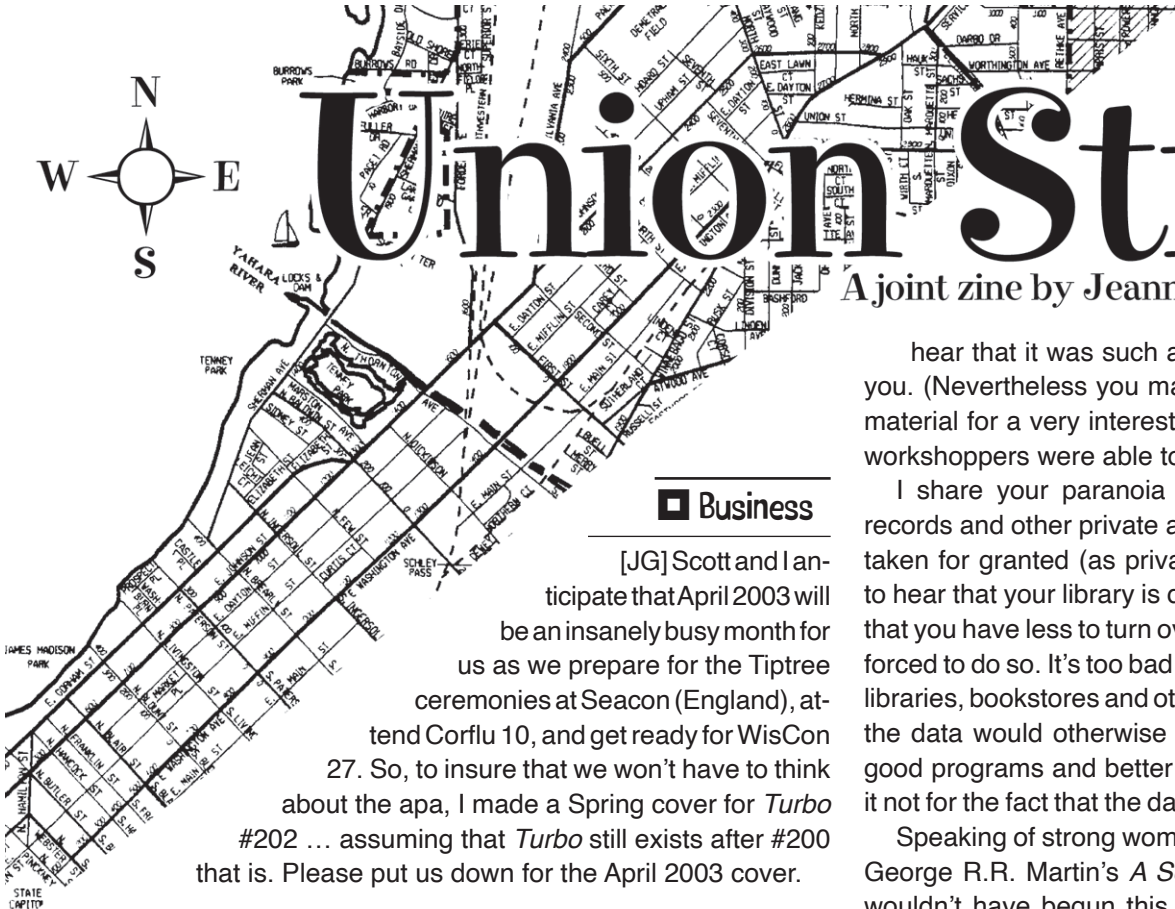




Union Street

A joint zine by Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis



■ Business

[JG] Scott and I anticipate that April 2003 will be an insanely busy month for us as we prepare for the Tiptree ceremonies at Seacon (England), attend Corflu 10, and get ready for WisCon 27. So, to insure that we won't have to think about the apa, I made a Spring cover for *Turbo* #202 ... assuming that *Turbo* still exists after #200 that is. Please put us down for the April 2003 cover.

