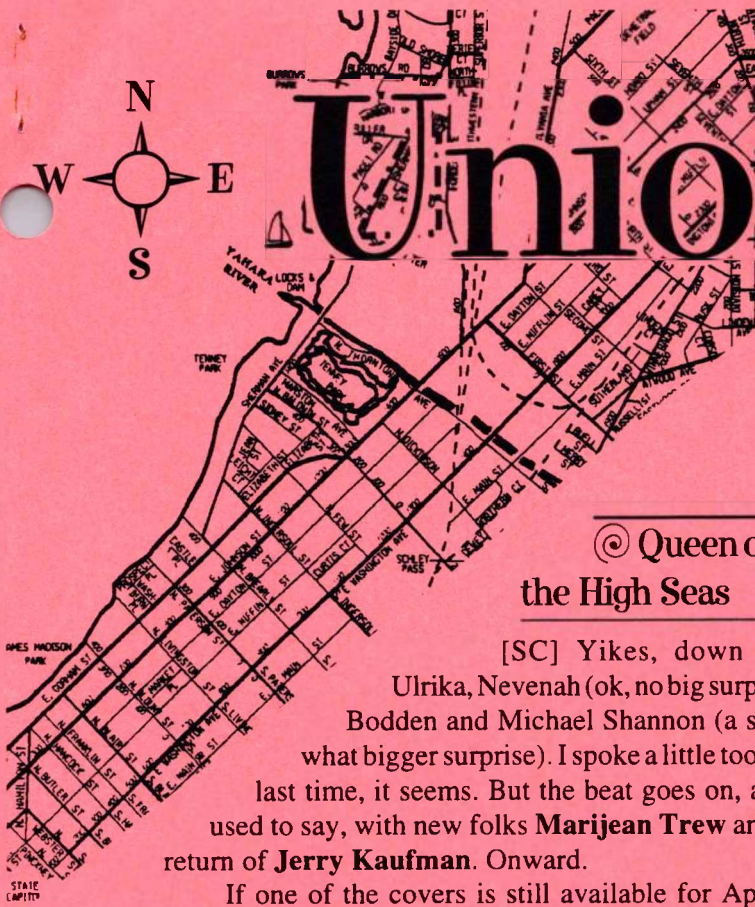


Union Street

A joint zine by Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis



© Queen of the High Seas

[SC] Yikes, down goes Ulrika, Nevenah (ok, no big surprise), Bodden and Michael Shannon (a somewhat bigger surprise). I spoke a little too soon last time, it seems. But the beat goes on, as we used to say, with new folks **Marijean Trew** and the return of **Jerry Kaufman**. Onward.

If one of the covers is still available for April or May, Jeanne and I will sign up.

Nice job with the business pages this month. I liked the Way you Rewrote the Rules Page in your Particular style.

© Come One, Come All

[SC] I tried this a few months back and got no takers so I will give this one more try. We have some copies of *Turbo Apa* we are ready to part with. We don't stockpile these things. Our plan is to keep about a year's worth and then find a better home for them, so here is your chance to start a collection, fill in your existing collection, research the apa's past glories or whatever. The apas are available for free to any member. If you live out of town, then we ask that you pay postage. If we don't find apa members who want them, we are likely to have to trash them because we know some members would object to our selling or donating them as fanzines to general fanzine fandom. The issues we have available are as follows:

- #71 through 82
- #87 through 89
- #99 through 138.

Turbo #151 was a pretty good issue. I have a few comments ready this month, but I will have more on #151 next time.

© Julie Zachman

[JG] Whew! It sounds like you've got some pretty heavy parenting issues to deal with in your family. I wish you all well....

© Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] Whenever I mention at work that Scott and I threw a New Year's Eve party and that it went on till past dawn, the nearly universal reaction of my co-workers matches the one you saw portrayed in comic strips. They regale me with tales of how they attempted but failed to stay up any later than their usual bedtime and missed midnight altogether. Usually this story is couched in phrases and body language that suggests to me that my co-workers consider anyone who actually stays up late on New Year's to be rather immature, or at least someone with few mature responsibilities, i.e. children. Well, at least, I don't worry anymore about the other reaction: "You threw a party and didn't invite me??!"

