



*Welcome to Union Street #47 (Obsessive Press [JG] #149 and Peerless Press [SC] #49), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead (how about those Badgers!). 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 Quadra 840AV, and hardcopy was printed on a Laserwriter IINTX printer. Text was created with Microsoft Word 5.0 and laid out with Aldus PageMaker 5.0. The Union Street Logo was designed with Adobe Illustrator 3.2 and Adobe Photoshop 2.5. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, December 1993 for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #90. Members FWA.*

## Official Business

[JG] I nominate Sandy Taylor for membership in the apa. Sandy is SF<sup>3</sup>'s treasurer and frequently attends Book-of-the-Month meetings. Recently she's been attending Wednesday night meetings more often too, because her checkbook is in frequent demand, and we've all been enjoying her great sense of humor. She'd make a fine new *Turbo* member. If someone else has already nominated her, please count this as a "second."

[SC] Arthur D. Hlavaty in *Derogatory Reference* 76 makes the following point:

"Apas in general seem to be in trouble, perhaps because those who are primarily concerned with expressing themselves, and less with replies, are writing freestanding zines (in which there is a current renaissance, in and out of the sf/fannish community), and those who wish more feedback prefer the instantaneous form in computer nets.

On the other hand, this may be like saying that no one will watch football because those who want a fast game can watch hockey or basketball and those who want a slow game can watch baseball or \*yawn\* golf. Some apas—FAPA and SFPA, among others, come to mind—are flourishing."

This comment had a strong impact on me, particularly after we lost Steve Johnson in October partly because of his new interest in the quick feedback of internet. This hit home for me again when Jeanne and I went on-line ourselves this month. Will this new technology replace apas? Most contributors openly admit that feedback is an important element of apa writing. In a monthly like *Turbo*, we can even engage in conversation-style communication for short periods. On-line writing is far advanced from this. On the other hand, on-line conversations don't allow much time for editing or even thinking before replying so tact and courtesy often go right out the window. Apas allow for visual creativity in the layout of the zine, artwork, and type styles not possible on-line. But here the logical extension is a regular fanzine. Why should anyone bother with apas when you can create a "freestanding fanzine" if you're creative, or go on-line for conversation? What do you think?

## SF<sup>3</sup> Directory Changes

[SC] I have the following address for Mike DuCharme, 7400 Plum Creek Apt. 2703, Houston, TX 77012-4007

Also add the following changes to Lisa Freitag, 3096 South Coon Creek Dr. N.W., Andover, MN 55304, 612-757-7562.

## Alison Dawson

[JG] I enjoyed your true-to-life job story. Seemingly simple principles always get a little muddled when applied consistently across the board.

[SC] I appreciated your situation having been there myself. It's always easy to write a black and white rule, but it can be quite another thing to have to enforce it. Judges in this country traditionally had a lot of leeway to decide suitable sentences for violations of law, but then people decided to "get tough on crime" and in came mandatory minimum sentencing. Mitigating circumstances and the judges' ability to weigh them have been greatly reduced. So it's off to our bulging prison system they go whether it's the best thing or not.

What other cool stuff do you get to do at your job?



## Bill Dyer

[SC] Great picture.

Michigan is in the news a lot down here. Jack Kevorkian's hunger strike and the recent court decision on assisted suicide have gotten nightly coverage. What's the consensus up there? Do you think Kevorkian is doing the right thing or is he a nut?

Of course Michigan is a popular place around here after y'all whopped Ohio State to open the door for Wisconsin to go to the Rose Bowl and then Michigan State laid down and died on the field in Tokyo to clinch it for us. That was mighty neighborly of you. Thanks a million!

## Julie Gomoll

[SC] Fabulous pictures. And I don't just mean the quality of the reproduction (which, at 600 dots per inch, sets a new standard for clarity in the apa.) We'd love to hear all about the trip.

## Pat Hario

[JG] Looks like you're mastering construction skills of those pesky Word boxes. You're now leaving plenty of margin within the boxes and outside the borders. Looking good!

