



Welcome to *Union Street* #73 (Obsessive Press [JG] #175 and Peerless Press [SC] #75), 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 IIITX 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, February 1996, for Turbo-Charged Party Animal APA #116. Members FWA.

Busy, Busy

[JG] My dreams almost always include details of WisCon business. And though I am focusing upon the end of May with much excited anticipation and considerable confidence that WisCon 20 will be a spectacularly wonderful, possibly even an historic event, I still join Scott in frequent and wistful conversations that begin with the poignant phrase, "After WisCon we'll be able to...." WisCon is most definitely eating my life (in an organized fashion).

This is all by way of an excuse as to why my comments are sketchy this month and will probably continue to be so for the next few months if they aren't entirely absent. I ended up reading this month's apa during a very late night session the day before the deadline and am typing this on the very day of the deadline. Unlike some of you who seem to have developed a tradition of doing the apa on the last

days possible, I don't like doing it that way, but this month have simply had no free time because the WisCon stuff has taken a much higher priority in my mind than *Turbo* stuff. Reading the apa late at night in a rush made me grumpy about things I generally ignore (or turn a high-intensity lamp upon). I'm sorry if I missed some meaty discussion in some of your zines in my impatience to move on to a more readable zine. I'll return in better form ... after WisCon....

Portland

[JG] It was cold in Portland when we visited. It got down to 20° F (that's *above* 0) and the natives were feeling battered. The schools had to close because the heating facilities were inadequate for the temps, and the streets seemed abnormally deserted. On Sunday, the top news story was a newsman throwing a rock onto a frozen river and exclaiming about the frozen water. "I know it's tempting," he warned, "but don't walk on the ice. You could fall right through and die!!" I mentioned to a few Portlanders that frozen water doesn't generally make the news where I come from. All this was all the more poignant since the very week that Portland was experiencing the cold and ice, just a week before they experienced the flooding, was the very week that the Midwest was having to deal with sub-0 temps and dangerous chill factors.

I have to admit, though, that the topography of the city—lots of hills, or mountains as they'd be labeled here in Wisconsin—made the freezing rain a dangerous situation in Oregon. They didn't have salt, apparently, to apply to the roads or walks. Nobody even thought about shoveling the 2 inches of snow they got the week before, so when it got colder and the tromped-upon snow froze, the walks were difficult to navigate. And when the freezing rain fell on Sunday, everything just got worse and they only had enough sand to use on the intersections, and not enough to get all of them. A plane slid off the runway on Sunday, striking terror into all of us who were planning to fly out that day or the next. Everyone made it back home all right though.

The place you would not want to be after a freezing rain is the steep incline of Dr. Bill's narrow, gravel driveway, which is also known as Grover Street. Bill picked Scott and I up at the airport, drove through the city, and along the winding road up to his house, just behind the VA Hospital. Once we had to back down a whole block to get a faster, running start at the intersection at the top of a hill. After many switchbacks and many engine protests, he finally turned into what looked like a very short, dead end road (labeled SW 10th St.) and roared straight toward the fence at the end of the road, which was



all that separated us from the cliff that fell sharply into downtown Portland. Why was Bill trying to kill us, I wondered. At the last moment, he swung the steering wheel to the left and powered up the incredibly narrow and steep alley that suddenly appeared behind the last building on the left. It was not labeled Grover Street, but that's what it was. We stopped suddenly at the top of the hill and he pointed in the direction of the passenger seat window: "That's my house."

Needless to say, communicating this address to a cab company is nearly impossible and we might well have been stranded at Bill's house after the wild party/feast/mud fight on Friday night if it hadn't been for a friend of Bill's who volunteered to help ferry the merry-makers back to the hotel.

It's maybe a good thing that Portland got all that rain after we left. I can't imagine how else Bill would have been able to clean all that mud off the hot tub deck. I'm more concerned about how he's going to get all that tomato sauce out of the bathtub and clean the oil spots off the ceiling in the kitchen.

Oh, and the convention was fun too—again a smallish, serious convention that catalyzed lots of tantalizing ideas through intensive, passionate programming. And lots of good people, even if most of them *are* wimps when it comes to cold temperatures.

Vijay Bowen

[SC] Mark is apparently planning to do the job hunting thing right there in New York. It seems to me the two of you were talking awhile back about moving, possibly to Seattle. Wouldn't this be a good time to explore that option, or have you changed your minds about leaving town at present?

