



Welcome to *Union Street* #66 (Obsessive Press [JG] #168 and Peerless Press [SC] #68), the zine with the transmogrifying seasonal masthead (which this month swelters under a tropical sun). 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 3.0. All contents are copyrighted © July 1995 by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, March 1995, for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #109. Members FWA.

Official Business

[JG] I would like to nominate Spike Parsons for membership in the *Turbo* apa. Spike has already been a Turbite and she was an entertaining writer and a regular maker of mailing comments. She's an eccentric and fascinating person, and she is a good friend (not to mention, the OE's cousin). Who will second her (after a month of discussion, of course)?

If you are biting at the bit to second Spike's nomination this very month, you could redirect that nervous energy and second Ellen Klages' nomination.

Ooops

[SC] For those of you who might have been confused by a small typo in our zine last month, the section of our zine that was headlined "Jeanne and Scott comment on *Turbo* apa #65" should have read "...*Turbo* apa #107."

[JG] Stupid numbers....

Jim Nichols

[SC] You did an excellent job on WisCon 19. At every meeting I was impressed with the work you were doing as well as with the quality of publications you ultimately produced. Congratulations on performing so well the crucial role you played in this convention.

[JG] You mentioned the *Mad Moose Gazette* in your con report, and I wondered if you knew the origin of that bizarre title. I think it was at WisCon 10, when several Canadian fans (Christine Kulyk and David Vereshagin) attended and we all indulged in a lot of jokes at the expense of Canada. (This was before we learned the more sophisticated pleasures of jokes at the expense of Iowa.) Many of the jokes used a moose in place of the usual elephant, and by the time we got to the banquet, where Dick Russell counted votes to determine the name of our newsletter, *Mad Moose Gazette* won overwhelmingly.

Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] YCT Michael Shannon: "...is it a Northern European/Puritan hangover that white American men are not supposed to care about what they wear?" I wouldn't say that I didn't care about what I wear, but I will admit that I like the lack of style options for men. It makes it easy to make choices. I just have to decide the color and size and reject those things that are too expensive or unsuitable because of my age or shape. Men's clothes are usually practical. That's also a nice thing.

I've seen *International Male* and I admit that some of their ideas are interesting, but what always impressed me the most about their catalog was that it suffered the same flaw most women's catalogs suffer from. The



models are just too unreal to be believed. I mean, how can a normal person imagine what they might look like in something that is being modeled by these unbelievable men?

I was amused by your croquet game at WisCon. I thought it was a cool idea. Keep in mind that WisCon 19 was quite small. We may draw as much as twice the attendance at WisCon 20. That might make croquet in the hotel more of an obstruction. We should talk about this. Maybe you want to explore going outside next year (I understand the State Capital grounds might be available.) Or perhaps it is just a matter of planning for a hotel game around a larger number of people.

[JG] I agree, Georgie, I enjoyed your description of the game. We're talking about doing a picnic/dead dog party on Monday afternoon. Maybe that would be a good time and place for the croquet game?

Jae Adams

[SC] You had fine pieces last month on art and your cat Lydia. I also appreciated your comments on Rodin. Jeanne and I visited the Rodin museum in Philadelphia several years ago. My reaction was similar to yours in how powerful and tortured I found his work. It was big and ugly and completely fascinating.

[JG] The thing I remember most about that Rodin exhibit we went to see in Philadelphia was how overwhelmingly BIG some of his pieces are. The group of statues making up "The Burghers of Calais," for example, are each about 8 or 9 feet tall. But that the scale didn't translate onto the photographs I took at the museum. I should have photographed them with live people in the frame to provide scale. If I hadn't been there and had only the photos to judge by, I would have thought the statues were chess pieces.

Tracy Benton

[SC] The new layout is a fun change. I like the type style you used for North Star.

Re: Things You Should Know About Men, I found #2 personally scary, #7 strangely familiar (what was with you and **Georgie** and men's clothes last month?), and #9 accurate (I have never watched it all the way through.)

YCT **Steve**, I have also heard/read the sixty (or thirty?) words for snow thing is a myth. Can't help you with a source, though. Sorry.

