribbean!
Seabiscuit!*
Swimming Pool
Freaky Friday
*Open Range**
Northfork
S.W.A.T.
American Splendor!*
Intolerable Cruelty
Mystic River!
Runaway Jury
Kill Bill, Vol. 1
Lost in Translation!*
Love Actually
Matrix: Revolutions
Master & Commander!*
The Station Agent
Bad Santa!
Secondhand Lions
Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King!*
Something's Gotta Give

▣ **SC Books of 2003**
 (*Borders Book Club selections)

The Minority Report and Other Stories,
 Philip K. Dick*

Sword & Citadel, Gene Wolfe

The Curse of Chalion, Lois McMaster
 Bujold*

Bel Canto, Ann Pratchett

A Song of Stone, Iain Banks

Light, M. John Harrison*

Corrupting Dr. Nice, John Kessel

Bones of the Earth, Michael Swanwick*

The Physiognomy, Jeffrey Ford*

Fluke, Christopher Moore

Seabiscuit, Laura Hillenbrand

A Scattering of Jades, Alexander C. Irvine*

The Other Wind, Ursula K. LeGuin*

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban,
 J.K. Rowling

Jeanne's books will appear, annotated,
 next time.

▣ **Greg Rihn**

[SC] Thank you (and Georgie) for the fantastic trip report (with pictures) to Ireland. What a great trip. We saw just a bit of Northern Ireland on Jeanne's TAFF trip way back in 1987. I always thought we would get back for another visit in all these years, but we never did. Setting envy aside, however, it was nice to share a little in your trip via report. Thanks for doing it for us.

[JG] It's true! Font designers aren't allowed to copyright their work. When this was decided by the courts, I understand that the plaintiffs found it difficult to explain that they weren't actually trying to copyright the letter "A," but simply a way of drawing it. Now, it's only possible to license the use of a font on a printer. But anyone can use a program like Fontographer to copy the font "Helvetica," for instance, and call it something like "Swiss" or "Ariel." Even if the font was recently designed and the designer is alive and well, no fee is due to the artists.

▣ **Greg & Georgie**

[JG] I can certainly understand wanting to forgo the driving experience in a foreign country. As you say, there are plusses and minuses for doing tours and going it alone. Scott would probably not see stops in pubs as a minus, but I can imagine feeling frustrated about stops at places I'm not much interested in while missing places I yearn to see. I suppose it's a matter of choosing the right tour. Yours sounds like it was delightful. Did you enjoy the group of people you traveled with? Did you contact Lynn Anne? Thanks for the trip report!

▣ **Georgie Schnobrich**

[JG] I hadn't realized from the previous report that you stayed mostly at one place in Ireland and made trips outward from it. That's different from the way I have always imagined tours—with all the packing and unpacking each day. And how nice that you already knew your tour-guide, Paddy. Did you know some of your fellow travelers too?

Your descriptions of the windy roads made me wonder ... are there many bicyclists? Except for the weather you described, it sounds like a great place for a bicycling vacation. Maybe the weather improves in the summer?

What a wonderful trip! Thanks for the stories.

▣ **Kim & Kathi Nash**

[SC] I enjoyed your trailer-trash issue complete with pictures.

[JG] Hope you're out of the trailer and working back in Madison soon, Kim.

▣ **Jim Nichols**

[JG] How did the kitchen remodeling job go? And thanks for the "Out-house Springs" explanation. Reminds me of the bottled water for dogs I found at Kohls once: "crispy, beefy flavor!" Evan wouldn't even sample it.

▣ **Ruth Nichols**

[SC] I was delighted to read about your new job with the State of Wisconsin. I hope it does become more satisfying and challenging for you, but at

least there are lots of options in state service if things don't work out where you are now. The current crisis in state government service is temporary. If you can get through the next few years, I expect things to return to mostly normal (except for the DNR, which is probably permanently crippled and will never regain its former health.) Governor Doyle wants to trim state employment by 10,000 positions, but as long as he believes that no cuts can be made to the Department of Corrections (which was the scene of the fastest growth in state employment under Tommy Thompson) then his plan is nothing more than a pipe dream. The rest of the state could not sustain cuts like that and still function. He must know such drastic position cuts are not practical and so it is just another of his campaign promises that will fade away in time.

Congratulations on the kitchen remodeling plan. During the remodeling of our upstairs bathroom, one of the workmen took a coffee break one day and gave us some ideas of things we could do with our kitchen. It was a very exciting conversation and really sparked some ideas for us. A kitchen redo is not in the near future for us, but someday...

[JG] Congratulations on the new job. I'm glad to hear that you like it better than you expected.