It's interesting how both you and I pegged the film of *The Joy Luck Club* as a lesson on self-esteem—though we each reacted to the lesson in different ways. (I wrote about the movie in the same issue of the apa that you did.) But I think the scope encompassed more than merely Chinese-American culture. I've heard reviewers refer to the behaviors shown by the Chinese women as common to all immigrants, and I'd agree with that, though I'd take it one step further. The struggle with self-esteem issues is common to all members of oppressed groups. Suzette Haden Elgin has frequently pointed out that patterns of language sometimes identified as "women's" language patterns, are actually shared by members of any less powerful group. (For instance, both women and low-status males tend to resort to self-denigrating language patterns like "I just wanted to say...", "I may be wrong but...", etc.) I think that goes for behavior patterns too. And so I think that the mother-daughter link in this movie says recognizable things about all women and all daughters. The "gimmick" of the Chinese cultural background makes it easier for us (middle class white Americans) to view the behavior objectively, because we can avoid the implications these women's stories have on our images of ourselves.

What does this "BTW" term mean? Is it some of that there fannish jargon? Scott and I puzzled over it for some time. You're just getting too darn fannish for me, Pat. ... "Bullshit That Wiggles"? "Bend To Waist"? "Boring and Too Wordy"?

[SC] I thought your concerns about Nevenah were reasonable and well stated. We deserve a better explanation and some discussion on this. However, the procedure for nomination isn't perfect. Right now with the waitlist so short, nominees move up to membership very quickly. Local nominees can become members in as little as two or three months. I usually don't insist that people I see at Brat und Brau write me a note confirming their interest when they can tell me as much in person. When we had eight people on the waitlist, we had plenty of time for discussion. As it is, Nevenah could be a full member by the time you read this. I have no personal objection to her returning to *Turbo* other than her fickle track record as

a contributor, but the whole process of debate that the nomination procedure was supposed to address isn't working well right now and I would welcome some input on this.

## Bill Hoffman

[JG] Hey, congratulations, Bill! Trips to exotic Morocco as part of one's job description, wow. Does this mean that you would actually live in Morocco, full time? Or would you commute from Oregon?

Interesting comments about David Brin's *Glory Season*. We (judges) read it as one of the books recommended for the Tiptree Award, and were discussing it from a different angle than the one from which you reviewed it. It seemed to several of us that this book was Brin's attempt to join into the feminist discussion in SF. All those references to women writers, (Vondaites, Ursulaburg, Tiamat, Joannaburg, Tiamat, Sanger, Herlandia, Perkinites, etc...) are like loud shouts and waves ("Hey, I'm talking about you guys!") And what he has to say to these writers is that they are completely misguided about the workability of a women-dominant culture and especially, (by definition, it seems) pastoral settings of this sort of fiction. In fact, he goes further and says that such societies are not only unworkable but are actually dangerous and must be stamped out. And so the brave terran man arrives to save the women from themselves. Sigh. And of course there are the examples of typical Brin egotism. (As when the brave man expresses sexual frustration at his predicament—enforced celibacy for the duration—"If only the women of this world weren't so beautiful. Damn." I could hardly stop laughing.)

I agree with you about your review of *A Fire Upon the Deep*. What an exciting book! Scott and I liked *Red Mars* quite a bit, though it created a bit of a firestorm of disagreement here in Madison between Pat Hario and me. I enjoyed Thompson's *Virtual Girl*, though I thought it was a bit cliché-heavy. I hadn't heard of Yolán's new book, *Briar Rose* and I have loved some of her retold fairy tales for children. So, I picked it up the other day and will tell you what I think of it when I finish. A remarkable lot of fiction we have in common recently, Bill.

By the way, I sent an e-mail message off to you a couple weeks ago (basically, just to tell you we were on line now). Apparently, the e-mail address listed in the SF<sup>3</sup> directory is incorrect, because I received a confused reply from the "wrong number." I'll try again with the internet address listed in your apazine.

## Andy Hooper

[JG] Hope Klefer hasn't held the record for most consecutive apa contributions for a while now. I think you'll have to compete against *Union Street* for that title these days!

Yeah, I guess I've been feeling a little touchy these days about unexplained hints that I am offending folks around here. Poor Jae comes out and specifically describes her hurt feelings and even though she writes that she's mostly gotten over it, I pounce on the opportunity to answer...and go on for paragraphs. Maybe I was attempting to answer other people than just Jae.

[SC] "So here I am. The one guy who ruins it for everybody." Whew, and just in time too. I was beginning to think once the honeymoon was over, the membership would turn on their new OE with a vengeance since we have so few really obnoxious jerks these days (other than myself, of course.)



Not to worry. Now I've got you to take the heat for me. Besides, it gives me one more name to plug into my standard response to complaints, "Don't complain to me, I asked the advice of former OE (fill in here: **Andy, Tracy, Kim**) and they told me I should do it this way." That's bound to work don't you think? Seriously, it's so good to have you back.

