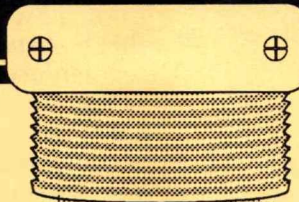


Union st

This is *Union Street* #18, *Obsessive Press* #117, and is published by Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, both residents of their home at 2825 Union Street, Madison, WI 53704-5136. Phone 608-246-8857. *Union Street* was created on a Macintosh computer—a IIx or an SE at various points in its lifetime—and hardcopy is printed on a Laser-



writer IIITX printer. Text was created with Microsoft Word 4.0 and laid out with Aldus Pagemaker 4.0. The *Union Street* Logo was designed with Aldus Freehand 2.0. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, 1990. April 1991 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #58. Members FWA.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

(JG) Weird OE grousing at this point about a joint membership slipping in “via the back door” confuse me. Kim, you are the OE. You get the mail. You collate the apa. If you decided that Paula Lewis’s zine violated the apa rules, all you had to do was *not* collate it into the apa. I wish that John Peacock had included a proposal in his zine before Paula had sent in a zine, after which discussion within the apa, or a statement by you—the OE—could have clarified the situation. But all that is irrelevant now. They did it and in effect, you endorsed John’s amended membership by including Paula’s zine in the apa and her name on the membership list. It’s a *fait accompli*, as far as I’m concerned—one that I’m quite happy about, actually. Back door or not, I’m pleased to see Paula (and my logo) back in the apa again. Welcome, Paula!

However, maybe we do need to clarify this joint membership biz. I’m a bit confused about the reason for joint memberships in some cases, specifically when both members of the membership contribute individual zines with a frequency that neither would have trouble maintaining minac on their own. I appreciate the fact that when two people share a residence and live outside of Madison, it’s a lot cheaper to receive only one issue of the apa. But it seems to me that members who want to share an issue could notify the OE and arrange that without actually sharing a membership. As far as I’m concerned, two zines in every apa coming from two individuals inspire as many mailing comments as if there were two members. Knowing that they receive one zine between them doesn’t make that much difference to me. In effect the *Turboapa* has as many members as it has regular zines.

Having said that, however, I must say I have no motion to make to solve the “problem” that exists. I think it would be silly at this point to ask joint memberships to split into two if they wish to continue regularly submitting separate zines for each issue. If we did, we’d have to kick members off the roster, and I’d be opposed to that.

However, I *do* propose that from now on, the OE give new members the opportunity to share zines—thus saving postage—without necessarily forming a joint membership. I think that if people intend to publish their own zines regularly, that they be encouraged to add their names individually to the pipeline. Any extra zines that

accumulate because the OE no longer sends out 30 copies to the full membership could be sent to people in the pipeline when available.

KAREN BABICH

(JG) Sorry we didn’t manage to connect in Chicago when Scott and I returned from our Texas trip. The train was late (due to a semi-truck accident in Texas, and later on, electrical system problems), and so we didn’t have much time between the train arrival and our bus departure back to Madison.

ALISON BRON

(JG) You’re making your zines far more expensive than they need to be by wasting all that white space...If you’re going to reduce your pages to fit on American paper sizes, you might try typing with much smaller margins or getting oversized paper so that the reduced originals fits better on 8 1/2" x 11" format.

As for the question of whether sexual pleasure diminishes after pregnancy is no longer a threat...well I think it varies according to a person’s attitude toward childbirth. When I had my tubal ligation, the women in my ward who were having the same procedure done, I think, were going to have definite problems in that regard. They were all mothers but for various reasons (medical problems, economic pressures) they were all feeling “forced” to stop being fertile, and were obviously emotionally upset about the situation. I, on the other hand, regained consciousness after the operation filled with elation, suddenly conscious of the absence of a huge weight on my shoulders that I hadn’t even been aware had existed! The other women were physically ill for most of the day as we rested in the ward. I had a bowl of soup, a sandwich and joked with my physician. (“I’m fine...but I think I’ve changed my mind...” which caused me to laugh, which hurt, and Ed—my doctor—laughed, saying I deserved it.) I could hardly wait to get out of the hospital, and if anything I’ve enjoyed more sheer fun connected with sex since that time than anything else. The absence of risk proved to be the absence of a distraction. But then I don’t see childbirth as an essential part of my life or a definition of myself as a woman.

