



Welcome to *Union Street* #58 (Obsessive Press [JG] #160 and Peerless Press [SC] #60), the zine with the transmogrifying masthead (this month, with a road sign from the election). 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 5.1 and laid out with Aldus PageMaker 5.0. The *Union Street* Logo was designed with Adobe Illustrator 5.0 and Adobe Photoshop 2.5. All contents are copyrighted © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, November 1994, for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #101. Members FWA. *Union Street* supports a Progressive third party (please!).

Those attack ads are awful— but hey—they work!

[JG] We're all so media-smart these days. We watched the 1994 campaign ads and cynically shook our heads at the blatant commercialism of them all. We sneered at candidates who bought their election and who tailored their speeches to markets rather than to ideals. We grew angry at political advertisements' transparent attempts to manipulate our emotions while avoiding meaningful discussions of issues that mattered to us.

We're not as savvy as we think: Electoral advertising differs crucially from other kinds of marketing and some of us would make Pavlov proud for our conditioned responses to the political bell, even while thinking political manipulation can be resisted by refusing to vote at all.

When tobacco giants compete for profit, each company's goal is to convince more smokers to use their product. As more Americans quit smoking, tobacco companies encourage nonsmokers to pick up the habit, in order to maintain corporate profit margins. Tobacco advertising now targets third-world consumers, women and children. Profit, for sellers of products, means the same consumers using more of the product, or it means attracting more consumers.

A successful politician doesn't necessarily rely upon this simple formula, however. A voter can only vote once. And politicians don't necessarily measure success by the number of people who vote for them. They measure success by what *percentage* of voters cast their vote for them. It doesn't matter to a politician or a power broker or a lobbyist if only a small minority of the electorate bothers to cast a ballot; it only matters that—of the people who actually vote—more of them vote for their candidate. This subtle skewing of the commercial profit equation means that:

- A smaller and less differentiated group that casts ballots is actually easier to please than a large, varied population. (For instance, if the electorate contains very few poor people and a great many rich people, a politician can promise to eliminate capital gain taxes. Poor people might grumble about "welfare for the rich," but what does the politician care? They're not going to vote, anyway. It's not necessary to please them; it's not even important to rationalize the idea.)
- Attack ads and slanderous campaigns turn off voters; yet common wisdom says, "nonetheless, they work." They work, indeed, and on two levels. First of all, attack ads seem to compel competing politicians to respond with their own attack ads and grab enough attention so that, inevitably, some opinions change. But more importantly, attack ads work *because they turn people off*. They especially turn off people who are not already fanatically committed to one candidate or another. They turn off people who are hungry for discussion about issues close to their lives. Attack ads decrease the number of people who will cast a ballot and they decrease the number of issues that must be addressed and balanced by the candidates.
- A campaign may owe its success not to the number of people it convinces to support its candidate, but to the number of people it convinces not to vote at all.
- Any group of people whose voting rate decreases over time, will perceive the issues addressed in campaigns to be less and less relevant to them over time. (For example, as fewer student-age citizens vote, issues like educational access, drinking age, and minimum wage



are addressed by fewer campaigns. This leads to an increased sense of alienation among young voters, and a further decrease in the number of voters. Which leads to an even greater de-emphasis on issues important to this potential voting segment. The opposite cycle can be observed among senior citizen population, whose high voting percentage keeps their issues on the front burner in most elections.) In other words, it's a self-perpetuating cycle: the longer members of a group boycott the vote, the more irrelevant the issues discussed in the campaign. Last week headlines proclaimed that for the next two years, Republican strategists would lavish attention and support on white, middle-class, suburban males, because that's the group that elected them.

People who plan not to vote until a candidate appears with their interests at heart . . . have got a long, long wait in front of them.

Mailing Comments

Pete Winz

[SC] It may sound a little weird to congratulate someone on quitting a job, but it seems appropriate considering the troubles you were having. It's good that once you decided you'd had enough, you left. Congratulations on getting out and getting something new (and better.)

Congratulations to both of you on the arrival of Nicholas Benjamin Winz. Now the real fun starts.

