



Welcome to *Union Street* #71 (Obsessive Press [JG] #173 and Peerless Press [SC] #73), the zine with the transmogrifying seasonal masthead. 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 © by Scott Custis and Jeanne Gomoll, December 1995, for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #1114. Members FWA.

### Holiday Alert

[JG] Scott and I will be in Texas in the week between Christmas and New Year's and hope to see Lorelei, Clay, and Michael S. while we're there. But we will be back the on the 30th and will be throwing our annual **New Year's Eve party** here in Madison. Everyone in the apa is invited. Sorry we've been so late sending out the invitations; expect them soon (maybe, if I am very good, with this apa!).

### Business:

[JG] I'd like to formally second **Barb Jensen** (since I merely informally endorsed her in the last issue). What great news, too, from **Lisa Freitag**, that she's convinced **Elise Matthesen** to join us! Wow! Way to go Lisa! ...I may be willing to second Elise next month.

### Kim Winz

[JG] There's a non-gaming convention coming to your part of the country next year — Corflu, the fanzine fans convention, March 15-17, 1996. Write to Lucy Huntzinger, 2305 Bernard Ave., Nashville, TN 37212. Or you can email her at:

huntzinger@phyv02.phy.vanderbilt.edu

Several of us Madisonians plan to attend, including Scott and me. See you guys there?

### Jae Leslie Adams

[SC] I thought your intro piece was very well done. We have a fairly constant rate of turnover here in *Turbo*. The number of new people joining us since I became OE has created a regular need for members to reintroduce themselves. I wonder if this is typical for apas. I wonder how other apas deal with a regular influx of new people who would like some basic introductory information on the people in the apa they don't already know. Seems odd for a new member to introduce themselves and no one introduce themselves back. And then to do it all over again a few months later with another new member.

May I ask why you did not go on after student teaching to teach full-time?

I have not moved around nearly as much as you have, but I went through a period after high school where I changed addresses many times. I often looked forward to moving as a chance to change a lot of things about my life besides just my address. One thing about owning a house, I don't think about changing my whole life around anymore. I feel rooted to this spot and this lifestyle. I don't imagine myself starting over with a new place, new interests, new habits and routines. I miss that "starting over" feeling sometimes.

*Queen Margot* was a fabulous movie.

YCT Cathy on WisCon 19, I smell a rant lurking under this Iain Banks reference somewhere.

[JG] I find it interesting to think about how we all choose different formats for introducing ourselves. **Vijay** tended to adjectives. **WHump** examined his roots. You mapped a chronology by address. I've introduced myself a few times in zines and apas, and have usually chosen accomplishments (lifetime do-lists) and relationships as markers. But I could certainly identify with your long list of residences. My list isn't as long as yours but I've had 8 different addresses here in Madison, and sometimes it seems—as we drive around town—that I'm constantly saying "I used to live here...."

I agree with you that Suzette Haden Elgin's explanation for the failure of Laádan (that women are afraid to reveal as much as Laádan allows) seems unlikely, and that other more straightforward reasons seem more convincing. In fact, this sort of



reasoning highlights a frequently disorienting and sometimes naive, speculative tendency in Elgin's writing. She has offered in a recent issue of her zine, for instance, a fairly contorted explanation for why her own fiction is not more popular, that is concerned with a conspiracy of publishers, writers and readers.... On the other hand, I think that it is her ability to look around corners that few people notice, with a philosophical periscope of her own devising that leads her to many, thought-provoking insights.

Your description of the John Barthes *Atlantic* story, ("The painful details seem less painful, seen as very small in the context of the universe.") reminds me of Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Robber Bride*. Have you read it? In Atwood's story too, the details of several lives—which might have read as tragedy if they had been recounted in present tense—are converted to dark comedy by the characters themselves who are able to retell the events with the benefit of hindsight. It's a remarkable book.

### Vijay Bowen

[SC] Very nice covers Vijay. Thanks.

It's great that you are back with us. Your zine last month was well worth the wait.

You have our condolences on the death of your brother Carl. Despite your ambivalent feelings about him, cancer can be a tough way to go for anyone.

I will keep an eye out for *SM Visions*, I have been hoping to see one of your published pieces for quite a while. I wish you continued good luck on marketing your work.

