



Welcome to *Union Street* (issue #42 and *Obsessive Press* #144), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead (which this month considers the fact that a resident hat has been tossed into the ring). 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 IIINTX 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. July 1993 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #85. Members FWA.

## OFFICIAL BUSINESS

[SC] I wish to take this opportunity to nominate myself for the position of OE of the *Turbo Charged Party Animal Apa*.

[JG] Does he need a second? I second the nomination of Scott Custis for OE. I was teasing him about writing or drawing a political ad in this space, but finally agreed not to do such an embarrassing thing. In any case, the text of Scott's contribution this month stands quite well, I think, as a campaign platform. He talks a bit about the apa and what he'd like it to be. I think he's got some fine ideas.

## UNION STREET SPLIT ASUNDER ... FOR A MONTH

[JG] I am not writing a great deal in this month's zine. I've got a very long do-list to get through but we're trying to get this issue of *Union Street* done a week in advance, so that I can lay it out before I leave for Texas. That's right, Julie kidnapped another Madison fan. So far the count is 4: Bill Bodden, Gwen Manney (honorary Madisonian), Randy Jones, and me. A few weeks ago Scott firmly warned Julie to leave the rest of Madison alone. I believe he used the phrase "I forbid..." Julie calmly replied that she would hire whoever she "...damn well pleased." The upshot is that I leave Monday, July 19. My defection is only temporary, however. There is absolutely no way I would move to Texas, even for my favorite sister. But Julie made an offer I couldn't refuse for a month's worth of my time. When I return we'll be able to pay for the new Macintosh Quadra computer system we've been planning to buy.

I read the entire apa, and enjoyed all of it. I apologize for my scattered, minimal comments...

## STEVE JOHNSON

[SC] Thanks for sharing with us the piece on your mother's death. It was very well written and, combined with the excellent pictures, made a very eloquent reminiscence and tribute to her. I was especially moved by it because I was reminded several times of my mother's death from cancer ten years ago. Whenever I read about apa contributors holding back from writing personal stuff here out of fear, I think of the example you've repeatedly set for us in taking those risks.

Thanks also for *not* nominating Ross for the Waitlist. I think your concern for him and how this apa might be good for him, is a laudable goal. But I still must oppose it because of the depth of pain and anger his zines caused many other contributors. He seemed oblivious to it (remember Cathy Arbothnott's anguished response to him?) Several people, myself included, equated silence with defeat when it came to responding to his zines. There was never any indication that he was learning anything from us and I felt that some of his positions represented greater evils than he was able or willing to acknowledge (ex. Pat Buchannan). I feel that the violence of the discussion is not good for the apa in the long run.

[JG] I also thought that you wrote beautifully about your mother. Wonderful pictures. I'm so sorry, Steve.

## JIM BROOKS

[SC] I also liked *Cliffhanger* for many of the same reasons you did. I think the opening "rescue" sequence will stay with me forever.

A sad tale about "the Pink Lady." A logical result of Gov. Thompson's pro mining philosophy. More such nastiness is sure to follow until we have a state full of scars. Please keep us informed about the Wisconsin Supreme Court's decision.

I loved your comment to Alison.

Sorry about your father. The diagnosis is not the end of the line. People do survive it. I hope the news continues to be encouraging.

Good luck with the job hunt. I expect it will be less about finding a job than selecting one you can live with. Truck driving is a great job if you don't have a family or don't care if you see them.

## BILL BODDEN

[SC] Very nice job on the covers. I always find it rather weird to learn that the apa has passed another anniversary. Can it really be seven years old? I recently took possession of about twenty issues of *Turbo* from the era of #5 through #29 from Lorelei Manney. I'm planning to look through them to gather a sense of how *Turbo* has changed. Eventually I'll be looking for a permanent home for them within the current membership.



## KIM AND KATHI NASH

[SC] Thanks for the 4th of July party. I had a fine time. Your place was perfect. The trees protected us from the spitting rain. We had good food, beer, entertainment (water fight) and even our own fireworks. Good fun.

[JG] Cool Photoshop filter (watercolor, right?) work on your house.

## DIANE MARTIN

[SC] Even when you're tired and short on time, you manage to send us much wisdom and perception (and [humor]).

YCT Karen B.: I agree with you on the "shadow" contributor issue when you say that "mostly the same people would be writing about the same amount." I think it takes only a casual look at the last half dozen apas to see that we are not in danger of busting the seams of this thing in terms of volume. Last issue was particularly skimpy (in spite of several excellent submissions including yours.) We need more writers who are enthusiastic about being here and if that means letting some of the Waitlisters get a head start at their own expense, I say why not?

I enjoyed your sailing adventure. I had some fun lightly teasing Barb at Kim and Kathi's party. She's a good sport about it.

Excellent comments to Lynne Ann and Pat.

YCT me: I may seem "mellow" but I'm not quite comatose. Although I still stand by my remarks, I have taken note of your criticism and will try to show more restraint in the future.

