

Madison foursquare

45

This issue with a slightly enlarged type size, *Madison Foursquare* is brought to you by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, who live at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704.

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This is *Madison Foursquare* #45, created using a Mac Pro with InDesign, Illustrator and Photoshop, all CC 2020, and printed on a Ricoh Aficio CL7200 color printer.

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Scott Custis [SC] and Jeanne Gomoll [JG]

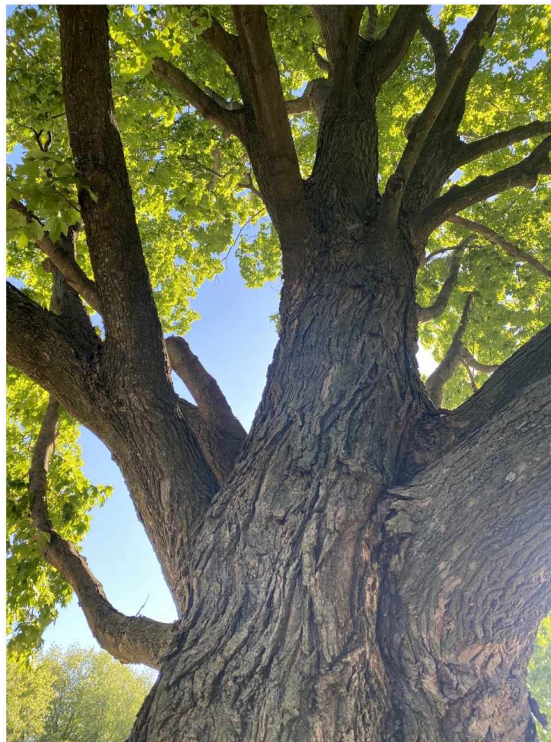
July 2020 for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* #409.

Comments on Turbo 408

Cover

[SC] Nice photo, **Jim**. I encountered a crane once on a bike ride around Lake Monona a couple months ago. It was standing just off the bike trail at Paunack Park on the south shore of Squaw Bay (Jeez, is that ever an ugly name!) I would have stopped to take a picture but the crane was already busy posing for another determined fan/photographer, so I decided to continue on my way.

[JG] Like your photo of the sandhill cranes on this month's cover taken during one of your walks, most of the photographs I've taken during these past pandemic months have captured scenes along Scott's and my daily walks through quiet Madison neighborhoods. It's been a much more interesting tour than I might have predicted before we began sampling Madison neighborhoods, seeing the different character and look of different areas; I've been enjoying the amazing gardens into which people have been pouring their time and energy, and the fabulous color combinations and design of newly refurbished homes. But the main things that have grabbed my attention are the TREES. I don't know why, really, but I spend so much time looking upward as we walk along sidewalks, gazing at the plastic-but-solid, twisty forms of tree limbs, that it's a wonder that I haven't tripped and fallen several times already. My fingers have begun to itch with the wanting to sit down with a sketch pad and draw them. Who knows, maybe it's the first hint of a new project.



Andy Hooper

[SC] It's a little embarrassing to admit that I have never seen a Marx Brothers movie from start to finish. I have only seen isolated bits from their movies. In the bits I have seen, I've always been charmed and amused by Harpo's antics and his honking horn. Groucho was a familiar presence on TV when I was a kid, sometimes gruff but funny. Despite this lack of exposure, I still greatly enjoyed your deep dive into the Marx Brothers' story-with pictures!

I also enjoyed Leigh Edmonds' article on his visit to Madison in 1974. The Buy and Sell shop was still going strong when I started dating Jeanne 10 years later, but by then the Capitol Square was starting to transition away from the Main Street feel it had when Edmonds visited. The Rennebohm's was either gone or almost gone when I got to town. I never got to visit their (locally) famous lunch counter.