(SC) I thought your essay on the war was important. It gave us an interesting insight into what motivated a country like Italy to support this war. I find it curious that it was argued that Italy needed to support the war to be "taken seriously in the U.N." An excuse for buckling under to U.S. and British pressure? Protesting was tough over here too. The pro-war people were frequently ugly and hysterical in their hatred of dissent and lust for blood. Your idea to do a concert on behalf of war victims was excellent. I look forward to hearing about your success with it. Certainly there will be no shortage of victims.

JAMES BRON

(SC) Good to hear from you again James even if it's just minac. The drawing confirms what Alison was saying. I don't think I've ever seen so much hair on anyone's face before either.

MIKE DUCHARME

(SC) I enjoyed your account of the trivia contest. Congratulations are in order for all Turbo Chargers on the team. It confirms what I have long suspected: this apa has a terrific grasp of the trivial. As for the Hugos, I think *Edward Scissorhands* is the best Dramatic Presentation of a fairly poor year. I thought David Brin's *Earth* was very good.

PAT HARIO

(JG) Hey, as long as March is "Women's History Month" and "Baby Month," maybe we could also proclaim it "Barefoot Month," and "Home Cooking Month!"

I hope you liked *Points of Departure* (the anthology of short stories by Pat Murphy). I thought it was an excellent collection. She's a really dynamite short-story writer.

(SC) I want to tell you here that I enjoyed your zine very much because the rest of my comment has to do with a lengthy disagreement on the ending to the *Silence of the Lambs*.

Well I liked the movie a lot too. In fact it's the best thriller I've seen in years. You mentioned two elements of the ending that hurt the movie for you. I don't think the movie maker intended for the audience to cheer Hannibal at the end. They were supposed to be left feeling revolted. Hannibal's double entendre is perfect for the character. The fault lies with audiences so conditioned to violence and horror in movies that they could only see it as a joke and the potential victim to be deserving of his fate since he was a jerk. You were right that it wasn't supposed to be funny. It was the audience reaction that was sickening.

Second, you were turned off by Starling's pursuit of the killer to the basement. I think that was completely consistent. After all, she was only a trainee with no field pursuit experience. You said that she went from being very smart to being very dumb. I say that there is a world of difference between spending hours pondering a mystery and making instant life or death decisions. An officer's natural tendency would be to give chase after a fleeing suspect. It would take a very experienced agent, like her boss, to have fended off the urge. Also, she did not know he was armed, or that the basement would turn into a maze, or whether he would kill his last hostage if she let him go. She had to make a split second decision and she really had no reason not to pursue until she found herself in over her head.

BILL HOFFMAN

(JG) Having just finished Greg Bear's *Queen of Angels*, I now see why you started this discussion about the difference between human and machine thought. You're right, by the way, the novel did *not* end in the typically weird way Bear's books have tended to end in the past. I was sort of expecting it, even though you assured me that it wouldn't happen. Early in the book I speculated that the whole universe was going to turn out to be the "country of the mind" of one of the characters, maybe even of Axis/Jill, the computer, and I was glad to discover that wasn't the case. Bear even managed to keep control of Martin and Carol's trip through nightmare country. However, I wish that Bear had concluded that plot thread. (It's not a dangling sequel hint, I hope.) I wanted to know if Martin and Carol had actually been infected by some sort of viral possession, or if their encounter was something they would be able to deal with eventually.

I really liked the stuff about nano technology, and the way Mary Choy chose to utilize it medically in her own body. Also, I was fascinated by the extrapolation of nano technology into artistic, food, and energy areas. Interesting to think that Bear turned the horror of *Blood Music* around, imagining what the world would be like if the creatures were controlled by human beings, rather than consuming humanity.

And of course the central story involving the investigation of a human mind and the parallel story of the developing computer consciousness was fascinating. I rather like Bear's opinion (at least it seems like it must be his opinion) that consciousness—human or computer—flows from a sense of self which leads to a sense of others.

On to another subject... The anti-cat hating drug may be wearing off, and my condition may have become infectious. (Ha!) I've begun wrapping cats again, although I haven't yet begun placing the wrapped cats on shelves like in the old days. Also, Scott recently expressed extreme disappointment that we forgot to wrap the four cats of my sister Julie and Rachel's household during our visit. "Rachel would have killed us," I said. Scott eyes glittered and he said, "Maybe we could have gotten away with it while she wasn't looking."

ANDREW HOOPER

(JG) Well I did read the apa on the train down to Austin like I said I would, though actually it turned out to be from Austin to Madison and in spite of the killer leading, it made excellent train reading. Good stuff, Andy. I get the feeling that we'll eventually see this background material used to good effect behind the scenes in future A. Hooper novels. Anyway I hope so.

