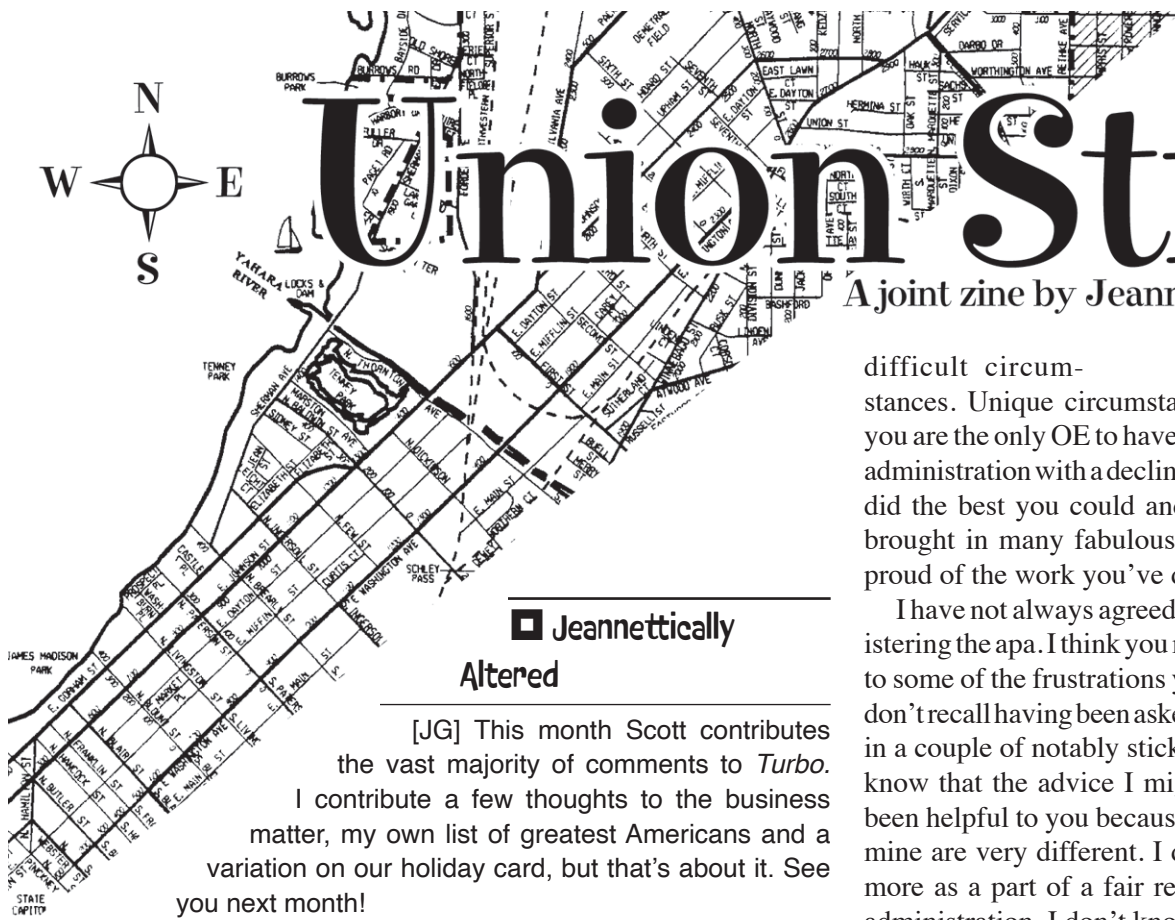




Union Street

A joint zine by Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis



Jeannetically Altered

[JG] This month Scott contributes the vast majority of comments to *Turbo*. I contribute a few thoughts to the business matter, my own list of greatest Americans and a variation on our holiday card, but that's about it. See you next month!

Business

[SC] I will second Jeannie Bergmann and Kathleen Martinson if they still need seconds.

