



Welcome to *Union Street* (issue #37 and *Obsessive Press* #137), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead. (It's not yet hopping & skipping weather.). It comes to you from Jeanne Gomoll and Scott Custis, whose address is coincidentally 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, 1993. February 1993 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #80. Members FWA.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

[SC] I vote NO on Tracy's motion to amend Rule #5.

[JG] I also vote NO.

Tracy, we are entirely in favor of what you want to do *vis-a-vis* grace. If you decide to turn down a Turboapa member's request for grace because they have already received it once before in a 12-month period, I think that's a fine rule-of-thumb. However, the reason I'm voting against your request that we enshrine this notion in a formal rule, is that I'm not in favor of binding *all future OE's* by your notion of what is proper. I can imagine an OE deciding in the matter of late-arriving zines, that they want to let the postal marks decide whether or not a zine is legally late or not. ...Or any of a number of equally valid methods of ascertaining the reasonableness of a request for grace. Fair play comes in many flavors.

The point is that I still trust your judgement to do what you think is best for the apa. But I would no more want your preferences to compel future OE's choices than I accept the idea that because **Andy Hooper** or **Kim Nash** did things a certain way, that you should be required to mimic them. I'm very sorry not to vote in such a way as to make you happy; I nearly always vote in favor of an OE's desires, but the most I can do is assure you that whatever you decide to do in this matter, I accept and support your judgement. I don't even care if you're not always consistent. If it's at all consoling, I doubt that this or any other rule change would result in an instantaneous cessation of complaints.

PAT DYJAK

[SC] *Walking in Memphis* is by Marc Cohn

YCT. **Bill Boddén**. I had largely the same reaction to *Bram Stoker's Dracula* that you did. It was lush and weirdly beautiful. Its flaws were mostly in its casting. I also had a little trouble with the portrayal of Dracula as a tragic hero. I prefer him as a personification of evil. I understand Francis Coppola is working on a version of *Frankenstein* next.

[JG] Who exactly would be a person with an "unrestricted opportunities for professional development?" No multimillionaires need apply to the DCCAC, I suppose.

Ah, another tea drinker. I buy my tea mostly at Steep and Brew. However, when Scott and I were in England, I never really

noticed a difference between tea balls and loose tea methods. Perhaps I'll have to try again.

I'm not too worried about my caffeine consumption. Two cups of tea affect me more than 2 or 3 cans of Diet Coke. And basically, I drink tea about once a week in the winter (Sunday mornings with my scone and the paper), and about once a month in the summer (Sunday mornings when it's not too warm). I drink a lot of Diet Coke, but no coffee at all, and compared to coffee, soda pop is pretty small stuff. Recently, when I've gone without Coke for a few days, I've been fine, no headaches or any of the withdrawal symptoms I hear others complain about. I think I go to sleep easily because I don't allow myself as much sleep as my body would like and it grabs for whatever it can get.

PAT HARIO

[SC] I wish you had explained a little more what it was you didn't like about *Peter's Friends*. I haven't seen it yet and I will likely miss it in the theaters, but I am somewhat interested in watching it sometime on video since I saw a few good reviews of it.

YCT. **Diane Martin**. My impression of her remarks was that she felt that people who are heavily involved in local fan projects are developing an attitude toward those who are less involved. Do you agree with that observation? I ask you because I always thought you've lived comfortably in both "camps."

YCT **Bill Boddén**. You did a fine job attempting to explain the drinking buddy thing. I thought we had a similar reaction to his comment. It's rather tough to explain without half the apa advising us to check into a Hazelton Clinic (maybe they still will this month.)

JAMES BRON

[SC] The schedule you've lined up for yourself for the next few months sounds frankly impossible. Good luck. We all would love to see you "contribute properly" at the end of it. Your "plague" story last month was terrific. If you could do something like that with a few Mailing Comments thrown in every other month, I'd be delighted.

Many of us over here share your aggravation over U.S. actions in Iraq as well as many other places around the world. I have scant hope for improvement from Clinton, but at least it is more hope than I would have had under another Bush Administration.



PETE WINZ

[SC] Good to hear from you again. Excellent comment to Steve Johnson on "outdoor activities" on Wednesday nights. I think such activities have largely disappeared since so many of the principal participants have moved away. A shame. Also liked your comment to Ross, especially the environmental material. When it comes to Ross and politics, we can use all the help we can get.

[JG] I too, liked your comments to Ross, especially the clear listing of reasons you voted for Clinton.

Sometimes I share your feeling about my younger self (re your comment to Andy Hooper about reminiscing), i.e., that my outlook and attitude haven't changed all that much since college. But all I have to do is read some of my old journals (in which my then obvious low self esteem now makes me extremely uncomfortable), or think about specific conversations (I denied once, that I was a feminist; I said I was just in favor of equal pay for equal work.). It's strange how it can feel like I've become an entirely different person, but at the same time the memory still feels like the same "me."