I liked the geophysical beginning to Madison's history. I was reminded—on a slightly smaller scale—of the first chapter of *Hawaii*, which features the birth of a volcano and Hawaiian coral reefs as geological soap opera. My official, college background is Geography, at least it says so on my diploma and I was reminded of my own researches into the geophysical history of the area west of Milwaukee where I grew up. It was actually thrilling to be able to look out my bedroom window up toward the hill I'd seen so often but never really considered, and to

suddenly know *how it got there*. (It was one of those recessional moraines, of course.) Traveling around the state suddenly became (and is) so much more interesting after I'd taken a couple semesters in Wisconsin glacial geography. It was even sort of sexy. But I guess I've already written *that* article.

But anyway, thank you. Keep going.

BILL HUMPHRIES

(JG) I know what you mean about being afraid about the after-effects of the Gulf War. I'm afraid too.

(SC) I was sympathetic to the frustration you expressed in your Screaming Aloud article. I don't think moving to Canada is the answer just yet, but it's tempting. I think we are in for a long dark period in America where the conservative agenda will dominate until violence and economic stagnation finally force people to look in other directions for answers. I'm glad you didn't apologize for being angry. You may have been rude at times, but this was an important issue and it takes guts to stand up to the popular madness.

STEVEN VINCENT JOHNSON

(JG) Well, for a while now, you've been subtly and not so subtly suggesting that I get involved in this conversation about channeling. We've talked about it more than a few times and have discovered that we interpret the phenomenon in different ways, but I'm willing to share my experiences.

Not long after Quinn Yarbro's *Messages From Michael* came out, I was visiting in California and Quinn introduced me to the original Michael channeller and I got to sit in on a session. It was certainly interesting, especially after having just read Quinn's book.

I was told by the channeller (who spoke from a fairly conscious-looking trance, as her fingers whizzed around a Ouija Board, enunciating letters with lightning-fast speed as others transcribed) that I was a mid-cycle level, mature priest. (One can be either a Slave—though I hear that name has been changed to a word with less odious connotations—, Artisan, Warrior, Scholar, Sage, Priest, or King). A Priest is someone who believes strongly in an idea, a way of life, or a way of thinking and attempts to convince others to this viewpoint. Steve Johnson recently asked for my overleaves from *his* channeller and was told that I am not a Priest, but an Artisan, and that my soul is not *mature*, but is actually an *old* soul. There are other components of the so-called overleaves but I've forgotten most of the significance of the rest of them. (According to the California channeller, I am in the observation mode with a goal of growth, an idealist in the moving part of intellectual center, with a chief feature of self-deprecation. Oh yes, I do recall that the chief feature is supposedly one's chief fault.) The thing I most enjoyed was hearing the stories of some of my supposed past lives.

This is what I think about this stuff: I think people who seriously listen to the information they receive through channeling, astrology, automatic writing, religion, tarot cards, or palm reading, are doing so because they find it difficult to deal directly with certain aspects of their lives. Perhaps they are not comfortable with introspection or in-depth communication with others on very personal sub-

jects. By removing the "voice" of this material to an outside device—a spiritual being, a chart, a pack of cards, a confessional, or lines on a palm—they are able to deal with what was too difficult to confront *inside themselves*.

This is not a criticism of those techniques, I think, no more than it would be a criticism of a person to point out that they needed to work out some psychological problem through professional therapy. Or to say that another person attempts to understand their feelings by writing a journal.

Whatever works for the individual, I say, has value.

And it seemed to me as I watched the people who asked the channeller questions during my California visit, that these people were using the occasion much like a sort of combination consciousness-raising/group therapy session. It also seems to me that Steve enables himself to deal with some issues through his discussions with the channeller that he may not be able to do on his own. Maybe the situation gives him "permission" to ask (himself) the right questions. I don't know. I'm a sort of pragmatist/agnostic on this. I feel much the same way about religion. If it makes life better for someone, then it's probably good for them.

I haven't been interested in pursuing channeling, although I've had several chances since my first dabble. I've got my own ways of dealing with my psyche. But I do find it interesting to note that the California channeller knew me through Quinn, who knew me primarily as a vocal feminist (thus, perhaps, my "priest" categorization). Steve's channeller may have gleaned some bit of information from Steve about me, and Steve knows me more as an artist (thus the "artisan" categorization). I received no information that convinced me that the channeller was hooked into some sort of supernatural source of information, but I wouldn't be at all surprised if all successful channellers were mighty perceptive folks.