[JG] It's hard to believe that the management of any ongoing business could be so ignorant of who really does the work. In fact, I would think that any business that ignores such matters can't be long for this world. It sounds like you made the Right Choice. Good for you.

Jae Adams

[SC] Charter member GBA? What's this, another mystery organization?

It seems like a long time since we had a fiction piece submitted to the apa. Too long. Thanks for running it. Train and travel stories are always favorites of mine.

In the past I've enjoyed it when you pub the list of books you've read for the year. This year I plan to do the same in the December or January *Turbo*. It might be cool to compare. I'll have about fifty titles (a big year for me.) If you show me yours, I'll show you mine.

[JG] I liked the story. Scott and I have traveled cross-country by train, and the story evoked memories. Thanks.

Karen Babich

[SC] It's been a busy summer for you. Thanks for the update on what's been happening.

Tracy Benton

[SC] Wonderful cover. It far exceeded expectations, even the elevated expectations of the 100th issue.

[JG] I think it turned out pretty cool, if I do say so myself. **Steve Swartz** is carrying through on his promise to investigate the possibility of making the covers (front and

back) into t-shirts. I'll provide him with camera-ready copy and then we can all wear Turbo shirts to WisCon 19.

With regard to Alice Nunn's novel, *Illicit Passage*... Sorry to have sent you on a wild goose chase. Apparently, my information from Australia that Dreamhaven had purchased copies of the book probably preceded their Pacific journey and arrival in Minneapolis by several months. These things take time at surface rates. But—good news!—A Room of One's Own now stocks *Illicit Passage*. Get your copy before they run out! (News flash courtesy of Steve Swartz.)

Bill Bodden

[SC] A work-hell story. Thanks for showing us the seamier side of the coffee store business. It apparently isn't all fancy concoctions and nifty gadgets. I still can't believe you work in a coffee store considering the conditions you're working under, and you don't even like coffee. I mean who would work in a bookstore who didn't like books or a video store who didn't like movies? It just seems that the hassles would only be bearable if you had a personal interest in the product or service you were providing. You are clearly doing well at Steep & Brew just the same, and I wish you continued success.

Vijay Bowen

[SC] I hope you will let us know the details on the Kasak anthology (like the title, publication date, etc.) when you find out. I'm interested in buying it. Congratulations on the sale.

Very funny piece on microwaving fruit. I never would have thought of it. You guys may very well have too much time on your hands, but I still have to applaud the spirit to boldly go where no one with any sense would choose to go. It is a feeling that has seized me from time to time.

When you wrote that "Open" was "in a different mode, and a different mood" you weren't kidding. Yeow! I liked it. We seem to go through long stretches in which we see little fiction in *Turbo*, then all of a sudden, we are treated to two fine pieces in one issue (yours and Jae's.)

YCT Pat: having difficulty expressing complex emotions in words is something most of us have probably felt. It's very frustrating, especially for the concerned listener who just isn't getting it. You seem to have much greater difficulty with this than the rest of us. Trying to "just find the right words" may be a lost cause, the right words may not exist. The language has its limits. Is this one reason you write fiction, as a method of expressing things you otherwise have trouble saying? (Oops, a little pop psychology there.) I want to know more of what you're trying to say here, but I don't know what questions to ask.

[JG] I used to experiment with food in other people's microwaves. This was before Scott and I purchased our own handy dandy defroster/popcorn popper, but I still think the principal is sound: experimenting with other people's equipment is safer and often means you don't have to clean up after yourself.

I liked the marshmallow experiment the best. As you said, the marshmallow blows up to many times its original size. The really cool thing about it is that if you stop the process before the marshmallow begins to deflate, and take it out of the oven, you will discover that you can look inside

the ballooned shape of the marshmallow and see that its insides have turned a mellow brown. It's actually rather beautiful. I wonder if one could preserve it with hair spray?

Whew! I enjoyed "Open," too. I was thinking about returning the favor and offering a titillating and shocking story of Scott's and my frequent dabbling in ... Brussels sprout dinners.

Heather Brooks

[SC] I grew up listening to a lot of country music. I still like some of it now and then. I agree with you that it is silly to confine yourself to one specific genre of music. I don't like all rock, all classical, or all folk either. But I know what I like when I hear it.

