

Welcome to *Union Street* (issue #30 and *Obsessive Press* #129), the zine with the transmutating masthead (this month celebrates a month of partying). It is published by Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, who reside in 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 was printed on a Laserwriter IINTX printer. Text was created with Microsoft Word 5.0 and laid out with Aldus Pagemaker 4.2. The *Union Street* Logo was designed with Adobe Illustrator 3.2 and Adobe Photoshop 2.0. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, 1992. May 1992 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #71. Members FWA.

## OFFICIAL BUSINESS

(JG) I will vote for two of Steve Swartz's motions, #2 and 5. I vote against #4—the one guaranteed to cause Tracy to resign as OE—and also against #6, because Scott convinced me it was the Right Thing to Do. He points out some rather disagreeable possible corollaries in his comment a few paragraphs down.

However, if Steve's motion to forbid joint memberships doesn't pass, I won't be all that disappointed. I think we need to change the process of creating joint apas, but I think the topic needs a lot more discussion before we actually start voting on proposals. Simply the fact that we were so very far away from any sort of consensus at the WisCon apa meeting indicates to me that we need to talk about it more. However, if enough people vote for Steve's proposal to pass it, I guess that will indicate that we have come around to agreement since the WisCon meeting.

If Steve's motions do not pass, I would like to consider the idea Kathryn Beth Willig began to express in her last zine. That is, that a joint membership must produce a single, joint apazine. A truly joint zine is a very different animal than a zine produced by any one person. I think it's an interesting format, one that I wouldn't mind preserving with a special membership category. But all other perks of joint membership—cheaper postage costs, one shared apa, etc.—can be easily achieved in other ways. If such a proposal was adopted, I would expect that existing joint memberships would be grandfathered in, but members of joint memberships which do not produce a single zine would be encouraged to add one of their members to the wait list. The joint membership would function as usual until both members were able to function as single members in the apa, at which point, they could negotiate with the OE to receive only one apazine if they wished. [This is **not** a formal proposal. I'm merely throwing out an idea and encourage others to comment.]

In either case—whether Steve's motions carry or whether we figure out some other way to deal with the joint membership issue, I agree with Tracy that the copy count should be held at 30. There is no easy way to alert members to a change in copy count on short notice. Extra copies should be kept on hand by the OE to sell to new members

of the apa who wish to "catch up" or collect past issues. It would be a neat way to raise a bit of extra cash for annual expenses of the apa. The OE would then be able to adjust our fee levies, subtracting the amount she'd raised from zine sales. [This is merely a suggestion, Tracy. I don't think it needs to be voted on as a formal rule change. You are well within Your rights as OE-Ghodhead to do with extra copies of the apa what You will.]

(SC) Tracy, Tracy, Tracy, if I did everything I said I "ought" to do, I'd be rich, handsome, healthy and neurotic. As it is, I'm happy but financially insecure, out of shape and balding. And not *quite* as happy as I was before I found out I'd been drafted into doing the July cover. Oh well, if the OE commandeth, I obeyeth.

As for the motions on the floor, I cast my half vote in favor of motions #1, 2, 3, and 5. I vote no on #4 and 6. Some points of discussion follow.

On #3, I agree with Jeanne that more discussion on this subject may be required before most members feel comfortable with a motion on joint accounts. Although I agree that joint accounts should be halted, I feel a bit guilty supporting this motion because I would be one of the people exempted. So I would echo Jeanne's sentiment that I would not be disappointed if the motion failed in favor of more discussion.

On #4, I think this motion is unnecessary. The official membership is fixed in #2 at 30. People should always submit that amount of material and, as Jeanne suggested, Tracy could deal with extras as she sees fit.

On #5, The key here is that non-original, non-member material would not count as minac. This is a good thing, but it may have greater impact on some members than they think. People who have a difficult time making minac sometimes should pay close attention here.

On #6, I think this rule is unnecessary. Such joint zine arrangements could be worked out on a temporary case by case basis with the OE. Temporary is the important missing word here. This sort of arrangement is fine for something like Swartz and Hario's *Objectionable Shit* collaboration. But in the long run it would have exactly the opposite effect as joint memberships have now. Two members could produce a joint zine, get equal credit for





it regardless of individual input and reduce the size of the apa by taking up two membership slots. Or a member could take a long sabbatical from Turbo by forming a joint arrangement with another member and preserve his/her membership slot and never contribute.