Your comment to Steve Swartz was most interesting. Particularly the swift kick in the pants you gave him at the end. However I have to say that I feel that Steve has grounds for complaint. We have a fairly small and insulated group here in Madison. It is easy for one individual's behavior to have an impact on nearly everyone. This likely isn't the case in larger fan groups.

[JG] You may be able to find chocolate covered apricots at the Farmers' Market next year if you attend WisCon. I noticed that the Chocolate Caper table (owned by a hand-made chocolate store in town) was selling them last summer. I didn't sample them, though, so I don't know whether the apricots are the sugared or plain variety.

### Alison Dawson

[SC] I really enjoyed your fine zine.

I take it you survived your dissertation. Now what? Job hunting?

Yes, a picture of you and the gang at the Chinese restaurant would have been eagerly received back here. Oh well.

Congratulations on the new puppies. My guess is the names you chose came from the movie *Aliens*.

Jeanne and I have often talked about getting a dog. We prefer dogs to cats and, like you, we prefer large dogs. I always felt that such a dog ought to have a job as well. The right dog could provide good home security, always a concern in crime-conscious America. That would be a valuable service for us. Far more sensible than stocking up on firearms. We've been held back by the fact that we don't have the yard properly fenced in yet and walking it three times a day would be difficult for us right now. But I'm confident we will, one day, get a dog.

I was amused with your comparison of puppies to babies. I thought your observations were right on target.

[JG] Many years ago, I rescued a dog, too. A friend and I were walking home through the city and stopped to pet a very cute little puppy tied up by the sidewalk. In fact we stopped for quite a while, playing with the puppy, which was some sort of mix with great, huge feet. He was obviously destined to grow big. After a while my friend and I moved on, and tried to imagine why anyone would leave a puppy tied up along a sidewalk. And tied to a newspaper box!.... Duh. It suddenly hit us that the pup had been abandoned, so we returned to newspaper box and the dog, which was delighted to see us again. I ran up the steps of the house closest to the newspaper box and knocked on the door intending to canvas the area. It turned out that the neighbors had noticed this dog (all day!) and were curious themselves as to why he was tied there. So, my friend and I decided to take him home. We left a note taped to the newspaper box, just in case the dog's owner returned, and then we bought some puppy chow at the neighborhood grocery store, and—once home—discovered that the puppy was extremely hungry.

We kept him out on the screened porch. It was a warm summer evening, and we doubted that the pup was house trained. I sat out there for hours playing with him. Then, the next morning (like you) we called the humane society. If our landlord had allowed pets, I would have campaigned to keep him, but I have to believe that a cute puppy like this one would have been adopted soon. At least I hope so.

When Scott and I talk about getting a dog, it's that puppy that I want.

**James Bron**

[SC] First you nearly kill yourself in the lab, now a car accident. James, you must try to be more careful. How much damage did your passenger and the car sustain? Does this mean you will be getting a new car?

**Clay Colwell**

[SC] YCT **Bill Dyer**, I disagree with Sean on the likelihood of a race war in 20 years. But I think we will continue to experience a rising tide of unorganized random violence across the country targeting minorities (racial, sexual, religious) as the economic situation for most Americans worsens and the right-wing rhetoric of hate and blame gets more shrill and ugly.

**Bill Dyer**

[SC] I found your security experience at PRIMEDIA interesting. How big did the convention turn out to be? It sounded like you mostly were assigned to take care of Carter. Did he do panels too or just a speech and signing? Do you often work security at conventions (he asked innocently?)

YCT **Lisa**, "*The clients I serve have gone from being patients, to clients, to consumers.*" In corrections I have observed the change from "inmates" to "residents." Today, at the mental institution I work at, the patients on our maximum security adolescent unit are called "students."

[JG] Well, even though you generally shy away from diagnosing concom members, I'd appreciate it if you warned me if any of us develop tendencies toward mass murder or string collection

Your mention of Paintball reminds me that for months, I've been misunderstanding the term. I must have missed the explanation from whomever first mentioned the game, but in any case the image in my mind has been of two people in a small room, like a racketball court, throwing paint-filled bladders—sometimes at each other, but most often at the walls. I didn't realize that it was a game, but rather imagined that it was some sort of art happening.