Well, was that "within reason," Steve?

HOPE KIEFER

(JG) I hope your re-run that "no-comment" article that got blotched and blurred by fax transmission. The few phrases I was able to pick out were intriguing. Did that man actually demand to be let off the plane when he discovered that a woman was piloting it? And did they really let him get off? Are you kidding?

LYNNE MORSE

(JG) Fun trip reports. What an adventure you're having living in Europe!

RICHARD RUSSELL

(JG) If I thought you were actually reading this, Dick, I might write a lot more about how much I liked your zine and it's portrait of Dera.

(SC) I concur with the above. You are still a fine apa writer when you get your wind up. I noticed how deftly you wrote about movies without really saying which one you think should get the Hugo. With only a few minor quibbles, I agree with your ratings. Which doesn't leave much to vote for. I could go on Dick, but as *Jeanne* pointed out, by the time you read this, it'll be time for next year's Hugos.

JULIE SHIVERS

(SC) What are emoticons?

As for Shakespeare, you should have started out with a comedy (have you heard that already?) He's really a dirty minded old fart who can be surprisingly bawdy.

You should announce in the apa when you think you are ready for a tattoo. We can then run a couple contests to come up with 1) Best Suggestion for a Design, 2) Best Suggestion for Where It Should Be Placed.

VELMA BOWEN

(SC) Sorry to have missed you while you were in town this month. We left the very next day for Austin, TX. I understand your trip down from Minneapolis was a little rough. Hope you had a good time in Madtown anyway. Congratulations on the Anniversary. Ten years is worth celebrating on a grand scale.

LAURA SPIESS

(JG) Material created on a Mac can be transferred fairly easily to and from practically any other computer. The easiest way to go back and forth between platforms—if that's a high priority for you (like if you want to take disks from the office and work on them at home)—is to get a Mac with the high speed chip, which means that the cheapest Mac available to you would be the SE/30. Then you could get (or "borrow" from me) the translation program, "MacLink." If you want one of the cheaper, slower Macs, which would be quite understandable if you only wanted to do wordprocessing, you could still go back and forth by getting your disks translated by a service agency or someone who has access to the program.

TRACY SHANNON

(JG) Re your comment about a dying woman who decides to continue a pregnancy being selfish if there is no one readily at hand to care for the child, I must disagree with you. It's important to me that women retain the right to make decisions without having to explain their reasons or motivation. If the woman believes the fetus is a living human being from the point of conception, I believe that no one should try to force her to conform to other peoples' morality. She may have other reasons, maybe that she wants to experience the act of childbirth before she dies, or perhaps she wants something of herself to survive her death, but whatever her reason, as far as I am concerned, it's her choice as long as she's alive.

MICHAEL SHANNON

(JG) I agree with you when you say (to **John Peacock**) that, "societies have no independent existence, and are made up strictly of their members." The example you use, I thought, was quite good. (That a member of a firing squad kills *personally*; the nebulous concept of society does not do it.)

However you lose me when you say that this line of reasoning convinces you that it would be dangerous to put your life in the hands of a doctor who performs abortions or who advocates euthanasia. Society cannot be equated to the individual: we agree there. But neither does the

individual equal society...or another individual. Your morality may tell you that abortion is murder. My morality warns me that a doctor who believes that abortion is wrong may value my own life less than a bit of tissue in my belly.

When I was in college, my best friend—Vicki Gaydosik—was told by her physician that she had a rare heart condition and that if she became pregnant she would most certainly die before giving birth. Her doctor sent her to the UW hospital after she inquired about the tubal ligation procedure. This was in 1972 and there were very few doctors even here in Madison that would even *consider* a sterilization procedure for a young, unmarried woman. Planned Parenthood published (and maybe still does publish) a list of doctors and their "requirements" for the procedure. Most of them require that the woman be over 30 years of age, married, and the consent of their husbands. Vicki was 21 and did not intend to marry. (So far she's still single.) In any case, in spite of the compelling medical reason against pregnancy in her case, the doctor felt that Vicki was being far too impetuous about this decision and suggested that she come in to see him once a month for six months for a one-hour talk. Just to make sure she knew what she was giving up...

Well, I would feel very uncomfortable giving myself into the care of a doctor who thought of women's lives as being so much more expendable than their potential uses as vessels for fetuses. And I would suspect any doctor who opposed abortion of having that sort of value system.