## CATHY GILLIGAN

(JG) Using **Lynne Ann Morse's** strength-of-relationship standard, it seems that Scott's and my partnership must be ironclad. We had a great time house-shopping, and I don't recall any enmity created when he taught me how to drive stick shift. Well, none, unless he's still harboring resentment about the time I pulled the emergency brake at the stop sign at the top of the hill, got out of the drivers seat and made him take over, rather than try to shift into first myself when there was another car behind us.

Isn't it the Gnostics who believe that we all have God within us, that there is no separation between life and God? The interesting thing about that, apparently, is that the Gnostics are a lot closer to the original philosophy of early Christianity than present-day Catholicism.

The title of the vegetarian cook book (that Bill Hoffman borrowed from me) is: *The Best of Lord Krishna's Cuisine: Favorites from The Art of Indian Vegetarian Cooking*, by Yamuna Devi. We got Basmati rice from the Willy Street Coop on Williamson Street.

Re your comment about H. Ross Perot not liking his first name, Henry: all I can say is that it looks like fandom has found its ideal candidate, someone who spells their name with an anomalous "h."

The rule about getting three people to say something on a new member's behalf does not necessarily mean that the applying member would have to approach more than one person to join. It's much more likely that the potential new member will be "championed" by a current member (as was Jim Nicholas last month by **Julle Shivers**, who then asked me to write something in support of Jim). Two seconds will usually be solicited by the champion. However, if a potential new member can't get anyone in the apa willing to step forward to make a pitch on their behalf or to convince two other members to second the nomination, I think that will indicate something about the potential new member that suggests it's a good thing if they fail to join the apa.

Great zine, Cathy. I really enjoyed all the mailing comments.

(SC) Very impressive comment zine. I also like the Pet Peeve cartoon. Good luck out in the job market. MATC would be quite nice. The staff seem happy to be working there, and I would see you now and then.

## BILL BODDEN

(JG) Excellent con report, Bill. I especially admired the character sketches, and your comments about relationships between yourself and Spike and Peter. However, I don't recall any *food fight* at Paisans. Surely, I am much too dignified to have participated in any such thing.

(SC) I'll tell you where Jeanne's dignity enters the picture. JG waits for her victim to turn his attention away, then she heaves a handful of goo. When victim glares back through the mess on his face, Jeanne, in her most dignified fashion, points at me.

Great WisCon piece. I'm really looking forward to reading about England. How long do you have to use that free Europe ticket? Sorry to hear about your ailing Aunts. Sounds like you are dealing with it pretty well.

## LAURA SPIESS

(JG) Re your general comment on literary analysis to **Tracy**: Who cares whether the author meant to suggest a symbolic meaning or not? The "finding" of motifs, symbolism, levels, is an art in itself that—I think—is a symptom of humanity. We human beings are constantly looking for pattern and meaning where it may or may not exist. That's what religion is, to my mind, and science, too. Sometimes you can prove that the author really did plan the symbolism literary analysts find in their work. (For instance, James Joyce left extensive notes about the meanings of names, things and events in *Ulysses* and *Finnegan's Wake*. John Barth inserted a scene in the middle of his novel, *Chimera*, in which he appears as the professor, lecturing us, the readers, his students. He jokingly speculates that we may think we have discovered some unconsciously planted themes and symbols in the first part of the novel, but that he put them all there on purpose; he knows all about them. "Professor Barth" then goes on to point out symbolism and thematic content that we probably haven't noticed yet: just to let us know that he's way ahead of us. It's a pretty funny scene.) Sometimes you can't prove that the author "meant" a book to be interpreted in any certain way. But I generally agree with teachers who suggest that if a thing is repeated more than a couple times, the author is trying to draw our attention to it, and probably means to suggest alternate meanings for the element. But in any case, who cares? It's fun to study a novel or story in the depth that such analysis requires. Who cares if the author agrees? We create our own art in this way: the novel functions as a jumping off point for our own thoughts. That's OK. That's more than OK.