## Hope Kiefer

[JG] The first week of February? We will certainly be willing to help you move in wherever if we're around. Much as we would like to go, it's unlikely that we'll be attending Potlatch that week (2/11-13), but I suspect that a couple people from the area will be planning to attend that con. I'll be in San Francisco in late January for a Photoshop conference, but that shouldn't conflict with your move dates. Let us know the dates when you know for sure!

Yes, please tell us whether our initials (JMG and SEC) stand for airports. It seems like that should be useful information...

What, you mean I *shouldn't* keep my laser printer on top of the stove? Damn. They don't print such useful tips in the manuals.

## Diane Martin

[JG] I'm not going to let you off the hook on this matter of unexplained complaints, you know. Of course, if you'd rather just talk about it face-to-face, that would be fine with me.

Interesting comments on management and conflicting "global" viewpoints. I wonder if those guys at your Elm Grove office might not be working with a world view that defines administrative detail and organization as "women's work," or "low-status" work. (I don't think the issue is really messiness, per se, as **Andy** and **Jim Nichols** seem to think) By going out there and getting them straightened up, you may have reinforced their feeling that this is the way the world works and incidentally lowered your own status in their eyes.

Great comments to **Julie** about how people will like her even if she's not the Girl Wonder Billionaire Entrepreneur. Exactly.

[SC] Insofar as money is concerned, I'm OK for now. The business pages are the only expense and, so far, we've been producing them completely at home. I bought some good paper for that purpose, but we use a significant amount of it ourselves so it wouldn't be fair to charge the membership for it. Of course when it comes time for the First Annual OE Trip to Hawaii that **Kim, Tracy** and I have been talking about recently, I'll be sure to forward a bill for your share to you.

YCT Jeanne, being a manager, boss or leader *is* very hard. When I was promoted to Lieutenant in Iowa corrections, before I came out to Madison, I figured I would try to be like the supervisors I most enjoyed working for. That was OK to a point, but I quickly realized that wasn't going to work completely because they sometimes had personality traits that I lacked. One guy I worked for, for example, could put people at ease and gain their confidence by being able to kick back and bullshit with them off-the-cuff about practically anything. Everyone felt completely at ease talking to this guy. I've never been an especially gregarious person so that approach wouldn't work for me. So then I decided to avoid the characteristics of bosses that used to drive me crazy (like being incapable of making a decision) and just relax and be myself in other

respects. I don't think I was an outstanding boss either, but at least I wasn't dealing with the stress of putting on an act.

When it comes to balancing loyalty to the company with the desires of your staff, I figure that most employees look to the boss for the "global viewpoint." That is, they figure if you're happy, the company's happy. You're bound to confuse them if you act inconsistently with company's policy. It's nice to be liked, but it's nicer to have a bonus.

## Kim & Kathi Nash

[JG] Gosh, is it already that time of year? I've marked December 29 on our calendar. We'll try to be there.

[SC] We certainly will.

I thought you both wrote great stuff this month. One of your best zines I think. **Kathi**, you left us sort of hanging at the point where you withdrew from your friends and family to get your shit together. You didn't tell us "the rest of the story." I remember getting to know you gradually through SF<sup>3</sup> and Brat und Brau, but I don't know who brought you in or why you decided to keep coming. I know your point was to respond to **Julie**, but since you brought it up...

**Kim**, I have also thought about a skilled trade as a career option. I like the idea of a skill that can follow me anywhere I decide to go and still be in demand even if the U.S. economy continues to spiral down the toilet (almost a sure thing with the passage of NAFTA.) I also enjoyed the Getting Old piece and your adventures at Ho Chunk. With the Powerball Lottery Jackpot climbing, I'm tempted to buy a ticket again (first one since the last time it hit \$100 million.)

## Jim Nichols

[JG] **Andy Hooper** and **Jae Adams** have already pointed out that the (now failed) proposal to prevent duplication of the apa without specific permission of zine editors is redundant. US law already protects copyrights (whether specified with a © or not). The point of **Tracy's** proposal, I thought, was an attempt to enforce an unspoken desire on the part of some *Turbo* members to restrict those allowed to see copies of this apa. To me, copying the apa for people on the waiting list is not the same thing as, for example, reprinting without permission one of our essays in a fanzine. Copying the apa for waitlisters was simply an expensive way to share the zine with a person who might have visited us at home and said, "Say, could I look at your copy of *Turbo*?" Scott or I would have handed waitlisters **Andy, Bill**, or **Julie** a copy in our living room without question. The fact that they live out of town made the request harder to accommodate. The only kind of apa in which the members do not give one another the right to show copies to friends (or to sell them at fannish auctions) are the so-called "secret apas." I don't like the idea that we might have become a secret apa without open discussion of that issue.