Did I make a mistake in laying out your zine last time? That phrase, "Quality by the dram or the magnum," doesn't seem attached to anything.

**Lisa Freitag**

[SC] Congratulations on becoming an expectant parent. I was very surprised at the news. You seemed to be poised for a major change in your life, this just wasn't the one I was expecting. Your zine was very powerfully written and helped to make clear the process of coming to

your decision.

Thank you for nominating Elise. She will make a terrific contributor.

[JG] Scott sometimes lets me egoscan if I'm around when he gets the mail and open apa packages. I happened to be home when your zine arrived and ended up sitting down and reading all the way through. What an amazing document. Thank you for sharing with us you feelings through this momentous time of your life. Are you planning on continuing to keep this diary? Good luck to you all. I hope all your current ambiguities about motherhood are resolved next May.

**Karl Hailman**

[SC] Congratulations on the job. I temped for almost as long as you did before landing a state job (I still don't know if I made the right decision to take it since I seem to be stuck in it.) The other advantage to American Family is that they are a very successful company. Job security is a good thing.

**Hope Kiefer**

[SC] Good luck with the fudge business. I think this is a pretty good idea that could go anywhere, with a little creativity. Who knows, maybe we will be seeing you at Farmers Market next year. Several successful local businesses started out at home, then sold at Farmers Market and eventually wound up with a storefront. Maybe that's not quite what you have in mind, but it's a nice dream.

**Pat Hario**

[SC] Thank you for the compliment on my performance as OE so far. There is plenty of time for me to screw up yet, so I will endeavor to keep compliments from going to my head. WisCon is sucking up a lot of my fannish energy so I don't think I will be doing much managing of the apa (like proposing rule changes or making other drastic alterations in the Way Things Have Always Been Done) in the coming months. My successor can count on taking it over pretty much as it is.

I was quite pleased that you elected to leave out "negative stuff" from your trip report. It seemed that it didn't get in the way of your having a great time and that is the most important thing. All the good stuff is what will stick with you over time I believe. When I remember back to going with Jeanne on her TAFF trip to Great Britain, I really only remember the good stuff. I know there were things that irked and irritated me about the trip, but what I remember of them seems insignificant to me now.



[JG] Thanks for your comments on my review of *Trouble and Her Friends*, but I have to disagree with you that there's a message in it to the effect that it's easier to change laws from within the establishment. I think that Scott's view is more that outlaws define their own establishment after a while, and to preserve it, must enforce their own laws or lose the world they've created. I think she's fascinated by how a person's identity changes drastically by the manner in which one is perceived by others, and that even self-perception must change over time. A good comparison of this theme might be made in a study of *Trouble and Shadow Man*.

### Andy Hooper

[SC] Your zine was only slightly less surprising to me than Lisa's. It was really quite absorbing. Your description of your trip through the desert emerging at the other side with a new respect for the possibilities of extraterrestrial visits to Earth was persuasive. The thing that most impressed me was your clear-eyed examination of the U.F.O. issue. I have so often found it frustrating, in the little reading I've done on the subject, to sort out the really interesting stuff from the paranoid ramblings and utter flights of fancy so many people in the field are prone to. Even Steve Johnson indulged in a certain mystic outlook that made it hard sometimes to sit still for the harder news he gave us. I was especially relieved that you decided to steer clear of alien abduction stories which must be the most notoriously goofy and unbelievable sub-category of the U.F.O. subject.

Regarding Roswell and other crash stories, I always have to ask this question. If we are really talking about an alien crash or landing or whatever, why and how could the government keep it a secret for so long? I have never been completely convinced that there is reason for the government to keep a lid on the most important event in human history for almost fifty years. I am not even convinced that, with the number of people involved in this discovery who must know "the truth," that they could succeed in keeping it a secret for so long. What kind of a security threat could it cause this long after the fact? Granted that in 1947 there was plenty of paranoia to explain clamping down on the development then, but after this much time can we accept that the government is still holding back documents and evidence/artifacts?

Can't wait for the next installment.

[JG] You might convince me that the government is trying to cover some high level fuckup, but the coincidence of UFO's mimicking contemporary technology—which is something I hadn't known—adds to my conviction that UFOs have a lot more to

do with wish fulfillment than an actual phenomenon. Nevertheless, you write about the subject with a clarity and skepticism that made me enjoy your work. Thanks. Have you sent a copy of this zine or *Apparatchik* to Steve Johnson?