YCT Steve, "...I think that interacting with you is too high-risk an activity." Perhaps, but I always thought of you as someone who likes to take a few risks. Steve is a good friend and I think he is worth hearing out.

[JG] You wondered if you will have to find your own half-naked fan-boys and fan-girls to feed chocolate covered apricots to you at WisCon. Sounds like a personnel question to me. You should put in a request to **Tom Havighurst** for some Very Special Gophers.

Clay Colwell

[SC] Yes, it was fun having lunch with you in Austin. Wish we'd had more free days to hang out. I always look forward to meeting *Turbo* members I didn't already know. So far I have met everyone except **James**

and **Alison**. I think I have been introduced to **Vicki**, but I can't remember where or when so meeting her again is a high priority for me. I know everyone else except for **Michael Rawdon** on the waitlist.

[JG] You speculated that **Melissa Scott** might have had a broader range of parody in mind than simply jabbing at DOS vs MAC people in *Trouble and Her Friends*. Maybe so. I've found it amusing to learn that **Melissa** works on a Mac Plus with a non-extended keyboard. As she considers upgrading now, she is loathe to move up to that intimidating extended keyboard with all the extra keys and is hoping to get away with merely upgrading to a refurbished Mac SE. She sounds, in fact, as if she has to fight against a certain level of technophobia in her life, which is pretty funny considering the kind of technophobia she was jabbing at in *Trouble* were the folks who objected to having their brains hardwired into cyberspace.

Bill Dyer

[SC] "I can hardly wait for the prostate exam next year when I turn 40." What prostate exam? I'll be 40 in two months, is this one of those nasty surprises that is "part of growing older?" Drat. The heart monitor thing sounds like a drag, especially since I am certainly in far worse physical condition than you and I would have just as much discomfort with those damn sticky leads. I'll have to look out next time I'm in for a physical. Thanks for the warning.

YCT **Karl**, "Except for the time I got grabbed by the tie by a manic patient." Back in my prison guard days, we used to wear clip-on ties as part of our uniform for just the reason you described. I hated those things. Talk about ugly. Take it from me, there can be worse things than having to wear a real tie.

YCT me, "You can throw a stone at your neighbor and hurt him, but throwing a stone at *General Motors* is like spitting into a strong wind." So true. It will be interesting to watch the fall campaigns as the candidates strive to divide Americans against each other and focus on fake issues while decrying any discussion of the widening disparity between rich and poor as "class warfare." We'll be flogged to death with talk about "family values" while corporations and the wealthy grow richer, and average middle class folks continue to slide toward poverty.

[JG] You commented on **Georgie's** discussion of the Cinderella myth and suggested that **Jim Brooks** read *Bettleheim's Uses of Enchantment*. That's an interesting book all right, in which fantasy

elements are converted into psychological absolutes. I have always been fascinated by how fairy tales change in form and use through history, and was just tipped off by Suzy McKee Charnas who spoke at Potlatch, about a new book by Marina Warner, *From the Beast to the Blond: On Fairy Tales and their Tellers*. Suzy is really excited about the book now, and convinced me to buy it. I haven't started it yet, but here's something from the jacket:

Marina Warner ... looks at storytelling, at its practitioners and images in art, legend, and history ... The storytellers are frequently women (or were until men like Charles Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, and Hans Christian Anderson started writing down the women's stories) and Marina Warner asks how changing prejudices about women affect the status of fairy tales: are they sources of wisdom and moral guidance, or temptations encouraging indulgence in romantic and vengeful fantasies?

It looks like a really interesting read. (But just to give you an idea of how WisCon seems to infect all my thoughts, my first ideas upon picking up the book was first, that the book would provide some great ideas for WisCon programming, and second, that maybe I should send a letter to Marina Warner about WisCon....)

One more thing before I get off this topic: Someone in the apa responded to my Cinderella comment about how the original story was about foot binding. I can no longer find the comment however, so I hope you don't mind, Bill, if I inject my response here. This mystery commentator asked how the story could have included all that dancing at the Prince's Ball, since a woman whose feet were bound presumably couldn't do much dancing. I thought about that a while and realized that I'd never visualized Cinderella as the one with bound feet. I had assumed that Cinderella's character was like the out-of-reach, impossible-to-emulate models that are offered up to women in our own culture as female ideals. These rail-thin, flawless beauties are portrayed as naturally beautiful. The rest of us are supposed to starve ourselves, sicken ourselves, and torture ourselves in order to approximate some small bit of their "natural" appearances, just as Cinderella's sisters tried to hack off parts of their feet to approximate Cinderella's naturally delicate footsies. Some standards of contemporary women's beauty dictate very high heels and pointy-toe shoes to stretch the apparent length of a woman's leg, no matter that the fashion can cripple or at least cause

terrible physical problems in later years. We are entertained with the ideal leggy models and cinematic heroines who win their princes with their bodies, and learn the lesson that our own apparently "unnatural" bodies need a *lot* of work if we are ever to win love for ourselves.