Catch-Up Comments on *Turbo* № 194

■ Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] I would have loved being in a writers' workshop with you, Georgie. Furthermore, I think there are lots and lots of people who would have really enjoyed your contributions, not to mention your perspective and wit. In my opinion, it was just bad luck that you found yourself grouped with such a particularly ill-fitting selection of people who sound as if they were far more interested in protecting than expanding their own internal definitions of "writer." This is certainly not the first time I've heard stories about how discouraging it can be to be the odd person out in a writers' group. Tales of Clarion horror abound. Amy Hanson's chief motivation for starting the WisCon writers' workshop was the many years of discouraging experiences she'd had in writers' groups in which nothing but hard SF and masculine points of view were respected. But WisCon's workshops apparently make **Lisa Freitag** feel out of place.... So it seems that all writers must look for a group inclined to enjoy and support the kind of writing they want to do. In spite of that, I think your fellow workshopers were incredibly rude and that you deserve far more respect and interest. I'm sorry to

hear that it was such a discouraging experience for you. (Nevertheless you made use of the experience as material for a very interesting story. I sure wish that the workshopers were able to read *this* piece!)

I share your paranoia about FBI access to library records and other private aspects of our lives that we've taken for granted (as private) for so long. But it's good to hear that your library is dumping long-term records so that you have less to turn over to the authorities if you are forced to do so. It's too bad this is becoming necessary in libraries, bookstores and other service agencies. I'm sure the data would otherwise be very useful in developing good programs and better serving library patrons, were it not for the fact that the data could also be subpoenaed.

Speaking of strong women characters, have you read George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* series? I wouldn't have begun this series (*A Game of Thrones*, *A Clash of Kings*, *A Storm of Swords*) if I had realized that it was going to go on for more than three books, but somewhere I got the impression that it was (just) a trilogy. At 800-1000 pages each, it would be a pretty hefty trilogy. But as it turns out, it's likely to go on for 4 *more* books. *aargh* And now I'm hooked. I finished the third book a few weeks after I started the series and am very eager to get the fourth book ... due out in April 2003.

Aside from each book's resemblance to a doorstop, I really enjoyed the complex story ("epic" is too puny a word for these books) and characters. There is no "good" family vs. "bad" family, though there is most certainly conflict between several dynastic families whose alliances and hatreds are based on perceived loyalties and insults incurred in previous generations, not to mention an extremely unreliable medieval communication system. Each of the many dynasties (and aspiring dynasties) is made up of admirable as well as despicable individuals. Sometimes the only thing that makes a particular family good or evil at any given point in time is the accident of birth order of its members. On top of that, there are no characters who could be considered totally admirable or despicable. I found myself gradually feeling respect for characters that, at first, I thought were pure scumbags. And visa

versa, characters I thought at the beginning were saintly, were swayed by circumstance or simply bad assumptions to do awful, despicable things. The complexities Martin weaves into each of these characters makes them fuller and more interesting for their contradictions.

In spite of our insane schedule next April, I know that it's going to be a huge temptation to dive into book number four when it is published that month.

I started to write a plot outline here because I wanted to mention some of the amazing aspects of Martin's world, but it's impossible to do it succinctly. There's just too much. I had to erase it all because I couldn't see how to compress it into less than a page or two....

I started out this book review by mentioning "strong women characters." Martin did good, so good in fact, that it's hard to believe that not one of these books ended up on a Tiptree shortlist. Here are some of the women characters in Martin's series: There is a warlord who leads an army of thousands and controls three dragons. There is a powerful witch (mostly evil or mostly good, it's not clear yet). There is a young royal girl who escapes the expectations that she learn to behave like a proper lady, and instead practices sword fighting and lives by her wits as she escapes her enemies. There is a dashing young pirate captain. There is a Lady and mother whose tragic losses turn her into an avenging monster. There is a wonderful and powerful cross-dressing knight whose inner struggles to remain honorable are heart-wrenching to witness. There's a really tough, sexy, queen. There's a hard-as-nails, really funny grandmother who goes to extremes to protect her granddaughter from abusive marriages. There's even a stereotypical princess who learns the hard way to replace fairy tales with hard truths. And there are more major and minor women characters, all very interesting. This isn't one of those fantasies in which there is a token strong woman. This is a world in which there are as many amazing and strong women as there are men, even though it could in no way be called an egalitarian society. I use the term "strong women" here in several senses -- the individuals are both strong physically and/or mentally *and* they are strong as characters. I plan on suggesting that the Tiptree committee consider Martin's book next year.