I too rejected my religious upbringing at an early age. I was brought up as a Catholic, and in eighth grade was converted to atheism by the visiting priest who gave us religious instruction once a week. I'm sure it wasn't his *intention* to convert me to atheism, but he took the role of devil's advocate and urged us to argue with him for Catholicism/Christianity. He convinced me, and soon afterward I was examining Catholic theology as a set of folk tales. I used to sleep in on Sunday mornings while mom attended an early Mass, so that I could go later and sit in the car in the parking lot, reading.



Fun cover, Jim.!

[SC] Re: Hand Off, \*sigh\* yup Jim, I was waiting inside the house with stopwatch in hand ready to leap out at midnight to refuse a zine from one of our best contributors. Yeah, right. We talked about this at the B'nB. You know what to do next time. So help me Nichols if you get yourself flattened by a car trying to deliver at exactly the last minute, I will write you the meanest obituary in the business pages you could ever imagine.

Last summer Jeanne and I went to see *Taming of the Shrew* at American Players Theater. I'd never seen it, or even a movie version of it, before. They played it pretty much straight and I appreciated seeing it that way even though the message at the end stunk. It was worthwhile and enjoyable, for the most part. The best way to see *Much Ado...* on stage or film is to see the entire thing. But it wouldn't fit in 2 hours so the film makers cut it (to suit modern taste in film you might say.) They added a lot as well with the inspired casting, elaborate location shooting, and physical comedy. Fine. This wasn't a version done strictly "by the book." So what is the harm in also changing another grating detail, Leonato's beating of Hero, to suit modern taste when you are already making such changes and, as you pointed out, the fact that Leonato never apologizes may be a flaw in the play anyway? I can understand not liking the movie because it takes too many liberties with the play. I can't understand liking the film as it is but still objecting to making one more small revision to suit modern taste.

Words of Wonder guesses: #1 Drinking cheap Tequila, #2 Cowshit, try it and see for yourself.

## Michael Shannon

[JG] Well, I'm very glad that I didn't offend you at Reinconation. Thanks for mentioning it.

Scott and I just listened to a speech by Norman Chomsky and I agree with him that the gap between workers and management (and between the classes) is widening, not shrinking as you believe. Real income of lower and middle classes—all over the world, including the US—has been dropping steadily these last couple decades, while profits of members of the very powerful elite layers of society have been skyrocketing. Multi-national companies, no longer bound by national regulation, prefer to dispense with unions, and for them, profits always eclipse worker rights for healthy working conditions, livable salaries, and environmental considerations. Unions are in trouble, which means that all of us are in trouble.

What was that poem(?) or caption (?) beside the Dickeyville Grotto photo?

Great Halloween pics. Thanks for printing them.

## Tracy Shannon

[JG] Your "Short Rant on Corporate Arm-Twisting" really struck a chord with me. I've been getting more and more irritated with the situation at the DNR over the years, but this year, since I was asked to become personally involved in the SECC fund-raising program, I reached the boiling point.

Every year, one person in each bureau (the second smallest subdivision in state administrative structure) is assigned to distribute the volunteer forms for SECC (State Employee Charitable contributions, I think). They come personally to your cubical. They are supposed to hand the form to you, not just put it into your mailbox or route it to you via

interdepartmental mail. Furthermore, they tell you that you *must* return these forms directly to them—not to any anonymous central administrator, or to SECC headquarters, or whatever. And you're supposed to return it to them *even if you don't contribute anything*. Since this person is usually very well known to you, and is very possibly a friend, you are left to contemplate the sense of personal guilt you might feel if this person thinks you are a cheapskate for contributing so little. Let's not even consider what they might think if you choose not to contribute at all!

I myself, do not funnel my charitable donations through SECC. I prefer to donate directly to a short list of (mostly feminist-related) agencies and causes. Even though some of these groups are included in some of the umbrella groups funded by SECC, I'd rather that the groups I choose receive the whole amount I donate, without losing the administrative costs that SECC deducts. I do believe that SECC provides a wonderful, painless opportunity for people to organize their charitable donations, but I chose another way.

Like you, I think the amount and methods of one's charity should be private. I really resent the way they handle the campaign at the DNR. And it just got worse this year.

