



An apa-zine by Jeanne Gomoll of 2018
Jennifer Street, Madison, WI 53704
(608-241-8445), the first four pages
of which serve for both the Women's
APA and C/RAPA since they contain a
WisCon report that I want to share
with both groups.

For the sake of Canadian customs
please note that this is a periodical
of NO COMMERCIAL VALUE, and for the
sake of paranoia, please note that
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noted.

This zine is begun on February 6,
1979 right on/in the heels of WisCon
since I wanted to write about it all
while it was still new in my mind.
But no doubt since the next deadlines
of both apas are a little less than
two months away, the zine will grow
slowly over the time between now
and whenever I get around to sending
it off. The only news since the last
apa mailing (besides WisCon) that I
have to report is my acceptance for
an interview for a fantastic job with
the State of Wisconsin Department of
Natural Resources. I am one of 12
people (out of 220 applicants) to be
tested/interviewed for this position
that will entail editing the DMR
magazine (slick prozine) and the doing
of brochures, etc. I think I've got
a fair chance of getting it, in which
case I will be obscenely wealthy.
The test/interview is scheduled for the
15th of this month, so you will no
doubt hear more about it in the course
of this zine.

Though the convention ended officially
the day before yesterday, the after-
effects and clean-up details have
extended WisCon for some of us Madstfians.
Yesterday I got to talk with Herb
Varley for really the first time
during the con, over brunch with Susan
Wood and David Emerson, and then wait-
ing with him for an hour and a half at
the airport. Jessica and Diane remain
at Diane Martin's house for some of
the rest of the week, so I'll be seeing
them tonight and probably Wednesday at
the meeting at Nick's. So even though
the "franticness" of the con is over, I
feel as if I'm beginning this conreport
in its midst.

In size, WisCon 3 was about the same
as WisCon 2: the attendance was about
350. A nice encompassable, comfortable
con. Even though a larger membership
might be (financially) preferable to
the university, and ultimately to our
group, I think I'd prefer that the
con stay in this bracket. If it does
however, the art show will probably
have to remain a small one (more for
the limited market--i.e., the number
of people with money to spend on art
than for the scarcity of artists).
With the proximity (in time) of such
an excellent art show con as Boscone,
we may never be able to attract the
best artists, or a good amount of their
work to WisCon. This realization was
expecially disappointing to me during
the course of the weekend. I think
that perhaps if the committee can come
to an agreement that lower art show
registration fees and a better loca-
tion for the show are necessary, we
may do much better next year however.
But in any case, as a result of my
activity in WisCon as one of the co-
ordinators of the art show, I've
again come up with some new ideas
about art show organizing--especially
in regard to judging categories and
pro/amateur status definitions. I'd
like to know if anyone has any ideas
where an article on such a topic might
be useful or desired. I'd like to
write about my ideas on art shows and
invite others with similar experiences
to talk about their ideas--with the
possible end of devising some guide-
lines for all sf con art shows to use
(depending on their sizes, of course,

the guidelines would probably have to vary quite a bit.) JANUS might be a good place for such an article but we don't really have room in the very near future. I've thought of FILE 770 and may send something to Glier if nothing else seems more appropriate, but I was wondering if any of you had a suggestion.

JANUS, by the way, will come out next in its 15th reincarnation probably sometime in March. We hope to have it put together this month (the articles are all in, but not typed. Some of the artwork is gathered/done/started.) It is featuring an article/interview of Liz Lynn by Debbie Notkin, a set of reviews of feminist small press zines by Jessica Amanda Salmonson, an article (the first in a series of bios on Wisconsin writers) by our printer, Randy Everts on Stanley Weinbaum, interviews of Suzy McKee Charnas and Herb Varley (published first in the WisCon program book, which is also available for a dollar from SF³), a page of poetry by Terri Gregory and Terry Gary (called "Terri Cloth"), and the regulars - the film reviews by Diane Martin and Dick Russell, my News Nurd and Jan's editorial, etc., etc. There's more, I'm sure, but right now I can't recall what. Excuse this commercial interruption. But it takes up a lot of my attention, and it's hard not to write about Janus.

WisCon was great for me (with the exception of part of Sunday afternoon when some of the bookkeeping hassels of the art show got me really down. But Liz Lynn's recognition of what I was feeling and support started the end of that, and then, beginning plans with John Bartelt for counter-cat programming at next year's Wiscon completed my recovery in quick time. The Madison Parade of dead cats, by the way, will feature slides of actual dead cats, and if possible, brownies made with David Emerson's "a-whole dead-cat-in-every-lid-of-dead-cat-dope" dope. How exciting. That, and George Fergus' proposed panel on "Men in Fandom: Are they Necessary?" should make for a really great Wiscon 4.). Goodness what a long parenthetical digression. As I was saying, though, WisCon 3 was great. Onward.