It looks like I'm going to get the chance to talk with Gwyneth Jones on line about her ideas regarding strong women characters. But I am beginning to suspect that part of her hostility to the phrase is based on a somewhat different meaning in England. I wonder if the term entered Brit culture as part of an argument about U.S. feminism, defined by those critical of (and tending to exaggerate and twist) the arguments made by feminists here in this country. We'll see. Obviously I'll have to start by asking for some definitions.

I share your distaste for clerks who assume they can call me by my first name after glancing at my check or charge card. But I would be willing to bet that such behavior is actually encouraged by retail owners. After all, it is human nature to trust ones friends more than one trusts a corporation. Friends call one another by their first names. So, if the clerk calls us by our first name, we might tend to think of the clerk more as a friend than as a corporate representative. The same kind of reasoning is used in blind sales call techniques. The first thing a telephone sales agent is supposed to do when they get you on the phone is to get you to say "yes," even if it is in response to the most innocuous question. People who have said "yes" once are apparently more likely to find it difficult to say "no" right away, or to hang up. They've already agreed with the sales person; the wedge has been inserted. I hate this stuff. I think sales techniques like this actually may have the perverse result of teaching some of us to be cynical about real friendships and human motivations.

▣ Tracy Benton

[JG]Are you still looking for badger artwork? I've actually got several good, realistic badger graphics at work that I could send you electronically (as tiffs) if you want them.

With all the shelves you're installing downstairs, where will you and Bill keep your cars?

I liked *Love's Labour's Lost* also, but I have a hard time thinking of it as a comedy. Of course it's not a tragedy either, but it seems to me that Shakespeare was trying to warp some genre boundaries with this play, and I liked it all the more so for that. I also loved the fact that the play was staged immediately before the beginning of World War I. The sudden intrusion of war and the less frivolous viewpoints of the women characters at the end made a lot of sense in this context.

Most of Amazon.com's post-holiday musical recommendations for me were quite useless if not downright ludicrous. I don't tend to buy music via Amazon.com, but last Christmas, I did order two last-minute gifts for a nephew who listed several bands on his want-list. Sorry, I can't even remember the names of the bands or the cds, but keep in mind that my nephew is 11 years old and you will probably be able to intuit the kinds of music of which Amazon still considers me a big fan. At one point I tried to feed Amazon.com's database enough information so that its recommendations for me might be a little more useful. You can submit ratings to any book in Amazon.com's system and can indicate that you already own a book. I thought if I gave high ratings to a large number of feminist SF books, that naturally I'd get recommendations for more of the same. But I don't think Amazon.com's recommendation system works in a cumulative way like

Alexlit.com's. It looks to me as if the greatest weight is given to the most recent purchases and information requests.

I give up. What's the common denominator to your issue's clip art?

▣ Julie Humphries

[JG] What a cool story about listening to Rachid Taha's music as your drove down to Chicago, not knowing who was singing, but then finding the same singer and your favorite song at the concert. Sounds like it was mucho fun. Did you buy a cd at the concert? And I'm glad you've discovered that you can make the trip down to Chicago and have fun there. More choices is always a good thing.

▣ Pat Hario

[JG] I'm glad your trip to Canada and tour of the *Adventuress* went well. I'm looking forward to hearing and reading more about it as well as seeing photos.

▣ Maureen Kincaid Speller

[JG] Making sourdough bread from starter sounds rather nice. I'd like to try that someday.

I have frequently felt tempted to purchase a Palm Pilot. I know I'd use the organizational tools -- the list-making and note-taking utilities, the calendar, and the address/phone book. Maybe I'd even start keeping track of cash purchases for my Quicken accounts. What holds me back (besides a long-term attachment with an alligator skin bound Daytimer) is that PDA's are advertised as being capable of going on line and I really don't want to add another ~\$30 monthly bill onto my budget. But I wonder if an Internet connection is absolutely necessary to use a PDA or if I can manage just as nicely by downloading what I need from my desktop computer? What do you think?