I was asked to produce a big display for the lobby showing the 8 DNR divisions along the horizontal axis and the percentage of people contributing to SECC along the vertical axis. Each division has a thermometer with a strip of Velcro, so that a photo of each division head can be moved up as a greater percentage of that division's employees contribute to the fund. So, now we're involved in a sort of competition to see which division's employees do the best for their "team," and a popularity contest between division heads. I did a good job on the chart in spite of my feelings, and now some folks have been grousing that "I" made this year's charity drive into some sort of horse race. Grrrr.

Making donating an easy, convenient procedure is a praiseworthy activity for an employer. But guilt, embarrassment and competition should have no part in one's choice to donate to charity. The fact that my bosses seem to think they need to manipulate us so that we donate in spite of ourselves makes me angry. As you say, Tracy, I prefer dignity.

[SC] Great cartoons. Sardines in chocolate—yuk. Of course you know I have nothing what-so-ever to do with any puns that appear, or appear to appear, in these pages. Sorry about my little joke in the business pages last month. It was supposed to be just between us. Who let the cat out of the bag?

[JG] I liked the cartoons too. What do you think about drawing with technical pens?

## laura spieß

[JG] Your comment about Art visiting last month with the "notorious" Doris, caused me to double take for a moment. The woman across the street from Scott and I is named Doris, and recently she has been seeing a lot of an older gentleman (name unknown), whose hand she has frequently been seen to hold. "Oh, my gosh, I thought, not *our* Doris!" But then it couldn't be. Your dad's friend must live in Milwaukee, right?

I think Scott's alphabetizing scheme is wondrously fair. Everyone gets a chance for their zine to be collated first. (If, that is, they remember to actually submit a zine on the month their letter comes up in the rotation!) Everyone gradually shifts from



one month to the next, but at the same time, it's fairly easy to find zines because they are in alphabetical order.

Scott, Tracy, Pat and I watched a tape of *And the Band Played On* that Bill Humphries made. Perhaps he still has the copy.

[SC] I don't think location can completely dictate one's outlook, but it can certainly be frustrating to live in an area where you consistently disagree with most of the other people around you most of the time. Madison isn't perfect (while working at one temp. job when I first moved here, I was surprised to hear coworkers casually talking about "niggers" just like back home) but I was sure glad I lived here during the Gulf War. Living in a small town and opposing the war back then could have been physically dangerous in some places. It's always a surprise for me when I visit Iowa to realize how far to the left I've drifted just since moving to Madison. Some things I take for granted around here would be scandalous elsewhere.

### Pete Winz

[SC] We're looking forward to seeing you and Kim later this month. New York is a great place to visit. We'd love to go back sometime soon.

### Jae Adams

[JG] As usual, great zine, Jae.

You wrote in your journal, "How unimportant that life [of women devoted to children] is to the big world, except as the memories of children who have grown up to be men of importance." My question is, how important, compared to what? I don't feel that the world (especially the world after my death) will remember me as anyone of much importance *because* I raised no children. Really, I think this idea that raising children by definition erases one's significance in the eyes of the world, is a bit of a red herring. None of our lives will be remembered unless we do something significant. Non-parents can just as easily achieve mediocrity in the eyes of the world than can mothers. An office worker, a farmer, a soldier, a bureaucrat might just as easily as you despair that they live their lives invisibly and that others will recall nothing of significance from their lives after they are gone. It's probably no consolation to the pain you feel, but perhaps people do understand your position, but see it as a general human condition....

I'm sorry I missed the book discussion of *Fire Upon the Deep*. (I probably hadn't read it when it came up in the schedule.) I can see though that I wouldn't have agreed with your assumption that at the end of the novel, Johanna and/or Ravna was facing an enforced lifetime of child care. Perhaps in a society that defined all child care as the job of women, these two women might have had a hard time fighting against that expectation. But the Tine society is one in which the young grow up in packs of other children and in which no one individual (or one gender) is held responsible for specific jobs. I imagine that the Tines would be rather shocked if either woman expressed the desire or duty to act as mother for all these human children. In fact, I think the possible future partnership of the native creatures and the humans will lead to a remarkable culture: in which human-Tine teams will become mutually dependent upon one another. Jeffri's relationship with his pack brothers—and the way they were "brought up" hints at very different ideas about parenthood. If Joanna or Ravna devotes their lives to parenting the other human children, they

will have to choose that role in spite of the expectations of those around them.