Some of the highlights for me, were the aforementioned talk with Herb Varley in which we talked a lot about his impression of the Freff drawings for his soon-to-come-out book, Titan, and the covers of his previous two books, and other related topics, which I hope we might continue when we get to ArmadilloCon in May; together with an excited planning-conversation with Liz Lynn. Liz sent me a copy of the manuscript for her children's fantasy book a couple of weeks ago so that we could talk about it when she got to WisCon -- in order that I might start on work on some illustrations for it. I was incredibly excited about it when she first asked about it: now that we've talked, I'm even more enthusiastic about the possibilities in the project. I want to finish with Janus 15 as soon as possible (as we won't be starting on number 16 till May), so that I can start work on that right away.

The panel on Fairy Tale and Myth was really exciting too: I got to hear that mainly because I was on it (and *sigh*, after hearing about the exciting things that went on at the Violence and Ecstasy Panel and the authors' rebuttal, I desperately wish I'd been on that one as well). With people like Suzy Charnas, Liz Lynn, Mary Badami, McClenahan, Wood, Tom Moylan, and so many other articulate, interesting feminists, there was a lot of really challenging discussion going on. I'm hoping that I'll be able to hear more of what I was unable to hear at the con, by listening to some of the tapes we made at the con.

Other programming that I witnessed more or less because I was involved with it for the most part, were the two artists panels: one on art shows and one on fan art. The first one was attended by only 2 people (a victim of intensive cross programming I fear) but it turned out fine because the 2 women attending were involved with the planning of their first art show and Steve Johnson, Jane Hawkins (who is heavily involved in running art shows in the Seattle area and gave me much invaluable aid with the WisCon art show) and I went over detail by detail how to run an art show. It was a true workshop. The fanzine artists panel was a lot of fun as Lee Pelton, kCarol Kennedy, Joan Hanke

Woods, myself, and lots of audience kibitzers traded stories and tips about editing and drawing fanzine art. The SF³ panel (called "How to get rich, attract lovers, and stop bullies from kicking sand in your eyes" in memorial of Bob Shaw's WindyCon address) turned out to be somewhat boring I fear, or maybe this just seemed so to us, as we know our history so well. But it certainly wasn't as funny as I thought it might be. Oh well. I also heard the last part of Herb's and Jessica's readings, and the end of the interview between Herb and Suzy, moderated by Susan Wood. That last seemed really exciting and interesting: Susan got them both to voice a lot of provocative ideas. I remember Jon Singer coming out of that last program with eyes glazed over looking as if he was about to (or had already) OD'ed on something incredibly strong. Later he said he thought his mind had reacted to Suzy's and Herb's talk like an overloaded circuit board.

But most of my participation in programming was in connection with the art show and auction. Lynn Morse, a local calligrapher, did some fantastically beautiful award certificates for us, and the winning artists seemed rather pleased with them. The art that we got (what there was of it, about 2/3 of the show last year) was quite good and lovely.

I didn't really see a lot of the daytime convention actually: I'll have to rely on the accumulation of other group members' recollections to fill in the blanks. As usual, the main of my convention was connected to the people who were there: Jane Hawkins and I managed in spite of both of our heavy involvement with the con to find a lot of time for one another, for which I was/am so happy. I wish I'd been able to find Suzy Charnas more often, or at least for a larger chunk of time, but all in all I find myself surprisingly satisfied with the amount of time I was able to share with friends who came to WisCon--Jon Singer, Richard LaBonté (guest dancer), Candice Massey, Susan Wood, crazy Minneapolis people (and artists with whom I did some

enjoyable collaborative drawing with Saturday night in the 6th floor hallway), Joan Hanke-Woods, and others. Jan Bogstad, who did an incredible job (applause, applause) coordinating the con, too, seemed much more relaxed and able to socialize and enjoy herself than was the case last year when the pressure on her made things much more difficult. Maybe we're all getting better at pre-organization and more likely to not be snowed under by the con as it happens. It was nice to get so many compliments on the smooth-running nature of WisCon (movies and programming starting on time; no problems with registration, etc.).

The con began as it did last year with some very impromptu opening ceremonies/skits followed by a party/dance at the University Student Union down the street. The skits were fun to do and extremely funny I thought, and as I did last year, I loved the dancing-en-group that began the festivities. The feeling of joy and connection (more sensual than sexual) between the people moving together on the floor, no couples really, just everyone weaving in and out among the group was lovely and exhausting and we kept on and on and on... As happened last year, the people who shared the dancing continued to share excitement and emotion throughout the con. About the atmosphere of the con someone pointed out that one of the best things about the kind of con WisCon is, is the mutual ego-boosting that is done: not fake backpatting, but real honest expressions of our appreciation and respect for one another. The feedback and sense of the convention tends to foster the vision in all of us that makes us look for the valuable, praiseworthy things in our friends; and then the openness of the con encourages us to express those insights. No wonder we all come out of these things glowing like we do. Not only is it nice to hear that we are doing neat things, but it is a strengthening act (both ways) to tell others that we appreciate them.