[JG] Like Scott, I have seen few Marx Brothers movies. I probably saw one or two at film society showings, just a few years before you and your father attended that epic Marx Brothers series, but the Marx Brothers do not spring to mind first when I think of those years. I had spent all of my teen years in the Waukesha suburbs and hadn't won my driver's license until I started college. My parents rarely offered to drive me to the movies, which meant that I saw a pitifully small number of movies in theaters before I began my college years at UW-Madison in 1971. I had seen plenty of movies on TV, but

when I discovered that the film societies showed dozens of movies EVERY weekend night in UW buildings, and they only charged \$1... I became somewhat obsessed and may have decided to "catch up" with all the movies that I'd been missing over the years. Going to these \$1 movies was my main, or possibly I should say, my *only* recreational activity during my college years. I was also an obsessive student, didn't drink at all or party much, and probably wasn't considered much fun by many people. Nevertheless I went to two or three late night movies every weekend, jogging up Bascom Hill to B-10 Commerce or whichever lecture hall had been converted for use to a temporary cinema that night. I sampled every kind of film on offer: former blockbusters, subtitled French expressionist films, gloomy Swedish existential films, romcoms, neorealist Italian movies (Ah, *The Bicycle Thief!*), silent movies (especially Buster Keaton), action movies with lots of explosions, comedies, dramas, and every (even vaguely) SF/F movie I could find... whatever was shown; I followed certain directors for a while until another one grabbed my attention. So many movies, just \$1 each! One Spring break week I saw two movies every day for a week and on the last day I saw four movies in one day. The last movie of that marathon was *The Pawnbroker*, in the middle of which I suddenly realized that not only was I not immersed in the film as usual, but also I was having a hard time concentrating. In fact I had completely lost the thread of the plot. I staggered home, realizing that perhaps I had pushed a good thing way too far.

Nevertheless, after having read your amazing piece on the Marx Brothers oeuvre, I appreciate their work, especially Harpo's magically realistic performances. Thank you.

Were they SIMPLE VILLAGERS

or were they **Mafia?**

Lorem ipsum

Who can you trust?

Is the person next to you an undercover police officer who wants to help you...
or a murderous criminal who wants you dead?
What was that noise you heard during the night?



Steve "Hong Kong" Gomoll	Linda "GaGa" Gomoll	Eric "Icepick" Gomoll	Sara "Stiletto" Gomoll	Amanda "Crazy Eyes" Mahn	Jake "the Player" Gomoll	Rachel "Checkmate" Gomoll	Kelly "Machine Gun" Gomoll	Dan "Drone" Gomoll	Jeanne "the Joker" Gomoll	Scott "Gray Beard" Custis
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Gomoll family members portrayed as mafia family

I first encountered the game of Mafia at WisCon. I didn't play that year but heard about what soon became a legendary session featuring many of the attending writers. Karen Joy Fowler's name was most frequently mentioned as the most murderous of players in tales of the night's hilarious Mafia game, but other players included Neil Gaiman, Pat Murphy, Kelly Link, Gavin Grant, Ellen Klages, and others who each took turns playing the role of narrator and weaving amazing impromptu tales for the other players. At the next year's WisCon, Gavin Grant and Kelly Link brought with

them a Mafia deck they'd made—large format cards with drawings of “simple villagers,” Mafiosi and police—each mounted on pasteboard. The deck was packed into an old fashioned valise along with implements of death: a butcher knife and a long, silk scarf. The valise also contained a handmade book containing summaries and quotations recorded during the famous Mafia game. The booklet was sold at a Tiptree auction after Ellen Klages (imitating Fowler) did several dramatic readings from it, but WisCon kept the “kit” and lent it out for use at Mafia parties for several years; Scott and I stored the valise in our attic and brought it back to WisCon for many years. But eventually interest died out and the “kit” was sold at another Tiptree auction.

I was captivated by the Mafia deck as a cool art project and made my own deck; I still have it. We played Mafia with my handmade deck a few times with friends in Madison, including a sort of amazing Thanksgiving celebration attended by a group of folks who had never met one another before. (That's another story for another time.) For quite a few years, both our families, Scott's and mine, became huge fans of the game. We would arrive for a holiday celebration and the first thing anyone would say to us would be, “Did you bring Mafia?” Eventually I made four more Mafia decks, one each for my brothers' families and for Scott's brother and sister. Moments from family Mafia games achieved their own legendary glamour, much the same as happened with that first WisCon Mafia game. ...Like the time my father's failing hearing and confusion resulted in his stubbornly pointing to himself when the narrator asked the Mafia to point to the person they wanted to assassinate. My nephew Eric, who was the narrator, finally gave up; and “woke up” all us simple villagers and announced that the Mafioso had committed suicide.

It would be great if you and **Carrie** are able to join our Science Fiction Without Borders discussion!

