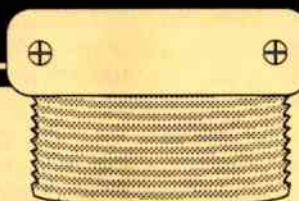


# Union St

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## HOPE KIEFER

(JG) Your review of *The Fall of Hyperion* made me wonder how you reacted to the ending of *Hyperion*, knowing that you weren't going to be able to read the sequel for a year or more. I'd describe *Hyperion's* ending as "open-ended" if I were feeling kind; or a "cheating cliff-hanging ending that should be illegal," if I weren't feeling kind. (Since I didn't read the first book when it came out, and in fact didn't get around to reading it until the second book was published, I wasn't inconvenienced by the cliff-hanger.) I agree with you, however, Simmons did a great job tying together the many tangled plot strings of the first book, though I am still trying to figure out the time travel bit that turned Rachel's life inside out.

(SC) I also just finished the *Hyperion* books. *The Fall of Hyperion* was a good conclusion to the story but I'm not likely to read it a second time. The first book was superb and I could see reading it again several times. The only movie on your list that I have seen is *Defending Your Life*. I agree whole heartedly with your impression of it.

Thanks for the Con report. It was of particular interest to me since I've never been to an East Coast con. I can't say that I share your interest in the WorldCon Game, but I wish you'd made it to the "Politically Correct" panel. It's a hot topic these days and I'd like to have heard what happened.

## LYNNE ANN MORSE

(JG) The reduced size of your typeface wasn't too bad. The repro was clean, at least. No, the only thing I had a problem with in your massive mailing comment zine was the fact that I never seemed able to figure out which way to turn the apa in order to read the next page. It would have been easier to navigate if all reduced pages' "feet" were on the right side as we turned the page.

I understand your aversion to having labels applied to you by others. (You suggested that you are uncomfortable with the label, feminist, applied to yourself.) That's always been one of my reasons for not marrying. I prefer to avoid the usual sort of assumptions that many people apply to women they can refer to as a "wife." But there are times when one uses a label to define an important aspect of oneself and must be willing to defend its meaning and its importance. For me, "feminism" is one of those labels.

The fact that some people hold different, sometimes stupid definitions of that word (in my opinion) will not make me discard it. In fact, I see its defense as an important part of the women's movement today, because the word "feminism" is under attack from without and within the movement. Outsiders keep flinging about that silly phrase, "post-feminism," seeking to convince us that feminism was a phase that addressed superficial problems that no longer plague us, or that never existed in the first place. Some people—from outside and inside the movement—suggest that the word has gotten confused with "men-hating," and that we should appease those who fear or are merely uneasy by feminists, and stop using that word. Even within the women's movement itself, the term seems to have become more and more narrowly defined. (One extreme: you can't be a feminist if you allow men into your life, and do not chose women for your major relationships.)

In my more paranoid moments, every time I hear a woman who by a liberal definition of the term would be a feminist, say that she does not like to call herself a feminist, it feels as if we've taken one more small step backward. It seems to me that to properly defend the things that the feminist movement stands for, that we should at least be willing to defend the word that describes the changes and wear it proudly.

I don't mean to sound like I'm preaching, but you punched one of my recently installed buttons with that comment. It's a topic that has been interesting me more and more lately. Specifically it grew out of preparation for and involvement in discussions at the last WisCon, which were so incredibly invigorating.

## ANDY HOOPER

(SC) I've been truly enjoying your history of Madison. It is sad that you are writing it now because you are planning to move away. We have long talked about acquiring a copy of the Mollenhoff book, your articles have further whetted our appetites.

I have some problems with your Part II section on the Black Hawk War. I'll stick to the ideas expressed since I haven't done the research necessary to dispute details.