Your case against the euthanasia-advocating doctor is also not convincing. To me, a doctor who allows the possibility of euthanasia may be a doctor who respects the choices, the rationality, and the intelligence of their patient. Of course, I would avoid a doctor who advocated euthanasia with any sort of blanket rule (everyone over the age of 95, or everyone with inoperable cancer, etc...). The point is that—for me—morality is a matter of individual choices made every moment of every day. And we all make those choices in our own way and finally, no one can judge us except ourselves. That's the extrapolation of the idea that there is no "societal being."

(SC) I've been meaning to ask you your view of the UW's decision to cut several sports programs including fencing. Will that affect you and your practice of the sport in any way?

KIM WINZ

(JG) Another great zine, Kim. How come we never had conversations like this when you lived in Madison?

I liked the "squid on the mantelpiece" syndrome definition. That nails down the reason I was so dissatisfied with the third *Back to the Future* movie. In movie #2 we watched the bad guy (sorry I forget his name now) stagger out of the time machine car he'd stolen looking as if he'd been badly—maybe even fatally—injured. He was returning the car to the exact place and time from which he'd originally stolen it, when one could reasonably assume he might have continued to find a use for the time machine and would have good reasons for wanting to keep it out of the hands of our heroes. That was a dangling squid if I ever saw one. In the hiatus between film #2 and #3, Scott, my brother Dan, and I spent a lot of time extrapolating from these points. He must have had a *reason* for returning the

car to the exact time and place he stole it from, perhaps connected to his injury. Well, all I can say is that they should have made the movie we constructed based on those hints rather than the movie they finally made, which entirely forgot that squid and a couple others.

How about a subscription to *Isthmus* and/or the *New York Times* as a wedding gift to Andria? Nothing to carry with them to Europe, but a good link to home.

That was an *excellent* essay to **Bill Humphries** (although you typed **Bill Hoff.**) arguing against the spurious, so-called "feminist" argument against abortion. As you say, the fact of biology puts greater responsibility on women's shoulders with regard to childbirth. That's why women have more rights to make decisions about childbirth. Rights attend responsibility.

I read the *trade* paperback version of *Earth*, not the hardcover. Quality Paperback Book Club offers it; I've belonged to the club for many years now and really like their selection and the quality (design, binding, paper) of their books. That's my favorite way to buy books nowadays: trade paperbacks are less clumsy than hardcovers, and much cheaper too, but they are printed on low-acid paper and the type is of a style and size that is much easier to read than paperbacks' type. The larger margins help too.

(SC) Your comment to us about our article on the war made the whole effort worthwhile. Even in "liberal" Madison, we too felt besieged by pro-war sentiment and our article was in response to that and an effort to communicate with other kindred souls.

ROSS PAVLAC

(JG) OK, a truce re the abortion debate is alright with me, though the the state (Illinois or Wisconsin) in which you live hardly seems relevant to the importance of the discussion. I believe that this issue must be confronted whenever it comes up, not so much to affect state politics, but to avoid the appearance of lack of conviction among pro-choice advocates.

(SC) I was moved by the pain, sadness and anger of your Divorce Update article. Not much I can say here that would not sound trite except to offer sympathy. You advised us to "Stay tuned" and I hope that means you plan to follow up this article as you decide where to go from here. I am looking forward to more reflections written with the same candor as you showed here.

ALISON DAWSON

(JG) You commented to **Diane Martin** about the unbelievability of the war as seen through CNN's coverage. I got a lot of my information from National Public Radio, and one afternoon heard a strange report from one of their reporters who was traveling with the ground troops as they pushed into Iraq. This reporter never saw any Iraqis except surrendering soldiers, and said that the closest he got to actual combat was when he was sitting in a tent listening to the radio. A voice of a soldier in Kuwait City was asking for air cover, yelling that there were Iraqis all around their position, meaning—said the reporter—about 10 miles away. The radio voice said they couldn't actually *see* any Iraqi soldiers. Then the air strike oc-

curred, and the voice in Kuwait City jubilantly reported that there were bodies flying everywhere. Anyway, it was so weird to hear a reporter quoting an anonymous voice describing deaths that could only be imagined. Does anyone die if no one witnesses the death? Apparently no, according to armed forces invented language.

Thank you for the compliment about the story of two people digging holes and miscommunicating about the depths of their feelings. Let me assure you, however, that the two of us weren't using the simple words of my little fictional allegory. The problem was that this guy had mastered the vocabulary of a sensitive guy who thinks about relationships and is willing to discuss them in detail. We had developed entirely different meanings for the whole complex glossary. That's what is so scary sometimes about male/female relationships. Sometimes it seems women and men grow up in parallel universes in which the languages differ in dangerously crucial ways.