(SC) Great little margin illos and cartoon on the back. I enjoyed your section on health code violations in the film *The Cook, The Thief, His Wife, and Her Lover*. Jeanne missed seeing it when it played in town so I rented it one night. I really liked it in the theater. Well, it loses a lot on the small screen. I remember being riveted to my seat at the Hilldale main theater by the lush and frequently revolting images and characters. But you miss that sensory overload when you see it on TV. A shame.

## STEVE SWARTZ

(JG) I think it would be unfortunate if you decided to discontinue long mailing comments because they intimidate rather than inspire discussion from some people. I say, ignore those people with your comments if they can't take it.

See my comments in "Official Business" section about your proposals.

I certainly can't criticize you for your reaction to business dress codes. Scott thinks that the main reason I stay at the DNR is that I can wear jeans all the time and have never had to purchase a power suit. And it's true I like not having to spend time thinking about clothes in the morning. But my perspective is a bit different than yours: I don't connect the business dress code dictums with a "mom

voice," or with any moral code at all. And that makes it feel less as if I am compromising myself when I do dress as an "adult." The way I look at a situation in which I am going to be dealing with a person or a group of people who expect a certain standard of costume is that clothing is an element of communication I want to neutralize. I mean, if someone's going to stare at my hairy, unstockinged legs, in the process missing the points I am making in my presentation, I will have to put too much effort into overcoming that person's wandering attention. It's easier, when I can plan ahead, to dress in the expected way, because then right away, I have the person's attention. I don't have to counteract a first impression (no matter how warped); I can just dive into the matter at hand.

(SC) Very thought provoking essay. I happen to agree with the Green Republicans insofar as redistribution of wealth is part of the answer. I have problems with your statement that oppressed people's biggest problem is that they oppress themselves.

The struggle to stay true to yourself while dealing with the pressure to conform to some other standard is an age old problem. It seems to me that life is often about making compromises. Job, relationships, laws and regulation, family relations, etc. are all involved with tradeoffs to achieve a greater goal. The trouble with trying to find out who you are is that the answer keeps changing. I know that things that seemed basic and important to me 10 years ago seem small and immature to me now. I'm sure I will look back in 10 more years and feel much the same about myself today.

### MICHAEL SHANNON

(SC) My first experience with the substance you describe was a long time ago and was also rather unpleasant. I stayed away from it for many years until relatively recently when I had the opportunity to experiment again under completely different circumstances. I had a delightful time. All I'm saying here is that it may be worth another try. The right time, place and fellow space travelers can make a hell of a difference.

(JG) Wow, yours and Tracy's zines look great, printed on the new laser printer!

A word to the wise: You might consider choosing a euphemism, or writing with a bit more vagueness when discussing substances such as the one you mentioned in your last zine. Apazines have been used in courts of law as evidence. Several courts have ruled that the distribution of apazines among the members of an apa prove that the material is not "private." One guy—I think in Texas—was proven to be an adulterer and lost a rather nasty divorce settlement as a result of the use of his apazine as evidence. Many fans have developed colorful and humorous euphemisms for illegal substances. For instance, you might refer to certain experiences as "flying a kite," or "stretching your coat," etc....

### KIM NASH

(SC) So, are you actually writing this zine together at the same time or is Kathi adding her comments later? The reason I ask is that she seems to be getting most of the digs in on you this month. Do you get revenge next month?

You weren't at the Turbo meeting at WisCon when Tracy discussed most of her "unilateral" changes. She was very concerned about the impact of these changes and wanted a vote of

confidence. She was prepared to float motions and proposals, but the consensus at the meeting was that these issues were minor and should be dealt with as she saw fit. I don't blame you for not going to the meeting at 1:30 am, but Tracy did not act quite as unilaterally as it appears.

Congratulations on the weight routine. Very impressive (I'll keep you in mind when it comes time to move our old refrigerator and oven out of the basement.)