Lisa Freitag

[SC] I vote for having Greg read your awesome zine from #113. It is one of the most powerful pieces ever pubbed here in *Turbo*. I can't imagine him finding it any less fascinating than we did.

"I am cow-like and placid with hormones." Wow, what an amusing image that conjures.

I expect that the arrival of the baby will put some big demands on your free time. I think I speak for all of us in hoping that it won't mean we lose you as a contributor to *Turbo*.

[JG] Show your zine to Greg. I can't imagine anyone who loves their partner who wouldn't want to share such a powerful and intimate essay. If he hasn't shown interest in reading your zines, I would bet that he doesn't realize how open you've been in your writing here and will change his mind about wanting to read future issues of *Otitis Media*.

Re your comment to **Andy Hooper**, about UFO sightings. I think that part of the fascination with UFOs, psychic phenomena, and near death experiences, is that if evidence is substantiated: everything changes. If aliens live among us that changes everything or possibly explains everything. If people really do have near death experiences on "the other side" it means there really is another side, and that changes everything: we get a second chance; all is not lost if we fuck up in this life. If psychic phenomena can be proven to exist, everything changes: science must move over to make room for the supernatural. There will be new explanations for everything. I think the fascination with UFO sightings and psychic phenomena shares something with people's fascination with apocalypse (the religious and the human-made kind): Everything changes, and if I am saved, my life starts all over.

Jim Frenkel

[SC] Great zine, Jim. But please, you need columns and white space. It really was hard to read.

YCT on racism in SF. Jeanne and I did not argue that SF never tackled the issue of racism. We wanted to know why there are so few fans (and writers) of color. I put forward the theory that the shortage of writers dealing in depth about racial issues from personal experience may



have something to do with it. Most writers of SF are white. You also expressed concern that there are so few writers of color in SF. After more than a year of discussion and misunderstandings in the apa, we still don't know.

On sports, when it comes to the pros, I'm pretty much looking for teams that are very strongly committed to their communities. The Green Bay Packers appeal to me as much because of their community ownership than anything else. I can't imagine the Chicago Cubs ever leaving Wrigley field for bigger bucks someplace else. I plan to support these teams. I don't care that much whether they ever make it to the Super Bowl or the World Series.

[JG] Excellent zine, Jim. But my eyes got tired trying to track the type.

Cathy Gilligan

[SC] YCT **Bill Boddan** on snow blowers. I'm not kidding when I say that our snow blower is my single favorite motorized possession other than the car. I don't know why I spent so many winters shoveling when I could have bought one of those things. Of course there comes a point where fighting to get one to work can be more trouble than it's worth, but I have a powerful incentive for keeping it in good running form. The incentive is that when I need it, it is so very nice to have.

YCT me on the PDQ robbery, convenience stores are magnets for stick-ups. They are also handy to have around the neighborhood. Maybe people in the neighborhood should take the lead in pressuring store owners to provide better security. The effects of robberies are felt by everyone in the area, not just the store and the employees.

I enjoyed *Lost Again*. I did suggest public transportation, but now that you mention it, I guess it does pose its own special challenges. Poor Greg suffers a few mild slanders in your piece, but that is the privilege of authorship. I don't know why you are so reluctant to travel, Cathy. You always end up with entertaining tales of adventure to share with us.

[JG] Talking about pets and kids, you wrote to **Tracy Benton** that *"...before a certain age, children do not have the capacity to realize they are causing pain; no empathy until a certain level of maturity."* The woman who does the pet show on WHA, Patricia McConnel, often talks entertainingly about this issue, and points out that dogs too need to learn this lesson. She recommends that when playing with a puppy who likes to nip at your hands, that you screech and wail whenever they nip. The dog needs

to realize that they can't play with humans the way they are used to playing with their siblings, and that by making a big verbal fuss, you can convince the pups early on that human beings are incredibly delicate creatures who can't even tolerate the touch of their teeth and they will learn this lesson very quickly.