The atrocities committed at Bad Axe, Wounded Knee and Sand Creek were contemptible, inexcusable and indefensible

then as now. Those people were slaughtered just as cruelly and unmercifully as if they had been lined up to a brick wall facing Nazis. You suggested, in the case of Bad Axe, that maybe we are being a bit too tough on those soldiers. That if we put ourselves in their position, we might have a better understanding of their actions (crimes). You pointed out the hardships the troops suffered pursuing the Indians. But let's not forget that these were paid, trained soldiers. They knew the job was dangerous when they took it. The Indians, men, women, and children, did not each choose this fight and were not getting paid for suffering much greater hardship. You pointed out the overwhelming superiority in numbers of Indians in the territory. That if the Winnebagos joined in, the "massacre would have been on the other foot." Well all massacres are bad, but there is a hell of a difference between the massacre of Custer's soldiers at Little Big Horn and women and children at Wounded Knee. Atkinson's men were, after all, the invaders. You talk about how the troops were ordinary people who felt threatened by the Indians, who may have engaged in some atrocities, but they did not have the benefit of hindsight. They did not see "the overwhelming tide of white settlement" being the inevitable result. Maybe the individual soldiers had some doubts about the future, but on the next page of your zine it becomes clear the men like James Doty didn't. By 1832, he was lobbying for the creation of an independent territory of Wisconsin. By 1834, he not only succeeded, he was moving in to cut up the spoils for J.J. Astor. I don't think he (or any other government official or rich businessman of the time) thought the Indians would be around to get in the way of their profit making and political ambitions.

I agree with your contention that the movie, *Dances With Wolves* was an overly idyllic portrayal of Indians, but *Dances...* is a movie. It works as a movie when projecting ideas and images. It does not work as history. Whites hypocritically claimed to be blessed with a "higher" civilization and Christian values of charity and love while stealing the land and murdering a technologically inferior (often helpless) people.

Finally I take issue with your conclusion that we should spend less time "wringing our hands about the past" and spend our energy trying to turn Indians into "Americans" by buying them VCRs and microwaves. We should spend more energy examining and preserving the past in an effort to avoid the same mistakes in the future. We don't have an "intellectual tradition of tolerance," we have a myth of tolerance. We believe we are so civilized and charitable all the while waging war on weaker societies. Isn't our massive technological superiority and bombing of civilians and innocents in Iraq weirdly reminiscent of the massacre at Bad Axe? Our guilt should never be "absolved." There is no way to repay that debt. We should not help the Indian decedents out of poverty because we want to feel better about ourselves, but because we have an obligation to a people whose culture and civilization we have all but erased. They should be given the chance to live and carry on as they wish. To reclaim their culture of the past, to create a new society, or adapt ours as they see fit.

(JG) I share Scott's disagreement with some of your statements in the section of your history about the Black Hawk War. Recognizing that we have falsely romanticized the Indian lifestyle does not ameliorate our genocide of many Native American societies. You say that today we modern-day Americans cannot "understand the way in which American pioneers were able to think of the Indians as something less than human," suggesting—if I

understand your argument correctly—that the wrongs committed upon the Indian nations were committed out of an erroneous opinion of the Indians' lesser humanity.

To the contrary, it is my opinion that we modern Americans understand that motivation all too well. Also, I do not think that pioneer Americans' opinion of Indians as less-than-human *allowed* the slaughter, but rather the reverse: I think that as whites stole the land and evicted the Indians, killing them wholesale when they fought, that pioneer Americans began to manufacture the image of Indians as savages in order to rationalize their own (white) savage behavior.

There is a wonderful book, which I wish I owned, but I don't. I read it a long time ago while I was visiting my brother and now I recall neither the author nor the title. It was an excellent book, very well reviewed by the academic historical press I think, about the change in American historical perspective as described by history textbooks. There were many fascinating things in it (among them, the Texan-ization of American education by the peculiarities of the Texan textbook-buying procedure). But by far the most interesting section was of the evolution of the image of the American Indian as seen in American history texts. The author showed that early Americans did not view Indians as some sort of sub-race, of less humanity than Europeans. There was a great deal of respect for Indians in the early books. It is only when we pushed into the continent and began fighting large-scale wars with the Indian populations, did the Indian come to be portrayed as savage, less sensitive to pain, and less capable of reason...