I'd like to hear more about that PBS special on submariners training. On the other hand, I'm rather glad that I was able to dabble and experiment until I found something that I loved to do, rather than being forced at an early age into a suitable career. It seems to me that we are capable of great change over the years, and that tragic mis-matches of persons with careers might occur if chance was left entirely out of the equation.

I hear that alternate-side parking will be strictly enforced in Madison this year, if we get any snow that is.

In your comment to Kim Nash, you say you admired what Kim said, but—in the next paragraph—that maybe he shouldn't have said it. At least I think that's what you said. Written in the margin here is a scribble of mine: "aargh." This is the sort of thing from you that I find confusing and conclusion-less.

Whoops, I didn't mean to imply that Kathi is a non-parent. I wrote about "Kathi's reflections about how society reacts to non-parents," which indeed she did discuss, though granted, from the point-of-view of a parent. I agree with you that a biological link is unnecessary for anyone to assume the role of parent.

[SC] YCT me: Your criticism of our system of educating kids was right on the mark. I have heard these points made before. Not only are we doing cookie cutter education, it's not even equal treatment (as Jonathan Kozol points out maddeningly in *Savage Inequalities*) Are there any other countries that do it better than we do? By this I mean, not the same only tougher (like I imagine the Japanese and most Europeans do) but a really different approach that gets away from the factory method you described.

I have been reading and rereading about your struggles with personal life vs. creative life, the need for someone to help nurture your career and the desire to transcend the role of mother. Hard stuff. Difficult questions. Perhaps answers are less what you seek from us than the acknowledgment that we are hearing you and following along as you work through these issues.

### Karen Babich

[JG] Congratulations to your mom, you, your mom's lawyers, and everyone else connected to the three ring circus of the now, finally finalized divorce!

[SC] Congratulations also to Nigel on the new job.

### Vijay Bowen

[SC] I agree that it is certainly not worth the trouble to try to out-bellow an aggressive conversationalist. I call them "competitive conversationalists" and I generally try to avoid them. Written communication has the advantage of not having to deal with unwanted interruptions and it reduces the chance that I will say something I don't really mean, although since I've been writing in the apa I've found that expressing exactly what I mean in print is not as easy as it looks either. Writing is more work than talking, of course, but I think I prefer it anyway. I like the editing option and the prior processing that goes with writing.

Oddly, when I feel I have something interesting or important to share, I like public speaking. Audiences will usually give you a brief window of opportunity at the begin-



ning to capture their attention and the challenge is to take that opportunity and hold onto them. If you succeed there is a wonderful feeling of control and power and direct feedback that I have experienced nowhere else. I rarely do it anymore and I think my sense of stage fright has grown enormously as I've gotten older, but I remember those times when it all came together for me and it's a great feeling.

### James Bron

[SC] I have spent a considerable amount of time thinking about your zine. On the one hand, I don't feel a need to apologize for the criticism a couple of us have lobbed your way recently. I was not criticizing you for being different, nor was I trying to say that you needed to be more like us. I agree with you that this is a community that benefits from diversity. But it is a community that thrives on communication which seemed to be lacking from you and Alison. Your zines came once every three months and often contained little evidence that you cared about us enough to write anything very substantial or respond to us in any significant way.

On the other hand, my perspective has changed in the last few months. When I was just a contributor, I was more concerned with what people were doing with their zines. Now as OE, I'm relieved when zines simply show up on time. When we had nine people on the waitlist it was frustrating to see

members making what I thought was a minimal effort. There were people who had stood in line for over a year to get a chance to join and yet we had people overseas who were taking three months to produce minac. That situation has changed. The waitlist is practically empty. No need to feel that people who seem to be just taking up space should move on. I'd hate to lose anybody at this point.

I was very disappointed to lose Cathy and Owen. I have talked to Owen on the phone and told him that they are welcome to return at any time. He's ready if we can help him acquire out a mailing/copying agent which I'm working on. I was impressed by Alison's contribution last month and I hope we will see more. We all want to get to know her better, but she could help by making a better effort to talk to us.

I have said it before and I will repeat it as often as necessary. I like what you write, when you write. I even found myself smiling as you blasted us last month. I congratulate you on completing your thesis and I sincerely look forward to having you write what, to whom, when and as childish as you like. I hope that includes more and more often.

Great picture of Alison. She seems to have a great sense of humor in her zine, although if she starts to look like that after seeing your zine I think I would recommend running for your life.

Happy holidays to everyone! Don't forget: 8 p.m. New Years Eve. Party. Our house. No confetti.

Jeanne and Scott  
12/17/93