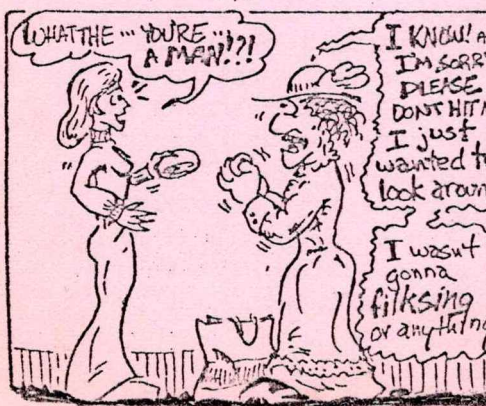
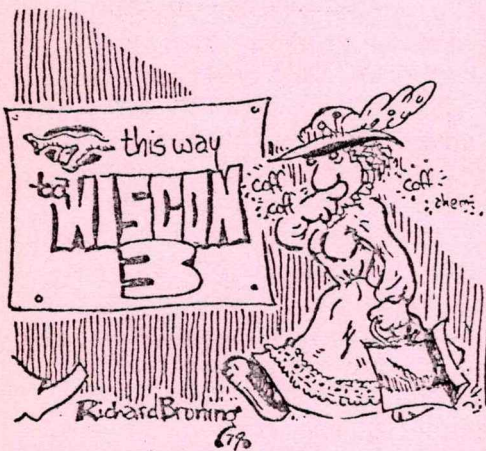
Oh, there were some problems during the course of the convention, personal frictions between members of the group which weren't too pleasant, but in the main, we kept these things far from the surface/public face of the con and things did go smoothly.

Friday night there were some great jokes being told in the hallways, one of the spilling-out-of-the-small-hotel-room parties (of which there were quite a few good ones; the con suite, Minicon-in-73, a few others). Why, even my Martian jokes found an appreciative audience much to the shock of Madison people. Jon Singer told THE moose joke but my favorite was the one about how the Polacks would have won the Vietnam war. Answer: the same way we did... There were good times too at the two auctions where Jim Cox and Jane Hawkins tempted and entertained the audience in good form.

Things ended Sunday night at the feminist bar/restaurant, Lysistrata, where we all had salads and vegetarian chili and talked and laughed and wound down. Though Jane and I gave

up after that, quite a few people went back to the hotel and did some poetry and other kinds of readings and partied some more.

I didn't hear (or hear of) any complaints this year about the feminist aspect of WisCon this year. Either people have gotten used to it all now, or the one's who wouldn't have liked what we do, had enough sense not to come. In fact, one faction of disgruntled fans (from last year's con) indeed did do their own convention in Chicago with a member of the Madison group who was extremely vocal in his criticism last year as their guest-of-honor. Those of you who were in Madison in February of '78 may remember the person running around with the "Gripe-at-Me" button on. That's him. Thinking about it before the convention we could only grin and think that he couldn't have complied more perfectly with our wishes as to how he could "help out" at WisCon... Those of you who got to this year's con may want to look again at the comic by Richard Bruning that graces the first page of the program book and understand the further levels of humor in it.



I have been reading Mary Daly's GYN/ECOLOGY. Somehow that seems too unenthusiastic, blah a description: In Daly's vocabulary, I have been A-Mazed by GYN/ECOLOGY. It's really extraordinary. I argue sometimes, angry sometimes at things she says/believes (and wonder if I am just too conservative, too afraid of really radical changes). Mostly I am ecstatic at the new images, now connections to be found in her ideas, in what she calls her "spinning."

"...the word spinster is commonly used as a depreciating term, but it can only function this way when apprehended exclusively on a superficial (foreground) level. Its deep meaning, which has receded into the Background so far that we have to spin deeply in order to retrieve it, is clear and strong: 'a woman whose occupation is to spin.' There is no reason to limit the meaning of this rich and cosmic verb. A woman whose occupation is to spin participates in the whirling movement of creation. She who has chosen her Self, who defines her Self, by choice, neither in relation to children nor to men, who is Self-identified, is a Spinster, a whirling dervish, spinning in a new time/space."

"Spinsters can find our way back to reality by destroying the false perceptions of it inflicted upon us by the language and myths of Babel. We must learn to dis-spell the language of phallocracy, which keeps us under the spell of brokenness."

There is even a glossary (with page nos.) referring us to the place where these "new" words are first used, first defined in the book. As we have begun to re-member our mythology, Daly also shows us that we can re-member (another of her new words) our language. It's magnificent.

"I am using the term Gyn/Ecology very loosely, that is, freely, to describe the science, that is the process of know-ing, of "loose" women who choose to be subjects and not mere objects of enquiry. Gyn/Ecology is by and about women a-mazing all the male-authored "sciences of womankind," and weaving world tapestries of our own kind. That is, it is about dis-covering, de-veloping

the complex web of living/loving relationships of our own kind. It is about women living, loving, creating our Selves, our cosmos. It is dis-possessing our Selves, enspiriting our Selves, hearing the call of the wild, naming our wisdom, spinning and weaving world tapestries out of genesis and demise. In contrast to gynecology, which depends upon fixation and dismemberment, Gyn/Ecology affirms that everything is connected."