BILL DYER

[SC] I liked "Full Moon Over Cleveland." I had no idea you could be so rowdy. Or does this behavior have some deep psychological connection to the costume? You were quite well behaved at our New Year's party—but then you were decked out in a tux. Or is it just werewolves that do the trick? Maybe it would be wise for future camping partners to check out moon phases before setting off into the wild with you.

BILL BODDEN

[SC] I was also a big fan of *Rocky and Bulwinkle* and *Johnny Quest* as a kid. I think my current dislike of puns came from too many hours groaning over the horrible boners they told on *Rocky*. My favorite *Johnny Quest* episode—besides the mummy episode you mentioned which gave me nightmares—was the one featuring a laser cannon on an old shipwreck in the Sargasso Sea. That one prompted a few school reports on lasers which I had never heard of before.

The letter you printed from John X of Empire Wargames was astounding. Of course I think Lory should send back all the games and cease all business contacts. At first I wanted to advise starting a campaign to discredit these guys with other outlets as well. But on second thought, that may not be necessary. A letter such as his clearly shows little regard for the long-term health of his business. The smart thing for him to have done would be to accept back Ganghedge and hope to continue doing business with you with the other games. Instead, he chose to trash his whole relationship with you by sending that stupid letter. I can't believe Pegasus will be the only store that takes offense at Ganghedge. It won't take too many responses such as the one he sent you to trash his reputation and his business.

[JG] We're going to miss you too, Bill. For that reason, I'm very glad you're a member of this apa. You write about personal issues here in a way that makes me think that I'm likely to feel that our friendship continues in print, as well as in periodic conventional reunions.

What an amazing and awful letter from Empire Wargames! This guy sounds like a complete dufus to me. Whether or not he disagrees with Lory's politics, it seems like a really dumb thing to

alienate her in such a personal and slanderous manner. There can't be so many specialized gaming stores that he can afford to alienate the owner of one, who might possibly spread the word of his looniness to other game store owners and game buyers. In fact, that is what I would hope Lory does: refuse to do business with him, and show around his letter to other gamers and game store owners at every opportunity. ... Which will only add to his paranoia about "feminazis," but he doesn't exactly sound as if he is open to rational discussion.

By the way, I'd like to point out this nasty combination of terms, feminists and Nazis to Owen Wheatley, who no doubt noticed the disagreeable effect of blending a term that some women use to label themselves with another term held in general disgust by nearly everyone. With apologies to Jae Adams, who decries the negative use of the term Neanderthal, it is nonetheless generally used in a derogatory fashion. When it is attached to a word that I use for myself, I feel verbally attacked.

JULIE HUMPHRIES

[SC] Disgusting food that comes to mind: beets, organ meats, sardines and, of course the really gross stuff like blood sausage, head cheese, brain, etc. Growing up on a farm did not help me much in this respect. All I got out of it was an appreciation for how much nasty shit people turn into food.

JAE ADAMS

[SC] We noticed your fine poem "Full Spectrum" in this year's *Survival Graphics* calendar. Perfect imagery for January. We've been getting their calendars each year for a long time now. It's always nice to see a familiar name in it.

Nice California trip description. Jeanne and I have noticed that it usually rains at least once whenever we go to Texas. Rains hard, too. Visibility gets difficult and the streets begin to flood. It's either sunny or the rain comes down like a cow pissin' on a flat rock.

YCT. Bill Humphries. Thanks for listing the Native American books. I will look for a couple of them. I've read *Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee* and *In The Spirit of Crazy Horse* and I'd like to read more.

[JG] I did some freelance work a few years ago for a freelance archaeologist who mainly worked for the state and the Feds on property they were planning to develop. He was an interesting guy with an interesting profession. He always had something strange for me to illustrate.

I tend to eliminate extraneous capitalization wherever possible too. (The aural effect for me, as I "listen" to text written with lots of caps is a sort of sarcastic, semi-arrogant tone. And in fact I sometimes use capitalization to indicate a sort of ludicrous self-aggrandizement: Like, "This is your Last Chance."... I don't know if that effect really comes off, but it feels like a sort of fannish style and I don't use it often.) But I can never really get used to Laura Speiss's entire avoidance of caps, because I rely on initial caps to help me read faster. Without initial caps, I have to be more careful about figuring out where a sentence ends and a new one begins. It also has a weird sort of aural/mental effect of making me think the author is trying to be cute or is belittling herself. Knowing Laura, I know that isn't the effect for which she strives in her writing, but nevertheless, that's always the impression I have to fight off when I read her stuff.