With regard to the Revised Description of *Turboapa* Procedures, I really don't know why you are undertaking to revise the rules at this time. You are soon to leave the whole mess in someone else's hands, why bother? Having said that I have only two objections to your revisions,

1. Paragraph (D), you should dump the language mandating the deadline as noon on the 21st of the month. You are the only OE who used this deadline strategy, most of the rest of us chose to set weekend deadlines and not always at noon either.
2. Paragraph (I), I am a little confused here. **Jerome** (or whoever) may not be willing or able to take zines via the Internet. He may insist that out of town contributors who want to send their zines via the Internet arrange something with another local agent. Or are you volunteering to act as such an agent for all out-of-towners after the pirate hat has passed on?

In response to your State of the Union section, I have said before that you have done a great job as OE under

difficult circumstances. Unique circumstances, really, because I think you are the only OE to have to struggle almost your entire administration with a declining membership problem. You did the best you could and during your administration brought in many fabulous contributors. You should be proud of the work you've done for us.

I have not always agreed with your approach to administering the apa. I think you may have contributed yourself to some of the frustrations you have been experiencing. I don't recall having been asked for advice very often (except in a couple of notably sticky situations), but I also don't know that the advice I might have offered would have been helpful to you because your style of leadership and mine are very different. I do not say this as a criticism, more as a part of a fair reflection on the years of your administration. I don't know if I could have helped you, Jae, but now I wish I had tried harder. As I look back, it was important to me to keep out of the way and not try to stage manage you. It looks like I was so far out of the way, that I failed to help at all when you were reaching out to me. If that is true, I am truly sorry.

With respect to the next OE, I will withhold comments on candidates until next month, but I have a vision of where we should be heading in the future. I agree with those who have written that if the OE job ever goes to someone outside Madison, the nature of *Turbo* will change dramatically. Local members (myself included) have long been spoiled by having a local OE. I believe that local members will have great difficulty making the transition to an out-of-town leader, what with the extra postal expenses and the hassle of finishing your zine early to make the deadline (and having to wait for the finished apa to return in the mail). Those people who submit via Internet have more time, but lose some control of the look of their zine by having someone else print it. Those who do not wish to sacrifice control will have to finish in time to print and mail their zine to the OE by deadline and incur significant mailing expenses. Madison members will adapt poorly to these new demands, I think. Consequently, the OE must stay in Madison. Furthermore, in

my view, every Madison member, who has not already done it, should take a turn at being OE. **Hope** and **Karl**, **Pat**, **Lee**, **Ruth** and **Jim** and, yes, **Jerome**, should all look forward to taking a turn in the barrel at some point. This is how I would urge local Madison members to see the future. It is not so much who will be the next OE, but when your turn will come around.

[JG] As for the apa rule proposals: I agree with Scott that the next OE should be as free as **Jae** has been to set her own apa management rules. Deadline dates and collation process details should not be mandated as part of the apa's rules. I also think that out-of-towners need to arrange for the printing of their electronically transmitted zines with individuals (who may or may not be the OE). This process should not be enshrined into a rule since future OEs may or may not possess the capability to manage. Or they may simply not want to do it and that should be their prerogative. And now, back to Scott...

[SC] A few back comments on issue 196.

▣ *Turbo*№ 196

Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] I really liked the Kali Roger illustration.

▣ Vicki Rosenzweig

[SC] We also enjoyed *Spirited Away*. We saw the dubbed version and felt that it was quite well done. I consider it one of the best movies I have seen this year, in fact. It is both beautiful to look at and completely engaging as a story.

Please let us know how your contribution to National Novel Writing Month turned out.

▣ Tracy Benton

[SC] I thought your zine was really fun to read. Regarding your comment to **Lee** on being romantic, Jeanne and I manage a few really romantic meals out during the year. We usually go out for our respective birthdays, our "anniversary" in the fall and, most romantic of all, Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve is a night we nearly always spend alone together and we always treat ourselves to a nice restaurant. We had a very bad experience one year at Christmas Eve and ever since then we have taken great care to plan the evening in advance. Madison closes down tight on Christmas Eve unlike any other night of the year. Even bars and movie theaters close early. If you don't know where you are going or what you are doing, you will find that Madison almost turns into a ghost town on that one evening a year. Of course most people prefer to stay at home, but we like to go out because the streets are unusually quiet. We like to have a reservation to that rare

cozy place that is still open for a special meal alongside the other hardy souls who have chosen not to stay home this one particular night. After dinner, we go home and open our presents to each other.