Your comment to **Jae Adams** about a windfall of stamps reminded me of the early *Janus* days when I worked at the Department of Transportation sorting in-coming mail. I used to peel un-cancelled stamps off the envelopes for re-use in order to reduce postage costs for our fanzine.

Thanks for including the Madison section of Leigh Edmonds' “Emu Tracks over America.” The events in the story took place just one year, possibly less than one year, before the historical first meeting of the Madison Science Fiction group—at the same cooperative bookshop Leigh mentions—where we started talking about publishing a fanzine and—another year later—

began planning the first WisCon. Reading Leigh's piece, I found myself thinking about how I may have passed the Luttrells and Edmonds on the street as they toured Madison, like looking at a photograph of a scene when you know you stood just outside of the captured image: trying to peak around the edges of the photo to find yourself.

Carrie Root

[SC] They did a nice job with your haircut, judging from the pictures. Regarding your comment to **Hope** and **Karl**, you and **Andy** might make a road trip to Wisconsin? We'll look forward to seeing you while you're here. I do not get a sense it will be anytime soon. Thanks for joining the book club. I still don't think I quite have the hang of doing the Zoom thing, but I find, in our profoundly reduced social world, that I'm looking forward to book group every month more than I did before the plague.

[JG] I am fascinated and often impressed by the complex set of rules and the thinking behind those rules like those devised by your salon, as businesses or agencies start re-opening. But how much better it would be if the procedures and recommendations were available from a central, national source, and were based on research and data. *sigh*

We turned down an invitation from my brother and sister-in-law to visit them at their lake house for the 4th of July. Steve and Linda just returned from Hong Kong, where they have been far safer than they are now in the heart of conservative Republican Waukesha County. Steve has retired and it was time to come



Sights seen while walking: Sci Fi lawn art

home. In spite of being horrified by our country's deplorable response to the pandemic, and in spite of the fact that both of them are over 65 years of age, they nevertheless decided to take some risks that Scott and I aren't willing to take. They've already gotten together with their 20-something son and daughter, Linda's 80+ father, and her brother and sister-in-law. They suggested that we all get together for an evening on their pontoon boat on Lac La Belle, to watch the fireworks. We had to decline, sadly. I would have loved to float on the lake, catching up, enjoying the night and the fireworks.

I know what you mean about having lost the habit of listening to NPR shows, *The Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. I used to listen to both shows every single day. But now I no longer set the alarm (which I used to set to the radio rather than an alarm buzzer), so I haven't listened for many months. And I rarely remember to turn on *All Thing Considered*, whereas when I was working at the office and later at home, I'd incorporated that show into my afternoon routine. So I listen to ATC only sporadically. *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chris Hayes Show*, and *The Rachel Maddow Show* provide the bulk of my news now.

For traveling, have you looked into sleeper cars on a train? I have been wondering about that. It seems like you could travel pretty safely that way. Maybe not, but I need to find more information about it.

Re your comment to **Jeannie**, until recently Jim Cox operated a bookstore in Stoughton called Midwest Books where he sold review copies. It appears to be closed now. While it was operating it received comically poor reviews on Yelp and other review sites because none of the books had prices marked and customers had to negotiate with Jim for each individual title. I don't know whether Jim closed because of COVID or if he finally decided to retire. It's been years since I saw him last.

You asked **Ruth** and **Jim** if anyone was doing slapstick these days. The first thing I thought of was Dean Winters who plays Mayhem in the Allstate commercials. We always stop fast forwarding when we notice a new Mayhem commercial and then crack up, laughing.

Steven Vincent Johnson

[SC] Despite your determined efforts, Steve, orbital mechanics remains well outside my scientific/mathematical comfort zone. That said, I still appreciate the work you have invested in this project and the artfulness of your presentation. I particularly like your *Orbital Precession cf Mercury for Dummies* parody graphic.