(JG) Tracy gets away with unilateral actions to the same extent that you would have gotten away with them if you had just employed fewer insults along the way. As you can see, a bit of sensitivity to other people's feelings makes OEship less confrontational. Easier, to my mind.

### JAY LESLIE ADAMS

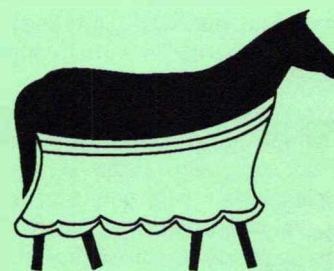
(SC) I really enjoyed your Akron piece. It was very well written. Calling it a "trip report" doesn't seem adequate. I also liked your comment to Julie.

### DIANE MARTIN

(JG) What a *great* compliment that was, saying that I was more like my risk-taking, sister Julie than I thought. Thank you! But yeah, it's too bad that there isn't a backup of the cookbook... Sigh.

I liked your comment to Michael Shannon a lot.

Your typoed comment on page 3 (comment to Kathi and Kim), "horses do slip standing up" conjured up an amazing image in my mind...



### ROSS PAVLAC

(SC) I was amused by your comments on WisCon. You managed to get your jabs in at the presumed political (gender?) "bias" of the con while defending it to loony critics. Chances are that people (mostly men, I would guess) who write off WisCon as being run by a pack of "lesbians" probably are right to stay away.

It's rather hard to take you seriously when you claim that the financial state the country is in is due to "tax and spend" liberals in Congress. We've had twelve years of Republican leadership after all. Or that there is some sort of subtle pervasive left wing censorship going on. The national media is almost wholly owned and controlled by huge corporations who have no love for leftist ideology. Do you realize that the term PC started out as a joke that wasn't supposed to describe a real philosophy? It doesn't actually exist. It sounds like you're suffering a little paranoia or simply a willful rejection of the obvious.

(JG) Women and men are affected by a sexist society in different ways. It's reasonable, then, that different lessons/remedies need to be employed by both if women and men are going to recover as complete human beings, in





spite of patriarchal expectations. I think feminists have adequately explained why women-only space is sometimes necessary for women who are still building their self-confidence. Since our sexist society affects men in different ways (low self-esteem in the presence of women not being one of them), men-only space isn't the sort of solution that would be obviously useful for men. Demanding men-only space is sort of like me asking for a jock-strap. I really don't have much use for one.

I can't think of one woman with whom I agree 100% on the definition of feminism. Monolithic is not an adjective I would use for this experience. Did you know, for instance, that Suzette Hayden Elgin does not call herself a feminist? So here's a woman that I would call a feminist, who does not herself like to apply the term to herself because she defines the label differently, and she's being attacked by another declared "non-feminist" as the most objectionable sort of strident feminist. No, monolithic is not the word I would use.

WisCon may not be growing in number, (which pleases me), but it most certainly continues to grow and change. Its vibrant activity and change in the last couple years rekindled my desire to participate and I am finding its current incarnation really exciting.

## TRACY SHANNON

(SC) Your zine looks great. Congratulations on the laser printer and the house. What a great summer this will be; moving (party!), house fix-up (party!), housewarming (party!) Yeah, I'm psyched.

YCT. **Lynne Ann**; our New Year's Party was one of those rare occasions where "leering" was both appropriate and unavoidable.

I don't have a problem with your rant on costuming. I just wonder if your complaint isn't similar to complaints by serious fans in most SF fan sub groups. I suppose **Andy** and **Steve** get annoyed at people like me who only play at fan writing. Or experienced regional and world con runners like **Ross** must be driven nearly nuts by poorly organized conventions. I am sure all these groups have problems with serious people getting lumped in with the rabble.

(JG) I admire your passion for costuming. I'm sorry about expressing scorn for costumers. I guess I'm mostly talking about the hall costumers who walk around all weekend with a dragon on their shoulder or wearing a cape or chain mail. But its true that I shouldn't lump the two groups together.