Are you responsible for all the snow removal in your household, or was it just your turn when we got the big snowfall?

Re your comment to **Lorelei Manney**, I'm with you Cathy. My biological clock has never kicked in either. And though I never expected it to do so, I am glad to be able to tell folks that it *is* possible to know oneself well enough to make decisions about reproduction early in one's adulthood.

Pat Hario

[SC] The Cowboys suck. Amen.

YCT **Jae** on airing dirty laundry in the apa. When it comes to personal disputes, they are clearly best handled outside the apa. I think it is perfectly OK however to talk openly about community wide issues. **Steve** originally was talking about the health of the local fan community. I think that is an appropriate subject for the apa. When people took personal offense, that is when the apa quickly reached it's limit as a useful method of communication.

On moving, you talked about some of the questions and issues you confront when you've thought of selling your house, leaving your job and going off somewhere else. I don't think such a move should be made when one is finally so fed up and desperate that any solution, including chucking it all and moving away, seems good. I also don't think it's a good idea to move just because a person feels stuck, not happy, not terribly unhappy, just in a rut. I think it is good to make such changes in one's life, but I think the process has to start with asking oneself, what do you really want? What kind of work do you want to do, where in the world you want to end up living, what kind of lifestyle do you seek? Once you feel comfortable with the answers to these questions, then by all means, go for it.

YCT me on introductions, we are all reasonably sure of your gender Pat. But I don't think writing about cramps gives our new members a very complete picture of who you are. But I can't complain as I haven't written an updated intro. piece myself in awhile.

[JG] In a comment to **Jae**, you wrote: *"You refer to 'this new-fangled concept of no-fault divorce.' Actually, it's been around long enough for 'experts' to re-visit the idea and determine that it's not working as well as it was hoped."* My questions for you are:

which experts? Whose criteria is being used to determine that it's not working? Whose conception of original intent of no-fault divorce is being used to base such a judgment? I think it's real important to think about the voices heard and assumptions made in this current reassessment period of no-fault divorce. The major groups backing legislation to require proof of cruelty or other specific divorce grounds (which are calculated to make it more difficult for a couple to split up) are Christian-based family organizations, men's activists, and some lifelong homemakers — who have in common the desire to preserve status quo, as well as a common anger directed against individuals who chose unorthodox lifestyles. The new laws are aimed against such non-conformists, I think, not at helping victim children of broken households. Because if those groups were concerned first about the victims of divorce, they wouldn't continually block legislation whose aim is to help those victims. I think the aim of groups who seek to get rid of no-fault divorce is to wrench the family back into a form that these groups fantasize it should have (but never has).

I think Melissa Scott's *Shadow Man* was an extremely interesting book, and I am glad that I read it for it's view of humans as a species with five genders, but it is a difficult book to read because of the difficult-to-verbalize symbols she invents for the new pronouns. Take that as a recommendation or not. You may borrow my copy if you want to read it.

Tom Havighurst

[SC] I don't think of a four page zine with comments on three issues as "minacish."

Interesting news about surreal numbers, but I'm tempted to think you might be pulling our leg about this.

YCT **Jim Brooks** on American TV. I don't doubt that every complaint I've heard about American TV is true. It's certainly "buyer beware" out there. But I moved to Madison before Best Buy came to town and in those days American often had the best deal. I bought a lot of electronics from them and have been pretty satisfied (including a very good deal on my Powerbook.) Best Buy is tough competition and they are winning more of my business, but I have no regrets about the things I bought from American.

YCT **Vicki** on Camille Paglia, I don't think anyone accused Paglia of being stupid. We question her status as celebrity spokesperson and darling of the media. Does she really have something interesting to say, or is she only about self promotion? It's clear where I stand.

[JG] And it's probably clear where I stand on Paglia, too. I think I will just start including little quotes, chosen at random from a book I have periodically tried unsuccessfully to read, Paglia's *Sex, Art and American Culture*, chosen at random. If you are in any doubt, I will be radically disagreeing with the sentiments in these excerpts on so many levels, I would have to go on for pages to describe all of them.