I'm not finished with it yet. I started reading a couple weeks before WisCon and there just hasn't been time. And it's a longgg book. It takes a long time just to get through a few pages. Daly is known primarily as a theologian, though I'm sure she'd dislike that sort of categorization, trying to connect much more than what is classified under that label. But that is sometimes when I disagree most often (when she uses the same assurance-bordering-on-arrogance to pronounce judgement/knowledge on a topic/field that she has little background in). Example in point: one of the first sentences in the book stating point blank that there is nothing worthwhile being written in science fiction from a woman's point of view. Or saying the only good recent film (in connection with the revelation/idea she uncovers that patriarchal society is fundamentally necrofilic, death-oriented) is HAROLD AND MAUDE. Other times, most times, though: I find her insights incredibly valuable. Especially (I'm on this part now): the connection of the Christian Virgin Mary myth to the murdered/raped/married goddesses that became a part of our mythology as the matriarchies were deposed by the patriarchies. Oh it is such an excellent book: find it and read it.

This has been a plug for: GYN/ECOLOGY: The Metaethics of Radical Feminism, by Mary Daly. Boston: Beacon Press, 1978. (Still, I think, only an extremely expensive hardcover. Maybe it would be better to look for it in a library until it comes out in PB form.)



As I think I mentioned in past zines, I've been working a lot at temporary clerical jobs recently. One thing that has been bothering me a lot about the kinds of situations I have become involved in (as guest/impartial observer) is the persistent behavior of self- and other- depreciation. In order to get any kind of support from one another it seems absolutely necessary to put oneself down first and by all means not to assert one's competence, or praiseworthy abilities. This seems to go far beyond the considerations of polite humility. I've lost track of the number of times I have hear the women in this and other offices say "I'm so dumb," "jeez, aren't I stupid!" I cringe (hearing myself in the past, and still, making jokes about my lack of spelling ability, or when I was younger, embarrassed by and still continually bringing to the attention of others my perception of myself as a "klutz."). And I continually stop myself from contributing to such conversations, actively argue with some of the women who make self-depreciatory statements in order to get sympathy (because of course the expected response is a friendly denial in the form of more self-depreciation: i.e., "No, you're not dumb. I'm the stupid one: you should have seen the idiotic thing I did yesterday..."). It is even common among good friends in the office to add to self-derogatory remarks by "jokingly" agreeing and describing to others the stupidity, dumbness of their "friend." You know, like when you were kids, and because you couldn't hug your friend for one reason or another, you hit them. It gets fairly depressing and sometimes down-

absurd when, for instance, the administration comes in and signs people (ahem: women I should say) up for the so-called "Assertiveness" classes. I've got the feeling that this is getting to be a terrible example of the patriarchy co-opting a feminist concern and throwing it back in our faces, using it to pit woman against woman rather than against male bosses and husbands, etc. The assertiveness courses I've seen have had the effect to mostly show the women how more incompetent they are, how much more they lack in terms of getting out of the typist pool. ...The typist pool, which they learn is the lowest place of the lowest places, and even here they are lacking, they are incapable, and even more willing to point out their insignificance and worthlessness themselves (before anyone else does perhaps).

Of course it doesn't just happen among clericals in offices, but in a lot of places and relationships in which people are told and must deal somehow with the information that what they do is basically an imbecil's work (whether it is or it isn't, that's the message conveyed by the salary and image of the job in other people's opinion). It happens in offices, in restaurants, -and of course, in marriages/relationships, etc. "Oh, I'm so weak, so dumb with numbers, so illogical, so disorganized, so impulsive, so whatever and on and on ad disgustum... And you're so strong, so smart, so logical, so rational, so organized, so etcetera." It seems so easy/necessary a thing to put yourself down in order to praise someone else. And by extension (when bitterness sets in) to praise someone, is implicitly to put yourself down. One doesn't in an office, for example, praise people with different experiences, different lifestyles, different goals, because this is so threatening. At least, since I am a Kelly worker, I haven't gotten this as much as I used to as a permanent office worker. The praise comes (about my artwork) "Jeez that's great: I can't draw a straight line even," rather than silent anger that there is something more important than office work for me.

In a conversation with a good friend whose mother had just died, we discussed this phenomenon as it occurs among sympathy givers. One gets sympathy, it seems, to the extent that one expresses guilt about/at a loved one's death. The times when responses are most ready (and most clichéd) by sympathetic friends are when the bereaved individual says things to the effect of "It's my fault" or "If I had done such and such" or "NOT done such and such," the person would still be alive." Or whatever. "I didn't spend enough time with her." There can't be just grief: sympathy comes upon self flagellation.