I've only dressed in costume at a con once. **Bill Hoffman**, **Julie Richards**, **Carl Marrs**, and **Vicki Label** dressed as characters from *The Snow Queen* the year after the book came out. Their costumes were really spectacular, and they invited me to join them as the character in the novel who is still one of my favorites, **Jerusha** (?), the police officer. **Vicki** made me a gorgeous costume out of shimmering blue cloth: pants tucked into my high black leather boots, a wide black leather belt, and a cape of the same blue cloth, with gold braid around the collar, and lined in deep red. With **Dick Russell's** motorcycle helmet, I looked rather impressive, if I do say so myself. People said I walked with authority and was carrying the role off well. But when it came to wearing it at worldcon in Denver at the

masquerade, I could hardly wait to escape the hall, rush out of the building, and run blushing down the street to my hotel room so I could tear the thing off. I was soooo embarrassed. I just don't like wearing costumes. I think it may have to do with the fact that I find it so easy to pretend to be something I'm not but want to be, and very swiftly being able to make the pretense true. Its the main way I have to make myself over when I want to change. Wearing a costume, pretending to be someone else "just for fun" seems too weird, almost dangerous. It's one of the reasons I'm so fascinated by **Vijay's** frequent use of alter-egos, and the ease with which she seems to trade back and forth between them. I can't do that. Each new alter ego very quickly gets incorporated into the core "me."

## JAMES BRON

(SC) Very entertaining article by **Angela Rowand**. I look forward to seeing more from her. Especially if it includes more wacky descriptions of you. The cartoons were odd, but less successful. Except for "Dawson the Enforcer." Looks like **Alison** and our **Nevenah** would be great friends. What I really want is more of *you* in your zines. What's the deal James, just no time for the apa right now?

## KIM WINZ

(JG) I think that overtime pay should be offered on a purely volunteer basis to those who need or want to take it, but that the fact of taking overtime shouldn't be used to judge people's work. Quality, not quantity should be the only factor, as long as the minimal job requirements are being satisfied.

Cute comments about the "tragic out break of anti-emoticon related violence."

## BILL HUMPHRIES

(SC) As I understand it. Some of the new telephone/computer technologies becoming available will not be subject to wiretapping like phones currently are. This means government must make provisions beforehand if they are going to have access. Government has very few legitimate reasons for wiretapping (criminal or espionage investigations) which require a court order today. So the choice seems to be all or no government access. I think the best solution is to maintain as close a system as we have today. Government should be excluded from the wiretap business unless they can convince a judge of probable cause.

YCT **Vijay**; had you successfully buried this awful memory all this time? I agree that it is difficult to find adequate words to say to such a sensitive revelation. It is a tragedy that such things happen to people and that the effects can be so deep and last for so long.

(JG) What a chilling article ("Paraders Out of the Past" by **Wayne Biddle**). The appearance of the Nazis was a horrid image. Thanks for reprinting it.

## ANDY HOOPER

(SC) Thank you for the offer to represent me at a Worldcon appeal of my trial. I won't be at Worldcon, as it turns out. I know your offer is made in good faith and humor, but your comment inspired a short rant on the subject that I have been considering since WisCon.









ingly ambiguous statement about this not being the end, and when I had George read that sentiment aloud at the trial, I felt I'd nailed his case shut.

Scott read aloud from a letter in your fanzine, *Spent Brass*, and his reading was also fairly significant in the trial's result. It was the letter that I asked you to identify in your brief appearance as a witness before you were called to your own panel. I thought Scott's letter was even more incriminating than George's editorial. In it, he praised Peter Larsen's fanzine reviews, remarked about how the reviews were getting him interested in reading more fanzines and fanzine reviews, and knowingly wielded the term "KTF." Scott correctly defined the term as "Kill The Fuckers," for the jury.