Sights seen while walking

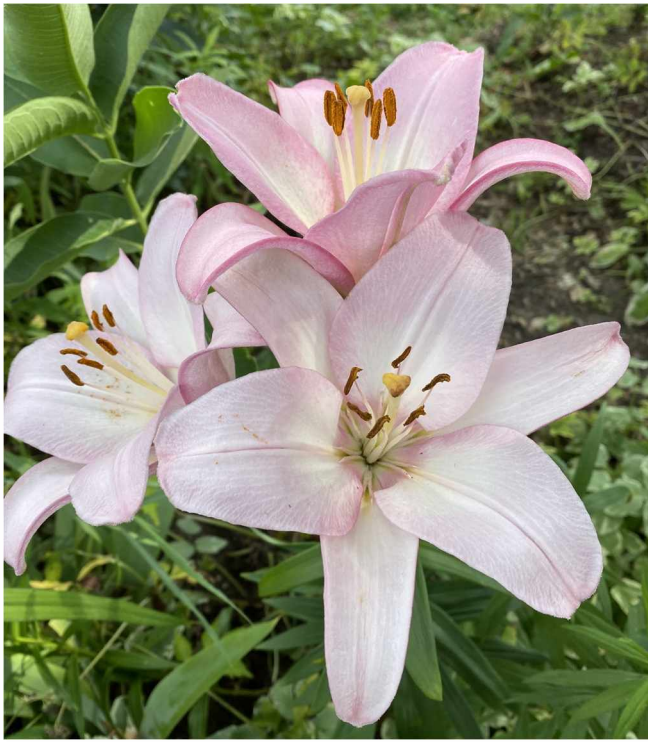
Kim and Kathi Nash

[SC] So sad about the 4th of July party, but it was a wise decision not to do it. We have been pretty careful, too. I needed a haircut but chickened out of going to a barber. Jeanne finally took a shot at cutting it last month using my beard trimmer and a small barber's scissors while consulting a YouTube instruction video on my laptop. She did pretty well. My last haircut was just after Christmas, so I really needed it. We have not seriously considered visiting a restaurant to dine in, but we are both a little tempted to try eating outside at a restaurant. For me it seems like the only way I'm going to get decent French fries, which just don't travel well in take-out. I have not yet worked up the nerve to return to the Y. I think they are trying to take reasonable precautions, but I can't seriously imagine using the locker room and recently they have had to require people using the weight room to be masked for their workouts, which is completely unworkable. I think it's an unnecessary risk even with the safety measures.

[JG] *Sob!* I miss swimming so much!

Greg Rihn

[SC] We also liked National Theater's *The Madness cf King George*. We saw Sir Ralph Richardson's movie version years ago and I liked it too, but I don't remember it well enough to be able to tell how the



Sights seen while walking

stage version differs from it. It took awhile for me to recognize Mark Gattis as having played Mycroft Holmes on Benedict Cumberbach's *Sherlock* series.

We've enjoyed the APT Zoom productions that we have seen so far. We skipped the Chekov one-acts, but *As You Like It* was fine. I thought Shaw's *Arms and the Man* was brilliant, even though they had some technical difficulties with Jim Ridge's computer early on that caused some "backstage" scrambling. They talked about it at the Q and A session afterwards that was quite amusing, too.

[JG] National Theatre Live performances didn't end! After *The Madness of King George* came *Small Island*, which turned out to be my FAVORITE show of all the NTL shows we've seen this summer. We missed *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Les Blancs* and I don't know if we will see the current show, *The Deep Blue Sea*. But I hope to see the 7/16 performance of *Amadeus*. Like **Jim** and **Diane**'s feelings about *King George*, seen when they first started going out together, *Amadeus* is one of the first movies that Scott and I saw together, so it has emotional resonance for us. I don't know if there will be more plays after that one.

I did like King's newest anthology, *If It Bleeds*. But I have the opposite preferences to yours when it comes to King's work. I was never enthralled with King's fiction when it centered around fantasy evil, or at least when it tilted more toward supernatural elements. I became much more interested and am still interested

more in his fiction when it involves the evil committed by recognizable, average people. *The Outsider* and *The Institute*, most recently, but some of the books that I like most (in no particular order) are *Dolores Claiborne*, *11/22/63* (this one is probably my #1 favorite), *Gerald's Game*, *Misery*, *The Green Mile*, *Shawshank Redemption*, and *The Body*. So perhaps you should take my recommendation of *If It Bleeds* as a warning, not a recommendation.

Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] I really liked your essay about Suffrage and Suffragette tactics. And I am with you that some element of or threat of violence always seem to have been necessary for most big social changes to succeed, at some point. It seems as if there needs to be some un-ignorable event to force people to reevaluate a situation, no matter how clearly unfair. The violence doesn't necessarily have to be done on behalf of the group that is agitating for change; it might happen TO them. Recently, George Floyd's murder seems to have functioned in this way. More specifically, the FILMING of George Floyd's murder has caused a huge number of people to reevaluate the Black Lives Matter proposition. However, violence that happens secretly, or in a way that can easily be denied, rarely changes the world; those in power and those whose lives benefit by their privilege have a huge incentive to believe that the world as-is, is fair and become complicit by ignoring evidence that something is wrong. That's why I think video cameras, capable of recording and distributing images of police violence are effective.

Nice freestyle drawing of the cop wearing a gas mask and cradling his baton. Indeed the images of police in the street have felt all too familiar to those of us who protested the Vietnam War.

Jim Hudson and Diane Martin

[SC] Business pages: on the Turbo Members page, our address is not quite right. It's 2825 Union Street, not 2725. Also, the phone number you have listed for us is my cell phone which is fine, but you may want to add Jeanne's cell, 608-246-8857. Thanks.

I have been bolder about showing up in person for medical-related appointments than for most other stuff like haircuts and the gym. I guess I have more faith that medical professionals will take informed and appropriate precautions. In the last month I've donated blood at the Red Cross, had a dental check up

and had my annual physical with my new primary care physician (my old one retired, and if I want my new one to keep renewing my two prescriptions I should probably meet with him.)

Regarding your description of current social distancing by comparing it with the bad old smoking-everywhere days. I think your comparison works pretty well, but I had to smile a little as I thought back to those old smoking days. It's kind of hard to visualize today how much we put up with back then. Smoking was truly everywhere unless it was specifically prohibited because of a possible fire or explosion. I was not allergic to smoke, so I ignored it to a degree that's hard for me to grasp today. Everyone in my family smoked except for myself and my mother (and, ironically, she is the only one of us to die of a type of lung cancer.) These days, I don't think Jeanne and I own an ashtray. When I was a kid, we had one in almost every room of the house.

[JG] I hope you are able to take advantage of your postponed cruise tickets next year. I hope so, even though your enjoyment will mean that I will have lost a bet. The last time we met with our financial advisor, he suggested that we might want to make a small investment in cruise line stock. I thought he was joking at first and immediately said "no way!" and explained that I thought the cruise line companies were going to have an incredibly difficult, if not impossible, time coming back. Scott, however decided to take a risk and invested a small amount of money as John suggested. So, as a result, we are watching the cruise industry with some interest, each of us ready to declare victory if events prove us correct.

Good metaphor, comparing smokers with asymptomatic virus carriers. It would sure be helpful if those who carried the virus actually smoked or glowed purple or something like that....

We also enjoyed APT's *As You Like It*. I think the cast is doing an amazing job staging plays via Zoom. Last night we watched APT's Zoom production of *Are You Now Or Have You Ever Been...*, by Carlyle Brown. Not at all what I was expecting, but very affecting and enlightening. It had never occurred to me how the additional layer of being a person of color would affect someone's treatment by the House Un-American Activities Committee. (Seems obvious now, duh...) Learning more about Langston Hughes was interesting too. My favorite part was Hughes' opening statement to the committee, which talked as much about the art of writing as it did political abuse.

Cathy Gilligan

[SC] Murderbot strikes me as female partly because the author is female and it's hard for me to not hear the author's voice in her gender non-specific character. Also Murderbot's love of, and dependence on, watching and re-watching media lean female to me. Finally, I like the image I have in my mind of a female figure kicking the shit out of everyone she fights. Of course there is no right answer to Murderbot's gender, but it's a topic that has brought out some interesting viewpoints.

[JG] For me, another element of Murderbot's personality that leans female (good verb, Scott!) is this familiar female trait: Murderbot so frequently doubts itself and fears to be exposed as a fraud.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] What a powerfully written diary of your (and Greg's) frightening experience with DreamHaven and the riots. I am so sad that you guys had to go through this, although it was nice, following the angry and sad parts, to read about how generous and helpful people were afterward. I thought your story about following and heckling the suspicious ninja guys was ballsy and bad ass. Good for you. In the heavily armed America we live in today, I'm a little surprised to not see more stories about armed store owners and looters getting shot.