And now I'm no longer working in a big office with a lot of other women typists. Now I'm working in a small office (with a better typewriter) where I am the only secretary. It's a construction office of

an architectural firm. And I'm back where I fairly recently said it would nice to be again (I think I said "refreshing") -- among out-and-out blatant sexists, where dealing with sexism is very uncomplicated. Forget what I said. I was wrong. Give me femsymps any day. I'm dealing with the old situation of the boss who takes feels whenever he talks to me; where the men in the office (all rough construction engineers: they wear levis and mackinaws and tell gross jokes continually) are trying to find my blush threshold. So far they have been frustrated, in several ways. Happily this job is not a long term one, but if it goes on any longer I know I'm going to have to deal with sexually refusing the boss. Shit. It's not refreshing at all.

The good things about this job are my proximity to the drafters and graphic artists...I've made some friends and it's neat to use some

From the PRESS CONNECTION, February 28, 1979 ... A day and a month more and I would have been sure that this was an April Fool's joke.

Title IX 'attitude' irks Byers

United Press International

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Executive Director Walter Byers of the NCAA admitted Tuesday he is not against Title IX, but said he is against the attitude surrounding its implementation.

"When a man speaks about Title IX, he is presumed to be wrong," Byers said at an NCAA seminar. "But whenever a woman speaks, she is presumed to be right. It's a false premise that women have been discriminated against either by men or by institutions. Historically, women have discriminated against women."

"Women use the charge of discrimination in almost a racial sense. They feel the men's program owes them something to help them catch up. I think that is morally wrong. If they say they need help to overcome past women's attitudes, Title IX would be easier to justify," he added.

Title IX was passed into law in 1972 and it required, basically, that universities receiving federal funds spend as much money on their women's athletic programs as they do on their men's. In 1975, the nation's universities were given three years to comply.

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare was commissioned to draw up the guidelines that were to be used in implementing the controversial law. And discrimination suits have already been filed by women against a number of institutions, including

Kansas, Kansas State and Michigan State.

"It (Title IX) disregards quality and purely recognizes quantity," said Byers. "It dictates that sex be a factor. It discriminates against men no matter how athletically skillful they may be. It favors less skilled women over more skilled men."

"If you have a mediocre men's program and a mediocre women's program, then they should financially be treated the same. But if the men's program is mediocre and the women's program is below mediocre, then the men's program should receive more aid. The same would be true if you decide you want to build a nationally competitive women's gymnastics team. If it surpasses in ability that of the men's team, then it should receive more aid than the men."

Byers said the cost of Title IX compliance for the 720 NCAA member institutions would be \$60 million if the participation levels remained at their current plateau. He said the cost would skyrocket to \$320 million if the women's level of participation would be put on an immediate and equal footing with that of the men.

"When you make a quality judgment without regard to merit, the institutions will cut back on the men's (scholarships) so the women's numbers won't run so high," said Byers. "You can't mandate equality by writing a rule and then throwing money at the problem."

of their tools. Also finding out about some of the design and construction of well known buildings in town has been neat. Yesterday I typed this change order for something needed in the Medical Center, called a "Joy Fan." I was so disappointed to find out that the Joy Firm was merely a company that makes a certain kind of fan...

Other weird things: There's a mannequin in a shopping center near my last job that I "salute" every time I pass it. It's not, at first glance a very unusual mannequin, rather old fashioned, plastic and stiff, the normal mannequin for a not too fashionable clothing store. But if you look carefully, you can notice that four of her fingers on her left hand have been broken off, leaving her forever, smilingly giving all passing shoppers the finger. (It is the middle finger that remains.) Every evening the manager has turned her hand sideways so you can't easily see her gesture...but every morning, someone has turned her hand to face the mall and she dramatically salutes people passing her in the hallway. I always grinned (on my way to work through the mall in the morning) and returned the greeting.

News break: I didn't get the Public Information job for the Department of Natural Resources. I did very well on the oral and written exam. I felt as if I'd "aced" the written exam which involved writing a press release for Marshland preservation measures taken by the state, and designing some pr type projects to further publicize the measures. Later I found out I did better than average on that, but had really impressed the panel to which I talked (for a half hour about my responses to three oral exam questions). Apparently the fact that they asked me questions about community participation in the planning process (about which I did my Senior Thesis in college) and another question that I had a fair amount of background in really helped. I have the feeling though that the third question is what lost it for me. It was on setting up a beaurocracy

essentially--describing how I would funnel a lot of money through 6 regions to set up sewerage control systems, through the use of quality control feedback systems, communiques between home office and field workers, etc. I have no experience really, in management, at least where paid workers are involved, and I was competing against men (that's all I saw) in their late 30's, mid 40's, who looked as if that was their main experience. Strange stereotyped reaction, but I think I was right.

Anyway I did very well but not well enough. I came in #4. The only problem is that they decided in advance to only interview (final personal interview) the top three. So out of 220 original applicants I did pretty well, but as I said, not well enough. Sigh. Maybe next time.

I have finished Daly's GYN/ECOLOGY and can hardly think of anything else. I don't feel as if I will be able to read anything else for a while. The horror stories (the horror that they aren't stories) of chinese footbinding, African clitorectomies and worse, infibulation, Indian Suttee, and European Witchburning ... all make for gruesome very painful reading. But GYN/ECOLOGY is much more than an exposé of atrocities committed against women (though it is that too) --it goes beyond that, giving us new possibilities of lives, even a re-habilitated vocabulary. Now that I've finished it, I recommend it even more strongly!