The reason I say that we modern-day Americans can easily understand the pioneer Americans' motivations is because this rationalizing of the enemy as "not human" still goes on today. In every war we've ever fought, we've renamed the enemy with ugly names that help us forget we're killing human beings. It wasn't a new practice in colonial America and we're not finished using this time-honored method today. In fact, we carried the technique to new heights in Iraq. We reduced Iraqi soldiers to blips on a radar screen. Blips on a radar screen don't even scream.

## STEVE SWARTZ

(JG) Sorry to hear that you and Elk have crossed Madison off your list of potential move-to cities. Elk should know the truth about Madison weather if that's really a big issue influencing a possible move, and even though I should help keep the secret, I'm going to tell you anyway: By some freak climate pattern involving the juxtaposition of the so-called "driftless zone," the abutment of a climatic thermal at our latitude, and the peculiar arrangement of local lakes, Dane County (which includes Madison) actually enjoys an unusually mild temperature range which contrasts sharply with normal climate ranges in adjacent counties. It has something to do with the reason the glaciers detoured around the southwest corner of the state. Scientists figure that when they explain the climatic anomaly, they'll understand the glacial mystery. Anyway, winter temperatures rarely dip below 60 degrees. Summer temperatures hardly ever peak over 85 and are always accompanied with low humidity readings. Really,

our climate matches a Mediterranean model more than a mid-continental one. Oh we try to keep the real situation under wraps. We offer film clips of a rare once-a-century blizzard over and over again to the national press. We buy parkas and sweaters and tell tall stories about shoveling snow out of our driveways, icy roads, and lakes freezing over. We've even got most of the nation convinced that we fish through little holes in the lake ice during the winter.

It keeps housing prices down, you know. But don't worry about all that silly stuff you hear about winter snow and ice, and summer heat and humidity. None of it's true.

## BILL DYER

(SC) Thanks for the marvelous pictures. The captions, however, were the mark of a true genius.

## TRACY SHANNON

(SC) I wish I had seen the Ellison article, although I seem to have heard about some of these incidents from other sources. Judging strictly from the information in your comment, I have to agree with you. Complaining about the hassle of being a celebrity doesn't generate much sympathy with me. Fans are also the ones buying the books, putting on conventions, showering the celebs with attention and awards and often treating them like royalty. They have, as you pointed out, a great deal of control over their contact with fans. There does not seem to be much fans can do to police themselves. The incidents described seem as much to highlight the poor judgement of the celebrities themselves. It has long been true that there are two sides of being famous. If they can't handle it, maybe they should become accountants.

I liked your comment to Hooper.

## STEVE JOHNSON

(SC) I must ask you, did Jeanne happen to mention that conspiring with her to "surprise" (publicly embarrass) me at Brat n' Brau might involve some risks...or consequences? Possibly severe consequences depending on the success of the deed? You say she didn't mention that? Let me give you a tip, Steve. Grovelling for forgiveness, with generous offerings of beer, might help.

Your story took me back to my running days. I loved running, but I also gave it up when it was causing me more pain than reward. I remember daydreaming elaborately on four and five mile jaunts.

## KAREN BABICH

(SC) Texas was more beautiful this trip than I'd ever seen it. Wild flowers, particularly bluebonnets, were out in record numbers (best in 5 years or more the locals said). The highways were lined with fields of bluebonnets thanks to Lady Bird Johnson's Highway Beautification project and folks were pulling over to the shoulders and taking pictures of each other and their kids frolicking in the flowers.

Some things never change. We again visited the lovely Ziker Park and Barton Springs Pool and again the pool had been drained (as it had on our last visit about four years ago). Someday I'll see how it's supposed to look. We also experienced another Kickass Texas Rainstorm. Driving home from a restaurant in the storm, the rain was hammering us so hard we

could barely see that the car just ahead of us was leaving a substantial wake behind it. And we were driving *up hill*. Like driving in a river rather than a street. It rained just as hard the last time we were in town.