Scott and I shoveled out our driveway and sidewalks by hand too, though less voluntarily than you and Greg did. Our snowblower chose that first, heavy snowstorm to break down. It did, however, recover for the next snowfall, the one that only amounted to a couple inches. Maddening. I find that shoveling hurts my lower back these days, and worsens the sciatica I'm struggling with, so our snowblower feels like more of a necessity than a luxury to me now.

I'm glad to hear you liked *Elizabeth*, Georgie. I did notice the telescoping of historical events, but decided I loved it anyway. I was especially impressed at the way the story, contorted or not, told us some interesting things about how Elizabeth may have survived politically by taking on the role of "virgin queen," at the

same time she was personally wounded by that hard choice. It got me thinking of similar sacrifices that strong women in history have had to make in order to take on traditionally male roles of power. And speaking of Elizabethan films, thank you very much for answering my unasked question, e.g. who was that sadistic kid (John Webster) in *Shakespeare in Love*? I knew we were probably supposed to know who he was, simply because we were actually given his first and last name, but it wasn't familiar to me. What a wonderful movie! I've been trying to convince Scott that we need to see it again.

The apa sure is getting thin these days. Quite a few apans, in writing and in conversation have noted the trend. And I agree with all of you who have said something of the kind: if we want the apa to be better we have to start with the quality of our own contributions.

What a wonderful idea to see if "The Big Truth" might work as well as "The Big Lie!" Actually, I wonder if it hasn't already worked quite often in the past. Some ideas that — when spoken aloud for the first time — have been greeted with reactions like, "That would never work," or "People would never give up X for that!" Nevertheless, they've taken hold in the public consciousness and changed the world. Maybe the fact that "The Big Truth" can triumph is what makes being a radical not too depressing all the time.

Oh, I don't know about comparing the Clinton scandal to the Napoleonic Wars! Somehow, I don't think the two things will bear up as comparable events among future historians. I prefer to think that if an amateur historian got hold of our zines in the middle of the next century, our seeming ignorance of the Clinton sex scandal would simply support the prevailing opinion that the supposed "trial of the century," was more foam than tide. I bet there would be a lot of other things that the future historian might miss in our zines and be far more puzzled that we neglected — like global warming, maybe. ("How could these intelligent people of the late 20th century ignore the obvious signs that Life As They Knew It was about to change drastically as result of catastrophic global climate shifts? The only evidence that they were at all aware of the looming disaster is a few feeble jokes about "El Niño!")

Great response to **Michael Rawdon** on the environmental discussion. "Don't you know who your friends are?" Indeed.

Actually, I don't know anyone who bought a Furby doll. But then I only saw my first Beanie Baby doll a month ago, so I'm not much of a social barometer in these matters.

[SC] You got a big round of applause from me regarding your comments about going out to celebrate on New Years Eve. Although we weren't able to lure you out to Madison this year to our party, it was good to hear that you did go out and have a good time somewhere. "*Greg and I have made a conscious decision to go against such advice, because we suspect that those who follow it end up as timorous fogies at 50. If having a good time with friends isn't worth the effort, what is?*" Well said and we couldn't agree with you more.

I felt firmly rebuked for being the proud owner of a snow blower. How could I be such a wimp as to not shovel my own snow? All I can say in my defense is that I have removed snow with a shovel and with a snow blower. The snow blower is better (at least it is when it starts up.) Is it expensive, noisy and smelly? Yes indeed. Add to that the nearly unbearable frustration it causes if it doesn't start when you need it. However, when it is running properly after a heavy snow, you wouldn't be able to pry it away from me without a fight. When it comes to my snow blower, I can live with being called a wimp.

We both liked *Elizabeth* and *Shakespeare in Love* a lot, and after seeing each film, we wondered what you would think of them. Among so many other good qualities about the films, I liked seeing actor Geoffery Rush demonstrate his range. He played very different characters in each movie and played them wonderfully.

© Bill Humphries

[JG] How come you couldn't think of a New Year's resolution for me?

[SC] It was so good to see you and Julie at Potlatch, and we are all out here relieved that things are going better for you both.

Regarding my New Year's resolution, I would rather do for Iowa what Fighting Bob LaFollette did for Wisconsin.