I've also received a couple pre-mailings (it being Feb. 28 now)...So in hopes of getting the regular mailing soon, I think I'll start mailing comments with those two early mailers first. That way I won't forget them, hopefully.

Marty Siegrist Your description of
SOMETHINGROTHER the trials and
 tribulations of
winter fun sounds familiar. Going
home with a friend with a car last

week, and a trip across town that would normally have taken only a half hour or so, took almost three hours... There was a man in Chicago last week who had quite enough. He was sick and tired of having to dig his car out of drifts morning after morning, and that particular morning apparently couldn't extricate his car at all. So he stamped back into his house, got his rifle . . . and shot the car. Somehow I suspect that that was terribly satisfying.

You should definitely try to get Russ' FEMALE MAN. You might look into used book stores or in the huckster rooms of some con or other. I didn't think it was out of print though.

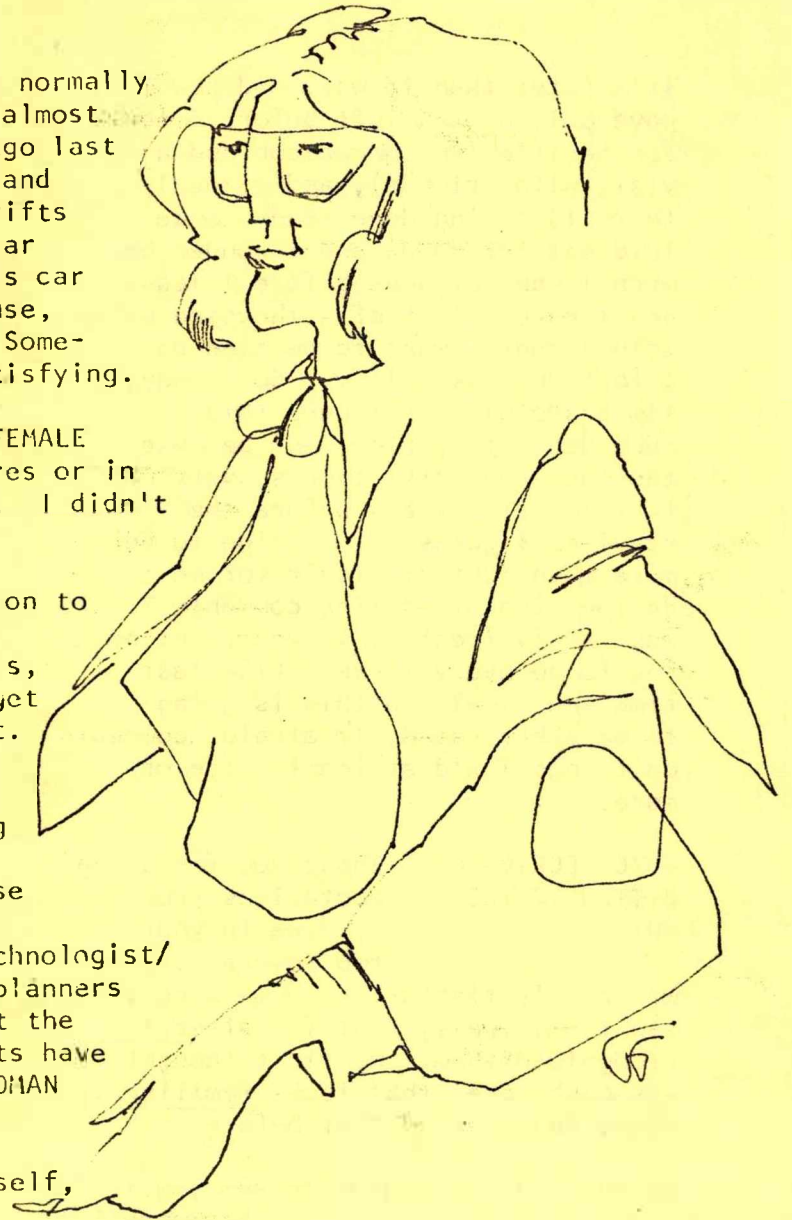
I liked your "rule of thumb" in connection to checking out the viability or relative viability of a literary utopia — that is, to remember that you won't necessarily get to choose where in the hierarchy you fit. I think it's fairly obvious where Aristotle and Moore and Bellamy etc., etc. thought they belonged. It's interesting though, how the place of highest prestige has changed over time (and I suppose with ideologies). Aristotle put the philosophers on top; Bellamy put the technologist/scientists; Skinner put the behavioral planners at the top — and all of them put men at the top. Recently it seems as though artists have been there most often, as in Piercy's WOMAN ON THE EDGE OF TIME (where there aren't supposed to be hierarchies, that is the whole idea, but being an artist perself, I think she managed to make that position the most desirable).