### Bill Humphries

[SC] Re: Camille Paglia, I disagree with you. I don't think she has any interesting ideas, she is just a publicity hound who is interested only in promoting herself. She was an minor academic, virtually unknown, who discovered that she could make a name for herself by trashing feminism. The media, always hungry for a "rebel" who really bolsters the status quo, adopted her with gusto. I find, for example, Catherine McKinnon to be far more interesting and deserving of media attention. I disagree with her too, but at least she's promoting something other than herself and making interesting arguments. Paglia is only posturing for the cameras.

### Peter Larsen

[SC] Good comments to me and **Bodden** on R. Crumb. I do appreciate Crumb's brilliance and influence as a cartoonist.

I'd hate to lose you so quickly from *Turbo*. I think your contributions have been fine, but I mainly prize the regular contact *Turbo* has allowed us to reestablish. I don't see you enough, at least now we are hearing from you every other month or so.

[JG] Don't go, Peter. Your first-hand information about Crumb was invaluable. And I really enjoy your numerical news blips.

### Diane Martin

[SC] I thought your comment to **Steve** was quite sensible. But then, what other type of feedback to you ever give?

[JG] I hear you've been very sick and hope you're feeling much better now.

### Vicki Rosenzweig

[SC] Hello and welcome. Great first zine. I'm glad you elected to jump right into the conversation. The more, the merrier. Thanks also for the intro. We all know the writing an intro. can be tedious, but it really is helpful to those of us who haven't had the pleasure of meeting you yet.

YCT us on our joint account. There are five joint accounts in *Turbo* now and I expect we all approach it a little bit differently. Not so long ago, most of the joint memberships had each member pubbing their own zine.

The *Winz's* still have two titles on the contents page for their respective zines. Now, though, most combine to produce a single zine which is the way we've always done *Union Street*.

Jeanne originally joined *Turbo* very soon after it started with a zine called *Allargando*. We were not living together at that time, but I did regularly "lurk." We liked reading it together and talking about it. *Turbo* helped me to get to know folks in the local group. Jeanne dropped out of the apa after about two years when I started working for the state of Wisconsin and we began looking for a house. Once we got settled in our new place, we decided to rejoin the apa as a collaborative effort. We thought of *Turbo* as something we would do together, since reading it and talking about it was still fun. Neither of us wanted to devote enough time to it to support individual memberships and, in fact, we initially agreed that we would focus on comments and discussion rather than essay writing and try to keep our page count down to about 4 per issue. Well, we rarely are able to turn in just 4 pages. We also hate to "catch up" after missing an issue so we tend to pub something every month. Our routine is for one of us to take it early in the month, do comments and pass it on with enough time for the other partner to read and comment. Sometimes we run short of time and we have to resort to making a second copy so we can work on it at the same time. Jeanne is much faster than I am, so usually the apa is in my hands most of the month. Jeanne designed our logo and does the final layout every month. I proofread and copy it. Since she works on it last, it is not unusual for me to find "surprises" in it when I get it back. That's a risk I have to take. We still enjoy reading and talking about the apa every month to each other. If that ever changes, probably neither of us will take on the burden of doing an individual zine.

[JG] Thanks for the interesting bio material. You mentioned having lost a couple stores recently in your neighborhood, including a grocery store. I am reminded of an article I just read in Sunday's paper about a similar phenomenon in Milwaukee's north side. There are no big grocery stores, and very few other kinds of stores, other than check-cashing businesses, liquor stores, and pawn shops. If you haven't guessed it already, this area has the largest concentration of black people in the city. Things are beginning to change somewhat as minority-owned businesses move into the vacuum left by business which flee to the suburbs, but the picture with the article said it all: a young woman sitting, exhausted, at the curb, waiting for the bus, surrounded by several paper bags, crammed with grocery items.

It's been fun doing *Union Street* with Scott. I had to change my apa style considerably when we started, since I liked to organize *Allargando* around topics, rather than individual mailing comments as we do now. But that style wouldn't have worked well for Scott and me, and in fact, I've really enjoyed working on *Union Street* as we do it. As Scott said, half the fun is the conversations we have that we wouldn't dare to put in the form of mailing comments.