© Maureen Kincaid Speller

[JG] Lovely stuff about Finzi. I'm a Vaughn Williams fan, myself. You say Finzi is one of his contemporaries.... Is their music at all similar?

I don't know if my child self would have believed that I would one day complain about having *too many* books to read. One of my scariest kid nightmares had to do with running out of books. I kept a stack of unread books on my desk and as it dwindled, I'd panic, and make a trip to the library to shore it up again. Nowadays, as you say, the struggle to find space is more critical.

Turbo actually had one of those “barking people” (what a *great* term!) who proselytized about UFOs being interstellar visitors. I wonder how you would have responded to him? I think these folks have a lot more in common with religious zealots than SF fans, because they seem compelled to find evidence for what they want to believe rather than for what might be there. Still, I suppose that **carl juarez** does make a good point — that those of us who dismiss all evidence about UFOs altogether because of the loud barking sounds made by proponents of flying saucer UFOs, are just as blindly dogmatic as those we scorn.

The U.S. does have isolated examples of good transportation systems. Indeed, Madison has one of them, I think, though our recent bus system reorganization hasn't been entirely successful. But England's mass transit system is a coherent, *national* one, which the U.S. has never had. I can easily live in Madison and use our car only on weekends — to do big shopping trips, visit out of town, etc. — and bus for most of my transportation needs. But there are only two other large cities that I can easily travel to using mass transit, or three depending on how one defines “easily.” I can go to downtown Milwaukee or Milwaukee's airport. I can go to downtown Chicago or Chicago's airport. And if I want to spend 9 hours in a bus (as opposed to 5 hours in a car), I can go to downtown Minneapolis as well. Each of these three cities has its own mass transit system, but I can't just hop on a bus and expect to find an intuitively obvious set-up once I get to Milwaukee, Chicago or Minneapolis. This means, that although one can, if one has a lot of time, go from one city to another via bus or train, that once in the city, there may or may not be a connecting urban transit system. And if there is, it may be very difficult to use. Last summer, I wanted to go down to Peoria, Illinois for a 4-day workshop, and I wanted to leave the car at home for Scott. Peoria is a 5-hour automobile trip from Madison, but the shortest train or bus route that I could find (Madison to Chicago to Peoria) would have taken me 13.5 hours. I would have spent most of the extra time waiting in bus and train depots between connections. None of the interurban systems are set up to facilitate multiple-city travel. I ended up renting a car, knowing that I was contributing to the statistics that “prove” that Americans do not want to rely upon public transportation and prefer to drive themselves.

There are lots of words used differently by Brits and Americans, but the one I stumble upon most frequently is “garden.” I know that Brits mean all the outside-the-house surface when they say this word, while the American use is more limited (just the cultivated, intensively planted bits of the larger “yard”). But

inevitably I misunderstand at first — like when you commented to **Georgie**, I imagined Halloween decorations set up amid roses and daffodil gardens, not on the grass. I've forgotten now; what *do* you call the intensively planted bits?

We here in Madison also have an occasional microclimate phenomenon. There are parts of the east side that become suddenly and thickly fogged in, while the rest of the city enjoys merely overcast conditions. Part of that microclimate lies on top of an Interstate highway which can be scary when you hit it going 60 mph.

You're welcome.

[SC] Hello Maureen and welcome. Your excellent first zine should make it clear to One and All that you are an experienced apa writer. It is wonderful to have you aboard with us.

On New Year's resolutions, I don't make formal resolutions either, but I recognize that it is nearly impossible to resist the temptation to look at the new year as a time to make some overdue changes or begin something new. Hardly surprising after two months crammed full of seasonal preparations, shopping, holidays and parties that when the new year finally comes you think how wonderful to finally have some uncommitted time again and a clean slate. Add to that any guilt from overindulgence and it would be very tough to not look at the new year as a time for change and reform. I don't have to make resolutions, I know this routine by heart and I play it back every year (“get in shape, start house projects, read more, etc., etc.”)

In your comment to **Kim and Kathi** you wrote, “*Some day when I'm feeling less embarrassed, I will write down the story of the Plague of Frog. Either that, or you can fly me back over, ply me with alcohol and I'll tell it.*” Great idea. We'll see what we can do about bringing you back for a drunken night of storytelling. And if we get too wrecked to do that, we can always head back out to House on the Rock and laugh ourselves silly.