HELEN SWIFT
DESCENT FROM THE
IVORY TOWER

What an extraordinary account that was! Thank you! I know several medical students, one very well, and it seems

that this country's system is very close to your's in terms of what it can do to students with the terrible pressures that must be en-

dured to get the degree. Though I have no little x's next to any specific part of your account, I want to tell you that I thought the piece was excellent and I look forward to reading more of your writing.



©26Wa 1 WOMAN'S APA 2 OE Janet Small, 94 Avenue Rd, Toronto, Ont M5R 2H2, CANADA 3 open "to women (and, unfortunately, men)" interested in feminism, women's studies, women in sf & similar; c20 on waiting list; photocopy 50; min activity 4 legible pp ea other mailing; printing done for nominal fee by OE from Gesetner-width stencils; dues 10c per mailing plus postage; 200-400 pp 4 bi-monthly 6 *Lucifer*

The excerpt to the left was recently published in THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FICTION YEARBOOK, edited by Colin Lester (Pierrot Publishing, UK, 1978, \$7.95) It's sort of a handbook on everything that happened in 1978 in sf—Magazines, fanzines, apas, cons, organizations, awards, films, tv, publishing, and on and on. It was a high to see madstf things listed, etc. Bad parts were that no art was credited (or as far as I could see, even copyrighted, argh!) I noticed that because I had some art in the book. Did Victoria (and not Janet) write info. for this excerpt? The "unfortunately" part puzzles me.

It's later than it was, and now I have only a week left before I leave for Seattle (for Norwescon and a visit with friends), and suddenly there is typing done ready to be laid out for JANUS and I wonder how much I can get done before I leave, and I have a list of a thousand other things that I want to be tied up before then as well... So anyway, I'm grateful that I have this much done of my zine, but because the last apa (#15) came so very late—about 3 weeks before the deadline I guess—it's going to be more than just difficult for me to do the kind of mailing comments I was really (really, I swear) intending to do every issue. Like last time you know? So this is going to be abbreviated, I'm afraid, comments on things I x'd at least twice or more.

JOYCE SCRIVNER Thank you for using
BITTEN TO THE quotations from
QUICK my zine in your
two covers...It
was really flattering to me when I saw them...well, that is, after I recognized them. My first thought was gosh, gee, that looks familiar... Where have I read that before?

Ah well. (It was good to see you in Minneapolis!)

You and Janet both mention doing a book from AWapa mailings...I should think that depending on who these books would go the kind of editing would be necessitated. I mean, if it were for us, the book could be edited to include typical or particularly revealing self-portraits, comments and other writing by each of us, as sort of a digest memory book of AWapa. Such an approach though, would be highly inappropriate if it were to be published for others, outside of the apa. It could be a collection of sf/fannish/personal comments relating to feminist themes as they have affected various members. It could be just a collection of just the best writing regardless of its particular connection to the supposed theme of the apa. I suppose it could

also follow the main themes of the discussions we've had going in the apa over the past couple of years, though I hate to think how that approach would end up with us all getting involved in re-arguing/defending old discussions all over again. I'm not too enthusiastic about that approach.

As to your other question, who would do it? Let me say this: not me. I'd be willing to donate my copies of all the apazines (the entire run) to who ever does do it however. I hate collecting and have been wondering what to do with the growing stack as it is.

Congratulations on all the back mailing comments... very impressive.

I may go into couple-ism and what I think of it in the next issue, but as I said, don't have a lot of time right now. Next issue I think. I've got some things to say on that subject, I sure do.



(This illustration was used in Lester's SF Yearbook and in a brochure for a Michigan University Conference last year...only about 3 times as large.)

Funny: what you say about the way Mr. Goodbar was written, about how it was supposed to seem so peculiar how she acted in such different ways from day to night—didn't seem at all strange in the film. I mean, most people I know are that way to a certain extent. I know that I identified with the held-in, guarded way of acting at "work" as compared to other times.

C. DECARNIN Once again, a really
SCORPION CROWN excellent zine. There is always so much to comment on in your writing, she groaned.

I was especially intrigued by the pitiful list of real research you found on

S/M, especially the thing on endomorphine. I can imagine theorizing about it on other levels than you brought up. If there is this substance that "is more addictive than morphine" released during sex, it not only says things about S/M being possible (for it's pain reducing power), but maybe also means that we get addicted to sex and more importantly, whatever it is that we learn to associate with sex. Is that a reasonable deduction from the information you mentioned? Or am I saying something stupid? If so it might be really important and frightening too in terms of what that means for people trying to change the way they interact with sexual partners. If you began to have sex and did so for a long enough period of time in ways that were either degrading to your partner or to yourself, and learned (with the help of the endomorphine) to associate those behaviors with sex and with the addictive pleasure you felt...it would seem to be a great deal more difficult to change patterns than one normally expects. I mean...if a man has associated dominance over passive women as the main sexual pattern for him, and has this behavior reinforced over and over, there would seem to be more than just socialized training to overcome to change that behavior. I imagine that the woman who has long associated passive behavior with sex, might have a more easy time to change because (having considerably less orgasms in this way) she would have been chemically less reinforced in her behavior than the man would be. This is ignoring for the moment lesbian and homosexual sex. But, certainly that (and S/M, and celibacy, etc.) could be reinforced similarly.