It was certainly interesting how the Michael Fay case wound its way through the media. Instead of talking about the government of Singapore and the background of its corporeal punishment system (as you did), the whole discussion focused on whether caning kids was a good idea for use in the U.S. People are in such a vicious mood in America today, that just about any punishment for "criminals" receives support whether it makes sense or not. What's next, cutting off the hands of thieves because the Saudi's still do it?

I might be seeing you at MATC. I've been taking some classes there this year and I will be going again in the spring. I tend to choose evening classes. I don't know anyone who's been in the marketing program. I think I'm still a little unclear as to how marketing translates into race car driving.

[JG] You should talk to **Ellen Franklin** about marketing, since that's her field, though I don't know if she would be extremely helpful in the area of race cars. On the other hand, Ellen is always surprising. You never know what she knows or to whom she's connected.

Although I had little sympathy with Michael Fay, I was also horrified by the hypocritical attitudes with which so many Americans seemed to interpret his situation. The caning was cruel because Michael was American, it seemed, not so much because of its routine use upon Singapore citizens accused of minor offenses.

Your list of things you'd like to spend money on in the next couple years rather reminds me of Scott's and my list of house repairs we thought we'd complete in the first year of home ownership. We're still not through the list, and the list itself continues to grow.

Jim Brooks

[SC] Condolences on the death of your father.

I was surprised to find you stretching my comment to **Pat** in #97 from "we all have a responsibility to each other" to "a responsibility to react to everything that appears in *Turbo*." I did not mean to say that we all should comment to every other writer each issue. I meant to say that we should all make it a priority to comment to a reasonable degree. I was attacking contributors who, month after month, almost totally ignore everyone else in the apa. It has been a time honored tradition in this apa to first try to ignore writers who are boring or obnoxious. I do it myself. I just find it frustrating when people who are doing great stuff get ignored.

I think your comment comparing Jamie Lee Curtis' treatment in *True Lies* to a guy taking a shot in the balls for laughs is an apples and oranges thing. For one thing, much of

the movie was devoted to humiliating her character, with one particularly long nasty interrogation scene that was supposed to be funny but was actually very twisted. We are talking about calculated misogyny here to get laughs over the course of a couple hours. The case of a guy taking a shot in the crotch for laughs is, for one thing, usually very brief and for another, is more about how violence is routinely used for humor and entertainment than it is about humiliating a character based on his sex. Certainly the decision to strike for the balls is based on his sex, but that one brief act doesn't necessarily degrade him completely as a human being.

Incidentally, if you elect to see *True Lies* sometime, see it for free or convince someone else to spring for the video. You'll be very disappointed if you waste your own good money on it.

[JG] You are right. A lot of us, me included, reacted to Ross Pavlac in the same way that Orson Scott Card reacts to gays, for which most of us have been highly critical. To me, the big difference between those two examples of "protecting community," is that—for Card—the community is essentially the entire United States, possibly the whole human race. You can't drop out of that community and join another, as is possible with the apa. I don't feel that every group that I belong to must include all points of view, especially when I get overdosed on the Christian right wing position in everyday life.

Your casual question (in the "Shorts that Don't Fit" section) about why kicking a male movie character in the balls doesn't get critical attention as examples of sexual harassment, sparked an interesting conversation between Scott and I. These were my observations:

Kicking guys in the balls isn't funny per se, nor is it something that is done to male characters solely by female characters. Note the film, *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*, and the famous scene in which Redford's gigantic opponent reacts to Sundance's question about rules. "Rules? No rules!" and promptly gets his just desserts. I think the reliable humor of this scene which recurs in thousands of other films is that a big, puffed out, macho he-man, can be turned instantly into a infant by a less well-equipped man. When hit in the balls, the big guy's body inevitably collapses into a helpless squat position, or he may even fall onto the ground—either way, he collapses into a fetal position. When the combatants are two equally matched fighters, a kick to the groin of the good guy elicits only a groan of sympathy from the audience. Such a scene would not be funny at all, for instance, if it was just an ordinary guy walking down a supermarket aisle and another ordinary guy suddenly kicked him in the balls. On the other hand, the scene would probably get a laugh if the assailant was a diminutive 4-year-old. Extra humor points accrue when the assailant's size, strength or gender contrast with the victim's. A guy instantly turning another really muscle-bound macho guy into a baby is supposed to be funny. It is considered even funnier if a big guy is reduced to fetal helplessness by a weaker opponent: a child or a woman, for instance.