I was amused by your PETS piece and If People Bought Cars Like They Do Computers. I was not amused by your Iowa joke. I was thinking about changing the

routine of collating apazines in alphabetical order next year after I wound up with this big glob of back-to-back white zines last month. One idea would be to put any zine that had an Iowa joke at the back of the apa that month. What do you think?

YCT **Jae**, one of the first messages we sent after signing on with AOL was to Dave Langford. We got a response the next morning. It was great!

Jeanne and I are going to Reinconation. I'm vaguely thinking about throwing a small WisCon 20 room party. Wanna help?

[JG] Using a packaged template for a zine's layout is a great idea. I like the three-column format, and the reverse type in the heavy black stripes works well. But it looks as though the makers of the template were a little sloppy. The thick black stripes don't seem to line up with the borders. Also, to my taste, there are too many borders in this particular template (especially the boxes *within* margins that are already ruled).

I didn't realize you considered me a high risk guest. It's been a long time since I wrapped cats without the owner's permission. Really.

Vijay Bowen

[SC] Disclave, the Naked Slave Boy Tea Party, Leather Pride Night, etc., my, you've been busy. With such interesting things, too. Makes mowing the lawn and WisCon meetings sound pretty dull. I don't think you should expect to find anyone like Glenn at WisCon 20, unless you bring him along. In fact I think injecting a little radical sexuality into the scene here next year would be a good thing. We midwesterners are ready for radical politics. Some in-your-face radical sex would give the con an extra edge.

Jim Brooks

[SC] I'm glad we made it out for **Heather's** party. It was a perfect day and the whole scene was very pleasant. I hope you don't mind that some of us were a little shell-shocked from **Bill Hoffman's** feast the day before.

Your suggestion about the 30th membership slot being changed into a temporary associate membership is an interesting approach, but I don't think it would be very workable. For one thing, I think most of the people who are interested in *Turbo* are interested in being members for longer than a few months. Most of the people who came and left quickly, did so unintentionally (I'm thinking here of Jim Frenkel, Don Helley, Nevenah Smith and Lilian Edwards.) *Turbo* is a very comment/conversation oriented apa. It often takes more than a few months for a

new writer to get "up to speed" with what is going on in the apa. Besides, we have consistently had a long waitlist of people. We don't need to bother with temporary writers. If *Turbo* ever sinks below 30 members, we then could think about enticing some new people by offering an associate or "trial" membership. Finally, an associate membership slot of constantly changing members would be a headache to administer (especially from long-distance.)

[JG] "Shots for the Tiptree project as performance art." I like that.

I also disliked the movie *Forrest Gump*. I didn't like the dismissive and disapproving tone it took toward 60s radicals and ideals. I noticed that everything we learned in the movie was told to us through Forrest's point of view, *except* for the stuff about what's-her-name, Forrest's childhood friend. The director wanted to make sure that we disapproved of her life and so rather than learning about it indirectly (through a mirror darkly) as we did about other events, through Forrest's eyes, we looked at the drugs and bad sex and violence through the very critical and very direct camera lens.

Clay Colwell

[SC] Congratulations on getting the part in *Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. It's a summer musical, so I expect it will be opening soon? Tell us all about how it went. Congrats are also in order for turning 31. I'm just finishing up my 30's (I turned 39 in May.) No sage advice from me, I'm afraid. All I can say is that the last eight years seemed to go by very quickly.

Sorry, for not responding to your question about *Trouble and Her Friends*. I have many opinions about this book, but no time to write them. I assume that the book will be discussed in this issue of the apa, and so I will try to make a comment about it next month.