So by the time the women's movement broke forth in 1969, it was practically impossible for me to be reconciled with my 'sisters,' And there were, like, screaming fights. The big one was about the Rolling Stones. This was where I realized—this was 1969—boy, I was bounced fast, right out of the movement. And I had this huge argument. Because I said you cannot apply a political agenda to art. When it comes to art, we have to make other distinctions. We had this huge fight about the song 'Under My Thumb.' I said it was a great song, not only a great song but I said it was a work of art. And these feminists of the New Haven Women's Liberation Rock Band went into a rage, surrounded me, practically spat in my face, literally my back was to the wall. They're screaming in my face: 'Art? Art? Nothing that demeans women can be art!' There it is. There it is! Right from the start. The fascism of the contemporary women's movement.

Andy Hooper

[SC] Re: Rummy Affairs, brilliant piece. On Return of the Native, I largely agree with your sentiments here, though I can assure you that as OE I can (and have) said no to requests to return to *Turbo*.

The rest of your zine was really fun reading. I enjoyed it all, but of course found the events of Las Vegas in 1962 the most fascinating. I have not heard of this event before that I can remember. Scary and cool to be sure. I think it is even more interesting than Roswell. Thanks for sharing it and, as always, I'm looking forward to the next installment.

[JG] What a great, gonzo look at Madison fandom. I was torn, while reading to respond to the details of your comments or simply to enjoy the ride, and I chose the ride because it was late. But we've probably already talked about our disagreement on the matter of discretion and gossiping about Madison group scandals, so you're saved a re-hash of that old argument.



Bill Humphries

[SC] A very fine zine from you also this month, Bill. There is a lot more to chew on here than I really have time to respond to properly, but let me say thanks at least for including your Reading List. I echo your enthusiasm for *Smilla*, *Iron Dragon's Daughter* and *Diamond Age*. All fine reads. I am looking forward to getting Cockburn's book and I am now also interested in *Guttenberg Elegies*. There is other good stuff you described but those two are the ones calling to me from the bookshelves right now.

I also liked your piece on Censorship as Theater. You caught me momentarily off guard when I thought you were calling Senator Exon one of the "few good guys", but I recovered and reread from the proper perspective. Good points about the limits of TV in a debate of complex issues and the hampering of civil libertarians by their habit of using only reasoned arguments to put forward their case. As we all know, this is the age of debate by sound bite and sensationalism.

[JG] I liked Le Guin's "A Women's Liberation" very much, too, but now that I have read the book in which it is embedded, *Four Ways to Forgiveness*, I cannot think of that single story without reference to the other three stories with which it is linked in the book. All of a sudden there are more levels and more references to contemporary life.

Diane Martin

[SC] Good luck with the job search. You certainly deserve better treatment and more respect.

[JG] I liked the survey of your year. Every year around Christmas time I think about how neat it would be to do a witty chronology of my past year and I think about how easy it might be to set up a file on the computer and add a paragraph each month.... But, ah well, you all know the rest. Thanks. I'm very happy for you and Jim, and wish you much luck with a professional change. If there's anything I can do to help by way of networking or anything, let me know.

Vicki Rosenzweig

[SC] Wonderful comments. You are a fine apa conversationalist.

YCT **Bill B**: "*Cute is appealing in puppies and kittens, sometimes in children, but exasperating in adults.*" Yes, I think so too.

YCT me on government secrecy of alien landings/sightings: you present the traditional line on the subject and Hooper's zine seems to back that up with more examples of government reluctance to release information. It's a reasonable view, I guess. I just tend to wonder

how a military establishment that has failed to keep many big scientific discoveries secret over the years could keep the biggest of all discoveries so successfully under wraps for so long. I have very little confidence in the government's ability to keep a secret like this over so much time.

I am also a skeptical of the idea of the government keeping a secret just because they always have, long after it's possible military usefulness has been probed. It took fifty years, but we eventually found out about atomic radiation tests on soldiers. This is embarrassing information that they could have locked away forever, but they didn't and frankly I don't think they could. Subsequent generations of military personnel come in, find out what boneheads and paranoids their predecessors were and release the information. I believe this is what would happen with UFO information if it existed.

Not that the government doesn't keep secrets at all. But there seems to be a limit to the strategic national security value of a possible UFO crash in the 1950's once everything has been studied a couple hundred times.

Thanks also for the pronunciation guide for your name. I had been getting it wrong up to now.

[JG] I agree with Scott: you are a wonderful conversationalist and I am very glad to see your zines here in *Turbo*.

I also am not willing to believe in Suzette's conspiracy of readers. I didn't quote her because I agreed with her, but as an example of her sometimes wacky theories. Sorry if I confused.