In contrast, an attack against a celluloid female character's gonads almost always means rape, and the attacker is 99.99% likely to be a male character. Unlike the stock gonad-kicking scene, in which the kicker is usually less muscular (or packing no weapons against a fully armed opponent), a female character's rapist or sexual harasser is



almost always the more powerful person in the scene. No underdog humor can be mined in this situation.

The two kinds of scenes just don't compare.

Ellen Franklin

[SC] You did a terrific job of sharing difficult news with us. It is a relief that you and Jim are working so hard at making the best of this tough situation.

I hope you will be able to find time in your new life for the apa.

[JG] The humor of your general letter to friends will reassure them that you and Jim are remaining friends in spite of the problems between you. My love and best of wishes to both of you.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] I liked "The Maid Screamed." Wow, still more fiction this issue.

YCT Vijay: I laughed at "Since then, I've found out that there are social situations that are definitely improved by induced stupidity..." How true. You wrote that you don't think you're much fun at parties, I think it just depends on the parties. You might like Madison parties. Excessive drinking is rare (in spite of my best efforts to help people loosen up) and conversation is the prime form of entertainment.

Might I cajole you into telling us a bit about how Armadillocon was?

I strongly considered "Don't suck on the brain" for my quote of the month on page one this issue.

[JG] Using phrases like characters echoes the style of Brautigan's *Trout Fishing in America*. Nice touch.

Interesting music suggestions. I don't think I've ever met anyone who shared my music preferences, and I look forward to hearing some of the music you mentioned. I think I may have already heard (and liked a lot) the Glass symphony; and the name Michael Numan is familiar.

I was unaware that books took so long to travel from Australia to the U.S. after purchase. No wonder Alice Nunn is anxious to find a US publisher. At this rate—more than a year and a half after initial publication—few North Americans will get to see *Illicit Passage*, though as I mentioned to Tracy, *Room of One's Own* finally got copies. Elk Krisor give it high marks and I'm crossing my fingers that Jim Frenkel will like it too, and that it will eventually be published in the U.S.

Very weird. I'd never in my life heard about the dangers of using sucking devices near the brain, and then right after you listed the "Two Rules of Neurosurgery," there was an episode on *Chicago Hope* in which the head neurosurgeon practices with a new surgical tool that automatically avoids sucking brain tissues.

Cathy Gilligan

[JG] While you were at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, did you run into Pat Murphy? She works there, you know, as the writer/editor of their magazine.

What an excellent response to Scott's complaint about puns. Accusing him of lack of support for the first amendment elicited a pained, speechless sputter. Have you ever considered writing political attack ads?

[SC] I think we should make a free speech exception for puns. They have no socially redeeming value obviously, but also they are dangerous. Yelling "Fire" in a crowded theater is not protected speech because it incites the crowd to violence. Puns incite my stomach to vomit, so I see them as the same thing.

You really, really don't like traveling do you?

Karl Hailman

[SC] Did you see the "Seinfeld" where Kramer got a kidney stone? It was hilarious. I thought of you the whole time.

The recent crash and burn of Kestrel has left all us serious Mac users at a loss. I blame a lot of it on Apple's marketing through big dealers like American TV that has left it's devoted small dealers out to dry. Assigning blame doesn't help us much though. Time to start haunting the local Mac Users group to locate a source of good support. If we hear anything, we'll let you know.

[JG] Pain seems to inspire longer-than-usual zines from you, Karl. Is this a hint than you don't want mailing comments, but stabs in the gut? Sorry, just kidding. My friend, Jane Hawkins also suffers from kidney stones. In fact she has a collection of them in a jar on one of her bookshelves. Of course she hates these attacks, and so she's hardly ever without a glass of water by her side. Any chance of getting your stone laser zapped?