YCT me on the Left, you are correct that the Left emphasizes personal rights and freedoms, but so do the Libertarians. Unlike them, however, the Left usually views government as the means by which we mitigate the extreme abuses of capitalism. Libertarians view government as the problem and wish to reduce it as much as possible to permit maximum individual "freedom." The Left is not so naive about how a capitalist society works. The Left understands that without government, the wealthy class will dominate and exploit the rest of us to the greatest extent possible. Personal freedoms will fall by the wayside as the rich exert more and more power and control over our lives. The Left establishes "commonalty" with those groups that are the foes and victims of the wealthy class, namely labor and the working class, the

poor and traditionally exploited minority groups. The rhetoric of the Right in recent years has succeeded in confusing people about who represents their best interests and how the interests of the rich are served by anti-government sentiment.

[JG] Netcops who "demand vehemently that people be neither flamed or have their ideas challenged" sound like they aren't even practicing what they preach.

Bill Dyer

[SC] Excellent zine, great comments to many folks. Too bad you couldn't make it to WisCon. Next year, take no chances. Fly.

YCT Steve Swartz and Lisa Freitag on capital punishment, I have worked in corrections and maximum security forensic mental health for most of fourteen years in two states. In that time I have known many individuals who I wouldn't have the slightest qualm about pulling the switch on if I had them strapped into the electric chair. As with you, I have known about their crimes, known their histories and known them personally well enough to be certain that they would always be a threat to society if they were ever released. If anyone ever deserves to die, they did and I would sleep soundly having personally sent them to hell. Yet, I oppose capital punishment. I oppose it because I have worked in the system long enough to distrust its ability to carry out death sentences without error. The Jeffrey Dahmers of the world are easy cases. But capital cases are not always that simple. The system, as good as it is, is not nearly flawless enough to ensure that an innocent person will not die by the hand of the State. I oppose capital punishment on other grounds as well, but when it comes to a belief that is based on personal feelings and experience rather than statistics or philosophy, this feeling that the State can not be trusted to pass life or death judgment on its citizens is the most basic for me.

[JG] You and Lisa and I seem to all have had problems signing up for art courses in college and being told that regardless of our previous experience, that we will not be allowed to skip introductory courses. When I came to the UW, I lugged a hundred pounds of my pottery up to the ceramics professor's office, intending to show him my work and convince him to let me in the upper level courses. He wouldn't even let me take any pieces out of the boxes. "It's out of my hands," he sighed. "Those are the rules." So I vowed not to take *any* art courses at the university. "That will show them," I grumped. It's weird that the arts usually have not system for placing qualified



students in upper level courses, in the way language and mathematics departments do.

I had to laugh about the story you told in your comment to **Michael Shannon** about the woman who kept talking about church activities and kids while you were hoping to go to bed with her. I actually think she sounds like a pretty smart lady: she was sharing the things she most cared about, at a time when she might have been intimate with you. Knowing that those things weren't interesting to you, and in fact short-circuited your interest in intimacy sounds like an extremely important thing for her to know. I seem to remember using a similar strategy in my dating days. Only I talked about my lack of interest in raising a family and marriage, or I talked about my politics in general. Stunned silence or argument was a good clue that I might want to short circuit the relationship.

The scandal at a west coast fertility clinic involving a doctor who sold several fertilized eggs belonging to one client couple to another client couple, made me think again about this discussion we've been having about requiring the use of organs from executed felons. In trying to explain how the fertilized eggs sale was allowed to take place, professionals in the field again and again referred to the fact that this is one of many areas of rapid technological and scientific advances where we have neglected to fully discuss the issues involved beforehand. Where rights and wrongs are not discussed, profit motive encourages individuals to take liberties wherever possible. I don't think the slippery slope aspect of the organ donation issue compares to the Vietnamese era Domino theory. Rather, it compares with much more accuracy to the sale of eggs, fetuses and babies.

In a case in which a baby or an organ is valuable enough, some individuals have shown little hesitation when it comes to violating other people's rights. And we have already seen that U.S. courts are increasingly willing to short-circuit legal safeguards in order to hurry executions. It seems inevitable that more legal safeguards will crumble in the face of the sad plights of many prospective patients who need the felons' organs. Imagine the political pressure that would be brought to bear upon a governor just before the scheduled execution. Not only would he or she have to consider the arguments of the defense and prosecution, but the family of a patient in need of a transplant might also apply pressure to consider the greater needs of an "innocent" citizen. What a mess.