I enjoyed your long piece on the partial reconstruction of King George II's Coronation. Thank you very much. It's difficult to think of anything in the U.S. that resembles this remarkable event. So it was fun to get such a full description of such a unfamiliar experience.

▣ Vicki Rosenzweig

[JG] How interesting that Wisconsin eagles are being transplanted to a New York City park. Have you any idea which Wisconsin group the Inwood Hill Park is working with? Since hunting or capturing eagles is illegal in Wisconsin, they must have made some arrangement with my employer, the Department of Natural Resources. I hadn't heard about the program and would be interested to know how the arrangements were made. Is there a web page?

▣ Clay Colwell

[JG] The thing you call "house renovations" seem much more extensive than that phrase suggests. I'd call what you're doing "building a house"! Phew. I hope, at least, that when it's all done that you feel proud of the work you did and are able to enjoy your new place.

In a comment to **Georgie**, you referred to "Barbara Hambly's comment of the sign of a good novel — when, at the end of a chapter, one exclaims 'Oh fuck! What happens next?' and keeps reading." If you like that sort of thing, I highly recommend George R.R. Martin's *A Song of Ice and Fire* series. Scott can testify that while reading these books in his presence I frequently exclaimed in similar words at the end of chapters ... and then kept reading.

▣ Jim Nichols

[JG] I've been enjoying reading your Wednesday night on-line reports, Jim. One of these days I'm going to join you all. There's no way I'm going to get back to weekly attendance, but both Scott and I think it would be fun to try to drop in once in a while when we can.

▣ Kim & Kathi Nash

[JG] Another great house remodeling story! You guys get far more involved in the actual work than Scott and I have ever been interested in doing.

And now you've got another story category, "Perils of Liana"! Do Liana and Kelly read your zines?

▣ Julie Zachman

[JG] The day I moved to Madison as a college student (1970), I remember being shocked to read a newspaper article about two woman who had been electro-shocked at a nearby mental institution because they were behaving improperly as women — one young white woman had eloped with a black man. She was a minor and so all that was needed to approve "treatment" was for her parents and the doctor to sign off on it. The other woman was a wife and mother and had been accused by her husband of slacking off on her housekeeping duties. The husband and doctor signed off on her treatment in this case. I think it's sad that people in our culture feel forced to live on the streets because they find the expectations and pressures of community more scary than street dangers, but they DO make these choices and sometimes their fear has real grounds.

Housekeeping isn't about "charming" its audience with the antics of a romantic, carefree, eccentric aunt. It was an attempt to show how even a well-meaning community can wear down and smother those who do not fit in, and the

sometimes extreme measures the “outsiders” take in order to escape those pressures. YOU may not feel that hopping trains, being cold, and working intermittently at physically demanding jobs would ever be a worthwhile trade-off to be rid of your sometimes feeling “a little different.” Perhaps you will grant that some others feel more than just a *little* different and that they do experience harassment and psychic injuries when they are pressured to conform. You feel that you’ve always felt “a little out of sync with” your community, but obviously you haven’t felt so ostracized that if you stayed in the community you felt that you might as well die. The whole point of this movie and novel is that everyone is different (to different degrees). The younger sister in the story absolutely needed to become *part* of the community, while the aunt and the older sister couldn’t stand that very same community, and were willing to take huge risks to escape it.

Thanks so much for quoting the information about sifting from *The Cake Bible!* And what a romantic story, too. This all makes sense. I’ve got a chocolate cake recipe that calls for sifting the dry ingredients three times, and it does seem to make a real difference in the consistency of the cake. It’s good to have a *reason!* Thanks.

▣ Jae Adams

[JG] I wish our neighborhood had an on-line discussion list. What a great idea (but not so great, I think, that I want to go out and start one up).

There are several large community garden plots near our house, on wide strips of land alongside old railway grades. They seem to be hugely popular and intensively planted. I love riding past them on my bike rides to and from work.

