



Welcome to *Union Street* #74 (Obsessive Press [JG] #176 and Peerless Press [SC] #76), 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 Select 360 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, April 1996, for *Turbo-Charged Party Animal* APA #118. Members FWA.

## On Being OE

[SC] With WisCon 20 bearing down on all of us so relentlessly next month, it is not hard to figure out why time and enthusiasm for *Turbo* APA has seemed to diminish. Jeanne and I have had trouble making time just to read it in a timely manner. If I wasn't OE and having to deal with business issues regularly, I doubt I would manage to read the April and May issues at all until after the con.

Under these conditions, I haven't spent much time or energy promoting or recruiting the next OE. At this writing, no one has clearly stepped forward and declared to me their intent to run for OE. This state of affairs has not exactly kept me awake at night. To be honest, I am really not surprised that people are reluctant to volunteer for post-WisCon stuff after already being committed up to their eyebrows in WisCon. So I have expected most

people to react by saying to themselves, "Ho hum, let's see how I feel after WisCon."

Having said that, I want to make it clear that I have very little personal investment in who takes over the APA. My position is that I have done it three years and it is now time for a change. Whatever that change turns out to mean, so be it. That would include a new OE who does not live in Madison or Wisconsin. In the past I have always argued against allowing the APA to leave Madison. It was started as the "Madison APA" and that is where it should reside, with the local group. But the group has been diminishing in size and local representation in *Turbo* has also gone down. Beginning this month, *Turbo* has fully half its membership living out of town/state. I am counting Jim Brooks as a Madison local. Of the nine names on the current Waitlist, only two are local names. I would expect that before the summer is over, a majority of *Turbo* contributors will live outside the Madison area.

In view of this I want to make it clear to those members here in Madison what it might mean if the *Turbo* OEs ship leaves town. First, it will mean extra expense. You will have to pay for postage to receive your APA every month (currently \$3/month or \$36/year.) It has always been free for you to pick it up in the past. It will take up to three or four days to reach you whereas you could usually get it from me the day it's collated.

Second, sending your zine may also entail new costs depending on what method you use to send it. Postage to mail 30 copies across the country can be expensive. Sending it to the OE or an agent in his/her city via fax or email is cheap, but you might lose a certain amount of control over the look of your zine (even if it just means the choice of paper color at the copy shop.)

Third, it has always been of supreme value to local contributors to be able to produce and deliver zines on the last day, often at the last minute. You will largely lose that luxury. Your deadline will either be shorter because you have to allow time to mail (several days in the case of the US mail, overnight if you can afford an express mail service) or it means you will be heavily dependent on other people and technology if you choose fax or email. Being an out-of-town contributor via fax or email means being dependent on someone else when you have always only needed to depend on yourself before. There must be someone on the other end ready to pick up your electronically transmitted zine, copy it for you and (if necessary) deliver it on time. If your (or their) equipment or software breaks down or there is a miscommunication, you could be dealing with a long-distance mess with no time left. If you don't think this sort of thing can happen to a well-meaning contributor, buy me a beer sometime and I'll tell you a few stories.

Don't be too quick to assume these mailing hassles will be minor issues for you. Remember, all this happens *after* you have put the effort into writing your zine. Take



it from me, once you've done the work, you will want to see it get into the APA on time.

Last, but not least, if the OEs move out of Madison it will very likely lose its Madison identity over time. Even though a growing number of our contributors live out of town, almost all of our writers share a strong personal connection to the Madison SF group. Most out-of-town writers either moved away from Madison or have longtime ties to this group or many members of the group. An OE in another city will naturally be inclined to bring in people who live close to them or who correspond with them that the rest of us don't know. In fact, the APA is bound to become a more national APA as more people without a connection to Madison come in and bring their friends. This may not be a bad thing in itself. Madison has often been accused of being a rather insular group from a national fannish perspective. Getting an influx of members from the wider fannish scene would probably be good for us. We have done very well bringing in really

new folks like Clay Colwell from time to time. But Madison locals need to be ready for a change. *Turbo* would feel and sound very different with a growing group of members who do not share our interpersonal history and connections.

My point in bringing this up is just to remind local Madisonians what is at stake in this OE change. Jeanne and I have no problem with the APA moving away. But I easily envision a number of longtime local writers deciding the expense and hassle are not worth it and deciding to drop out. If that's the case, maybe you want to start talking to each other about how best to keep *Turbo* in town.

I don't think anyone should consider taking over the APA out of a sense of duty or pressure. The ONLY reason to do it, is if you think you will have fun. It can be a lot of fun. I have enjoyed being your OE (have you noticed?) I just think it is time for me to move on before I get really tired of doing it.

*Life begins at 40.*

*Age before beauty.*

*You are as young as you feel.*

*Youth is wasted on the young.*

*Those aren't wrinkles, they're laugh lines.*

*Today is the first day of the rest of your life.*

*You're not getting older, you're getting better.*

*Youth and beauty are no match for age and experience.*

BUNK!