Yes, your worst fears are correct. Hallmark cards is actually responsible for many of our holidays. Mother's Day was proclaimed by a US president, and when that worked so well for card and flower sales, Hallmark said why not Father's Day, Grandparents' Day...? If they could sell it, I'm sure we'd have Aunt's and Uncle's Day. Any day now, recognizing biological technology advances, I expect Biological Mother's and Father's Day, along with Custodial Mother and Father Day. Hey we could even have Womb and Egg Mother Day. The only limitation on holiday invention is the capacity for human guilt: if they can convince us that sending a card/gift "proves" our love for important persons in our life, they've got us. There is even the bizarre "special occasion" cards to which **Ross Pavlac** referred, that include such messages as "Congratulations on Your Divorce," or "Get out of Jail Soon."

(SC) Sorry about the mix-up with your name. I thought your zine was delightful. Meeting you and **James** would be fun. How about the two of you coming over for a visit? At the OE's expense, of course. All I have to do is make a proposal, send out 25 copies with envelopes, alter **Nash's** copy so he thinks he's voting himself a Xmas. bonus, and *voila* you'll be all set. **Nash's** new and improved voting procedure even eliminates a discussion first. So there should be nothing to worry about. Pack your bags. See you soon.

—Jeanne & Scott

P.S. Attached is a WisCon review from a local paper for you out-of-towners that missed it.

Feminism pervades Wiscon

By Ed Treleven

Wisconsin State Journal

Science fiction is probably the only literary form that inspires its fans to gather at conventions — to frolic and barter.

Warlocks, maidens and Star Fleet officers were just a few of about 500 conventioners attending Wiscon 15, Madison's science fiction convention being held through today at the Holiday Inn-Southeast.

The Madison event may be the only such convention to accentuate feminist forms of science fiction.

"Wiscon has traditionally been feminist-oriented," said Bill Humphries, a convention organizer. "In recent years, Wiscon had lost a lot of its feminist orientation, but this year we included more feminist programs."

Organizers said feminists were among the founders of Wiscon. Those ideals have persisted through its 15-year history.

Guests of honor at the three-day Wiscon gathering were science fiction writers Pat Murphy and Pamela Sargent.

Sargent caused a stir in science fiction circles with the publication of "Women of Wonder," three anthologies of science fiction written by women, and "The Shore of Women."

Murphy, author of "The Falling Woman" and "Shadow Hunter," said she doesn't always agree with the feminist label given to her works.

"If I write a book that is feminist, it's because I am a feminist, not because I sat down to write a

feminist book," she said during a panel discussion on feminism in science fiction.

Murphy said labels, like science fiction, fantasy or sword-and-sorcery, are handy names that publishers like to assign books and authors to make them easier to market.

"My own work tends to be on the borders between categories," she said.

All over the convention, different varieties of science fiction were readily apparent.

"Star Trek," giving way to "Star Trek: The Next Generation," was everywhere, in posters, calendars

and books on sale and in drawings and paintings for sale at the science fiction art show. But also visible were other literary, scientific and fantasy aspects of science fiction.

Many attending the conventions come to buy and sell merchandise in what conventioners call "The Hucksters' Room." This year's Wiscon drew 23 vendors, said Hank Luttrell, manager of the vending area, who also runs 20th Century Comics in Madison.

"It's very important to the convention," he said of the vending. "Many (conventioners) have several areas of interest" but they all

want to see what's going on in the dealers' room.

"I've dropped a lot of money at these (conventions)," said Laura Spiess, a registration volunteer. "They tend to read compulsively," she said of sci-fi fanatics.

They also communicate compulsively.

At the convention were an array of "fanzines," which most commonly are small mimeographed fan-written and edited magazines, containing stories, personal anecdotes and information on favorite science fiction writers.

We've Got The Gun Nuts on the Run

*We've got the gun nuts on the run.
Their power has begun to fade
Before the Bradys' brave crusade.
They feel abandoned and betrayed
By pals whose bills they've always paid.
The strain among them has displayed
Some rifts along their barricade
We've got the gun nuts on the run.*

I hope they don't turn and shoot us.

Calvin Trillin

The Picked Up By The Los Angeles Police Department Blues

*If I done right or I done wrong,
I'd sooner be held by the Vietcong.*

Calvin Trillin