The plan for the new kitchen sounds great. Hope it all went smoothly, didn't inconvenience you for long, and ended up with a great, usable space.

▣ Jeannie Bergmann

[SC] I hope you and Fred got the floor work finished before winter set in. That sounds like a fairly extensive repair to tackle in the fall with cold weather and snow threatening.

[JG] My gosh, what ambition for doing such major house projects. I am in awe.

You asked about those stuffed files we graphic artists left at the DNR. Only a few people have gotten files open. (Or at least it seems that way to me. Of course the folks that were able to open them aren't coming to us.) But mostly they seem to call one of us artists up on the phone and ask for help. Or they affect to have forgotten completely that they have access to the files, and come to us directly. Which is a good thing, worthy of unholy glee.

▣ Turbo 210
Cover

[JG] I have been meaning to dig out the Tolkien appendices and translate the cover, but I think I almost prefer the gorgeousness of the mysterious runes against the lovely watercolor (?) background. Thank you, Jae.

▣ Jerome Van Epps

[SC] Great squirrel picture! Let's hope the people have prevailed and the Enemy of the People has been banished from

the furnace vent.

Interesting report on Windy Con. I haven't attended one in about 20 years, so I doubt I would recognize it. I thought it was interesting that the convention seems to want people interested in media fandom while the program is focused on literary SF. Did you ever get a chance to talk to anyone on the con about why this is and where Windy Con as a convention is headed?

I thought your criticism of the two *Matrix* sequels was completely on target. Jeanne and I were frustrated by both movies, but neither of us cared enough about where the story went to try to figure out how to fix it. Your suggestions sound like great improvements to me. I also largely agree with you about *Love Actually* which we found amusing, but also frustrating because there was no hope that the director could pull all the different story lines together into any coherent conclusion. He bit off more than he could chew and, as you pointed out, all the stories and characters suffered because of it.

Thanks for throwing the Purple Con IV party. We had a lovely time.

[JG] I hope your quest for heat is over and that the new furnace and water heater work well from now on, especially through this last week of extreme cold.

I would have liked to see your re-write of *Matrix* much more than I liked watching the real thing. My brother Danny and I had this wonderful discussion right after we saw the second *Back to the Future* movie, about what might happen in the third. Given the interesting paradox plots of the first two movies, we assumed they would continue this theme. We managed to seal up the several plot holes of the first two movies with plot developments in the hypothetical third movie. The real thing was a profound disappointment not only because it was such a bad movie, but because we felt we'd been cheated of a really great time travel movie that could have been. Maybe that's a problem with multi-part movies like *Matrix* — their fans get a lot of time to study the structure and themes of the story, nurture expectations that the next film will actually carry through. But when the films actually do carry through, like with *LotR*, we're ecstatic.

▣ lisa Freitag

[SC] I thought your squirrel story was terrific. I am curious as to why your mother thought Norbert wouldn't survive in the wild. He had been surviving just fine until he fell down your chimney.

I tend to view squirrels as little more than rats with big tails. As a kid we used to hunt them. They made modest, but tasty eating when prepared properly, but I don't really miss eating them now. I first learned I needed eyeglasses as an eleven year old in the process of killing a squirrel. My brother and I were out hunting. He was older than me and he carried

a shotgun and I took a rifle. The plan was that I got first shot with the rifle because it left only one bullet in the meat. If I missed he would kill it with the shotgun, the drawback being the risk of peppering the meat with shot. We were sitting on a hill looking off into some trees when we spotted a likely target. I brought the rifle up and pointed it in the animal's direction. Then I closed my left eye to sight the weapon and suddenly I could no longer see the target. I whispered to my brother that I lost sight of the squirrel.

"Where is it?" I said.

"In that branch" brother hissed.

"What branch?"

"Up in that tree!"

Long pause.

"What tree?"

We decided then and there, something was wrong with my eyesight. He ended up reaching over and gently moving the barrel of the rifle I was pointing to the general vicinity of the squirrel. I ended up trying to sight the gun with both eyes open. The squirrel was close enough and big enough that I managed to hit him and bring him down. It wasn't long after that I had my first pair of glasses. My dad remembers after I got home from the optometrist that day, seeing me standing in the living room in front of our picture window silently staring out at a new world of detail I'd never seen before.

[JG] I keep imagining what Diane Martin would have to say about your fabulous squirrels story, since her own experiences have led her to a dark opinion of the critters. What a great story. You must submit it someplace!

▣ **Greg Rihn**

[SC] We also enjoyed *Master and Commander*. We made a good test audience for the movie because Jeanne had read all the O'Brian books quite recently and I hadn't read any of them. We both loved the movie. I thought it was one of the best films I'd seen all year.