Bad luck about the monitor and CD problems. After three tries, I've finally got a CD ROM installed in my computer, but have also been having a few problems with a CD game, specifically *Myst*. It turns out that high end, fast Macs have lots of init conflicts with some games developed more than a year ago. *Myst* works fine on my 840av now, as long as I temporarily inactivate all my extensions except for the CD ROM and QuickTime inits. I suppose I could track down exactly which extensions are causing the problem but I haven't gotten around to it yet.

Good luck with the job search, Karl.

Pat Hario

[SC] Thanks for the movie reviews. With the exception of *Schindler's List* (which is in a class by itself) and possibly *Pulp Fiction*, I thought *Ed Wood* was the best movie I've seen so far this year. It's a shame that it is basically bombing everywhere except New York and L.A. I agreed with your comments on *The River Wild*, but I think I enjoyed it more than you did. The plot really was clunky, but Streep, the action sequences on the rapids and the scenery did a lot to make up for it for me. I think trying to work a "family values" theme into it is what really screws up the story. It was clear early on that bringing the family back together was going to be one of the main themes of this movie. Since there were only three people in the family, that meant that the whole family had to survive, relieving the plot of any real tension and forcing the father to muster up some competence and courage that he didn't possess earlier (in order to win respect from his son.) As you pointed out, that comes at the expense of the mother, the real hero of the story. Oh well, better luck next time.

[JG] I used to go to any movie or read any book that dealt with a time travel theme. I love good time travel stories. But the emphasis here is definitely upon the word, "good,"

and I get rather irritated when they're done stupidly. When travelogues rather than paradox motivates plot. When characters travel in time but fail to use time as a tool (like chasing the bad guy and arriving after he arrives rather than ambushing him.) So, lacking the patience, I usually avoid them unless I hear that the time travel gimmick has been respected.

Re the quilt vs. time discussion, I'm sorry if I misunderstood you. Elk has been talking to me a lot about the fact that some people in the original quilt group seem to be convinced that they cannot do the quilting part of the job because of the unfamiliarity of the stitching technique. She's been worrying that her prodding of the sewing group to learn and try the technique (before giving up on it) has been misinterpreted as pressure not to quit and as an insinuation that some people's efforts are not appreciated.

Don Helley

[JG] Good to see you and your dreamlike artwork back again, Don. And thanks for getting "a Real Military Historian" to rebut **Bill Bodden's** military hats theory. I feel enlightened and most amused. What a hoot!

[SC] Welcome back Don. *Turbo* has been a friendly little group for a while now. We have an occasional small dust-up now and then, but we're really a pretty user friendly apa. I enjoyed reading about what you've been up to and also seeing a bit more of you on Wednesday nights.

Carrie Root

[SC] **Andy** tattled on your interest in reading *Turbo* last month. I figured such a devoted reader deserved a stand alone comment rather than take up space in Andy's comment. Why not join us for real? You need only keep your eye on the mustwrite deadline every other month. We'd love to have you with us. There are plenty of other busy people in the apa who would offer you sympathy when the mean old OE forces you to contribute when you don't have time. Plus, if you think the apa is fun to read now, think of how much *more* fun it would be when it's *your* golden prose that gets ignored, *your* closely reasoned arguments that get distorted and *your* beautiful zine that gets held up or lost in the mail. I tell you Carrie, it's a barrel of fun.

Seriously, let us put you on the waitlist now and you'll probably have months to decide if you really want to join.

Andy Hooper

[SC] Snazzy looking stuff you're putting out these days. It's a wonder what a new computer will do, isn't it?

Thanks for the road trip piece. So often when we hear about Seattle, we only hear about the city. Easy to forget that it is a lovely city set in a beautiful part of the country. Tell us more the next time you get out and about.

I have thus far kept all the issues of the apa from the moment I became OE. I also have about seventeen issues from Lorelei Manney's time in these pages that she gave me when she left town. I had those last ones in a box almost ready to ship out to **Vijay** (who offered to take them off my hands) when the *Tuboanthology* thing came up. Now I have a new reason to keep them a little longer. I will look through them soon and let

you know what I think is worth reprinting. Then I'll send them to her and she can tell you what she thinks about them.