We also took a very pleasant boat ride on Town Lake. Visited a strange and beautiful county park called Hamilton Pool (we have many pictures) and went to the movies one afternoon to see *Defending Your Life* and sat a few rows behind Governor Ann Richards.

(JG) I got to shake her hand. She called me "dear."

(SC) The train ride was fine, but we decided we'd like to check out the price of a sleeping car on our next trip. On the way down we shared our car with a retarded man (travelling with his mother) who suffered a terrific bronchial problem and spent much of the trip noisily coughing up gobs of mucus. On the trip back we had a rather crummy steward. These were not fatal inconveniences, just annoyances we may try to live without next time.

Our stay in Austin with Jeanne's sister Julie and partner Rachel was very relaxed. We had some great food, met some terrific people and steadfastly refused to over-schedule ourselves. A fine time.

## NEVENAH SMITH

(SC) Excellent story. Is this interest in writing horror something new? Are you just trying the genre on for size or do you plan a more in depth commitment? I liked the subtle turn of the main character from victimizer to victim.

## BILL HUMPHRIES

(SC) More cheers and applause from this corner on your article further explaining your position on the war. I think you've devoted enough space to defending yourself. Time now for your critics to answer or drop the subject. I enjoy discussing this issue (and other political issues) and I think it is an important feature of the apa that we engage in such interaction. It's best if it discussion remains civilized, but even if it gets a little hot, better than insisting on the kindly blandness of purely neutral subjects.

## ARBUTHNOTT & WHEATLEY

(SC) Welcome. Good fiction, as always, is much appreciated. Thank you for sharing the story. I was a little confused initially because your real comments ended somewhat abruptly and, for a few moments, I thought the story was real.

Owen, I think you are our only professional teacher in the apa right now (**Dick Russell** works for the Wisconsin Dept. of Education, but he is not a teacher) so I don't know what kind of response you'll get on your query about the state of the profession in the U.S. I will take a stab at it, but can speak only as an observer. Of late, teaching is finally winning some respect and modest pay increases the last few years. It is very recently becoming a slightly more fashionable career after the long obsession with money-grubbing in this country all through the 1980s. Politically, education is a hot topic with politicians. Bush would like to be called the "Education President." He doesn't want to take money away from his precious military or the upper class to pay for the title, so much will be said and nothing really done. One of his administration's latest (and typical) ideas is to turn more of public education over to the private sector.

**CATHY GILLIGAN**

(SC) Thanks for the trip report/update. I'm looking forward to seeing Greg back in Madison. Nice postcard, thank you.

**KIM NASH**

(SC) See you at the Memorial Day party. I'm planning to arrive thirsty. Congratulations on chairing WisCon again.

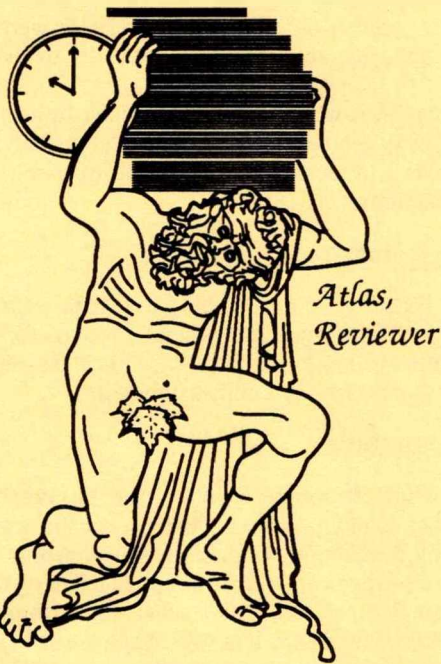
**VIJAY BOWEN**

(JG) What an excellent, educational, and PC cover, instructing us in the fine points of the self breast examination!