In your comment to me on snow blowers, we had a long warm spell recently and our mounds of snow have all gone away. I thought we would have snow cover this year into late March or April, but it is gone already as I write this, with a week yet to go in February. The world is pretty ugly. Brown frozen tundra, bare trees and frequently gray skies. I'll take a few feet of snow on the ground over this any day. And our snow blower sits forlornly in the garage.

© Pat Hario

[JG] You don't ask easy questions. Where does society stop blaming a person's rotten upbringing and demand personal responsibility from its citizens? Does

the popularity of violent sports mean that society endorses violence? And both questions in one, short paragraph! And all a reaction to a film you didn't enjoy! Well, I've never seen *Raging Bull*. I missed it because I expected I'd react in much the same way you did: respect but "yuch!" I skim descriptions of fights in books; I'm not about to subject myself to several hours of non-skimable fight scenes. Nevertheless, I can name quite a few other movies that might be blamed for just as much, if not more, societal mayhem, if anyone ever manages to prove a causal link between media presentation of violence and the real thing. It's not an easy question. I've been meaning to find and read a book called *On Killing* (sorry, I forget the author), whose thesis is that modern media performs the same transformation on kids as does boot camp on newbie soldiers: it makes killing easier to imagine and finally to do. (An interesting part of *On Killing's* thesis is that until WWII, soldiers' rate of killing used to be much lower, like about 25% compared to a modern soldier's 80-90% kill rate.) Anyway, ever since reading about this book, I've been trying to figure out whether I believe that the process of desensitization works on everyone or just (or mainly) on little kids, which is what the author believes. I've been a big proponent of the idea that the books we read — as kids and adults — give us a variety of images and ideas that enable us to perceive more choices in our lives. That's the positive part of accepting the idea that media has a causal link to behavior. I don't know if I can champion the positive part without admitting that media violence might be just as effective in a negative way.

Your annual film viewing distribution chart made me wonder whether Scott's and my film list might show a similar bulge in the summer as yours does. We've never listed our movies by date-seen however. Maybe we will this year.

I thought it was a pretty good year for animated films. I liked both ants movies (though I liked *A Bug's Life* better). Despite my misgivings about going to see a religious film, I was really impressed by the artwork in *Prince of Egypt*. Not so much by the story, but the visuals were gorgeous. I especially liked the moving, but still 2-dimensional hieroglyphics scene.

It's true that it doesn't happen often, but I occasionally go to movies by myself. A couple months ago when Scott went to Iowa to see the Hawkeyes play the Badgers in Iowa City, I decided to bike down to the University Square Four theater to see a tear-jerker, *Meet Joe Black*. Scott would have liked some of it, but he would also have sunk low in his seat in other parts and groaned and shook his head afterwards, and then we would have had our usual discussion about why

seemingly sad movies evoke a sort of catharsis along with tears and make some of us — well, me and a lot of women I know — feel good. Why is enjoying a cry at a movie any more illogical than wanting to go to a movie that you know will make you feel scared? Or shocked? Well, I'm only giving you my side of this argument, and maybe that's the reason I sometimes like to go to movies by myself, because I don't have to justify anything. I agree with you that movies are an essentially *sociable* event. It wasn't until I went to an IMAX film that I realized how often I turn to my partner to see his/her reaction to the film, or to convey my own. (In an IMAX film, the screen wraps around, and you can't get the attention of the person sitting next to you simply by looking at them. Your peripheral vision is totally engaged in the movie.) But sometimes I think it's fun to see a movie without worrying about the reaction of the person sitting next to me. Have you ever recommended a film to a friend, told them that it is one of your favorite movies, and then as you sat there in the darkness, realized that they were bored/angry/confused? Suddenly it's *really* hard to concentrate on the movie because I'm seeing it through their eyes, worrying about their reaction instead of my own. This doesn't happen very often with Scott and I; certainly our discussions after the film are sometimes the most memorable parts of an evening out at the movies. When I go to movies alone, however, I lose myself in its story more than I do when I go with someone else, and that's an enjoyable experience at times.