I liked all of your knowledgeable reviews and comments this issue. *La Traviata* and the Holiday Folk Fair sounded like especially great fun to me. I have to admit to being a bit mystified by your love of political and religious discussion groups. I have little patience with opinions on such subjects that differ greatly from my own and can't imagine a pleasant evening spent debating these topics. Maybe I have too faithfully internalized the concept of "the personal is political." Or maybe it's a lawyer thing.

I think I can say that we were both dazzled by *The Return of the King* and saw very few things to quibble with. Again, Jeanne has read the novels relatively recently compared to my having last read them 15 years ago, yet we both loved the movie.

In your comment to Andy on *Kill Bill* I have to confirm there isn't much in the way of plot, the film is all about style

and it is loaded with movie homages and references. Much of it went right past me, but I couldn't argue with the care and precision that went into making it. The violence at various times was brutally realistic or over-the-top cartoonish depending on the scene. This film did not resonate with me like *Pulp Fiction* did, but I will not pass up a chance to see *Kill Bill, Volume II* next month.

[JG] The Florentine's *La Traviata* sounds like it was lovely. I wish I'd been able to see it. I agree with you about *Master and Commander*. As a fan of O'Brian's books, I also liked it though you're right they missed some of the slapstick of Maturin's lubber behavior. You wouldn't know, either, that he was a skilled spy and that he followed the complex politics of the day. Maybe we'll get into those parts of Maturin's character with the next movie. I assume there will be a sequel.

I can understand why *LotR* film deleted the scouring of the shire (too many climaxes), but I agree with Suzy Charnas that it was too bad, because the scouring made it clear that the horror of the war between good and evil affected everyone, all the way to the little people of the shire. Without it, the story becomes a war between heroes and monsters. Suzy said she wished there could have been a fourth movie with the scouring at its heart. and I do too, because I like Tolkien's demonstration of how war and evil change things, even if it is defeated.

I think my favorite unexpectedly vivid image from the movie was the lighting of the signal fires. (Moments later I thought, god what a boring job that must have been, waiting for years to light the signal fires. But it was so gorgeously done!) I wasn't as impressed as you were by the army of the dead. They didn't match my imagined image, and from a distance the movie ghosts looked more like an all-powerful death cloud. Why not send the cloud right on to Mordor? Given their speed and invincibility, they could have cleaned out everything in a few hours.... The army of the dead of my imagination were fewer in number and they fought individual fights with individual soldiers ... slowly. They were a help to our heroes, not as shown in the film, a force that could have been unleashed alone and watched from the sidelines. (It wouldn't have done to show our guys tossing popcorn into their mouths while the dead army did all the work. But they could have.)

I'm looking forward to the 5-hour version.

▣ **Georgie Schnobrich**

[SC] Thank you for the finale to the trip to Ireland report. It sounds like you had a wonderful time.

[JG] The turkey that we all saw George holding in the videos of his Thanksgiving trip turned out to be a plastic bird. The kitchens only had trays of sliced turkey, not

nearly as photogenic. Once again George's handlers had a photo op as a goal.

Is there another song that you hear before you get hired onto a new job? If it works one way... Are you looking for another librarian job?

▣ Velma deSelby Bowen

[SC] Your singing sounds like a great success and that makes it fun to read about. Congratulations on your success and I look forward to reading more.

I fear I have reached the end of my rope and will need to finish these comments next month.

[JG] Congratulations on re-discovering your singing self. I hope I'll be able to hear you sing someday.

Jae Adams

[JG] Good idea to divide up the parts of a holiday that one likes and dislikes. I think many of us think that it is all one big glop and that one must take it all or leave it all. So much of it has roots in childhood memories which are the hardest kinds of habits to change because they have the flavor of requirements, assumptions, not-subject-to-change....

Vicki Rosenzweig

[JG] I'm glad you're at least enjoying the time resulting from unemployment. It must have been useful for doing Tiptree reading, yes? I hope the city job comes through for you and are now completely over your pneumonia.

[JG] I too am going to have to put off comments on the last two zines of the issue—Maureen's and Hope & Karl's for next time. I am out of time.

▣ About my little sister

[JG] Some of you have asked what my sister Julie is doing these days. As usual, there are surprising developments in her career. A few months ago she met with ___ in Hollywood. He's agreed to produce a new reality TV show based on an idea of Julie's, following the slam poetry competitions. Check out.

<http://slamchannel.com>

Oh and she'd doing other stuff too:

<http://onlinecommunityreport.com/features/gomoll>

—Jeanne & Scott, 21 January 2004