[JG] I hope you respond to Scott and Steve's comments about conversations that are frustrated when someone brings up an important topic, others respond to it with deep feeling, but the first person chooses to ignore those responses.

My explication of Tucker's card was in fact mostly theory. That's what Tracy asked for. She said, she felt uncomfortable about it, but couldn't put it into words the reasons it might be offensive. You know, it isn't really the specific card that offended me, but the whole category of stuff to which it belongs, that women are supposed to tolerate with a smile. I get tired of smiling at that stuff sometimes.

## JAE ADAMS

[SC] Regarding your 25 page Virtual Zine. It's the thought that counts.

What did you think of *Use of Weapons*? I found it horrifying but riveting (in other words, I liked it.) I'm sort of addicted to Iain Banks. Thanks for the comments on our cover. I enjoyed "All Out Standing in the Field." too

YCT Swartz: I thought your point that everyone in a community doesn't have to like each other and also your implied comparison of this community to a family were very interesting. Both points are somewhat true. But the tie that this group shares (an interest in SF) is not enough to hold it together. People have to work at maintaining it, instead of just relying on our common interest to hold us together. That is an important difference between this community and a family. A family will always have a tie to one another no matter what happens, but a community like this can fall apart just from apathy or poor communication. Steve is right when he says that, "if there is one thing that belongs in a community, it's discussions of the state of the community."

[JG] I subscribed to the zine *Women's Diaries* back in the early 1980s, but never got more than a couple issues. I suspect that it ceased publication soon after I sent in my check. But why don't you write the editor (Isn't her name Begos?) and see what you can find out.

## JULIE GOMOLL

[SC] Considering how skimpy the apa has been lately, I've decided to start keeping track of idle promises. Let's see, I have you down as a Y.O.U. (You Owe Us) one "glorious essay on the meaning of Life" to be submitted later, with interest.

Good comment to Karen. I hope everyone reads it before taking a stand on the issue. Also to Jae. Raising copy count, dividing the apa or dispensing with the rules will not work. I think the approach we are taking is the most sensible idea.

Yes, pub the Vijay/Corflu pictures (What is this? You didn't ask my permission before printing that embarrassing shot in #83.)

YCT Pat: I liked your comment. I had one response. Is it always true that only you are to blame if your "life gets fucked up"? Aren't there circumstances beyond our control that can just as easily screw things up? I believe how well or poorly we deal with things beyond our control defines one of our strengths.

[JG] I thought your comment to Karen Babich was a fine, graceful response. Well done. Great comments to Pat Harlo, too, about strength.

## HOPE KIEFER

[SC] YCT Karen: I think your comparison of the "ghost" contributors with joint memberships is interesting. There are several similarities: Joint memberships don't cost the other members anything extra because they share a copy. Joint members might want to copy the apa so each half of the membership has equal access. (Would anybody object to that if they knew?) Having half a vote is not much better than not having a vote (especially considering the lack of value this group places on voting anyway). And so what if they don't contribute? Someone in a joint membership must meet minac and if the ghost contributors fail to write, it doesn't hurt the size of the apa which remains at 30 whether the ghosts write or not. So, if the membership tolerates joint accounts, why not occasional franked zines from the Waitlist?

## LAURA SPIESS

[SC] I appreciate the amount of work you put into assembling your "25 Pages," but you can't expect me to praise such a reckless pun. It should serve as a reminder to me that no matter how obviously outrageous the request, if you ask for something weird in the apa someone will give it to you (or an eye-stabbing pun in its place). All I can say is, if Owen's fate depended on you, Laura, your pun would have sealed his doom for sure.

Otherwise, I enjoyed your zine. I also have enjoyed seeing you around a bit more lately. You're a lot of fun to party with.

[JG] I was so embarrassed when I saw your's and Jae's attempt to comply with the 25 page demand. We completely forgot about doing something about it ourselves! I had originally planned to begin with page 1 and 2, and then skip to page 22, 23, 24, and 25, with a few references in our zine to articles continuing on page 15, or whatever. Good job, Laura. Very funny.

I will have read *Time, Like an Ever-Rolling Stream* by the time I return from Austin. If the typical pattern of your and my judgments about fiction continues, I will probably love the last 6 pages. We'll see.

## JIM NICHOLS

[SC] Welcome. A superb first submission. Your zine not only looks great, you bring one thing to this apa we can't seem to get enough of, enthusiasm!

I found it a bit disconcerting to read that you spent 2 years on the Waitlist and eight months trying to get nominated. As of issue #84, there are six people on the Waitlist and all but one are from out of state (two are from out of the country). We need more local people in order to keep a Madison focus. That is why it is a shame that we didn't hear you sooner that you wanted to join. *Turbo* is something we want to keep within our community, but I don't think it should be a "jealously guarded privilege." One of the principal functions of *Turbo*, in my opinion, is to foster communication within the larger group. I don't know you well, but I expect to learn a lot about you through this venue and, judging by your first submission, I wish you could have joined us sooner.

[JG] Greetings, Jim. I liked your first zine a lot.