All kids may not be as naturally skilled in computer use as other kids, but it sure does feel that *most* kids have a lot less fear of computers than adults do. And so the myth grows that kids are all naturally good on computers.

[SC] I was pleasantly surprised that you liked *Jackie Brown* as much as I did. I thought that film was greatly under appreciated. Oddly, I have never seen *Raging Bull*. I should have gone to see it with you. Your comments about it brought up some tough questions and interesting comparisons with Mike Tyson (at this writing he is in trouble with the law again and may be looking at the end of his career.) Pro boxing is a corrupt, dirty business that has suffered since the end of Mohammed Ali's career. No one has been able to recreate a cult of personality like Ali's that made him and his opponents world famous and immensely popular. One thing you can say about Mike Tyson is that everybody knows his name, even if he is not particularly loved. Can you say that even about the current heavy weight champion? No one knows this better than the boxing industry who want very much to keep "Iron" Mike around to draw attention until the next Ali

comes along. I was once a big fight fan, but nowadays I detest pro boxing (though I think amateur boxing has some merit) and would just as soon see the sport die a painful death.

Regarding your comment to **Michael Rawdon** about going to movies alone, I never used to mind going alone but since I have been with Jeanne, I think I would find it hard to go back to that. I would miss just the things you described liking about seeing films with friends. Once in a while I will still go alone to a movie Jeanne has no interest in and when that happens it is always disappointing afterward when there isn't anyone to talk about it with.

© **Diane Martin**

[JG] Thanks for one of the season's most enjoyable holiday letters, and some great photos, too! Congratulations on being named as a Tiptree judge. You'll have a wonderful time. And it'll be so nice for us here in Madison to get some hints about new gender-bending fiction!

© **Julie Zachman (again)**

[JG] You are truly one of the most rare and valuable folks who are able to work as a care-giver in difficult situations and retain a sense that it is honorable, satisfying work. I think, though, that I can more easily imagine myself having to deal with the disillusionment and despair that **Lisa** described having to grapple with in her experience as an intern. Really, you have no idea how hopeful it makes me feel that there are people in the world like you who can say "I feel it is ... essential that we care, to the best of our ability, for people whose humanity is gone, or at least no longer recognizable." Nevertheless, I wonder if it is possible to care for demented patients, day in and day out, especially if you have never known them as aware human beings. It seems to me that a person would have to develop some mechanism to distance themselves from such a daily horror.

© **Hope Kiefer & Karl Hailman**

[JG] I can understand how you and Judy would feel incapable of helping your mother to die in that situation. Would you have felt the same if your mom had talked to you straightforwardly at some point before things got really bad, and clearly laid out the circumstances in which she wanted something done for her? In my mind, I wouldn't feel capable of taking any action unless it had been agreed upon, in detail,

with lots of specifics, way ahead of time. Luckily for my family, there was a lot of clarity around the time of Rick's death.

© **Cathy Gilligan**

[JG] Poor Barb! She didn't manage to get through the three short weeks of winter. The ice found her in spite of everything. Scott and I are visiting her on Mondays, doing what needs to be done and enjoying some really pleasant visits. We're embarrassed to admit that we are seeing a lot more of Barb since she broke her leg. We keep campaigning, trying to convince her to join the apa, but it doesn't seem to be working.

Re your comment to **Hope** and **Karl** about scanner mistakes. I saw that segment of *60 Minutes*, too. Ironically, more than half of scanner mistakes apparently go in favor of the customer.

Re your comment to **Diane** about people who like graphs and people who like numbers: When I design publications, I usually try to present the information *both* ways. I personally glaze over when more than one or two numbers are listed consecutively. Other people glaze over when they see a graphic presentation. (However, psychological studies in visual apprehension seem to indicate that a designer will reach most people with a pictorial presentation of data, rather than columns of numbers.) I think that one of the reasons that the WisCon pocket program (originally designed by Meg Hamel) is so universally liked is that it presents information in quite a few different ways, and everyone can find their own favorite format within the book.

© **Lisa Freitag**

[JG] I'm glad you had a pleasant, though frantic, holiday. I too have enjoyed the occasional chaotic visit home, when there is just too much happening for old arguments to surface. Chaos also prevents meaningful conversations, but sometimes in family gatherings, that's not a bad trade-off.