Georgie Schnobrich

[SC] YCT me on common ground, I did misinterpret the circumstances you were describing and I apologize. Your additional comments last month were very clear and helpful. Your second paragraph, where you talk about the declining respect the white middle-class is experiencing is well stated. Obviously the corporate media and corporate-owned politicians have little interest in helping middle-class folks find common ground with the working class and poor. Better to have us all angry and fearful of each other than discovering all that we really have in common.

It's quite surprising how your former chiropractor made such a poor match for you (and probably other customers of hers) with this Dr. D. You would think after being her customer for so long, she would be better tuned to your needs and expectations.

I also liked the piece you did on William Bonnet's books. I remember him well (with a shudder) from the Regain/Bush years.

We loved *Twelve Monkeys*.

YCT **Jim Brooks** on vampires with Ebola. Cool idea, two hot topics that go well together. Go for it, Georgie. Far worse story ideas have made it to print.

[JG] I wonder if you couldn't go back to your old chiropractor and ask for another recommendation. I bet that the former chiropractor sold their practice and was under legal obligation to refer their clients to that chiropractor. It's too bad she had to sell her practice to someone who holds such different values than her own, but then it might have turned out that doctors with her values don't tend to make enough profits to be able to buy other doctors' practices. But maybe if you described your experiences, she might give you a more honest recommendation.

Wow! I loved your diatribe against William Bennett. People have been debating his ideas, and not really delving into his book and what it actually says. I say the world needs a review of his book. You should try and get an expanded version of your review published.

I think *Twelve Monkeys* stands with some of the best SF movies ever made, *2001* and *Bladerunner*.... I too admired the tight plotting of the time travel elements and that the director didn't go for the easy ending and let the main character change history in order to save his life and love. As to how "happy" or "unhappy" the ending was, I've heard a few people criticize the ending for the levity of the final conversation ... but I'm not sure how that bears upon whether the ending was upbeat or not. But this is what I thought of the ending: The time travel project at last succeeded when the cause of the plague was identified by the combined effort of dozens of time travelers (but especially of the Bruce Willis character, of course). The final bit of information — the chemical composition of the plague virus — was gathered by the heroic action of the Time Travel Program's Chief (the woman scientist), who sacrificed her own life to sit beside the infected mass murderer on the plane, and engage him in conversation on the first leg of his flight around the world. She could never return to the future, of course, because her body incubated the plague from the moment she stepped into that moment of history. But she had devoted her life to the search for the information and had sent many plague survivors to death by ordering them into the past, and when it was clear that her expertise as a time-travel scientist was no longer crucial, she volunteered for the fatal duty herself. I thought it was a rather heroic ending

and the final bit of conversation between the scientist and mass murderer, an example of very black humor.

Hmm. Interesting idea about hoops and crinolines giving women more space and power in your comment to **Hope Kiefer**. My impression is that those clothes tended to immobilize women and kept them in big open spaces and also prevented them from having intimate conversations because they would have had to talk loudly enough to be heard across the space of a minimum of two hoop skirts.

I am taking you up on your offer to get involved with WisCon stuff. Meg Hamel, who is in charge of publications will be calling you to ask you if you'd like to do some illustration work for some of the pubs. Meg was very impressed by the last few apa covers. We showed her back issues and the cover for this issue. Would you like to be involved in other extra-art WisCon activities?

Martin Smith

[SC] Well look on the bright side, at least you weren't sick over the holidays. It may not have been deliriously fun, but it could have been much worse. And there is always next year. I understand how you felt about visiting the Aunt and Uncle with all the successful kids. Jeanne's family is mostly a collection of over-achievers and it can be a bit of a downer getting together with all of them sometimes. I like them all very much, but it can be hard on my delicate ego.

Sandra Taylor

[SC] YCT **Bill Dyer**: Wyalusing is a beautiful park. Jeanne is allergic to mosquitoes so we can't camp there (all that standing water around the river backwaters is not good) but we have visited several times when I lived out there. Before I moved to Madison, I was a supervisor at a minimum security correctional facility on the Iowa side just up the river from Marquette. I lived in McGregor for about a year and then moved to Prairie du Chien. We used to go to Wyalusing to hike or picnic sometimes when Jeanne came out to visit. We go camping up north at Rock Island State Park every year because it's also beautiful and mosquitoes are rare.

I loved YCT **Bill Bodden**: "Wait till you turn 31. It's a prime number and nobody can ever prepare you for that."