## PETE WINZ

[SC] Your zine was compelling reading, but gross. That could describe a lot of the fiction I've been choosing lately. Anyway, that was a hell of a close call you had. It was good that you kept your head in the midst of all the blood. I've learned that people often surprise themselves in situations like this, but just the same, lots of things could have gone wrong. I think you can consider yourself lucky to be with us.

## OWEN WHEATLEY

[SC] Well, Owen, I wouldn't take it too hard that your co-contributors only came up with a "Virtual" (imaginary) 25 page zine and a bad pun for your freedom. It could have been worse. They could have asked for fingers or toes as proof of the kidnapper's seriousness before failing to rescue you. Oh well, it was just a well intentioned bluff.

Good luck with the Mac. We're upgrading to a Quadra 800 soon (so Jeanne can take more freelance work). We prefer Macs to Incredibly Boring Machine products and their clones.

## TRACY SHANNON

[SC] You and Michael are traveling down a difficult road. Those of us on the sidelines are in the tough position of only being able to offer support and hope for a safe trip for you both.

I'm not surprised that you've chosen to step aside and let Bill write the Austin Trip story. But I'll be looking for you to fill in any embarrassing details Bill "forgot."

Oh and Tracy, I really wish you'd stop rubbing your hands and cackling maniacally whenever I mention that I'm running for OE. You've told me many times there's nothing to it, everyone's easy to deal with, never any complications, right? Right?

## PAT HARIO

[SC] YCT Hope on men and clothes: I had an accounting professor in college once who was color-blind and came to class wearing the most outrageous color combinations for his clothes.

It was typical for him to show up in a blue suit with a pink shirt with a bright yellow tie for instance. He was head of the department and his well dressed wife was well known among the business students. He may have chosen his own clothes, of course. But we preferred to think he was as ornery at home as he tended to be in class and that, for quiet revenge, she laid out his clothes for him every day.

[JG] I would love to attend another *Thelma & Louise* showing. If you can wait till mid-August, I'd really appreciate it.

## STEVE SWARTZ

[SC] I found your essay to be truly "gloomy." You even chose gloomy paper. But I think that what you wrote is terribly important and may represent a turning point for this "community." Can we rise to the bait, Steve, or will issue #85 bring a silence to your question so deafening that some people are driven away?

The issue seems to be, can we really open ourselves up to each other in these pages, or are we going to be satisfied with a very surface level of polite banter? There seems to be two types of writers here. There are the serious writers who wish to pour sweat and maybe a little blood into this project, to explore themselves and each other in as much detail as possible through the written page. And there are the people who don't really care about writing as much as being a part of the "club," staying in touch with people they know, and talking about a few mutual interests and reporting on their general lives. In my view, neither approach is wrong. But these two groups naturally frustrate each other. Some years ago, a mass exodus of *Turbo* members (a group of the supposedly "best" writers) formed a pseudo-secret *Apa of the Damned*. They also, it seems to me, confronted this issue and that was their solution.

As you pointed out, there are clearly some serious issues floating around that are hinted at, but people back away from as soon as the spotlight fixes them. Diane Martin again last month brings up the subject of "people" who feel they are being "excluded" in a comment to Karen. Who those people are, what they feel they are being left out of and by whom will probably forever remain unanswered questions. But the hurt is real and has not gone away. The apa seems incapable of dealing with this issue or many other deeply personal things. Several writers have complained that they have held back from writing about personal stuff out of fear. I figure it's not fear of the comments they'd get, but fear of silence as the response.

My answer to the question is that I think you are expecting too much of *Turbo*. This apa is not now, never has been and never will be a forum for intense personal discussion. As I remember it, Hooper started *Turbo* to get local people to start doing some fanzine writing, meet some interesting people from around the country and, eventually, get them to move on to pubbing their own ish. To that end, the apa has enjoyed some success. But it seems to me that the most enthusiastic writers have always eventually confronted the issue of *Turbo* failing to satisfy the depth of conversation or volume of feedback they want for their efforts, and they move on. If not actually leaving the apa, then pairing down their investment here to the superficial and throwing their weight into other projects. Those people who use *Turbo* simply as a connection to friends, remain satisfied.

The hard part is that many important issues for the community never get resolved. But that seems unlikely to change. The question I hear you asking in the end is what, if any, role do you



see for yourself in *Turbo*. You already know about the big wide world of fan writing out there. Apas that are devoted to the level of personal discussion you've always tried to pull us into, pubbing your own fanzine for wider circulation and special publishing projects that have long lasting value (I'm thinking here of *Khatru*). Is there still room for *Turbo* in your plans, Steve? I hope so. You still have many friends here. Your work is some of the best and most challenging ever to appear in this apa. We need you to keep pushing, poking and prodding the edges of the safety zone. Once in a while, a little thread of conversation still gets through.

[JG] I hope you feel better about contributing to the apa soon. I'd hate to see you leave. You consistently write some of the most interesting and challenging material in the apa.

Sorry I missed you when you got home from the West coast.

— Jeanne and Scott