I loved your description of your time at Point Lobos. You had some of that time in which you are profoundly *there* — not thinking about what you're going to do in an hour or a day later — but completely in the moment. I love it when that happens and wish such Zen moments could be summoned at will.

There should be a t-shirt with your words: "I have been to the middle of nowhere and survived. And it is not, as previously suspected, anywhere near Nebraska." Everyone in Nebraska would surely buy one.

I already mentioned this book in a comment to

Pat, and may in fact have mentioned it to you in person when you came through Madison a couple weeks ago. But your comments about whether or not there really is a rise in violence reminded me again of the book, *On Killing*. I really need to go out and buy this book; at least then I would remember who the author was. One of the surprising things in this book, apparently, is a discussion of statistics of violence. And indeed, there are fewer people being killed by inter-person violence today than there were 30 years ago. But the author shows that this decline in death rates is not a result of an actual decline in violence, but simply a reflection of medical science's ability to save people who have sustained traumatic injury. There is actually an increase in violence and mayhem; it's just that more people survive bullet wounds, for instance, than did shooting victims 30 years ago.

Re your comment to **Michael**, about the popularity of the name "Monica—" I read in the paper that there is actually someone named Monica Monica in the D.C. area (her dad just liked that name, apparently), and she's becoming quite famous as a TV personality just because of her name.

© **Vicki Rosenzweig**

[JG] Why is your zine this issue so difficult to read? The repro was really spotty but weird.

You say to **Michael** that you don't think there's "much of an incentive to publish deliberate hoaxes on the Internet." I don't know. There is as much incentive to do hoaxes on line as off, in my opinion. People have all sorts of reasons for deceit, none of which are limited by the media in which it is expressed.

I agree with your sentiments concerning the value of a diverse ecosystem, whatever the charisma level of any individual member of an ecosystem. News about scientists' discovery, a couple weeks ago, of the specific chimp species that provided the vector for AIDS to human beings sure brought that idea to some international attention. It turns out that one species of ape — a species very near to extinction — provided the vector between Simian Immune Virus and Human Immune Virus. Significantly, members of that species live full lives without experiencing an actual outbreak of AIDS symptoms. If this had been discovered only a few years in the future we would have lost all possibility of learning what may be something significant about the ways this species of apes avoids AIDS symptoms. As it is, the discovery was made in the preserved tissues of an ape that had died many years ago. It's going to be very difficult to find more of these apes, much less to preserve a viable population.

I admire your spontaneous decision to run off to Paris. What a lovely gift that was to give yourself! I hope you had a thoroughly enjoyable time and that you have several adventures to tell us about.

Re your comment to **Karl**, Land's End isn't experiencing financial problems because its clothing is too durable, and its customers therefore buy slowly. Apparently Land's End is a victim of its own success. As happens so often in American society, when someone does something that makes a lot of money, everyone copies them. Land's End revolutionized the catalog business and inspired a huge number of mimics. If 100 million Americans need a new winter coat every five years, the coat-making industry is going to sell a lot of coats. But if twice as many coat-making companies get into the market one year because of the profits made the previous year by a small number of coat-making companies, well there's going to be a shake-down. No one company is going to make as big a profit as they did when there were fewer companies selling coats.

I disagree: I don't think Jane Austen's novels are about courtship and romance so much as they are about survival. Austen's stories end when her characters marry — not because romance ends with marriage, but because the characters have pulled themselves up onto a lifeboat and — barring future crises — they now have a chance for survival in a harsh world whose brutal economics punish any woman without a male guardian. When she marries, the story is over, much as when the game is won in a sports story, or the battle won in a war story. Nevertheless, I think that writers who followed Austen and attempted to reduce her fiction to formula, did indeed believe that the whole point of her stories had been romance. But that's why Austen survives as a great novelist and most of the romantic novelists who followed have been forgotten. Some of my favorite minor characters in Austen's novels were older couples, husbands and wives of many years, who found a way to enjoy life and to love one another long after their wedding day.