Jon's reluctance to use computers (until they help him do his work, rather than gobble up time), is an entirely sane one, I

think. That was my rule-of-thumb too. Several years before I got a Mac, people were showing me what could be done on computers and I knew that eventually I would have to learn to use one. I avoided them first of all because I knew I couldn't afford the high end computers, but I also avoided them because their very best output could not compare with artwork I produced using traditional methods. My co-workers and I all agreed that we would not switch to electronic graphic methods until it was proven to us that computer output matched or exceeded the quality of the stuff we were already producing by hand. When that happened, you couldn't hold us back.

I think you're making an excellent decision to go with a laptop computer that isn't going to be left behind in the dust. It's harder to get an out-of-date computer fixed, harder to get information and advice on out-of-date software (as **Lucy Rhonur** can testify), and frustrating to trade data with other, newer computers.

You wondered how all those mysterious categories of membership in SF³ got invented. It's a simple explanation, really: Dick Russell did it. Dick did all the work in getting our bylaws written and the group certified as a non-profit organization (for which I will be forever grateful. He did a great job, one that may never have gotten done if it hadn't been for the fact that he enjoyed doing it), and the list of membership categories simply appeared in the bylaws he presented to us. There was more stuff in that list of categories too, like for one of the mid-range memberships you got a free print of a Jeanne Gomoll illustration. And with one of the high-range memberships you got a free Robert Kellough painting. Robert and I were rather surprised when we read that, and the freebees weren't listed for long in the bylaws after our explosions. At the time, Robert was doing regular drawings for *Janus* and I was illustrating and laying out *Janus*, and also producing a poster every month for the monthly meeting at Union South. I guess Dick simply thought of us as resources of the group. ...And maybe this explains some of the vehemence of my reaction to the recent SF³ controversies, in which it seems that volunteer work done by members of the group for the benefit of the group somehow turns into a weird sort of entitlement program. (I believe a number of people have been using the word "entitled," in fact.)

LYNNE ANN MORSE

[JG] Thank you for your comments to **Ross**. You may have a career in arbitration...

I envy you your "retreat." Though I can hardly imagine you actually remaining anonymous, and not managing to meet some new people once you settle in. Well, it will be interesting to hear what insights you discover about yourself when you have the freedom to spend time in a specifically and entirely selfish way.

LAURA SPEISS

[SC] After the big news story on the kid who died of food poisoning from a Jack-In-The-Box restaurant, one the local TV stations did a piece on health inspectors in Madison. Did you see it (you must have known they were making it, looked like they were filming in your office)? They reported that you folks were underfunded and understaffed (big surprise.) Their advice for avoiding winding up like the dead kid was overcook everything and to "watch out" when dining out (translation: good luck, chump.)

Jeanne gets *Prick*, too. I try to ignore it, but she likes to see it out on display.

[JG] Yes, I just wish *Prick* came out a little more frequently. And I agree with you, it's not long enough. I can hardly get my teeth into it.

I believe Tracy is the official, appointed Ghod.

KIM WINZ

[SC] We fired on you a bit hard last time. Thank you for responding with such grace. It's probably fair to say that, through our comments to you, we were actually yelling at several people. Feelings of frustration were running pretty high around here just then. It's hard sometimes to maintain a sense of perspective when one is as close to the center of the action as we were. Things seem to be settling down lately.

[JG] I'm sorry I got so *vehement* about the SF³ stuff, and sorry that you suffered the brunt of it.

There is just one little thing I think I should clear up, however, about the matter of SF³ discussions belonging or not belonging in *Turboapa*. I can understand why this feels like the most comfortable forum for you, because most of the people you knew in Madison are either in the apa or connected loosely to it. But there are several SF³ members in Madison who are not in the apa, who have already expressed a sense of frustration at being excluded from what they perceive as a clique, made up of *Turboapans*. And there are a few Madison SF³ members who are only vaguely aware of or may not even know about the apa. And I could easily understand it if they got upset at the next, annual SF³ meeting if I were to announce that a discussion on official SF³ policy had been taking place for months in a forum to which they are specifically barred. I would much prefer it if proposals or complaints were addressed to the people involved, or to me as SF³ president (which I would then bring to the attention of those attending the next meeting). I feel increasingly uncomfortable—in my role as SF³ president and *Turboapa* member—about discussing with a sub-set of the group, in a restricted forum, topics that may be of interest to all SF³ members.

KIM & KATHI NASH

[SC] That was a killer birthday party you had at Essen Haus. Good job. So, just what the hell is wrong with driving a station wagon?

HOPE & KARL

[SC] Congratulations.

[JG] And our condolences, too. Julie Humphries called us up with the news on the Sunday after your mom died. I'm so sorry Hope. Take care of yourself.