I don’t think we’re very far away from one another in this discussion of art. You write that the thing you find most personally rewarding is to put chaotic events in a pleasing order. (And **Paul** says that art “makes a sort of sense of things”) To me, “pleasing order” and “making sense” are just other ways of saying that art imposes pattern. I very much enjoy your artwork in this sense Jae. And I agree too that random-ness in the process of making art leads to good surprises and interesting results. My rant was against something very specific: the making of art to resemble as closely as possible the *absence* of pattern, pleasing or otherwise -- as a way of portraying the impossibility or perhaps just the sheer irrelevance of *any* pattern. You have to work hard to make something that anticipates the natural human tendency to find patterns in even the most random field, just so you can disrupt that pattern in the next scene, panel or chapter....

You may have hit on a likely reason that I tend to skim or skip poetry when I come across it – e.g., my lack of

aural orientation. I remember reading the novel *Beloved* out loud to myself and greatly enjoying the language and the sound of the words, but usually I don’t tend to read this way. I get impatient for the meaning and start skimming and when I fail to find it, go on, rather than go back.

Actually Kate Yule and David Levine have attended many WisCons. Either Kate or David’s relatives live in Milwaukee and they have combined family visits with WisCons several times in years past.

Good point. Why AREN’T there calligraphy and paper-making displays at the state fair??

Comments on *TurboN*® 105

▣ Business

[JG] You’ve done an amazing job as OE, Jae. I think your term has been one of the longest of all our OEs, and you deserve to take a rest and pass the job onto another *Turbo* member. I still believe that OE is ghod and support all your decisions as to format, rules and procedures.

[SC] Jae, you have been a terrific OE, often under difficult circumstances. We really appreciate the work you have done. I think there is enough energy in the apa to continue, but without a truly enthusiastic OE at the helm, it might be better to let it all stop. I know I will not be resuming control. Jeanne and I will be interested in seeing what happens now.

▣ Calvin Powers

[SC] Thank you for the extensive con report on Drag-onCon, which I have heard of but never attended. It all sounds enormous and wild. I thought the Atlanta Radio Theater sounded like a particularly interesting event.

▣ Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] APT’s *Anthony & Cleopatra* was about my least favorite of this year’s offerings, partially for the historical accuracy you point out. There was something more that I disliked too, and maybe it was connected to the other thing you pointed out, Shakespeare’s obvious dislike of Cleopatra. She pulled tantrums in private to get Anthony’s attention and then seemed bewildered that it worked all too well on the high seas, but then had the additional effect of dooming her side in the war. Silly woman. Sheesh.

Our APT group lucked out in terms of weather this year. We had a few very light sprinkles during A&C, and it was cold for *Penny for a Song*, but that was to be expected at the last APT performance of the year, and in fact I rather enjoy cuddling under the blankets during the performance and sipping hot chocolate during the break.

I had a sort of weird reaction to *Penny*: during the per-

formance I had a fine time. I laughed often at the fireman who felt that extinguishing fires was a greater calling than warfare and the extended situation of Napoleon's mistaken identity. But afterward, as we drove home, I gradually discovered there was nothing much there and my impression gradually turned to a negative one as it became clear that the author didn't seem to have a point of view; it was all for amusement and the plot didn't actually hold together. I could never figure out whether the author thought it was tragic, inevitable, or even a good thing that youth doesn't value love when it is available, and lavishes too much time on ideals that finally don't matter. I liked the philosophical conversations about class and commitment, but they were never really resolved.

I agree with you about *Love's Labours Lost*. I liked that play very much. But my favorite this year was definitely Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

Do you want us to contact you again next year when we are reserving tickets for the APT season? Perhaps we buy tickets too early for you to know what your schedule is.

Hey, I bet I would have won the Deet competition at **Jae's** party if I'd been there. I use a particularly concentrated brand of insect repellent with 98% Deet.

I forwarded your comments about the Wis-Con Fair (the name of which we will be voting on soon) to fair coordinator Amy Hanson. Has she contacted you yet about your button-making idea?

Yup, Paul Soglin is running again. This is the third time. What an amazing thing. I don't think I will vote for him though. I kept waiting for him to say something about the police-state tactics of this summer's Mayors convention, and he never did. One of the main reason I voted for him the first time back in the 70s was because he offered an alternative to the police-state tactics employed during the anti-war demonstrations. He doesn't seem to think this is an issue anymore and I was rather disappointed. On the other hand I am very impressed by Dave Czielowitz's progressive campaign.