This seems really wild and I suspect, full of holes. But that's the chain of thought your comment led to. It felt much like a Tiptree scenario à la "The Screwly Solution." Please comment.

I'd dearly love to see the poster of the gagged mime. I hope it's as good as the image your mention of it conjured up in my mind...

Your comments on feet comfort brought to mind the sections in Daly's GYN/ECOLOGY in which she talks about Chinese foot binding. She makes some connections to

American shoe styles and has this hilarious/awful quotation from a shoe designer who in one paragraph describes how much human equilibrium/good mental health/mood depends on comfortable feet and coverings. Then he goes on and makes exceptions for women, who are able to ignore their slight discomfort to wear the toe-crushing, arch-destroying, high, high healed fashion shoes.

Thank you for your comments on abortion. I think your reasoning for supporting abortion as an option is the best I've heard yet. I've never been comfortable either saying it's not a form of murder, and yet I've wanted a better way to express my feeling that a woman's rights to control her own body are not just flimsey excuses.

And what a good idea too, on the falacies behind romantic love, how young women expect to find the lovers described in fiction (which is often written by other women). A good book describing that process is an old picaresque novel called A FEMALE DON QUIXOTE (I forget the author, but she's really good—wrote during the 1800's I think).

Don't appologize for the red letters—they read easier than the blue ones do. Keep using the red ditto! And keep on paragraphing, yes.

You spoke of anaesthetics used during child birth. Did you know that one of the most common is one that doesn't kill any pain (and is thus most useful...to the doctor, of course), but does prevent the mother from remembering anything afterwards of the pain. Neato huh? That information is from GYN/ECOLOGY.

MARGARET HENRY I get tired, too, hearing IN MY OWN WORDS people debunk the environmental studies in cancer research, with the phrase "Everything causes cancer." I think it's pretty revealing that cancer, especially some types, are entirely unknown in parts of the world especially outside the industrialized nations.

Could you list the shampoos that are suspected cancer-causers? I hadn't

heard about that one.

Congratulations and best of luck in your upcoming marriage.

SUSAN WOOD I really hate to see
BREAD & ROSES you go. Too bad you weren't doing AMOR, then you could frank it through. Just kidding. Anyway, I'm sure we'll keep in touch. Hug. (And I'm glad there was so much more than 5 minutes at WisCon...It was great to see you again.) I will have seen you again by the time you read this, at Norwescon and am looking forward to that.

CELIA CHAPMAN There are quite a
A SILVER WEB few little x's in my copy of your zine. I was impressed both by the good quality of your repro and especially by how similarly you and I tended to pick up on other apa-members' comment hooks. I think I am going to like you a great deal.

If you read my own essay/comment on sexual definitions in the last OBSESSIONS, you know that we agree completely on that. Thank you for your comments, expanding on those ideas.

Your friend, Linda Miller, sounds fascinating. Since she is in fandom, (or was?), do you think you could give me her address? I'd like to put her on a list of women authors/artists that Jan Bogstad (my coeditor—JANUS) and I have begun to put together. I'd also like to send her, as one of the few women sf artists, a copy of JANUS.

There were lots of other x's, but unfortunately they were next to thoughts that if I were to get into comments on them at this point, I'd never finish this zine. Next time.

JANET WILSON Could you explain how
CARDBOARD I got a credit from
REPLICA Lesleigh's balance? Or did I read that incorrectly?

What an awful explanation (even if unreliable) for women not using birth con-

trol! (i.e., that it would be an unpleasant admission about one's "availability.") Here is a really tragic example about the kinds of behavior expected of women if they are to be "feminine." Somehow though I can't believe that that can possibly be a real explanation any more, at least for any statistically large number of women.

KAREN PEARLSTON Has Jane shown you
RISING the photographs of you that she snapped while you were visiting in Seattle? Karen, I think you are one of those magically photogenic persons...every one of you is so beautiful!

Now, if I get AnneLaurie's and Avedon' and Rebecca's Volume 2 in time (Joyce tells me that there was some postal tragedy involving the mailing of dittos from Lansing to Toronto?)--I may get some mc's out in time for them too. But I kind of doubt it. If I don't get Volume 2, this will be the last page of OBSESSIONS #13.

Some news in the space remaining... since I have no art work at hand readily. I'm working on some freelance work for the Madison General Hospital, which is fun and remunerative. I'd worked in the PR department there for a couple weeks last year through Kelly, and by the time I'd been there a few days I ended up doing much more drawing and writing for them than I did typing. They farmed that out. So they've been trying to talk the hospital into creating a position that essentially is what I did while I was there. No luck yet: money is tight. So in the meantime, some freelance work. Good, good.

There are, as usual, lots of things going on. I'm looking forward especially to going to Seattle next week... Hope I see some of you there. So, until June,

Love, *Jeanne*