YCT Lisa: My mother was from North Dakota so I have also visited that desolate place. At least I thought it was when I was a kid. I'd probably be a bit more forgiving now, but when I was ten and already growing tired of small-town life in Iowa, Valley City, N.D. was a depressing place.

Great comments this month, Andy.

[JG] It will be interesting to see how many people have kept electronic copies of their *Turbo* zines. You are a more compulsive datapreservationist than I, apparently. Although I've got 11 diskette drawers (almost filled) here at home, not to mention what's contained on a 500-meg hard drive, quite a few 44-meg Syquests, and the dozen or so 128-meg opticals, I've kept none of the text from any of our *Union Streets*. Some artwork, yes, but no text.

How did your GoHship go? Did you have fun?

Bill Humphries

[SC] I thought your "Forty-One and Forward" piece was excellent. Imagining alternate histories for members of the apa is almost too tempting to resist. But you don't have to go that far out when thinking about this group of people forming a community through the apa. If you just think about how different things would be if *Turbo* had not existed, that's interesting too. The apa has managed to keep people in touch despite big moves, relationship changes and SF³ politics. Without *Turbo*, I can easily see large parts of the local group having little if any contact with each other. Definitely an alternative reality.

[JG] I also admired your alternate history look at the *Turbo* community. Nice work. We've all played the game of "What if I didn't meet this person when I did? What if we hadn't arrived at the right point of our lives to open ourselves to that person? (And who have I blindly passed by on the street who—in another lifetime—would have changed everything?)" As you say, and as that premier episode of *Northern Exposure* suggested, we can play this game with groups too, and probably can imagine more far-reaching effects. Fascinating idea.

I also liked your reviews of *Quiz Show* and *Caraboo*, for the parallel metaphors (hacking into the elite, indeed). Good writing.

Hope Kiefer

[JG] Regarding people who give you their opinions about raising kids you wrote, "Those who argue with the way they were raised and especially those who choose not to have children usually have the most opinions of all." Are you including Scott and I in that category?

Forrest is a great kid. Though I might prefer that my name (and Scott's) come up some other time than when you are changing his diapers, I am very pleased that he thinks of me as part of his universe. I like him a lot.

[SC] Congratulations on the new computer.

Great Halloween party. There were a lot more people there than I expected. You really had a houseful. Some great costumes, too. My favorites were Sam's Ed Wood, **Bill Bodden's** Jack Skeffington and **Pat's** Capital Square but there



were plenty of other good ideas. Can't wait for the pictures (this issue?)

Thanks for the compliment on my tenure as OE. One never gets tired of hearing they are doing a good job, as *CUBE* editor, wouldn't you agree?

Diane Martin

[JG] This is the second time you've stopped short of concluding a discussion about conflicts between job responsibilities and other activities. It seems to me that this discussion about time spent on apazine production is merely a continuation of the discussion that dead-ended a while ago about time spent on local fannish activities. You start out expressing anger that others put a higher priority on these other activities than you do, suggesting that this choice reveals a subtle putdown of your choices. But then, when we discussed the issue in those terms, you retreated into ambivalence. In spite of your inability to articulate the basic problem, the message between your lines sounds like this to me: "Everyone should use the same system of values to evaluate the usefulness or importance of work. It makes me uncomfortable to interact with people who spend more of their time and energy working on non-job related projects because it causes me to question the priority I place upon my responsibilities at my job." And in my head, I keep arguing: but everyone has different priorities. And a good thing too, or else a lot of stuff would never get done!

[SC] Great news about Ted. As cats go, he's great fun.

Kim and Kathi Nash

[SC] Poor Kelly. The two of you obviously deserve each other, but Kelly, well...poor Kelly.

Jim Nichols

[JG] The most objectionable thing about Card's essay, in my opinion, wasn't his definition of acceptable Mormon beliefs, but his opinion that the Mormon precepts should be applied to American Law. In other words, in his world, a gay person would not only be barred from membership in Card's church, should also be refused constitutional rights.

[SC] GBA and FFBA? Making us guess about what they stand for might not be a good plan. We could choose some meanings that you would not appreciate. Save yourself the anguish Jim and just tell us.

Thanks for the con reports. I missed going to either of them, but it sounds like I didn't miss that much.