I've designed a few "Invading Species" brochures for the DNR and one of them concerned garlic mustard (drawing on right). Apparently many people get badly burned when they touch its leaves. Did you have any problems when you pulled it out of your garden?

[SC] Regarding APT this year, I agree with Jeanne that *Mrs. Warren's Profession* was my favorite play of the season. Even though it sort of lost some of its luster on the drive home, *Penny For a Song* would be my second favorite and *Antony and Cleopatra* and *Love's Labours*

Lost would bring up the rear together. In the latter case, both plays had elements I strongly liked and elements I disliked. It would be hard for me to choose between them. This is odd, because usually the Shakespeare plays are my favorites.

I agree with Jeanne that Shakespeare's depiction of Cleopatra as a rather silly character was the big drawback to the play. I liked Mark Corkins as Antony, however. In *Love's Labours Lost* much of the language went right by me. Having never studied the play, I felt for the first time in a long time that I was missing a lot of what was being said. I agree with you that all the performances were strong and, as Jeanne wrote, the ending was very powerful.

□ Max

[JG] Great stream of conscious rant. We've all been there. Hope he's called and you're feeling less obsessed with the phone these days.

□ Maureen Kincaid Speller

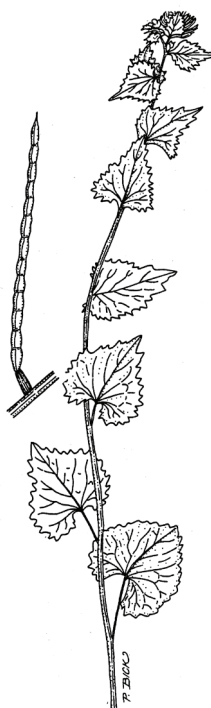
[JG] I think it's very cool that you have progressed in your work to the point that editors tend to turn to you for copy-editing work first. Congratulations. Do authors know the name of their copyeditors? It seems like this could be a rather bad thing at times. On the other hand, keeping you anonymous would certainly be to the advantage of the publishers who need not fear that someone will steal away their best copyeditors.

I'm sorry to hear that you feel like an outsider among the Aldington Quilters. Did you check into the circumstances of that photo opportunity? Perhaps the group was taken by surprise by the newspaper photographer and had no time to contact absent members.

Thanks much for your account of Last Night!

Odd word, "buttonhole." The first time I heard it used was in the film *The Ideal Husband*. It was immediately clear what the term meant in context, but every time I hear the word or read it, I can't help but have to remind myself that it isn't the buttonhole they're talking about, it's what's IN the buttonhole. I'm more familiar with the French word, boutonnière, which no doubt *means* buttonhole....

[SC] Wonderful piece on Last Night. I hope you are right that most Brits don't want to go to war. I hope you can change Blair's mind. Marching off to war with George W. Bush is a very bad idea.



▣ Paul Kincaid

[JG] I'm so sorry to hear that you've hurt your knee. It sounds as if this has disrupted your life for a rather long period of time. I hope you are recovered now.

Thanks very much for the amusing and illustrated tour through your house!

The phrase "of no commercial value" was formerly required by Canadian postal officials when mailing printed materials into Canada in order to avoid imposition of a tax. I don't know if this rule is still in effect, but certainly the phrase has never been required for mail within and to the United States postal system. Perhaps some *Turbo* members saw this notice used on Canadian members' zines and mistakenly assumed they needed to type it into their colophons.

I used to belong to *A Women's Apa* and for a time the OE lived in Canada and she urged us all to include that phrase in our zines. This was about the same time that I drove up into Canada from Seattle with friends, just south of Vancouver. That's when I learned another weird Canadian tax law. If you bring really cheap artwork into Canada (and at the time I was transporting little fanzine illos for the art auction and had priced them at \$5 apiece), they will attempt to charge you a tax whose purpose is to keep cheap American stuff out of Canada. I ended up raising the price on all the bid sheets to \$15 apiece, and then everyone was happy.

Thank you very much for your essay on *Story of Ideas in America*. I will definitely look for this book! I too love being surprised when a book puts together my own scattered bits of knowledge and understanding about a historical period into a whole that I did not know the shape of.