There was more, of course... The photographic evidence of Scott talking animatedly to BNFs Ted White and Jon Singer. The very long list of conventions Scott has attended in the past few years. The fact that he participates in convention activities on his own volition. His regular attendance of the weekly Madison SF group meetings. The letters of comment he has written to fanzines. His familiarity with fannish terms. The fact that he has voted in the TAFF elections for the past many years, and that the requirement of voting rights is that the voter must be a fan. The fact that he held the office of vice-president in SF<sup>3</sup>. That he has published this apazine for several years and that it was Scott—not me—who had to convince the other to agree to a joint membership in *Turboapa*. That he helped produce a one-shot with Ellen Franklin. (No wonder it took so long; there was so much evidence to present!) Professor David Emerson gave expert and entertaining testimony about the Syndrome of Delayed Fannish Identification. (David, of course, was himself a tragic victim of this syndrome, denying fannishness for years until he finally stopped denying the truth.) Scott was *easy* to prove a fan. But the most surprising witness supporting my case was the witness called by the defense, Elk Krisor. Lorelei apparently thought Elk was just kidding when she joined the rest of the rabid audience in chants of "hang him!" or "Fan! Fan!" But in any case, Elk was called to bolster the defense's theory that Scott's fannishness was merely the result of sharing a house with a fan. But, as it turned out, Elk provided the *coup de grâce* for my case, providing sarcastic testimony to the effect that living with a fan does not force fannish activity upon a partner.

Greg Rihn made a fantastic judge; the audience really got involved with their role as jury; Lorelei was a good sport, considering the fact that she was defending two goofs who could hardly help but incriminate themselves; and George and Scott were simply wonderful, hamming it up on the witness stand, but playing fair the whole way. I think the event was one of the most entertaining panels we've ever done at WisCon. I talked about doing this sort of thing at worldcon, with well-known non-fans, and I still think it would be a good idea. But having done it, I now recommend that the prosecutor and defense lawyers know the defendant well. It also helps if the audience is aware of the friendly connection between lawyers and defendants. (It might work well, too, if the judge is connected somehow with the defendant.) A lot of the humor seems to stem from the relationship as much as from the idea of trying to "prove" that a person is a fan or not.

## DAVID BURGESS

(SC) So, you want to start right off with a pissing contest between Brits and Americans? Since you already seem convinced that we are all "arrogant" and "gullible," I see little reason to bother to try to disillusion you. It's not my job.

Let's dump this shit and start over. I don't know much about you and I refuse to generalize about what all Brits (or Scots) are like. Kindly show me the same consideration. We can learn from each other in these pages, but not if we waste time shouting in print.

(JG) Well, there are quite a few places where I could have picked an argument with you in your zine, David. I also thought your complaints about American failure to live up to its ideals was a bit silly. And obvious.

I suppose you were referring to zines like *Union Street* when you decried zines entirely made up of mailing comments. Well, live with it. As far as I'm concerned, mailing comments are the heart and soul of apas.

## ALISON DAWSON

(SC) Good to hear from you again. Your experience sounds to me like a case of failing to communicate. He obviously failed to tell you how seriously he was interpreting your decisions to accept rides and spend time with him. You did not seem to consider it possible that he would make a pass at you. If someone had spoken up sooner, you may have avoided a tense and scary situation. I don't think it is fair that the woman always has to ask the sticky questions, but in this case he was probably enjoying the fantasy and was in no hurry to get to the truth.

## HOPE KIEFER

(SC) I am glad you are keeping us informed on your mother's condition. Sounds like you are preparing for the worst. I don't know how you feel about writing about this difficult subject. We are concerned and if it helps in any way to write about it in these pages, we hope you will continue. Good luck to your mom and to you.

## STEVE JOHNSON

(SC) I thought your article "Through the Looking Glass..." was quite interesting. I remember talking about some of this with you at Larry's Place. I think you have hit on a novel and effective method of helping your mother deal with these troubling visions. You seem to have a better handle on that than your father. However, I think you are skating on thin ice when you start to entertain the prospect that her hallucinations might be an alternate form of reality. That what she is "seeing" might really be there. She has suffered an impairment from her fall and these hallucinations are symptoms of that damage. I don't excuse the medical establishment for failing to help her more effectively. I think your approach is a good one, but I work with people who suffer hallucinations and visions regularly and I can't imagine trying to make any progress if I constantly struggled with the notion that what they are experiencing is somehow real. I can appreciate how real it seems to them, but I must not lose my perspective on where reality ends and their symptoms begin. Your article was moving and well written. I'm glad you shared these experiences with us. Please keep us updated on her condition.

—Scott & Jeanne, 5/22/92