I am looking forward to your report on Novacon.

▣ Pat Hario

[SC] Thank you for the trip report and congratulations on officially making it in (was there ever really any doubt?) It is great news about the trip but I have to admit that I miss seeing you around more and hanging out. It's almost like you have already left. I hope the retail scene around Christmas doesn't grind you into dust.

▣ Maureen Kincaid Speller

[SC] I know what it feels like to be in a class with much younger students, who are often hard to figure out. A few years ago, before I moved to my present job, I decided to take a few classes at the local community college. I hoped to either complete a course of study that would help me change careers or to at least sharpen up some skills to enable me to make a job transfer. Most of the classes I took were night classes and they were good classes. The students were nearly always older folks like me, all working and all serious about what we were doing. Most of us were paying our own way and taking time away from other important activities to be in class. No one whined or complained, everyone worked hard and the only folks who failed were simply not going to grasp the material. Gradually we realized that the night classes were often compared to our counterpart sections during the day and we always outperformed them. The day classes were composed of more traditional students, younger people often just out of high school who may or may not have been paying for their classes, and who often didn't know what they wanted to do with their lives. Instructors were often frustrated by the day classes, while the night students usually got praise.

Eventually I changed jobs and my work schedule changed permitting me to take a morning class. I remember I signed up for some sort of required writing class. I went to class on the first day and, as always, the room was filled up. I was immediately impressed with how young my new co-students were. I was way older than most of them. Unlike my night classes, I had no delusions that I was going to fit in with these kids. And then something happened I didn't expect. The instructor came in to begin class and he immediately launched into an insulting triad against the class. I no longer remember exactly what he said, but he basically told everyone that we were stupid and lazy and that he would not put up with any nonsense from us. He was vividly sarcastic and arrogant. He had

been teaching at the collage for a long time, and he no doubt thought he spoke from long experience, but the fact remained that he did not really know anyone in that room and had no business making such assumptions about us all. I felt insulted not only for myself, but for any other serious student in the room who happened to be young.

I can't remember ever feeling so angry at a teacher in my life. I have not felt intimidated by teachers or professors since I was in grade school, so I carefully considered confronting him in mid rant before the whole class. I guess what stopped me was that I appeared to be the only person in the room who was visibly angry about this. The other students either rolled their eyes as if this treatment was routine, or let their attention wander while he had his say. I wasn't at all sure that making a scene would really benefit anyone. So I just got up and left. I walked down to the administration office and dropped the class and told them the instructor was an asshole.

▣ Kim and Kathi Nash

[SC] Thanks for the great pictures.

▣ Lee Murray

[SC] I wanted to thank you and Julie for the travel piece to Mineral Point. Unfortunately Julie has dropped out of the apa so I have only you to praise directly. It was very well done and I enjoyed your alternating voices and the carefully reconstructed store signs. If you see Julie, could you tell her that Neil Gaiman lives in Minnesota and did not fly from England to ghost our convention? Thank you.

▣ Turbo^{no} 197

Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] Congratulations on the Saturn. I believe that for most people, if you manage to succeed in purchasing a nice car without feeling you got hosed in the process, you deserve a pat on the back. I hate buying cars from dealers though it is looking like we are moving closer to doing just that ourselves soon. Our car would probably be fine to drive around for a while yet if all we ever did was use it in Madison, but I am beginning to distrust it on longer journeys and, really, the best reason to have a car is to take it on road trips. I hope to get through the process as gracefully as you did.

I think all of us here in *Turbo* are hooked on your annual Halloween antics. *Lord of the Rings* was a great idea and it sounds like you had quite an impressive operation underway as always. What great fun!

▣ Ruth Nichols

[SC] Thank you for part two of the travelogue, this is quite an adventure for a camping trip. Our camping trips are pretty sedate in comparison. I'm looking forward to part three.