Your comment that you want to write a history of British SF "which looks at the way it interacts with History," reminds me of the format of Justine Larbalestier's book, *The Battle of the Sexes in SF*. Have you read it yet? I'd be curious about what you think about it.

Very funny apocryphal travel stories. A couple of them remind me of real life stories told by Lucy Huntzinger in her on-line journals. Thanks.

[SC] I also hope you have recovered from the knee injury. If the original accident was three years ago, and the cruciate ligaments are still weakened from it, what can you do to strengthen them? How can you avoid this happening again in the future? Exercise? Surgery? I would think three years would be long enough to recover if you are going to recover.

Thank you for the tour of your house (and pictures). You have hit exactly on a need we have had in this apa for a long time. We have been very curious about the specific layout of your famous (in *Turbo*) house. I have long been envious of **Jae's** visits. Now, at least, I have

a spatial reference to where everything is. It is a larger house than I expected.

You deserve an enthusiastic pat on the back and words of encouragement for tackling the end room project on your own. I always admire that sort of thing despite the fact that I would never try something like that myself. Good for you. Best of luck. It's going to be great (repeat those phrases as often as necessary.) I am looking forward to reading about your progress.

I was very impressed with your review and recommendation of *Story of Ideas in America*. Thank you. I will look for it.

▣ Jerome Van Epps

[JG] If we can't afford to pay living wages to pilots (or anyone we employ for that matter), then we should question whether or not that service should be bought and sold. I don't think that the actual cost of flight is as significant a factor as keeping stockholders dividends high, when it comes to determining the salary of an airplane pilot, but regardless of that, I think we as a society should put more importance on living wages than cheap prices.

Actually, OddCon's third GoH, Catherine Asaro, was NEVER a guest of WisCon. She was an attending author that we listed among our "luminaries," during WisCon 20 I think. We do not pay any stipend or offer hotel rooms or travel expenses to our luminaries. They pay their own way. We ask permission to use their names in our publicity but they're definitely not guests of the convention.

[SC] I don't agree with your conclusion that the reason there are no westerns, musicals, slapstick and war movies is because of a lack of acceptable villains. Sometimes I think you are a little obsessed with political correctness. Actually the war movie genre seems to be alive and well, since *Saving Private Ryan*, *Blackhawk Down* and Mel Gibson's Vietnam war movie (forgot the name) among others. I believe with the increase in the war drumbeat on the political front, Hollywood will be glad to churn out more war pictures to keep us all saluting the flag and "supporting our troops." Watch and see what comes out after we go into Iraq.

I don't remember slapstick and musicals needing villains much really. Slapstick comedy has turned into gross out comedy. Instead of pratfalls we get puke and fart jokes. I guess this is progress. As for westerns, tastes have changed rather than a lack of villains. Among the best westerns ever made have been films that cast Native Americans as villains, heroes, ordinary characters or left them out of the story altogether. I think the target audience for big action/adventure movies is conditioned to want flashy special effects, best suited to science fiction extravaganzas, rather than horses, shoot outs with six-guns or

pretty pictures of the great western outdoors. The decline of the western came about the same time as the growth in computer technology. Once it became possible and practical to do amazing special effects with computers, westerns faded away.

Congratulations on the impressive line up of guests for Odyssey Con.

□ **lisa Freitag**

[JG] Wow, teeth go for a lot more than they did when I was a kid. I think I got a dime for mine.

Every time I watch fireworks is surreal for me. I have never been able to see fireworks as a purely aesthetic experience. I keep thinking about stories of folks who picnicked on the hillsides waiting to watch the entertaining battles at the beginning of the Civil War, before anyone realized how awful the war would soon be. (**Paul**, do you know if this apocryphal information or did it really happen?) Anyway as we sit on blankets watching the fireworks, that's what I think about and then it isn't very pretty anymore.

[SC] You're doing the program for World Fantasy? Cool. I am looking forward to your description of how it all went.

□ **Carrie Root & Andy Hooper**

[JG] What a horrible experience you had at the airport(s) Carrie! I bet you wished you could tear that snap out of you slacks. I hear that the new guy in charge of airport security is getting rid of some rules that aren't very effective – like making people swear they packed their own suitcases, etc. I understand that random searches at the gates is another rule he's trying to get rid of. Too late for you though.