[JG] Thank you Lisa. Your chronology of May 30, 2020 is remarkable, moving, heart-rending, and valuable. I urge you to publish it and share it with a wider audience. Yours and Greg's experience as both supporters of BLM, victims of both vandals and police, and interaction with your community, shows how complex the situation is. I think the issues revealed by George Floyd's murder, the protests and the police response are too quickly being simplified, suggesting that people are either on one of two sides, both of which are caricatured beyond recognition. The more nuance, the better.

Jeannie Bergmann

[SC] I always like your catch-up comments. As for Turbo the drink, my initial reaction was disgust at the idea of mixing things like beer, wine and soda together because I'm more of a purist fan of each ingredient. But despite that, I'd probably still be too curious to not try it. Half coffee, half tea, just will not work. But I'd taste it.

[JG] Moscato is also my favorite kind of wine. I first tasted it in California when Scott's cousin Spike took us on a tour of several vineyards. Scott and Spike both like all kinds of wine, but neither likes sweet wines very much. So I trailed after them, spending time enjoying the grounds and gift shops rather than joining them for tastings. But Spike called me over at one point and said she thought I might like to try a certain wine. It was Moscato, of course, and I did indeed like it very much. Nevertheless, I seldom drink even that (very) sweet wine. When I'm thirsty it just never occurs to me to slake my thirst with wine.

Re your comment to **Andy** and **Carrie** about smoking and how odd it seems to see so many people smoking in movies.... A friend of mine who, during the 70s and 80s used to get angry around non-smoking signs (she claimed not to believe that third-party smoke was a real thing), has now become quite outspoken in her anger against those who refuse to wear masks, thereby threatening the health of those around them. Well, I agree with her of course, but it was truly ironic hearing that sentiment coming from her!

I liked both your literary extrusions and abjurations! "Opposition" was a great Rashomonic portrayal to the world seen from two different, alien-to-one-another beings. And "Maculation" was a chilling and effective horror story. Thank you!



Enthusiastic coleus



Chicken pot pie

What's New

[JG] Not much new has happened this month that I haven't already mentioned among my comments above. I haven't published any new books in the past few weeks, though I continue to slog through old apazines, scanning interesting articles to add to a growing collection of my past writing. So a book will eventually emerge, but not soon. There have been no exciting trips or visitors. Life is slow and at the same time, terrifying. My brother Steve retired from his (Rockwell Electronics) job in Hong Kong, so he and his wife Linda have moved back to the U.S. in the midst of our debacle. I haven't seen him yet and may not for quite a while. We talk on the phone. There have been many adventures in cooking (see the pot pie photo) and we were delighted to hear that our housecleaner considers our lifestyle safe enough to allow him to clean our house next week. And with the decimation of the rabbit population our crop of colorful coleus plants along the side of the house has been doing very well. Every once in a while I think about how the conversation topics of elder relatives devolve closer and closer to the daily minutia of life, and I hope that this isn't happening to me.

Jim Hudson and Scott loaded their cars with all the Tiptree/Otherwise stuff we've kept in our attic for several decades—auction and direct sale inventory, Gathering supplies and display furniture, many t-shirts, cookbooks and other publications. And voila! We suddenly have a whole lot more space in our attic. More important than the space, however, is that Scott won't have to carry it all up and down several flights of stairs every year before and after WisCon. The materials are now stacked in a storage locker, not far away from the storage locker where WisCon stores its stuff. Every

year I've worried that Scott will have an accident carrying those boxes and I am greatly relieved that he will no longer be responsible for this job.

A recommendation: Halt and Catch Fire

I watched this 4-season series 2014–2017 when *Halt and Catch Fire* was first aired on AMC and enjoyed it greatly. To this day, I will recognize one of the actors from the show and turn to Scott saying, “She was in *Halt and Catch Fire!*” After one of too many references to it, I finally suggested that we watch the series together, that in fact I would be glad to see it again. Netflix carries the series, so it was simply done. Happily, Scott liked it very much, and for me, it was quite worthwhile to see a second time. One of the things I frequently mentioned to Scott was that I thought the writers had found the perfect resolution for their story, and this turned out to be even more true on second viewing: from the first episode it felt as if the writers knew exactly where they were going. I won't spoil it for you in case you decide to watch, but I will tell you that things are resolved totally without fist fights or murders! ...which may account for its only fair ratings. Nevertheless, the show gradually attracted critical attention and according to Wikipedia, was considered by critics to be among the best shows of the 2010s.