Interesting questions about games that reenact historical dramas. Now I'm wondering if these games allow for random changes in environmental details, like weather, illness ... or, oversleeping on the part of some of the combatants.

You won't have to change your name to come up first in the *Turbo* roster. There are no other "R's" in the apa right now, so when your initial comes up, you'll be on top.

Very good definition of bias. Thank you. And thank you for a great zine. I look forward to more from you!

### Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] YCT Jeanne about common ground, I suppose that you are right that the personal experiences you described of being discriminated against gave you some first-hand understanding. But it's important to keep in mind that it still lacks a dimension of permanence and inescapability. As that kid in the store, you at least knew that the discrimination you felt was not permanent. When you became an adult, the storekeepers would see you differently. Just as a college student you experienced discrimination as a matter of choice. You chose to dress in the style of the day to make a statement about yourself. You chose to go to student demonstrations were police were not going to see you sympathetically. But you could largely choose to change those perceptions if you wished. Discrimination based on race does not permit the option of escape. It does not matter how old you are, how you dress or where you spend your time.

Re: Irony Time, great rant. I wouldn't put it past the Right to take you at your word and decide to deep six those old classics for those very reasons, or even sillier ones. In the end only the Bible and a history textbook from 1961 will survive as acceptable for the youth of America.

[JG] You wrote: "I'm glad to see the number of WisCon GoH alumnae who intend to return for #(gasp!)20, and find myself more full of enthusiasm than usual. Now if I can only think of what to do with it." Don't worry, I will call you up soon and help you find your way out of this dilemma.



You praised Madison to **Jim Frenkel** for being a cheap place to live, especially "given the fact that Wisconsin Gas can't turn your heat off in the winter months for non-payment." Unfortunately, that probably won't be true for long. The Republican congress has removed that mandate from the aching back of our long-suffering energy monopolies. We'll see if the gas companies decide to get tough this winter and old folks start dying of exposure....

I enjoyed your essay on Cinderella and your fascination with ambiguous meanings. Have you heard that the origin of the Cinderella story is of Chinese foot binding? I usually think of that story as one about how if a woman binds herself in tightly enough (or if her mother does it for her), she may be "rewarded" by winning the prince.

### Sandra Taylor

[SC] I liked your zine title. How true.

I have every intention of being there to help when you guys finally move. You have kept us all rapt at Nick's with your updates on "the situation" at your apartment. I hope you will at least enjoy some quiet through the winter

until you finally get out of there in the spring. We'll keep an eye out for a place in our neighborhood.

I agree with you that the viciousness of the pizza place robberies was scary. Madison is too small a town to take comfort in looking at something like that and saying, "At least it wasn't in my neighborhood." It was scary for all of us, or should be. No doubt the nastiness of these assaults stems from the influx of big city refugees. As a community, we need to come up with some sensible strategies to deal with this development, but I'm also not prepared to let businessmen off the hook. They persist in running establishments that are ripe for robbery, staffing them with kids, ignoring any attempt at real security for these employees and then complaining that "the city" should do something to protect them. Well maybe they could spend some of their profits and protect themselves. Too expensive? Maybe we could live with fewer pizza places and convenience stores if they were required to be adequately staffed, security equipped and guarded.

[JG] Great story, Sandy. You're truly a fan when you can look back on an experience like that and say, "well at least it will make a good fanzine article."

Jeanne & Scott, 12/16/95

*May your holidays be truly exclamatory!*

You are invited to a

## New Year's Eve Party

Sunday, December 31, 1995, 8 pm

2825 Union Street, Madison

*Formal dress encouraged but absolutely not required*

We will have snacks, beer, Asti Spumanti, cream soda and root beer. If you prefer another beverage, please bring it along. Also, we invite you to share your **decorated cookies** with the other revelers. We're sure that suggestion has nothing to do with the fact that Jeanne has not had time to bake cookies this year.

Thrill to a new version of "**Mad Libs!**"

Delight in the taste smorgasbord of the **Chocolate Tasting Event!**

Come ready to **party all night!**

**RSVP** Jeanne & Scott, 608-246-8857