Thank you for responding to the Orson Scott Card piece we ran. To respond to your points, I would mostly be repeating things I have already written in comments to others last issue. I agree with one point you made. You said "...conflicts like this one (the Mormon reaction to homosexuality) are going to be more and more common." I agree, but not for the reason you expressed. I think religion is going to dominate *more* of our society and government, not less. The Christian Right in particular is participating more in the political process and religious themes ("family values", abortion, gay bashing, anti-pornography) are driving legislation around the country. When Scott Card attacks homosexuals, he is not talking about confining himself to the Mormon church. He wants to expand the fight to "save" American society as a whole.

Georgie Schnobrich

[JG] Welcome to the apa, Georgie. And what a great title! I've missed you ever since you moved to Milwaukee, especially all those long *Aurora* layout afternoons. We never seem to get together at cons to talk, so I'm hopeful that we can resume our conversation here.

Good comment to **Jae** about the dangers of defining oneself as an opposite. It's dangerous for a couple to map out responsibilities that way, but it's a trap elsewhere too. Kids defining themselves as their parents' opposite. Politicians defining themselves as their opponent's opposite. Finally no one is anything, really. What a great image: no melting ice floe.

I respect and sympathize with your desire to avoid religious arguments. I don't think I would have wanted to reprint the Card essay if I thought it would precipitate a rancorous argument here. I also value this space for secular discussion. The main reason Scott and I franked it through our zine is because the essay has been referred to on and off during the past couple years in *Turbo*, without any of us having actually seen more than two or three paragraphs of it. And I was fairly sure that no one in *Turbo* would rush (pardon the pun) to the defense of Orson Scott Card.

Gosh, you're going to fit in perfectly! Your first issue and an Iowa joke!

[SC] Welcome to *Turbo*. Wonderful first zine, it's already great fun having you aboard. Of course you are new here and wouldn't know that Iowa jokes are verboten. Pay no attention to Jeanne regarding this subject. Everyone here knows that such jokes are very poorly advised.

[JG] Scott was born and raised in Iowa. I'm sure that has nothing to do with this uncharacteristic (second) attack on the first amendment.

[SC] I also found your comment to **Jae**, about men not living "fully human lives" interesting. You seem to be implying that men have somehow chosen certain roles for themselves and left the rest for women. Or that men have always been the ones to enforce gender roles. I think gender roles evolve over time and that men and women participate together (along with social institutions like church and government) in enforcing those divisions. You are right that we should "renegotiate the whole territory of human-ness."

I think an example of the dangers of defining oneself as an opposite is the recent elections. My theory of why many Democrats lost is how they defined themselves. It was easy to see what the Republicans stood for, they told you passionately what they envisioned. What did the Democrats stand for? Well, they were *against* their own President, they were *against* Congress (run by their own party) and they were *against* the Republicans (except for some issues on which they agreed) They never said what they were for. And whatever they were for they weren't very passionate about it. Their whole campaign was about what they weren't.

Interesting comment also on Frank Lloyd Wright. I have to admit that since moving to Wisconsin, I've become a bit overdosed on him. It seems like mention of him turns up everywhere. I reached something of a limit with the convention center proposal here in Madison. We need the center and they have chosen a good spot on the lake, but the decision to update an old Frank Lloyd Wright design is just too much. They

should hire some visionary architect to do something new that fits in with the Madison of today and the future instead of looking back at the past. The Wright approach is a naked marketing ploy that won't impress architects and may not make the most efficient use of the space.

I thought your Opinion piece was very eloquent. Our educational system has always been the slave of business and Capitalism. Turning out obedient little cogs for the corporate wheel. Paying for grades? Shit, let's pay athletes to play in high school and college too. And cash awards for state and regional titles for musicians and debaters. It's only logical that they reap the Only Truly Worthwhile reward for "winning."

Martin Smith

[SC] Welcome at last. Welcome also to the fine old *Turbo* tradition of leaving the apa to do until the last minute. I hope you have recovered from your stomach upset and hangover (and since gone on to new hangovers.)