YCT **Steve**: I have had the privilege of trying out his famous seat heaters and they are wonderful. I highly recommend getting them for any cold climate dwellers.

YCT me on quotes: I assure you they are all genuine and exact quotes. Early on, **Jim Brooks** and others



recognized many of the quotes that I lifted from TV shows so I had to reach out to new sources. Sometimes they are just things I hear people say, but more often they come from published sources. Last month's quote was from Sports Illustrated, for example.

[JG] Wyalusing is a very beautiful park, I agree. The reason we're seeing more "Park Hosts" and less of the park rangers has to do with budget cuts, of course. Rather than paying for that extra LTE in the summer, the parks must try to tempt (mostly older, retired) couples into staying at the park for a few weeks or more and acting as the rangers representative, so he or she can spend their time mowing the weeds or doing paperwork.... And thanks for printing my map of Wyalusing in your zine. I see it was revised by one of my fellow artists, Julie Barnett, so it has her initials on it. But it started out as my map.

Kim and Pete (my God it's Pete!) Winz

[SC] You guys are still thinking about giving up IBM and moving to Seattle? I was assuming you were getting more settled down there. That's good news from our standpoint. Jeanne and I are far more likely to see you from time to time in Seattle than in North Carolina. We were quite impressed with Portland, OR when we went to Potlatch earlier this month. We finally have a second city to add to our very short list of possible alternate home cities should we ever decide to leave Madison (a fairly unlikely event.)

Good to hear from old Pete. I was starting to think he forgot how to type.

[JG] So, are you going to Corflu in March? Nashville can't be too far away from Durham.

Jae Adams

[SC] I loved the Cork Board piece. Thanks also for the book list. *Summer of Love* pissed me off a few times, but it was a good read and made a great book for discussion. *The Bridge* is sitting on my To Read shelf being very hard to pass up for other stuff I Should Be Reading.

YCT Jeanne, I believe I have been pretty vocal about my belief that cars can be sexy. You are not alone in this belief in the apa. Your explanation of this phenomenon is right on target.

YCT me on student teaching, of course I'm trying to get you "started." You are one of my favorite ranters. Your experiences in the education field were quite interesting. I think you would have made a very fine (though probably terribly frustrated) teacher. I wanted to be a teacher when I was in high school but gave up the idea

when job market surveys at the time convinced me the market for teachers would be flooded for the foreseeable future (they were wrong, the low pay ultimately discouraged many graduates from going into the field or staying long.) I have no idea today how I would have done. I have done a bit of teaching and training and I know that it looks a lot easier from a student's perspective.

[JG] Thanks for the description of how you produce *Alphabet Obsession*. I like to hear about production methods that different people use for the pubs. (Oh, and I strongly suggest you get familiar with styles in your word processing program. They're a great time saver and don't have to cramp your style or mechanize it at all.)

Here's a list of some of the books I read in 1995, at least the one's I would care to recommend to others and leaving off 6 or 7 that I wouldn't:

Beggars & Choosers, Nancy Kress
Vanishing Point, Michaela Roessner
Insanely Great: The Life and Times of Macintosh, the Computer that Changed Everything, Steven Levy
Sister Light, Sister Dark, Jane Yolen
I, Robot, illustrated screenplay, Harlan Ellison and Isaac Asimov
Fires of Eden, Dan Simmons
 "The Matter of Seggri," Ursula K. Le Guin
The Folk of the Air, Peter S. Beagle
Slow River, Nicola Griffith
Insomnia, Stephen King
Love Death, Dan Simmons
A Fisherman of the Inland Sea, Ursula K. Le Guin
Maus 1 & 2, Art Spiegelman
The Coming Plague, Laurie Garrett
The Iron Dragon's Daughter, Michael Swanwick
Starfarers, Transition, Metaphase, and Nautilus, Vonda McIntyre
Stations of the Tide, Michael Swanwick
The Wild Shore, The Gold Coast, and Pacific Edge, Kim Stanley Robinson
Summer of Love, Lisa Mason
The Bohr Maker, Linda Nagata
Moo, Jane Smiley
Resurrection Man, Sean Stewart
Four Ways to Forgiveness, Ursula K. Le Guin
Blood Child anthology, Octavia Butler
Anubis Gates, Tim Powers
Shadow Man, Melissa Scott
Unconquered Countries, Geoff Ryman

All for now—Jeanne Gomoll & Scott Custis
 17 February 1996