I would have no objections if—once deceased—

everyone's bodies became the property of the state for the purpose of transplants, but I would hate to see one, single, narrowly defined group of people become the sole, dependably accessible pool of organs for transplant. Abuse would be inevitable.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] It was great to see you at WisCon. I am very pleased that you are enjoying *Turbo* Apa.

YCT **Georgie** on fantasy, I never used to be a big fan of fantasy. I liked the *Lord of the Rings* and *The Once and Future King* and figured that the rest were probably poorer versions of those books. In the last couple years, however, I have been exposed to more fantasy and have changed my opinion of it. I'd still say I prefer science fiction to fantasy, but I admit that several of the best books I've read in the past couple years have been fantasies. *Larque on the Wing*, *The Innkeeper's Song* and *The Iron Dragon's Daughter* to name three that have blown me away lately, have really opened up the genre to me.

[JG] I like your idea of allowing "negative seconds" when it comes to nominations for new *Turbo* members. That way, if a person inspired two people to vote against them, they would require four (rather than just two) people to second them. I would vote for such a proposal if you decided to propose it formally.

So, what exactly is your "pet peeve" regarding the new public awareness of epidemics? I just read *The Coming Plague* and was very impressed.

I'm really glad you're enjoying *Turbo*apa so much. I sure am enjoying your contributions to it, and am very glad you're here.

Great description/definition of the American Heartland, and a fascinating idea that one can interpret various religious beliefs as a progress chart of god's growing maturity. Very neat.

Cathy Gilligan

[SC] I think most of your ideas for the WisCon retrospective are good. I might recommend looking at feminism from the perspective of how the issues facing feminists have changed from twenty years ago. I don't think Camille vs. Betty would be very interesting, enlightening or relevant for most of today's feminists (especially since Camille is a boring anti-feminist.) You could probably find someone who would be interested in writing such an article.

[JG] I'm glad you and Greg are so enthusiastic about the WisCon retrospective project. You've got some really interesting ideas. But remember that

you are going to have to work with Meg Hamel on this project. She is in charge of all publications for WisCon 20. Her e-mail address is in the SF³ Directory. Please contact her soon. I am going to be asking all department chairs to give me a timetable and budget within the next couple months. So Meg will need to have a fairly good idea of the scope of all WisCon's publishing projects. (And right away I can tell you that the main reason we can't simply republish all past program books isn't just because of copyright issues. It's because we will not have the money to do it.)

I have almost succeeded in collecting copies of all 19 WisCon program books. I will give you photocopies of them as soon as I find the last couple.

Hope and Karl

[SC] Thanks for the trip report. I was pleased to find out that it's possible to take a double-decker train out to Washington, DC. That makes going out there via the train much more attractive to me. I've never been to DC.

Pat Hario

[SC] Great quote. Is that from Ellen Klages? I say "hear, hear" to the notion of a big empty space to the Right. Wouldn't it be nice to get through one day without seeing any news mentioning Newt, Dole, Helms or Gramm?

[JG] ...yes, and then we could jump to the much more natural assumption that Clinton is the right-winger.

Tom Havighurst

[SC] Great zines, Tom.

I have heard "Jane" and "If I Had \$1,000,000" on the radio and liked them, but I wasn't sure if I would like a whole album of their music. Your recommendation is encouraging. Thanks.

YCT me about visitors from Iowa. My family used to be reluctant to come up to Madison because they envisioned a long trip. They have since been surprised that the drive is not only shorter than they imagined, but that the trip is quite pleasant. Southwestern Wisconsin is very pretty. Of course Gov. Thompson's efforts to turn 151 into a four lane divided highway all the way to Iowa will eventually detract from the scenic value a bit.

Excellent comment to Heather-Aynne, "And don't be humble about your contribution. I have long thought that as long as I make an honest effort, I am happy with what I put in the APA." I think you have a pretty healthy take on this apa thing already.

You did a fine job on WisCon and I'm glad to be working with you on next year's con.

[JG] I thought your comments on religion were interesting. Thank you.