We have a copy of Avedon's book, *Bad Girls and Dirty Pictures*, that I did a lot of searching before finally locating a copy. It has been sitting on our TO READ shelf for several months. I hope to get to it soon. The censorship of pornography controversy is a familiar one to us and we both stand in favor of unrestricted freedom of speech (except for puns, mentioned above). It sounds to me recently that you have a much hotter freedom of speech issue on the front burner now. I was reading about a new law over there where suspects have to be advised that if they choose to be silent, their silence can be used against them. Presumably if you are innocent, you should have nothing to hide from a questioning police officer. This is the sort of damn foolishness that could find a lot of support over here from crime-obsessed politicians.

[JG] Welcome. You will be glad to know that your skepticism about the idea of building space defense systems against comets and asteroids has been upheld by a recent made-for-TV film called *Without Warning*. With any luck (ours, that is), all prints will be exported to the UK very soon.

Without Warning attempted the same sort of media scare created by the 1930s radio play version of *War of the Worlds*. A movie is apparently interrupted by familiar TV news anchors who report three meteor strikes in unpopulated areas of the American West, Mongolia and the Pyrenees. The movie's plot proceeds as a series of special bulletin reports. Apparently a large number of TV viewers completely missed the disclaimers printed after each commercial break that the broadcast was entirely fictional and that THIS REALLY ISN'T HAPPENING AT ALL, because the networks received hundreds of panicky phone calls during the broadcast. Including one wacky call from a very confused young man who lived at ground zero, in the Wyoming "crater." As Dave Letterman noted the next night, all these panic-stricken viewers apparently had no trouble believing that three meteors had just struck the earth and that only one network, CBS, was bothering to cover the extraordinary event.

But, as I said, this movie supported your skeptical view of building anti-meteor defenses. It turns out that the initial three meteor strikes were sent as radio transmitters, sending out homing signals to an alien intelligence like halogen beacons on a runway. (We know they are well-intentioned aliens because the triangulation of the three meteor strikes *exactly matches* the triangle in the SETI material packaged in the Voyager capsule, so you see, this is their "reply.") But when a fourth meteor approaches the earth, the trigger-happy Pentagon shoots it down with nuclear weapons and gets the aliens really mad, precipitating a literal shower of retaliatory meteors and the End of Life on Earth as We Know It.

So, obviously, since we might never know until it is Too Late whether a meteor is a Good Meteor or a Bad Meteor, we shouldn't think about shooting them down indiscriminately. I bet this is an angle you didn't think about.

Sandy Taylor

[SC] Welcome to you too. So which do you prefer, Sandra or Sandy? Everyone always calls you Sandy, but everything I ever seen you write is signed Sandra.

Nice introduction. A question I had was, do you still work at B. Dalton's? I thought you worked in a library. You also didn't mention that you are SF³ Treasurer, which gives you sort of a Bookkeeper Goddess stature with the group.

By the time you read this, it will certainly be too late to see *Widow's Peak* at the theater, but I highly recommend renting it sometime. The scenery and performances are delightful and the plot is fun. I have always wanted to see *Delicatessen*, but I rarely have seen it available.

YCT (Your Comment To) everyone else: you should know that everyone here takes the apa with the utmost seriousness. We spend days writing, analyzing and discussing it. I'd say the apa is very nearly the most important thing in our lives. And as Pat would say, "Yeah, right."

[JG] Welcome! I'm glad you joined *Turbo*. This is actually a great way to get to know people better, even people we see frequently at Wednesday night gatherings.

What are you planning to study for your second degree?

Definitely see *Widow's Peak*. I liked it a lot. I was intrigued by the town in which a distinct neighborhood seemed to be reserved for widows who felt rather relieved at having graduated from the need to deal with men. The performances were wonderful and the plot a lot of fun.

As anyone who has borrowed many books from me knows, I often jot notes in margins. I do it even more often in apazine margins. Usually, when I read the apa I mark with "x's" (and in some cases, notes) at the location of points to which I want to respond. Then, later, when I sit down to type out my part of *Union Street*, I scan *Turbo* for those "x's," read over the excerpts that caught my attention and pound away. That works pretty well for me; it saves me from having to read the apa twice in order to write comments, which I'm afraid I'd never get around to doing.

Scott & Jeanne
18 November 1994