▣ Jerome Van Epps

[SC] Great report on I-Con. Y'all were really the Turbo Charged Party Animals last month. Being from Iowa, I read your zine with a mixture of surprise and recognition. I know next to nothing about I-Con, but I have many fond memories of Cedar Rapids. The city stinks you say? When I went to college there, it was still known as the "city of seven smells." I used to be able to name them all, too (Archer Daniels Midland [the ethanol plant,] Pinnick and Ford, Quaker Oats, Wilsons Meat packing plant, General Mills, and two others I've since forgotten.)

They had hard liquor and barrels of beer in the con suite? And people wonder why I only do convention security work at WisCon.

Jeanne and I still talk about going back to an I-Con someday for old times sake. We first met at an I-Con back in 1984. But judging from your description of the con, there really is no rush. I think I would rather have you go and tell us about it afterwards.

▣ Paul Kincaid

[SC] Oh God, I know what it feels like to have some idiotic song trapped in my head. Once upon a time I could count on going to work, putting on some headphones and music and drive the damned thing out of my head, but now that I work half time taking phone calls, I don't have that option. So the catchy little number that flies into my head in the shower in the morning may be with me (gradually driving me nuts) all day long.

I am glad to read that you are getting around better. I hope the improvement continues. Jeanne (and by extension me) had a similar awakening to the hassles of handicapped life after Jeanne's hip surgery. Our own house was not much help to us at the time seeing as how it is full of stairways everywhere. Getting the handicapped parking sticker for the car was the one small advantage we enjoyed during the period and, all things considered, it wasn't worth it. I think we would both much rather be able-bodied.

In your comment to **Jim**, I have to say that it was a pleasant shock to read that you and I basically grew up watching the same Westerns on TV. It never occurred to me that those shows would even be shown in Britain. To your list, I would add *Gunsmoke*, probably the best of the bunch. I have never read much Western literature, but I am a great fan of Western movies. What about you?

I would be much sadder about your leaving the *SF Chronicle* column (which we both enjoyed) if we hadn't also left the magazine behind and taken a subscription, finally, to *Locus*.

▣ Maureen Kincaid Speller

[SC] I am delighted to hear that class is going well. I am also weighing school options again. I am as high as I can go in my current job and taking some coursework could open up many more opportunities for me. Every time I hear or read about an adult successfully returning to school, it gets me to thinking I should do it too.

The list of Greatest Britons has Princess Diana but not Jane Austen?

Your proposal to debate the Greatest Americans is interesting. Herewith my nominations NOT necessarily in order of importance:

1. Abraham Lincoln
2. George Washington
3. Martin Luther King Jr.
4. Susan B. Anthony/Elizabeth Cady Stanton
5. Mark Twain
6. Neil Armstrong
7. Franklin D. Roosevelt
8. Thomas Edison
9. John Marshall
10. Sitting Bull

I dashed these off rather quickly, I will refine them as debate progresses. My Native American history is a little rusty so I could not decide between Sitting Bull, Red Cloud and Crazy Horse without research. Making a list of only ten, I see that I have too few women and artists. Henry Ford is probably more important than Thomas Edison but I detest Henry Ford.

Talking about this subject prompted Jeanne to dash off a list as well, also not in any order. She did not feel constrained to limit herself to ten nominations, but she has many good ideas. Her list follows:

1. Thomas Jefferson
2. George Washington
3. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
4. Emma Goldman
5. Margaret Sanger
6. Abraham Lincoln
7. George Gershwin
8. Franklin D. Roosevelt
9. Eleanor Roosevelt
10. Aaron Copeland
11. Lewis Sinclair
12. Arthur Miller
13. Georgia O'Keefe
14. Martin Luther King Jr
15. Robert M. LaFollette
16. Rachel Carson
17. Ralph Nader
18. Eugene V. Debs
19. Thurgood Marshall

▣ Lisa Freitag

[SC] Thank you for the World Fantasy Con report. Congratulations on your success. Programming a convention can be a difficult and thankless task, but it is so sweet when things come together and people truly appreciate the work invested.

—Scott Custis & Jeanne Gomoll
21 December 2002