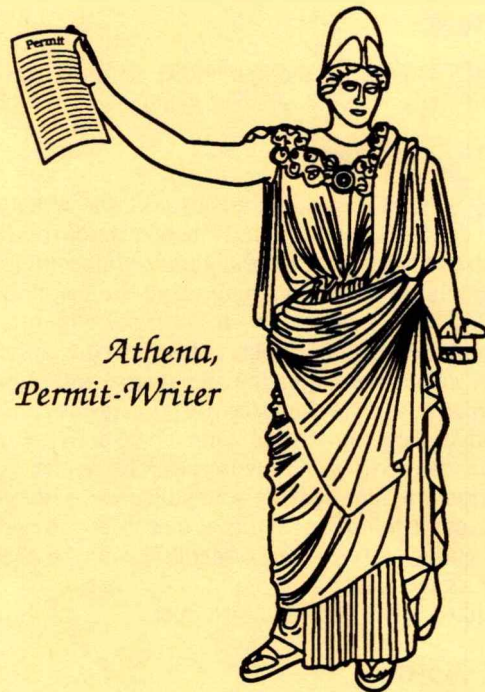
**KATHRYN BETH WILLIG**

(SC) Thank you for running the reprints. This whole privacy issue is enormously important.

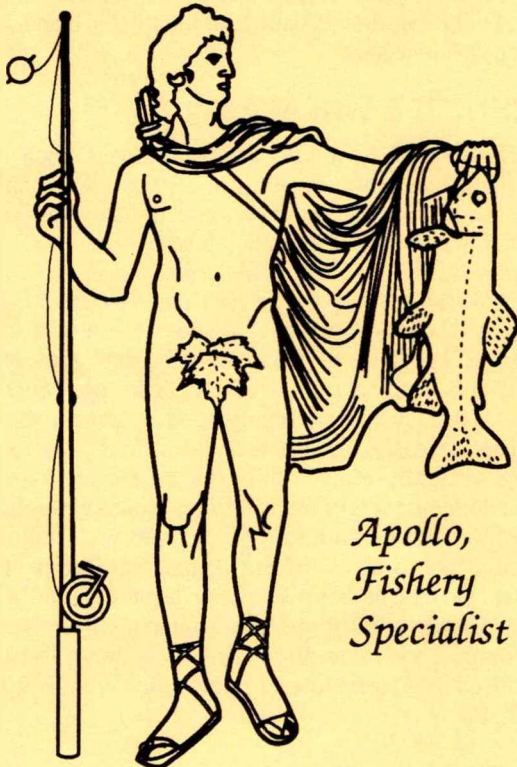
It is true that all I can do is speculate about what really went on during the Gulf War. However, I feel I can often be more trustful of speculation of the obvious than waiting for information from people "in the know." Too many of them have reason to lie, distort or withhold the truth. Sometimes you just have to look at what's there and draw your own conclusions.



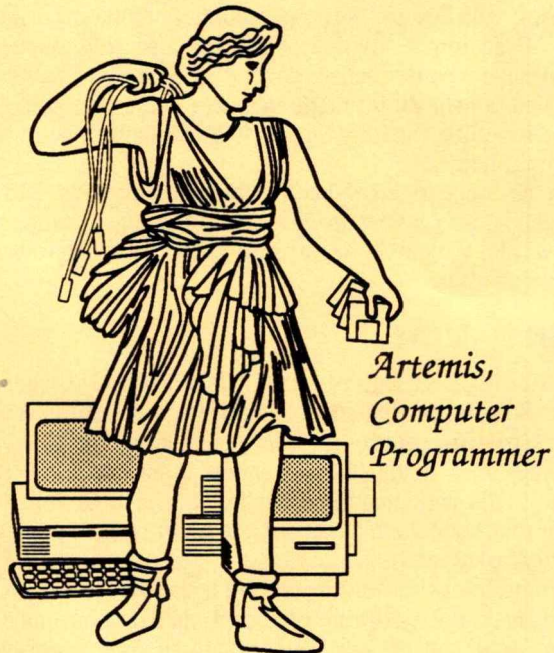
*Atlas,  
Reviewer*



*Athena,  
Permit-Writer*



*Apollo,  
Fishery  
Specialist*



*Artemis,  
Computer  
Programmer*

*DNR employees who might be giants. Artwork by Jeanne Gomoll, entirely created on the Mac, using Adobe Illustrator.*