© **Jim Brooks**

[JG] I named our computer server at the DNR "Alice," too, but have no exotic stories like yours to go along with it. I chose Alice because Alice owned a restaurant and served, right? The Windows guys down in the computer department hated it; they wanted some long string of letters and numbers and tried to argue us out of Alice. But now the guys have to deal with other users who also want their computers and printers named in some less arcane, easy-to-visualize way. By the way, I really liked your homage to *your* Alice.

 © Steve Swartz

[JG] I sympathize with your criticism of *Flying Cups and Saucers*, but I think I most often prefer anthologies without little essays preceding every story. The only time I usually *like* such introductory essays is when they are written by the authors themselves. It would certainly have been interesting, though, to have included some material from each of the five years, showing how each panel of judges used different criteria to choose the short listed fiction—in which case, a chronological order would have been appropriate. It would have been a nightmare, however, to try to go back to those committees and gotten such essays from them. There is hope for your idea though—the 1998 panel may have started something, since it published (along with its annotated lists) a statement of the philosophies which guided their reading and choices. I hope this turns into a Tiptree tradition among judging panels.

I think there's a rather huge difference between Wiscon (and the languishing fannish panels) and worldcons (and the rare feminist panels). Big Mac's (1976) concom told Susan Wood they didn't want to schedule a feminist program because no one would attend it. Susan objected. Strenuously. The concom gave in, and scheduled "Women in SF" in a tiny room in a very inconvenient location. The room overflowed and the audience created its own spontaneous program afterwards in the hallway. Similar things have happened at other worldcons; it's just that I'm most familiar with the Big Mac saga. At WisCon these days, few people propose fannish programs. When they are listed in the proposed programming list, we have usually dropped them because no one volunteers to participate in them. We do not try to talk people out of proposing fannish panels, nor do we discourage people from signing up for them as panelists. In fact, I've encouraged several people to propose fannish WisCon events that tie into feminist themes. The WisCon and Worldcon situations are very, very different.

The parallel would work between Worldcon/feminist programming and WisCon/media programming. In that I plead guilty. I have actively discouraged folks from proposing media-related programs and have cut media-related programs from the WisCon list, even though I knew that they would probably be well-attended.

I'd like to hear more from you about why you thought the "men's program" at WisCon hasn't been successful. We still get lots of people telling us we desperately need to have such programming, but we get few specific ideas, and the panelists mostly have

to be dragged kicking and screaming onto the panels. We are actively looking for folks who are passionate about the idea of male feminist programming at WisCon and who have some good ideas to offer. In a similar way, Debbie Notkin and I are working this year to do something about WisCon's woeful performance in the area of programming for people of color. Nalo Hopkinson has come forward and is working with us. We're going to set up one or two focus groups at WisCon to develop some ideas and directions for PoP programming. We've also gotten a list of people from Nalo, and we've sent out invitation letters in hopes that our panels offer a little more social diversity than they have in the past.

Your description of your perception of the separateness of love and relationship created a picture in my mind of a rock surrounded by a circular fence. (I even doodled a drawing in the margins or your zine.) The fence doesn't touch the rock at any point and there's lots of space between it and the rock. My own image of love and relationship is far more interconnected. I think of the relationship as the plant that grows from the seed of love. It isn't possible to separate them in my mind, nor can it be defined without reference to the other person in the relationship.

You say, "*I will tell a lie if I believe that the relationship into which I'm lying will be better for me if I lie than if I tell the truth.*" (my emphasis) Given that conviction, and assuming the person in the relationship with you knows that you will act upon this conviction — how could you ask anyone to trust you? And without trust, what kind of relationship is possible? It seems that you are purposely defining a loving, trusting relationship impossible for yourself. I worry.

 © carl juarez

[JG] I laughed in recognition of the sense that something can get so bad, it's funny. Yeah. And good comments, too, on the dogmatism of those who ignore all information about UFOs because of those who are dogmatic that those UFOs must be flying saucers. Arf!

 © Ruth Merrill

[JG] Sounds like you broke up with someone. Why all the secrecy?

As it turns out, drawing in a public space works as well as a pick-up lure as writing in a public space does for you. How do I know this? I'm sure it's purely theoretical!

—Scott Custis & Jeanne Gomoll, 20 February 1999