Taking place over a period of more than ten years, *Halt and Catch Fire* depicts a fictionalized insider's view of the personal computer revolution in the 1990s. The show's title refers to computer machine code instruction that causes a computer's central processing unit to stop working. The first season brings together our crew to develop an IBM desktop clone. Subsequent seasons involve the characters joining together or competing against one another in start-ups, working on gaming software, community tech (remember bulletin boards?), the beginning of the Internet, e-commerce, security software, and web search engines.

As I said, *Halt and Catch Fire* is a FICTIONAL retelling of this digital revolution. But the writers didn't want to alter real history and in fact Compaq, IBM, Apple, Steve Jobs, Microsoft, Bill Gates, AOL, Yahoo, Netscape, and other famous people and companies are all visible in the background of the show's story. So, although we see the show's characters working on cutting edge tech, they are predestined to mostly fail to be the first or most successful in their enterprises. So these



Gordon, Donna, Cameron and Joe – *Halt and Catch Fire*



Donna and Cameron – *Halt and Catch Fire*

unsung innovators fail, but we still get to watch the process of very smart people recognizing “the next thing” and figuring out how to make it happen. One of the show's themes is “people with the right idea at the wrong time” who failed due to market or technology forces not aligning. But failure is not the end; it's how people “level up.”

The characters' interaction with one another is so interesting. They're all incredibly smart and skilled in the areas of their expertise. But learning to recognize and value each other's brilliance and skills doesn't come easy and accounts for several of their failures. Joe MacMillan (actor Lee Pace) is a tech visionary and starts out as a sort of anti-hero, but his character's arc is wonderful. My favorite character is Cameron Howe (actor Mackenzie Davis), a punk computer programming prodigy. I loved Cameron's evolving relationship with the other main female character, Donna Clark (actor Kerry Bishé) an engineer and savvy businesswoman. Together, these two women characters describe how the computing industry began to slowly push women out in the mid-1980s. Their relationship allows the series to easily pass the Bechdel test. Donna's

husband, Gordon Clark (actor Scoot McNairy) is a brilliant computer engineer—sort of the Steve Wozniak to Joe MacMillan's Steve Jobs.

Joe says in season one: "Computers aren't the thing. They're the thing that gets us to the thing"

If you are looking for a binge-worthy Netflix series, I recommend *Halt and Catch Fire*.

Regrets

[SC] I have not been feeling much like writing lately, not too surprising since I don't have a lot to write about. These days and weeks under lockdown (either the State imposed lockdown since overruled by our State Supreme Court, or our subsequent self-imposed lockdown) have slipped into routine for me. I'm a bit glum that we are not going to be taking off on another long road trip this summer or fall. I'd been looking forward to more trips since buying the new car. In the 9 months since we bought it, we've only put 7000 miles on it including the 2000 miles from our trip to Texas Corflu, and one trip to Eastern Iowa. Had I known back in November that we were going to be living through a plague, I would have pushed to delay the car purchase for a year. Our old Lincoln would have handled these plague months easily.

[JG] That's it for July for us. I append a short account of the shocking trial at which Scott was found GUILTY of fandom in the first degree. How many of you remember this WisCon program?

—Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis
July 2020



Sights seen while walking: Japanese Maple and (next column) Hydrangea bloom



From the Vault Fan Trial

by Jeanne Gomoll, *Union Street* #30, for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* *Apa* #71, May 1992

At WisCon 16, Scott Custis and George Perkins were put on trial. They maintained that they were not fans. Lorelei Manney defended their identities as non-fans; Jeanne Gomoll prosecuted them as fans. Greg G. H. Rihn presided as judge and the audience acted as jury, voting at the end of the presentation.

My big break in George Perkins' case came when George himself offered to show me an issue of one of his fanzines. He proudly proclaimed that he had an entire box of his zines upstairs at his house and handed me a reverently wrapped copy of the last issue. It will be hard to believe. I know, but I applied no pressure whatsoever to procure this evidence. In fact, Scott and I had been invited to dinner by George and Lorelei, with Steve and Elk. We were all standing around the kitchen discussing beer, when out of the blue, George starts telling me about this fanzine he used to edit. It was an amazing evening. The editorial of this fanzine—the last he produced—contained the intriguingly ambiguous statement about this not being the end, and when I had George read that sentiment aloud at the trial, I felt I'd nailed his case shut.