ANDY HOOPER

[SC] I loved your cover. Naturally we Wisconsinites should respond in kind. We'll have to do a little field research to accumulate artwork, of course. And we may have to do several tastings in case we run out of space and have to judge which beer to exclude. A tough job, I'm sure you can see, but worth it in the end.

I suppose Rush would qualify as a demagogue by a strict dictionary definition, but I usually don't think of him that way because he does not seem to be seeking power, at least not through



political office. At least not yet. He seems to downplay his influence and appears more focused on entertainment and ratings. That's why it is so odd to me that many conservatives take him so seriously. And why I pointed out his lack of qualifications as a serious conservative voice.

I probably should have said that Clinton is the most conservative *serious* Democratic *nominee* in memory. Certainly Clinton is not the most conservative Democrat. George Wallace was a Democrat, but when he ran for president in 1968, he ran on the American Independent Party ticket. He tried later for the Democratic Party nomination, but I don't think he was ever considered a serious threat. Bentson, of course, never ran for president and was only invited on the '88 ticket to offset the perceived liberalism of Dukakis. I would argue that Clinton is more conservative than Humphrey, McGovern, Carter, Mondale and Dukakis because Clinton is pro death penalty, pro Gulf War, governor of a right-to-work state that is hostile to unions, economically conservative and fairly close to big business. It's a moot point in any event because I think Clinton's performance in office so far is encouraging. His executive action on abortion rights, his determination to lift the ban on gays in the military, and the first look I've had of his budget proposal are all encouraging. Not fantastic, but encouraging.

[JG] I was interested by your musings about the film, *The Man Who Would Be King* and European/American confrontations with Mideast cultures and how we went wrong in the middle east. It's a great old movie; I've enjoyed it several times and I think you're right about the underlying message having to do with the destructive introduction of western values on a different culture. But I do not think our screwed up relationship with Mideast cultures has resulted from Westerners inappropriately imposing cultural values on others. In fact: just the opposite. It seems to me that Western adventurers/entrepreneurs/colonists have tended to discard their so-called value system when they find themselves in a culture they define as less "advanced." The lives of third world people can be considered disposable because "they're so primitive they don't appreciate the value of life." Fair business practices can be abandoned in countries which legally enforce them, because "that's the way business gets done *here*. If you don't bribe, you don't do business." And we shake our head and shrug at such atrocities as Sudan's fine old cultural tradition as female genital mutilation, or the sale of Chinese girls to Thai Vietnamese bordellos, because "that's *their culture* and has nothing to do with us."

It seems to me that cruelty to human beings is always wrong, and that no cultural norm can excuse it. If we had acted historically according to the morality that we professed to believe at home (rather than the morality that was and is used in special circumstances that apply in "backward cultures"), our country might enjoy quite a bit more respect in the world than we do now.

I've been thinking a bit about this issue lately because I've been following some news out of Canada and comparing it to some similar events that happened in Wisconsin earlier in the year. [And of course, Andy, I know that this changes the subject dramatically. This is not what you were talking about. I'm not inferring that you are in favor of this stuff. Your comments just reminded me of things I've been hearing about and thinking about.] There's a large Hmong immigrant population which settled in eastern Wisconsin, and many of the young male Hmong have been getting in hot water with the law when they tried to exercise their ancient, cultural rights of bride-napping and rape as part of the Hmong marriage ritual. Although the ritual is usually just that—a play-acted ritual between an engaged couple—recently the ritual has been taken back to its more dramatic and real performance. It seems that as many Hmong young women take advantage of educational and job opportunities, they have been unwilling to marry so early as the customary age 15 or 16. Men, angry at having lost the prerogative of marrying a young girl have been taking matters into their own hands.

And so the legal system gets involved and we have this big discussion about whether values are relative and we should ignore the abductions and the rapes because this is another culture.

Even more recently, Sudanese immigrants in Canada have caused a similar sort of discussion in their adopted country. It seems that traditional Sudanese feel the only effective way to keep women pure until they marry is to cut off the clitoris (in the most benign operation) or to cut off the entire clitoris, labia and to sew the vagina almost entirely shut (in the most radical operation). This is called "female circumcision," or—more accurately—female genital mutilation. That the woman will never experience an orgasm isn't even a matter of concern, as far as I understand the argument. The fact that it is a terribly dangerous operation (even when performed in hospitals as it is done in urban Sudanese areas) because it causes all sorts of awful, frequently lethal vaginal and bladder infections is considered an acceptable risk... The controversy now rages in Canada because Sudanese women are demanding that the practice be stopped, at least in Canada.

As you might infer, I'm not very sympathetic to those who think we should ignore the pleas of victims of different cultures' traditions...

—Jeanne & Scott
19 February 1993



"In Iowa everyone wanted to be a pro-bowler. ...It was the way out. Either that, or farming, or doing drugs." — Tom Arnold

"There are no gays in Iowa." — Tom Arnold