Andy, we're not looking to change the Saturday evening schedule. We already have a large, hugely successful program for that evening – the Tiptree auction. More people probably attend the auction than attend opening ceremonies. And we don't program against it.

[SC] Carrie, you are so right about nationalized health care. Almost any system would be better than the one we have now.

Andy, what a great essay on *Star Trek*. I have been watching the show since Spike and I were kids back in Anamosa, Iowa and we occasionally got together to see it at her house. Jeanne and I are watching the new show too, cautiously hopeful that it will develop into as good a series as *Next Generation* was. And I suppose we will tramp off to see the new movie this winter, even though the last one just about soured us forever on *Star Trek* movies.

The search for the rare flash of brilliance keeps us going.

□ **Jim Nichols**

[JG] It was weird, we didn't have any noise problems when I expected -- at the RV camp at Orchard Grove State Park. But we did end up having a little problem at the mostly empty, idyllic National Park at Sleeping Bear Dunes. That night a very sick old man spent most of the night coughing his lungs out. We were a little annoyed, but mostly just felt really sorry for him. We saw him the next day barely managing to walk to the outhouse and later, in a car in the parking lot of a grocery store, sleeping. Obviously he wasn't able to sleep at all in his tent. We wondered why he had even gone camping since he was so extremely ill. Maybe it was a "last time" visit to a place about which he has fond memories.

[SC] I think you and **Jerome** should milk this feud for a few more issues. After all, apa feuds can go on for years.

□ **Ruth Nichols**

[JG] I notice that most of your choices for Wednesday Night sites are downtown or on the East side. Is that on purpose?

Who is Jeannie Bergmann?

Maybe those folks with the Hawaiian license plates took the same route as the person in **Paul's** travel agent horror story who wanted to take the train to Hawaii.

[SC] Thanks for part one of the camping adventure. Looking forward to more.

□ **Hope Kiefer and Karl Hailman**

[SC] Hope, thanks for the update and how you are doing. I hope you get your wish to have the baby sooner rather than later.

□ **Lee Murray**

[JG] Very funny complaints about **Jae's** Chart of Submissions. I think all of your suggestions are most marvelous and that you should immediately volunteer to be our new OE so you can demonstrate them in chart form. I'm sure there must be a special Excel spreadsheet template you can use for this that will create full color pie charts and bar graphs for our entertainment. Yes! What a good idea! Lee for OE! Could you be bribed with white chocolate scones?

Thank you very much for the French lesson. I liked studying French in college. It's something I'd like to go back to sometime. Ideally, I'd like to try the submersion method since that seemed to work well for me when

Scott and I went to Mexico a couple years ago. I bet your French is lovely.

I enjoyed your list of Dave's and your romantic gestures to one another, and have been suggesting that Scott give me some material for an equally wonderful list. He protests that he did this or that, and I counter with "but what have you done LATELY?" This does not work. But I have to admit that I very much liked his recent advice to **Tracy** and Bill, couched as it was, in a lovely compliment about our own relationship. Words, I think, are the main part of romance to me. Saying things.

[SC] Regarding the Chart of Submissions, for good intent and a wide range of other good reasons beneficial to all of us in the apa, you do deserve a 12. Most definitely a 12.

▣ Jae Adams

[JG] Excellent summary and editorial. I am sympa-

thetic. Perhaps the Supreme Court could be convinced to intervene. They have intervened in other conflicts that really shouldn't concern them. You did good, Jae. You are perfectly justified if you want to step back and let someone else take a turn. I wonder who it will be?

[SC] Jeanne's remarks that you quoted from Issue #5 are as valid now as they ever were. Everyone in the apa should read them carefully, especially if they are planning to nominate someone for OE or become OE themselves.

My only hope for the apa, if it goes on, is that someone takes over who really wants to do it. I hope no one steps up who feels they are doing all of us a favor by taking it over. I would rather see it die, then watch someone do it lazily or poorly. We need a motivated volunteer who wants to maintain the quality of the apa. In my opinion, doing it well is not as easy as it looks.

Scott Custis & Jeanne Gomoll
14 October 2002