Scott read aloud from a letter in Andy Hooper's fanzine, *Spent Brass*, and his reading was also fairly significant in the trial's result. It was the letter that I asked Andy to identify during his brief appearance as a witness before he were called to another panel. I thought Scott's letter was even more incriminating than George's editorial. In it, he praised Peter Larsen's fanzine reviews, remarked that the reviews were getting him interested in reading more fanzines and fanzine reviews, and knowingly wielded the

term “KTF.” Scott correctly defined the term as “Kill The Fuckers.” for the jury.

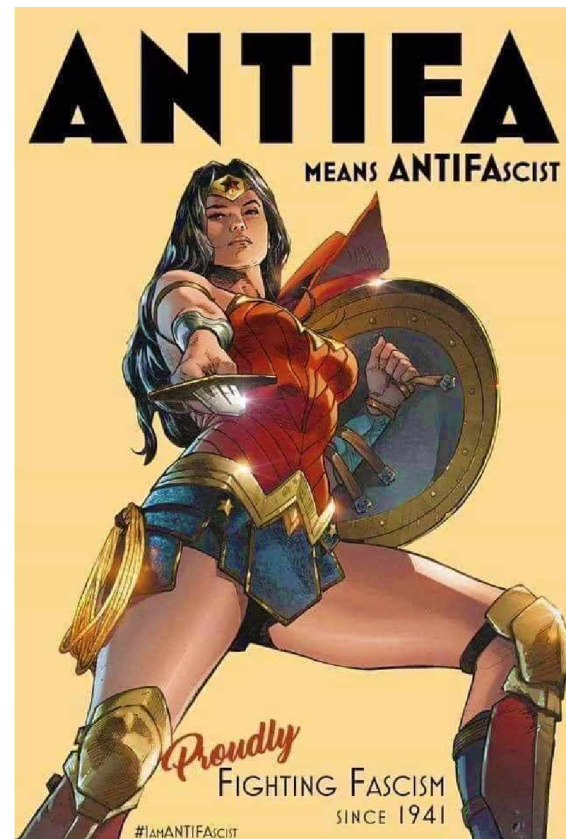
There was more, of course... The photographic evidence of Scott talking animatedly to BNFs Ted White and Jon Singer. The very long list of conventions Scott has attended in the past few years. The fact that he participates in convention activities on his own volition. His regular attendance of the weekly Madison SF group meetings. The letters of comment he has written to fanzines. His familiarity with fannish terms. The fact that he has voted in the TAFF elections for the past many years, and that the requirement of voting rights is that the voter must be a fan. The fact that he held the office of vice-president in SF³. That he has published this apazine for several years and that it was Scott—not me—who had to convince the other to agree to a joint membership in *TurboApa*. That he helped produce a one-shot with Ellen Franklin. Professor David Emerson gave expert and entertaining testimony about the Syndrome of Delayed Fannish Identification (David, of course, was himself a tragic victim of this syndrome, denying fannishness for years until he finally admitted the truth.) Scott was easy to prove a fan. But the most surprising witness supporting my case was called by the defense, Elk Krisor. Lorelei apparently thought Elk was just kidding when she joined the rest of the rabid audience in chants of “hang him!” or “Fan! Fan!” But in any case, Elk was called to bolster the defense’s theory that Scott’s fannishness was merely the result of sharing a house with a fan. But, as it turned out, Elk provided the *coup de grace* for my case, providing sarcastic testimony to the effect that living with a fan does not force fannish activity upon a partner.

Greg Rihn made a fantastic judge; the audience really got involved with their role as jury; Lorelei was a good sport, considering the fact that she was defending two goofs who could hardly help but incriminate themselves; and George and Scott were simply wonderful, hamming it up on the witness stand, but playing fair the whole way. I think the event was one of the most entertaining panels we’ve ever done at WisCon. I talked about doing this sort of thing at woridcon, with well-known non-fans, and I still think it would be a good idea. ♦

Nomination for Tom and J.J.

[SC] Jeanne and I would like to nominate Tom Havighurst and J.J. Brutsman for membership in the apa. They are local, longtime Madison fans who have expressed interest in returning to *Turbo* and we think they will fit in with the current gang very well. Jim, I expect they will be sharing one membership account. I have their address as: 4110 Hegg Av., Madison 53716.

Moderately Confused by Jeff Stahler



F Mines by Tony Carrillo for July 15, 2020

